



Canine slicker

A dog is protected against the rainy conditions by a doggy raincoat as its owner takes it for a walk on May 14 in Mendota. Heavy thunderstorms pounded the Mendota area over a two-day period, producing nearly five inches of rain. Flooding and wind damage that took down trees and damaged some structures was reported in Sublette, Paw Paw and Amboy. After a two-day respite, the soggy conditions returned as another three and a half inches of rain drenched the area on May 17. (Reporter photo)

Date set for MHS graduation ceremony

□ In-person event scheduled for July 18 in gym

By **BONNIE MORRIS**
Editor

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School Class of 2020 graduation ceremony has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 18 in the school gym. The date was approved during the May 18 Board of Education meeting.

Superintendent Jeff Prusator said the senior class was surveyed regarding the type of graduation ceremony they preferred and almost unanimously, they wanted a live ceremony rather than a virtual one. After looking at the calendar and the timeline for when the state hopes to safely begin allowing group gatherings, July 18 was chosen with a time yet to be determined. Prusator said he hopes they can have at least 50 people in the gym at a time for the ceremony, and hopefully more.

Board member Aaron Elston asked if an outdoor ceremony had been considered, but Prusator said people could be spread out more in the gym than they could be in the stadium. "If the spread of the virus has slowed as projected by July 18, we hope we will be able to do this," he said.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The Virtual Awards Ceremony was held on May 16 at 6 p.m. on YouTube, social media and the school website. Principal Denise Aughenbaugh said that was the time originally scheduled for graduation, so she hoped it was at least something for the seniors to look forward to. She thanked all of the businesses, alumni and individuals who helped this year's students by providing the many scholarships and awards. The traditional awards will be presented at the graduation ceremony, but donors were able to reveal those awards earlier if they preferred.

In addition, MHS teachers had the idea for a new award this year. They selected students who were engaged and dedicated throughout the entire 40 days of remote

learning. The "Remote Learning Award" was issued to 96 students who completed all of their assignments, had good Remote Learning attendance, and raised their grade by 5 percent. This was to honor students who already had letter grades of "A." Aughenbaugh said all other students could be rewarded by improving their letter grade, but there was no real incentive for the "A" students to keep working, other than their self-motivation, work ethic, and family support.

"We encourage them to keep up that hard work, continue those good work habits and use their perseverance as they move through life. It will serve them well," Aughenbaugh said.

The March Academic Awards Assembly will be presented in the fall, so there will be fall and spring academic honors presented during the 2020-21 school year.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Assistant Principal Joe Masini reported on four proposed changes to the student handbook for next year.

1. In keeping with the PACE framework for college and career planning, students will now be allowed three college visits by the end of their junior year, rather than one.

2. The technology director will be given more input regarding a student's access to the internet for disciplinary reasons. Masini said internet access is important for students but the administration has the discretion to take that right away or to give it back when appropriate.

3. Head phones are allowed in school but students will now have to leave at least one ear open.

4. A new system for cell phones in the classroom will be in place. When students

See District 280, Page A5

Reckless driver leaves trail of destruction after striking vehicle, house in Mendota

MENDOTA – A Mendota man was charged with multiple traffic offenses after his erratic driving ultimately led to him crashing his vehicle into a house on May 14.

Patrick A. Porter, 43, of 1210 Indiana Ave., was charged with two counts of (failure to report) duty upon damaging unattended vehicle or other property, improper lane usage and reckless driving.

At approximately 11:13 a.m., Mendota police officers responded to multiple complaints of reckless driving in the vicinity of Northbrook School. The complaints included speeding at a high rate, disobeying traffic signs, leaving the scene of a property damage accident and other traffic-related acts.

While investigating the complaint, officers further learned that the attached garage of a house in the 500 block of 19th Street had been severely damaged by Porter's vehicle and a parked vehicle had been struck in the 1100 block of Main Street.

Porter was released on scene with a July 1 LaSalle County court date.



The garage of a Mendota house was severely damaged when a vehicle driven by a 43-year-old Mendota man plowed into it on May 14. (Reporter photo)

New employment resources available for job seekers

□ Online portal unveiled to help find work

By **BEN ORNER**
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. JB Pritzker last week announced new resources to help the hundreds of thousands of people unemployed in Illinois, unveiling an online portal that will offer job training and connect job seekers with prospective employers.

Get Hired Illinois is a "one-stop shop" for job seekers of all levels and backgrounds to access career training programs, virtual job fairs and opportunities to connect with employers, the governor said.

"It's critical that our state do everything possible to help our residents get back to work, whether returning to positions that they once held or with employers who are seeking to hire," Pritzker said.

The state says Get Hired currently features 60,000 available jobs, and that more

than 70 employers have committed to hosting virtual job fairs on the site.

Starting June 1, unemployed Illinoisans will also qualify for free, unlimited access to courses through Coursera, an online platform that offers thousands of courses and hundreds of specializations.

Coursera will focus on training in the information technology field, which is in high demand as workplaces operate remotely during the pandemic. After finishing online programs, participants can continue their studies at a local community college or university. Free access to Coursera will run through the end of the year.

The Illinois Department of Employment Security has processed more than 1,076,000 unemployment claims since March 1, Pritz-

See Resources, Page A5

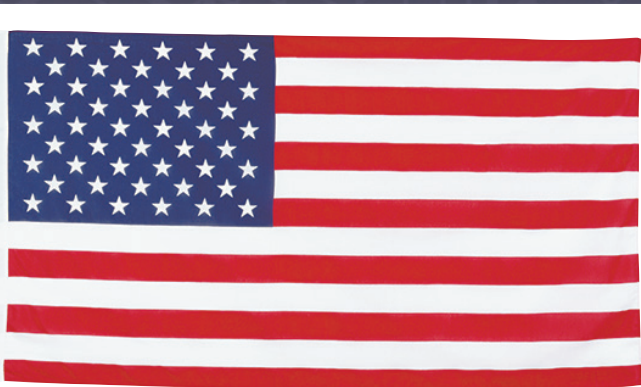
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LOCAL AND AREA

Register now for free LaSalle County E-Waste recycling event

OTTAWA - LaSalle County will hold a free electronics recycling event on Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will take place at the LaSalle County Government Center, 707 E. Etna Road, Ottawa.

This event is limited to LaSalle County residents only and pre-registration is required. Residents may register online (preferred) at <https://lasallemounty.org> or call (815) 630-4308 (Monday-Thursday

8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m.-noon) to register by phone.

Televisions will be accepted but there is a limit of two televisions per vehicle.

ACCEPTED items include the following:

Cable and satellite receivers, cameras, cash registers and credit card readers, cell phones and accessories, chargers, circuit boards, computer servers, computers and parts, copiers/printers/scanners/fax machines/typewriters,

DVD/VHS players, external drives, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, ink and toner cartridges, laptops/tablets/eReaders, mice and keyboards, micro-waves, monitors (all types), MP3/iPods/etc., networking equipment (modems, switches, routers, hubs), phones and telecom equipment, projectors, rechargeable batteries (lithium ion, Ni-Cd, lead acid, Ni-Mh), stereos/radios/speakers, televisions (all types, limit 2), uninterrupted power



er supplies, video game consoles and wire/cables/

Christmas lights.

NOT ACCEPTED items include the following:

Loose alkaline batteries (accepted while contained in electronic devices), liquid containing items, Freon containing items (AC units, dehumidifiers, white goods (refrigerators, freezers), thermostats and light bulbs.

The event flyer is accessible on the main page of the LaSalle County website at www.lasallecounty.org.

Stage 212 temporarily suspends season

LA SALLE - The Stage 212 management board has temporarily suspended the remainder of their 2020 season. They will evaluate opportunities for future performances as state and federal safety guidelines for COVID-19 evolve.

Patrons are encouraged to routinely check stage212.org for updates. Stage 212 looks forward to returning to their role of bringing the live performing arts to the area in a safe and healthy environment.



Numerous downed limbs and branches make a Paw Paw street impassable following a severe storm on May 14-15.

Paw Paw, Sublette report storm damage

LEE COUNTY - The National Weather Service reported that flash flooding and scattered strong thunderstorm winds occurred the night of Thursday, May 14 into Friday, May 15.

The storm caused a swath of notable wind damage, primarily to trees, in north central Illinois (Lee and DeKalb counties) into the far western suburbs (Kane County). While broad strong winds are the main culprit, some damage may have been caused by brief tornadoes.

In Paw Paw, there were reports of wind damage including numerous trees down along Chicago Road, Chapman Street and

Maple Street. In Sublette, Lee County Emergency Management reported tree damage in Woodhaven Lakes area, and part of a roof uplifted in town. Lee County also reported flooding of Ill. Route 26 near Ill. Route 30 and on residential streets in Amboy.

Rainfall amounts from this round of storms, along with rainfall earlier in the day on Thursday, brought some totals in excess of four inches in parts of the Chicago metro (including the official measurement at O'Hare International Airport), and also in/near Kankakee County.

The heavy rain resulted in some impassible roads due to water.



Above: A pole barn in Paw Paw receives serious damage from the storm; below, ComEd workers are on the scene to repair downed power lines. (Photos contributed)



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LOCAL AND AREA

Geuther marks 40 years with Mendota Mutual Insurance

MENDOTA — Mendota Mutual Insurance Company Manager Deb Geuther is celebrating her 40th anniversary working for the local insurance company.

Geuther first started at Mendota Mutual after MMIC manager Roger Krenz asked her mother-in-law if she knew anyone who was looking for a job. Just so happened, Geuther was looking for work.

“At the time, I was mowing Roger’s rental property in LaMoille,” Geuther recalled. “I applied and the rest is 40 years of history.”

Over those four decades, Geuther got her insurance license, earned her Professional Farm Mutual Manager designation and is in the Merit Society through the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies.

When Geuther first started at MMIC, technology was vastly different than it is today. In those early years, she used a typewriter to type all the declaration pages, invoices and other paperwork.

“I guess that is why I had to do a typing test for my interview . . . on a typewriter,” she recalled.



Deb Geuther, left, is congratulated for her years of service by Jack Robison, vice president of the Mendota Mutual Insurance Company Board of Directors. (Photo contributed)

Geuther said insurance changes daily, which is one of the challenges of her position. She has to stay informed and keep up with those changes in order to provide a great product for customers

at an affordable price.

“Computers are great, I don’t know how we could function without them,” she said. “Just when you think you have up to date technology, something new emerges.”

Besides changes in technology, business itself has changed.

“When I first started, we could do things on a person’s word,” Geuther said. “Now you have to have documentation on everything.”

Looking back on the past 40 years, Geuther said the board of Mendota Mutual Insurance Company has been very supportive.

“I enjoy working for MMIC, and the board has been very good to me,” she said. “They always allow my family to come first, which I greatly appreciate. I have enjoyed the people that I have been able to meet, the mutual world is a family.”

Deb and her husband, Brad Geuther have been married for 41 years. The couple has two daughters, Jade, who lives in Canton, Ga. and coaches Reinhardt University softball; and Nigel, who lives in Peoria, Ariz. with her husband, Nef-tali, and their three children, Omni, 4, Oaklie, 3 and Ozzie, 5 months.

In her spare time, Geuther collects Barbie dolls and has amassed a collection that is 1,000 strong.

Social Security updates information regarding Economic Impact Payments

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Social Security Administration has issued an update about COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments (EIP) to certain groups of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries. Beneficiaries who have their regular monthly payments managed for them by another person, called a representative payee, will begin receiving their EIPs from the IRS in late May.

“The Social Security Administration has been working with the IRS to provide the necessary information about Social Security and SSI beneficiaries in order to automate and expedite their Economic Impact Payments,” said Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security. “While millions of our beneficiaries have already received their EIPs from the IRS, we continue to work hard for those beneficiaries who are awaiting their payment from the IRS.”

For additional information about payments to beneficiaries with representative payees, please refer to www.socialsecurity.gov.

See UPDATE, Page A4



Graves-Hume Public Library to offer curbside service

MENDOTA - A new service will begin for cardholders at Graves-Hume Public Library on Thursday, May 21.

The library will offer no-contact curbside pickup of materials. This program is limited to Graves-Hume Public Library cardholders only and the library building will not be open to the public.

There are three ways patrons may place a curbside pickup order:

1. Place holds using the online catalog at <https://graveshume.org/>. You will need your full library card number and your PIN (last four digits of your library card number). Once you have placed items on hold, call the library to set up a time for pickup.

2. E-mail requests using the online Ask Us! page, <https://graveshume.org/ask-us/>.

3. Call the library to speak with a staff member.

Graves-Hume will only be able to place holds on their materials. There are no deliveries from other libraries.

In an effort to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, library staff will quarantine returned items for a period of time. Recently returned materials may remain on your account longer than usual. When checked in, library staff will backdate the materials. No overdue fines will be charged.

When arriving to pick up items, call the library and have your trunk open, but remain in your vehicle. Staff will place your items in your trunk.

The library’s temporary hours will be Monday through Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The library staff is excited to begin working with patrons again and thanks everyone in advance for their patience as the library begins this new service. Library director Emily Kofoid said they are thrilled to be back to work and serving the community. Follow the library on Facebook to see the latest updates and to find reading recommendations.

CARL’S QUIZ

In what country has it become common to put cucumber, peanuts, pineapple and yogurt sauce on tacos?

The answer to last week’s quiz is: German engine designer and automotive engineer, Karl Benz is often credited with creating the world’s first car. His Benz Patent Motorcar from 1885 is considered the first practical automobile. He received a patent for the motorcar in 1886.

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



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OBITUARIES / LOCAL NEWS

Tiffany A. Trumbauer

DALZELL - Tiffany A. Trumbauer, 30, of Dalzell passed away unexpectedly on May 7, 2020 at St. Margaret's Hospital, Spring Valley. Cremation rites have been accorded. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the family will have a Celebration of Life at a later date. Wasmer Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Tiffany was born Sept. 1, 1989 in Waterloo, Iowa to Gary and Angela (Kral) Trumbauer. Survivors include her parents of Dalzell; two daughters, RobbiLee and Devlyn Trumbauer, both of Dalzell; one brother, Zack (Justice) Trumbauer of Dalzell; two sisters, Brandi Miller of Waterloo, Iowa and Chalynne Kral of Marshalltown, Iowa; her paternal grandmother, Mary Morton of LaSalle; four nephews and two nieces. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather and maternal grandparents. Tiffany graduated from LaSalle-Peru High School in 2007. She was a PTO member at Dalzell Elementary School and was a Girl Scout leader with Central Illinois Girl Scouts Service Area 7. Memorials may be directed to the family. Online condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



Andrew L. Beamon, Sr.

TRIUMPH - Andrew Lee Beamon, Sr., 62, of Triumph passed away unexpectedly on May 11, 2020 at his home. Private graveside services were held at 11 a.m. on May 16 at Wisner Cemetery with Father Peter Pilon officiating. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota handled the arrangements. Andrew was born Aug. 2, 1957 in Chicago to Leo Louis and Josephine (Langridge) Beamon, Sr. He married Tamara Atwood on Sept. 9, 2011 in Kane County.

Survivors include his wife of Triumph; his mother, Josephine Beamon of Aurora; two sisters, Margaret Hill of Alabama and Linda Beamon of Illinois; two brothers, Jim (Laly) Beamon of Illinois and Leo Beamon, Jr. of Pennsylvania; and several stepchildren, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father; his paternal grandparents, Grover and Martha (Kelley) Beamon; and maternal grandparents, Ernest and Grace (Guthier) Langridge. Andrew attended school in North Aurora and was a Boy Scout during his youth. He was the proud owner of Andy's Truck Repair, which he owned with his wife. A diesel mechanic for over 30 years, he worked on trucks, trailers and anything else. If he had a tool in his hand, he could fix it. He worked hard all his life and helped anyone with anything through the years. He had a heart of gold. He enjoyed spending time with his wife, their two black labs, Zena and Thor, his stepchildren, who he helped raise, and grandkids. Andrew was papa to all of them. He also enjoyed doing things around the house and watching television, and he loved eagles and Harley Davidson motorcycles. Memorials may be directed to the family.



CENSUS 2020

Adjustments due to COVID-19

ROCK ISLAND - Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging, in partnership with the Illinois Department on Aging, supports an accurate count for Illinois in the decennial census. As we begin to move through the 5 Phases of Restore Illinois, some are asking about the 2020 Census and how field operations are going to operate in light of Covid-19 precautions. The Census Bureau regularly updates information on its website and has also developed a fact sheet to respond to some of the most common questions. The fact sheet contains a wealth of information to keep the public aware of their efforts, including how/when they plan to resume operations and how they are addressing safety concerns.

How will the Census Bureau determine where to resume? Census Bureau leadership is deciding where to resume operations based on federal, state, and local public health guidelines, local conditions, and input from local leaders. Career Census Bureau operational leaders are assessing the operating status of state, local, and tribal areas, and the ability of Census Bureau staff to safely resume operations in those areas.

How will Census employees and the public be protected? As 2020 Census

operations resume, the Census Bureau is incorporating the most current federal, state, and local guidance to promote the health and safety of the public and Census Bureau employees. Consistent with federal, state, and local guidance, the Census Bureau is providing face masks and gloves for employees to wear. In addition, we will provide employees with hand sanitizer. Field staff will complete a virtual COVID-19 training to ensure they follow appropriate social distancing protocols and all appropriate health and safety guidance.

How will I know Census staff are in my area? The Census Bureau plans to alert the public, our staff, elected officials, local law enforcement, key stakeholders, and local media every Friday about where census staff will resume work in the week to follow. The running list of locations will be available at <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/operational-adjustments-covid-19.html>.

Remember: The census taker will NOT ask for citizenship status, driver's license, Social Security Number, credit card, bank/financial information, money, or PIN codes/passwords. If you have concerns about an census taker, contact the Regional Census Center at (319) 579-1500.

Midland States Foundation awards \$250,000 for COVID-19 relief

EFFINGHAM - Midland States Bank, through its Foundation, has announced \$250,000 in grants to support COVID-19 relief efforts to several non-profit organizations in the communities it serves.

The grant recipients are working to address urgent needs for food, shelter, rent and utility assistance, primary health and mental health services.

"Our communities are facing unprecedented times due to COVID-19. These grants, combined with the more than 2,200 small business loans made by our bank in the past few weeks, are part of our efforts to help alleviate some of the safety, social and financial burdens felt during this time," commented Jeffrey G. Ludwig, President and CEO of Midland States Bancorp, Inc. "As a community bank, our focus is always on the needs of our communities. The grants we are announcing today support local nonprofit organizations

providing essential resources to families and others in our communities. The small business loans have helped support paychecks to more than 27,000 employees in our markets."

The Midland States Bank Foundation supports the general welfare, education and health in the communities where the bank operates.

These grants bring the Foundation's total contributions to non-profit organizations throughout Midland's footprint to \$1,150,000 since its creation in 2011.

Midland States Bank Foundation grant recipients include:

6:35 Pantry
Arukah Institute of Healing
B-1 Food Pantry
BCMW Community Services - Centralia
Better Family Life
Beyond Housing 24:1 Initiative
Blessings in a Backpack
Bond County Senior Center
Boone County CASA
Breast Intentions of Illinois Inc.
Buddy Bags Dixon
Bureau County Food Pantry
Carpenter's Place
Carrie Lynn Children's Center
Catholic Charities
CEFS
Children's Safe Harbor
Christian Hospital
Circle of Concern Food Pantry

Community Food Basket of Ottawa
Community Service Council
Courage Connection in Campaign
Crisis Nursery of Effingham County
Dixon Food Pantry
Duane Dean Behavioral Health Center
Effingham County Fish Human Services
FAST - Foster Adoption Support Team
First Christian Church Ministerial Alliance
First Presbyterian Church
Fortitude Community Outreach
Free Methodist Church
Misterial Alliance
Greater Rockford Pantry Coalition
Hall Township Food Pantry
Hands of Hope of Illinois
Harvey Brooks Motivation & Development Foundation
Helen Wheeler Center
Illinois Valley Food Pantry
Illinois Valley PADS
Jefferson Barracks Food Pantry
Jennings School District
Kankakee County Board Administration
Kankakee County Community Services, Inc.
Kendall County Community Food Pantry, Inc.
Let's Feed Our Children
Lighthouse Pregnancy Center - Vandalia
Loaves and Fishes for St. Louis

Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry
Merci's Refuge in Campaign
Miss Carly's
Monroe County House of Neighborly Services
Morning Star Mission
NCCD Corporation - North County Community Development Corporation
Nourishing Greatness - Vandalia
Riverside Healthcare
Salvation Army
Sauk Valley Food Bank
Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation
Spanish Community Center
St. Louis Area Food Bank - COVID - 19 Relief Fund
Summer Eats Lunch Program
Teen Turf
The Family Life Center in Effingham
The Little Bit Foundation
Tri County Council Opportunities
United Way Emerging Needs Fund
United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties
Warren Sharpe Community Center
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Where is it... in Mendota?

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:
Stone facade at entrance to Mendota Police Station, 607 8th Ave.
Winner - Haydon Schmidt

Update

Continued from Page A3

gov/coronavirus/#reppayee. The eligibility requirements and other information about the Economic Impact Payments can be found here: www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center. In addition, please continue to visit the IRS at www.irs.gov/coronavirus for the latest information.

Social Security will continue to update the agency's COVID-19 web page at www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/ with additional information.

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LOCAL AND AREA

District 280

Continued from Page A1

enter a classroom, there will either be wall pockets or desk pockets that students put their cell phone into during class. When class is over, they take their phones. Masini said by doing that, the phone is not a distraction and students will not be tempted to look at it. He noted that this system is used in other schools and has worked very well. The pockets will be installed this summer.

All changes were approved by the board.

PERSONNEL

Summer school teachers were approved by the board. They include Alisa Stewart (math and science), Melissa Sallee (English), and Brock Zinke and Heath Raley (driver's education classroom). If behind-the-wheel training is possible this summer, Rob Nunn and Aaron Sester will also teach driving to students. However, Aughenbaugh said they do not expect to be able to drive with students this summer. All summer instruction will be online.

The board also approved a brief maternity leave for Paula Tuttle-Baker, band director. Lori Schrock has agreed to cover her absence.

The resignation of Lisa Tillman as a special education teacher was accepted.

SCHEDULE

• June summer band has been cancelled.

• Aughenbaugh said the set for the spring musical is still in place and they are reviewing options to run the musical in the early fall.

• Plans for fall and the start of school are ongoing, although adjustments are likely to be made. The dates for ID pictures and registration have been set but they can be rescheduled if necessary.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

• The board approved waiving the fees for registration, participation and labs for the 2020-21 school year.

• Approval was given to purchase two buses, depending on the amount of transportation funding received from the state.

• Prusator said remote learning was tough for everyone. "We would prefer to delay the start of school rather than doing remote school if possible," he told the board.

Since he believes there will likely be a delay starting school until after Labor Day, they have been looking ahead at some possible later start times. "If we had to, we could wait until Oct. 1 to start the year, which would push the end of school to next July," he said.

The next regular board meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 15.

Resources

Continued from Page A1

ker said, which is "about six times as many claims as in the equivalent time period of the 2008-2009 Great Recession."

More than 70,000 new Illinoisans applied for unemployment insurance last week, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Labor. The federal agency also reported that more than 750,000 Illinoisans renewed their unemployment claims last week.

Pritzker also said that more than 50,000 federal pandemic unemployment assistance applications have been filed since May 11, which offer benefits to independent contractors, self-employed individuals and others who do not normally qualify for unemployment.



Illinois Avenue project underway

Workers from Universal Asphalt of LaSalle strip off the top layer of pavement from Illinois Avenue as work began on the Illinois Avenue Streetscape project on May 18. In addition to new street and sidewalk construction, other work to be done on the project in the 700 block includes stamped colored concrete, decorative park benches, decorative trash receptacles and a gateway arched sign. (Reporter photo)

IVCC approves cannabis certificate program

OGLESBY – A cannabis production certificate program approved by the Illinois Valley Community College board May 18 will launch this fall.

Ag instructors Kathryn Lillie and Willard Mott worked with local employers in the cannabis-growing industry to create the two-semester, 13-credit certificate. Completion of the five-course certificate will lead to entry-level positions.

IVCC President Jerry Corcoran said with Illinois' legalization of recreational marijuana in January and the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills allowing for industrial hemp production, the number of jobs in the sector has grown.

"Industry representatives expressed a need for individuals with basic knowledge of the cannabis plant – and understanding of production and processing practices," he said.

The certificate will also cover soil fertility, pest management and an internship.

"The certificate is not terminal," Corcoran noted. "Students can continue in the agriculture program and complete an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in agronomy."

Aside from Mott and Lillie, Corcoran credited Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Bonnie Campbell and Dean of Natural Sciences and Business Ron Groleau for their work in developing the certificate.

A small section of IVCC's farmland will be dedicated to

cannabis growth so students can earn hands-on experience.

In other business, Corcoran praised students and employees for their response to the disruptions caused by the pandemic and April 24 cyber-attack.

"I'm happy with the way the college's faculty, staff and students have handled probably one of the most trying times in IVCC's history beginning with the coronavirus – which led to Gov. Pritzker closing campuses and moving instruction online – followed by a cyber-attack on our servers. Faculty and staff did everything they could to serve students in new and different ways."

Following closed session, the board approved a master services agreement with Rehmann Technology Solutions, the firm helping IVCC restore its servers.

Despite the interruptions, Corcoran is confident enrollments will stabilize.

"Prior to these developments, we were on track to meet mid-term budgeted credit hours and revenues, and I remain optimistic our early assumptions for fiscal 2021 credit hours should remain unchanged."

"Community colleges have an excellent reputation for preparing students to enter the workforce or move on to a university. Although I love my alma mater in Champaign, the credit-hour cost-difference between online instruction at IVCC versus the U of I, ISU or NIU is seismic," he said.

"Students and parents should be wary of the possibility of starting at a four-year institution in the fall, only to be told to stay home and learn online for the full-cost of tuition."

Corcoran further noted, despite staggering unemployment rates, "This is a time community colleges excel in workforce training. We experienced record enrollments following the 2007-08 recession and I believe we have the opportunity to turn a negative into a positive again."

In other action, the board approved the hiring of economics instructor Rick Pretzsch, formerly associate professor of economics at Temple College in Temple, Texas. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from Roosevelt University in Chicago and a law degree from John Marshall Law School.

Trustees also approved the hiring of electronics and electricity instructor Charles Raimondi to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Jim Gibson. Raimondi taught electronics and industrial automation at Kishwaukee College and earned his master's in manufacturing engineering from Western Illinois University.

The board also approved:

• Revisions to seven policies involving employment at-will, discipline, classification of employees, cannabis, medical leave/termination, certification of health, and drug-free work campus.

IVCC to delay start of its first eight-week summer session

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College is postponing the start of its first eight-week summer session that had been scheduled to begin Monday, May 18.

The college plans instead to begin its online "Summer A" Tuesday, May 26 and run it through July 15. The second eight-week session, Summer B, is scheduled June 10 to Aug. 6.

All classes will be taught online in the first eight-week session. For information, call counseling at (815) 224-0360.

• A three-year lease extension with the City of Ottawa for use of the Ottawa Center at 321 W. Main St. for \$115,000 annually. Ottawa Center offers general education courses, the CNA program, enrollment services, Adult Education and Continuing Education courses and Transfer Academy classes for high school upperclassmen.

Board members also learned:

• The college website will be hosted by OmniUpdate, the platform the new site was built on. The move will reduce the likelihood of the site being down due to a power outage or data breach.

• In his report, Corcoran began by thanking 2019-20 student trustee Matthew Klein for producing the May 16 virtual commencement. "When it became apparent we needed a back-up plan for our traditional commencement, it was comforting to know Matthew was ready to step up and work closely with Aseret Loveland, Crystal Credi, Mark Grzybowski and Quintin Overocker to create something that made everyone proud. (The event can be viewed at www.ivcc.edu.)

• IVCC nursing faculty and staff produced a "heartfelt" YouTube video tribute to this year's nursing graduates, Corcoran said. (That video is also available at the website.)

• Corcoran closed by crediting IT staff for working "awfully hard behind the scenes the past few weeks" on critically important server issues.

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OPINION

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Don't tell, listen

By Scott Reeder

MECHANICSBURG – Believe it or not, a cap and gown won't protect you from the Coronavirus.

I was thinking about that last week as I drove past a park not far from where I live and saw the 2020 Tri-City High School class crunched up in a gazebo posing for pictures in a city park. No one was wearing masks and they most certainly weren't observing the 6-foot social distancing requirements.

And, yes, I get it. It's not fair that this year's graduates aren't experiencing the usual pomp and circumstance to mark this milestone in their lives. But this pandemic we are experiencing isn't fair. It preys on the most vulnerable in our society.

It's easy to be dismissive of this crisis as being a "Chicago problem" and not a concern for folks elsewhere. But just down the road from where these kids were posing, 20 people died in one nursing home of this horrible disease.

I began wearing a mask before Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued an edict requiring them. I don't wear it to comply with the government; I wear it as an act of kindness toward others.

Are they 100 percent effective? No. But they are a deterrent. Wearing a mask during an epidemic is much like at other times covering your nose before you sneeze. It's not only good hygiene, but it's a courtesy to those around you.

Sadly, I've seen the mask rule ignored.

I dropped by an auto parts store in Springfield recently for some power steering fluid. The place was packed with about 20 customers. Only myself and one other were wearing a mask. Even the employees working the cash register left them dangling around their necks. The story was much the same at a farm-supply store, where I went to pick up some pet food.

When I dropped by a nursery to buy a Mother's Day gift, I couldn't help but roll my eyes. None of the cashiers and fewer than one-fifth of the customers wore masks. And the place was packed.

They are not only showing contempt for Pritzker's order but also for the welfare of others.

Part of the problem has been Pritzker's approach.

He recently unveiled a five-phase plan for bringing Illinois back to "normal." While well intentioned, it is unwieldy and ultimately as ineffective as a Soviet five-year plan.

This heavy-handed, big government "solution" won't work for the simple reason that a law only is effective if it is obeyed. Right now, many people are ignoring the executive orders because they view it as government overreach. Noncompliance, for them, is an act of civil disobedience.

Governor, you want folks working with you – not against you. To achieve this, you need to stop ordering and start listening.

For example, under the governor's plan, most in-person worship services are banned indefinitely.

The governor's plan says groups of 50 or more won't be allowed to meet until there is either a vaccine or effective treatment for COVID-19.

There is no guarantee of a vaccine. More than 30 years ago, when I was a medical reporter, I wrote about massive government funding and Herculean scientific efforts to develop an AIDS vaccine. That vaccine doesn't exist yet.

And a COVID-19 vaccine doesn't exist either. Like the AIDS vaccine, it may not come to fruition.

For the governor to pin reopening churches, mosques and synagogues to future medical advances isn't a plan, it's a hope. A more effective idea might be to work with religious leaders on ways to minimize the risk of infection.

Things like wearing masks during church services, creating social distancing barriers between families and eliminating handshakes and hugs would go a long way toward alleviating possible routes of infection.

The governor ought to be working with religious leaders to develop solutions that will allow them to meet, rather than issuing orders that will ultimately result in churches defying the governor and meeting anyway.

Remember, a law is only effective if it is obeyed.

The nature of democracy is compromise and consensus. Our lawmakers represent the different needs and concerns of various areas of the state. And yet, the governor has acted unilaterally for months without any formal input from legislators.

He has the authority to call the legislature back into session. But he has chosen not to.

And that does not serve the state well.

"We have a system of checks and balances," House GOP Leader Jim Durkin said. "We need the legislature to meet in Springfield. We can do this safely. The governor has not done a good job of balancing the state's health needs with its economic needs."

The governor's office did not return calls seeking comment.

In the working-class community where I live, many people are experiencing unemployment for the first time. Once proud barbers, waitresses, bartenders, cashiers and others have been reduced to scrounging at a food pantry to just feed their families.

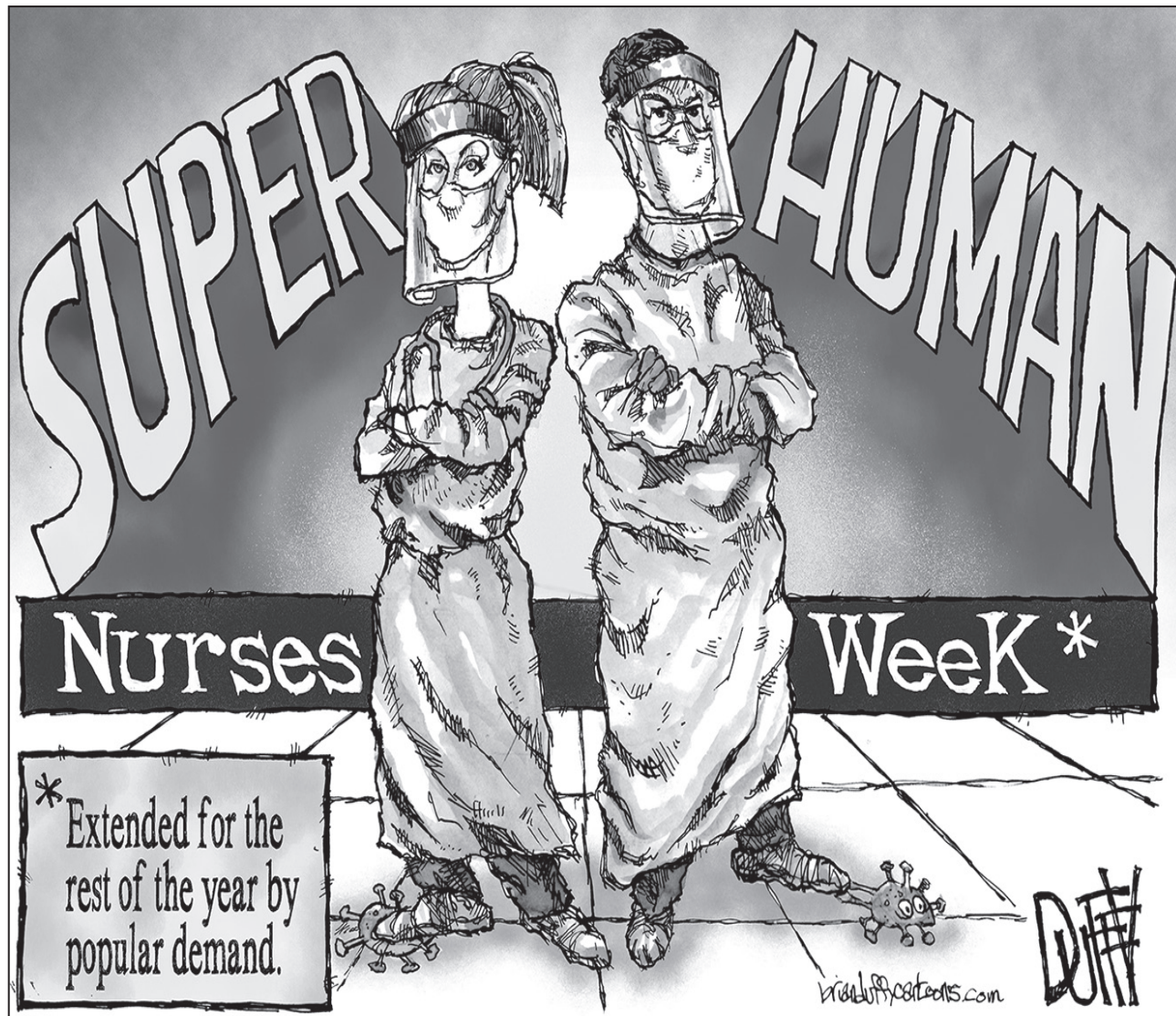
People want to return to work in a safe way. Their employers are willing to develop safety plans. But instead of collaboration, we receive one-size fits all edicts from Pritzker.

That's not how our system of government is supposed to work.

It's time for lawmakers to return to Springfield and provide input. And it's time for the governor to stop telling and begin listening.

After all, a law is only effective if it is obeyed.

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



Prom night at MHS – 1984

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from May 19, 2004)

By Jessica Nashold

There were hundreds of parents and well-wishers on hand with their cameras as the junior and senior classes at MHS held their Prom. In 1984, it was held at the Moose Lodge on Saturday, May 12. The Grand March was led by Prom King Larry Gies and Prom Queen Beth Sondgeroth. Music was by 'Speed of Sound.' The traditional Post-Prom festivities, at the Elks, followed. Tom Merwin announced the couples as they arrived. The Reporter devoted a full page to pictures by editor Flint Stephens. One striking shot caught dancers in silhouette. Principal Bob Cooper was happy to report that during the long evening –

There were no problems to speak of.

At a grade school board meeting, May 10, 1984, it was disclosed that Steve Abel would be the new principal at Lincoln School. He replaced Mike Castiglia, who would become superintendent of schools. Abel had added several courses in Education for Gifted Children and Administration to his bachelor's and master's degrees from Northern Illinois University. His teaching experience in Mendota had been at Lincoln, where he found his views on education were in accord with those of Castiglia. His duties would begin July 1.

Salary - \$27,000

Governor Jim Thompson let it be known that the freeway between Interstate 80 and the East-West Tollway would be completed in 1985.

A year earlier than planned.

Mendota High District 280 had to increase its bonding request when it was learned that certain repairs, which had been waived by the inspectors, were now reinstated. In addition to certain roof replacements, it was now mandated that spaces beneath the stage, in stairways and in the boiler room, could no longer be used for storage.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

The bond request was increased from \$200,000 to \$250,000.

Mendota's radio station WGLC announced that Mrs. William (Sandra) Phalen was their 1984 Mother of the Year. She was the mother of five sons – Mike, Dan, Doug, Tim and Steve. She happened to be in California when the announcement was made.

She was taken on the grand tour of sponsoring businesses on Monday.

At Heritage Manor, Eva Rhoem, a resident since 1975, was chosen Mother of the Year. This was in recognition of "her motherly love, profound patience and wonderful wisdom."

A congratulatory kiss was bestowed by her husband, Reuben, also a resident.

Kip Cheek was introduced to Reporter readers on page 2 of the Sports section, May 19, 1984. His first byline came for an account of the closing game of the Trojan regular baseball season. He also covered Mendota's appearance at sectional in Newark.

A photo by Kip Cheek accompanied the story.

It was front page news when Bob Baile retired after 28 years as band director and head of the music department at MHS. He had started band trips, beginning with a trip to Indiana in 1960. The most recent trip, at the time of his retirement, had been the 1983 trip to New York City. This included a program for handicapped children. Band parents had an organization known as the Band Aides. Louis Kerns, first president of the group, recalled that, in 1974, they headed a drive for new band uniforms.

The Christmas concert became a regular feature during Baile's tenure. His own five children came through the band program at MHS. They were treated "like at other band student – the way they wanted it."

Interview and accompanying photo of the retiring Baile were by The Reporter's new man, Kip Cheek.

SIDETRACK: Although Baile did not commit himself to any particular activity at the time of his retirement, he soon began leading an Alumni Band of his former students at Memorial Day observances.

The Public Affairs Department of the Mendota Woman's Club held its year-end meeting on mat 15, 1984, at Angelotti's in Triumph. Karen May turned over the chairmanship of Public Affairs to Iryle Eveland. May also reported on contributions made to various causes during her tenure.

United Cable TV, at 808 Washington St., advertised a free Mickey Mouse watch, \$21 value, to be given to subscribers to the Disney Channel. Programming for May 18, 19, 20, 1984, appeared in the May 18 issue, with an important footnote.

DON'T MISS IT. Please note: All programs start one hour earlier than listed.

Anyone having occasion to visit Reporter files from the mid-1980s, will immediately be struck by the offerings of Mendota's four financial institutions: The National Bank of Mendota, 801 Washington St.; The First State Bank, 706 Washington St.; Mendota Savings & Loan, 800 Washington St.; and First Federal Savings, 711 Illinois Ave. They all offered Money Market accounts, Certificates of Deposit in varying lengths and with interest that ascended with the amount and length of the deposit. Advertising pointed out that yields became greater with each extension of time.

Interest of 10% and 11% was common.

New York's distinctive vulnerability

By Rich Lowry

New York is the greatest city in the world. It also is uniquely suited to the spread of the coronavirus.

As the national debate over re-opening continues and the political blame game intensifies, it's worth considering the scale of New York's outbreak. There is nothing like it anywhere else in the country, and almost nothing like it in the rest of the world.

The story of coronavirus in America is overwhelmingly the story of coronavirus in New York and its surrounding suburbs. Any account of how we got to this place, with deaths nationally headed toward 100,000, must center on New York, which was seeded with the virus early and then seeded much of the rest of the country.

Nearly 20,000 people have died in New York City. If the city were a country, it'd rank sixth in the world in total deaths, behind France and ahead of Brazil.

In New York City, according to a New York Times report, deaths have been more than 300% above normal. In New Jersey, intimately connected to New York, deaths have been 90% above normal. Otherwise, no other state is close. In the rest of New York state, deaths have been 9% above normal.

The epidemic started early in New York. By the time it had its first confirmed case on March 1, there may have been as many as 10,000 undetected cases.

The city was getting seeded constantly from abroad. A study published by medrxiv.org concluded that "introductions from Europe account for the majority of cases found in NYC in the first weeks of March 2020." Then, people coming from or through New York spread the disease elsewhere in the United States.

A New York Times analysis found that the number of cases around the country correlated with how many travelers arrived from New York in early March. New York's connection to the world, especially Europe, its density and its mass transit system all made it a potent vector.

So, the question of how we could have kept the U.S. from getting so hard hit is really how we could have kept New York from getting so hard hit. Every day counted, and better leadership at the federal, state and local levels would have made a difference, but we shouldn't underestimate the difficulties. Trump's early travel restrictions on China would have had to be imposed on Europe as well, when no one was contemplating that. New York's leaders would have had to warn people off the subways, shut the schools and torch the Big Apple's economy before any plainly visible metrics justified it.

This is why the simplistic shots at President Trump, who indeed should have taken the virus more seriously at the outset, don't work. He's the president of New York, but also of other large, international cities like Los Angeles and Miami that have escaped New York's fate. Has his leadership been better in those places, or do divergent conditions and local decisions account for the better outcomes?

None of this, of course, is to disparage New Yorkers. They have absorbed a gut punch over the past two months with characteristic grit and bravery. Yet, without New York's distinctive vulnerability, the course of the epidemic would look completely different.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Census outreach ‘incredibly stymied’ by COVID-19 pandemic

By **JERRY NOWICKI**
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD—Like everyone else, Illinois’ census outreach coordinators have had to adapt to a new reality during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As drastic as this change has been for everyone, it’s the same thing for us,” said Marishonta Wilkerson, who was named co-director of newly-created state census office last September.

Wilkerson and fellow co-director Oswaldo Alvarez are leading Illinois’ \$29 million outreach effort through their office within the Illinois Department of Human Services. Their positions were created by Gov. JB Pritzker’s June executive order aimed at maximizing participation in the decennial head count.

The pair oversees a “hub and spoke” model in which funding passes through IDHS to 31 intermediary organizations that lead outreach efforts in 12 regions of the state. Those organizations partner with other community groups to target outreach at a hyperlocal level.

Thus far, Illinois has hovered in the top 10 for state self-response rate since the census portal opened on April 1. While Wilkerson and Alvarez are pleased with the high ranking, they said there is room to grow the response rate — which was 64.2 percent as of May 13, putting Illinois in 8th place of all states.

While good against the national average of 59.1 percent, the numbers were well below the state’s 2010 final self-reporting tally of 70.5 percent. In 2000, the self-response rate in Illinois was 69 percent. Illinois outpaced the national average of 66.5 percent in 2010 and 67.4 percent in 2000.

There is still plenty of time to push this year’s self-response upward, as the self-response period deadline has been extended to Oct. 31. But for organizers, one difficulty is maintaining momentum as the pandemic puts door-knocking efforts on hold and strict social distancing requirements cancel the planned pizza parties, booths at fairs and local library events while driving outreach online.

Anita Banerji, director of the Democracy Initiative of the nonprofit organization Forefront, agreed that 2020 is presenting challenges both foreseen and unforeseen. Forefront is partnered with the city of Chicago for community-based census outreach as part of the program, and Banerji said they are noticing lagging numbers in minority communities that have not had points of contact with census organizers.

She said one continued challenge is fear of a citizenship question appearing on the official questionnaire. While President Donald Trump advocated for such a question and received widespread media attention, it does not appear on the final form.

“And then everyone also thought that with us going online, that was going to be an issue, but now coupled with the pandemic, there are so many challenges to the 2020 census,” she said.

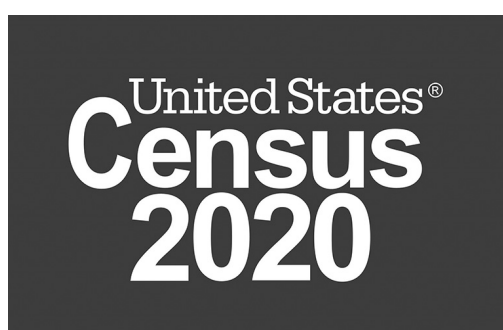
While respondents can still fill out their census by phone at 844-330-2020 or by mailing back the questionnaires that are delivered to one’s household, the majority of responses this year — nearly 53 percent in Illinois — have been completed online at my2020census.gov. The process generally takes about 10 minutes and can also be completed on mobile devices.

Hard-to-count communities

Organizers agree that challenges are compounded in “hard-to-count” communities.

Populations and geographies deemed “Hard to Count” by the U.S. Census Bureau are areas where the self-response rate in the 2010 census was 73 percent or less. Populations that have been historically undercounted include young children, immigrants, low-income households, people of color and rural residents.

Alvarez said the Illinois model puts nonprofit and other community organizations at the center



of outreach in these communities.

“It’s important to have them become the trusted messengers,” he said, noting that nonprofits are often already making day-to-day contact with some of the hardest-to-count communities.

Education is key in the effort, organizers said, as residents need to know what they stand to lose in an undercount, what questions will or will not be on the form, and that their privacy is protected.

But strict social distancing guidelines have made that process more difficult for many local organizers.

Lynden Schuyler, director of southern Illinois census outreach through the Illinois Public Health Association, works in Illinois’ southernmost 20 counties. She said the pandemic has made hard-to-count communities “even harder” in her territory, where four counties have between 28 and 51 percent of households that lack internet access.

“There are pockets where thousands and thousands and thousands of people don’t have access to internet services,” she said, later adding, “There’s a lot of migrant population down there. I think every single one of the hard-to-count communities is there in an abundance.”

She said many people are waiting for hand-delivered census forms, especially in rural areas that have only PO boxes, which do not receive the forms. The hand delivery effort has been postponed, however, and is tentatively scheduled to start again on June 13 in the region.

“You have a good majority that are still waiting on that folder,” Schuyler said. “And in Hardin County, for example, you’re talking 98 percent of those people don’t even have their census invitation yet. So they’re going to explode when that finally gets to them.”

Hand delivery entails only slipping the census forms into one’s mailbox or onto a door handle, meaning it is different than door-knocking efforts, which require in-person contact and won’t begin again until at least August, depending on the region.

Banerji said the lack of “touchpoints,” or in-person contact, in minority communities in the Chicago area is creating problems as well.

“Our outreach efforts have been incredibly stymied by the pandemic,” she said. “And we need to make sure that people’s priorities are health and safety first.”

Adapting outreach

Unsurprisingly, social media has been important to getting the word out as organizations creatively adapt to new realities.

Banerji said one organization she worked with had not used Twitter much, but realized its power when participating in a coordinated regional outreach “thunderclap” event where several organizations posted to several social media platform at a coordinated date and time to promote the census.

“So we’ve never utilized social media like this before,” she said. “And to know that it is helping people get counted while they’re home, has helped us with our outreach efforts while we’re all staying at home.”

Organizations have also partnered with new entities to expand internet accessibility and hotspots, she said, and they’ve launched pro-

motion efforts through grocery stores and food banks among others.

In Schuyler’s territory, efforts also include billboards, distributing signage in yards and at grocery stores and other creative efforts. One of her sub-groups launched a “boredom busters” drive-thru where organizers handed bags of coloring books, other activities and census literature to parents while maintaining social distancing.

Groups also promoted social media “dance parties” and other shared virtual activities.

“We’re encouraging parents to do videos about how they and the kids are doing the census and just post them on Facebook somewhere — encouraging people to try to do things together without being together,” she said.

Alvarez said the census office is also partnering with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to “engage the business community to promote the 2020 census.”

That includes marketing and media campaigns as well as working with essential businesses that are open during the pandemic, such as grocery stores in hard-to-count neighborhoods, to distribute posters and canvas tote bags and potentially launch advertising campaigns.

DCEO is also looking at ways to target materials to gig workers and work with chambers of commerce to designate a day for workers to take 10 minutes off to complete the census once pandemic restrictions are loosened.

“I would say this is where creativity is really taking flight amongst certain organizations, and encouraging other organizations to think about doing their work differently,” Banerji said. “And because we do have more months added to self-response, it’s an opportunity to think about more of these concerted outreach efforts, but I will tell you that it’s an incredible challenge.”

Undercount

While the pandemic has changed nearly everything about census outreach efforts, one thing remains the same — the consequences of an undercount. Those include a potential loss of local health resources, up to two seats in Congress and other federal funding.

Wilkerson said about \$1,500 per year in federal funding is lost for each person not counted in the census, and the numbers shape federal funding for the next 10 years.

Alvarez characterized the census as “the one way we really have to twist the government’s arm to represent you and invest in you.”

“We all win when we’re all counted,” he said.

Some of the hardest-to-count communities Schuyler’s organization serves have the most to lose in an undercount. Those communities are often reliant on local health departments, and a complete count is essential to ensuring they receive adequate funding.

“The census numbers are utilized by the US government to determine the government pass-through funds that go to health and well-being programs like health departments, Medicare, Medicaid, the Head Start programs, all kinds of education programs, Pell Grants, school lunches, senior programs like Meals on Wheels, and the various senior transportation systems,” she said.

An undercount could affect schools, roads, bridges and other public improvements that are at least partially funded by government pass-through funds, she added.

The organizers also agreed the pandemic that has so drastically altered this year’s plans is further evidence that an accurate count is needed.

“Never before has it become more apparent to me that this kind of data is necessary to be collected for emergency crises,” Banerji said. “We need to know where people reside so that resources can be deployed. And without that accurate data, we’re not going to be able to plan for our future, we’re not going to be able to ensure that when our next pandemic hits that we’ve got the necessary information we need.”



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Lane Positioning—When riding on roadways and bicycle paths at less than normal traffic speed, ride as close as practicable and safe to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except, when overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction, or, when preparing for a left turn, or, when reasonably necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, motorized pedal cycles, pedestrians, animals and surface hazards.

Lights on Bicycles—For night riding, a front lamp with a white light visible from at least 500 feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear visible from 100 feet to 600 feet are required. A rear light visible from 500 feet may be used in addition to the red reflector.

Two or More on a Bike—Bicycles shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, except that an adult rider may carry a child securely attached to his person in a backpack device or sling.

Parental Responsibility—The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize the child or ward to violate any of the provision of this code.

The Mendota Police Department encourages bicyclists to wear a helmet for protection against head injuries.

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3	3			1	9	7	5
6	4	9				1	
	7			8	2	4	3
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LOCAL AND AREA

State saw nearly 73,000 new unemployment claims in final week before gig worker portal went live

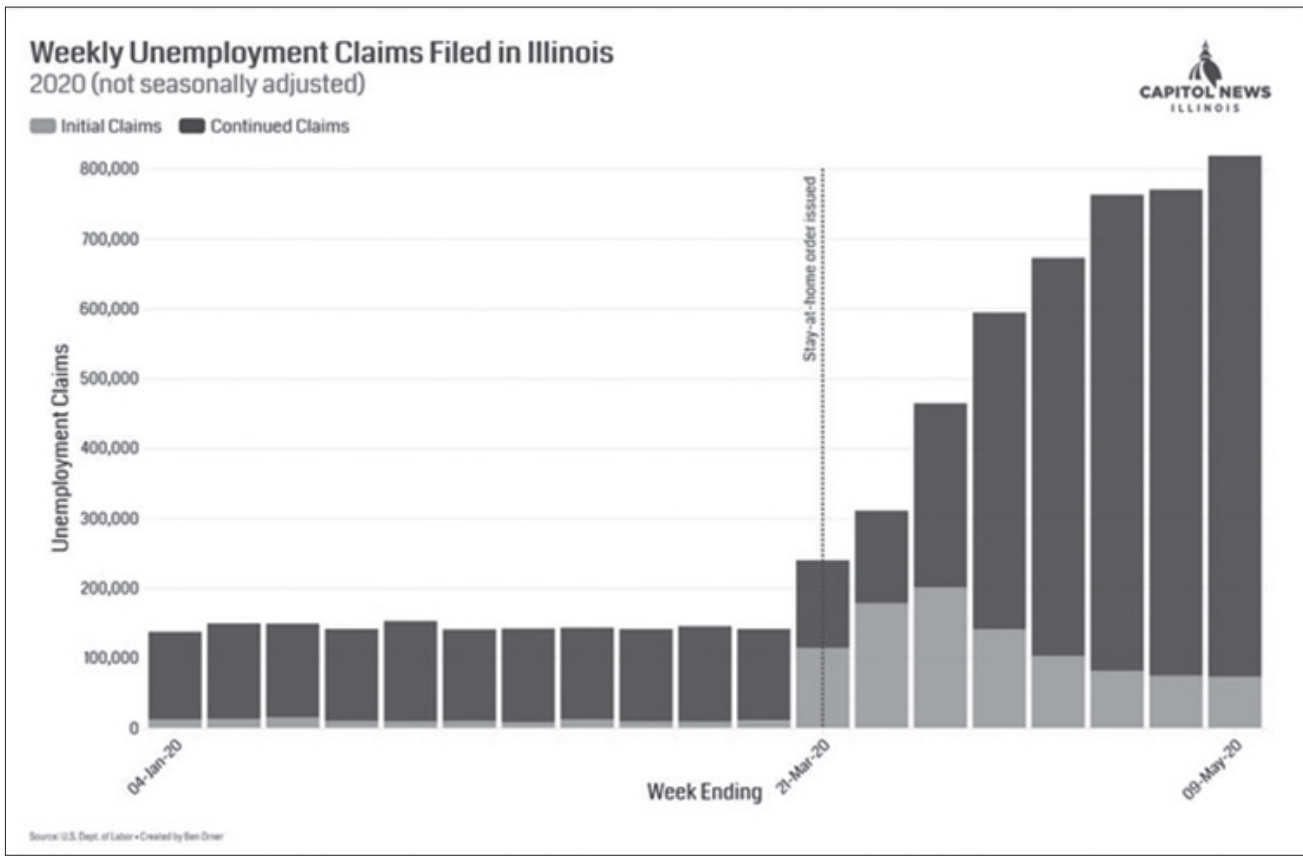
By JERRY NOWICKI
Capitol News Illinois
SPRINGFIELD — The U.S. saw nearly 3 million more unemployment claims the week ending May 9, including another 72,993 in Illinois, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

The 2.98 million claims nationwide in the week pushed the jobless claims in the first two months of the novel coronavirus pandemic to more than 36 million. The unprecedented number of claims made for a national unemployment rate of 15.7 percent the week ending May 2.

In Illinois, the number of new claims on the week was 1,483 fewer than the week prior. The number of new claims each week has gone down since a peak of 201,041 during the week of April 4. The Illinois Department of Employment Security said in a news release it has now processed 1,076,461 claims for regular unemployment benefits from March 1 through May 9.

Continued claims reached 756,441 in the state the first week of May, which was the final period before contractors and self-employed persons were able to file for special federal pandemic unemployment assistance in Illinois.

“While the number of initial claims for regular benefits has plateaued in the last two weeks, IDES will experience an increase in overall claims processed when the federal pandemic unemployment assistance



claims data becomes available Thursday, May 21,” according to the department’s news release.

Gov. JB Pritzker said more than 50,000 applications had been filed through the state’s new pandemic unemployment assistance system since May 11.

“It is working reasonably well,” he said of the new portal, calling the new system “a more robust system than the existing one for regular unemployment.”

Pritzker said the existing system was “built on a 10-year-old platform not expecting to take the kind of size of applications that have come in for regular unemployment.”

Reports of long wait times and an inability to reach employment offices over the phone persist amid the unprecedented inflow of new claims.

“We have many thousands of calls that come in each day, thousands get answered and responded to. And people get processed over the phone as well,” Pritzker said.

The state has expanded call center capacity and Pritzker said online applications are the best way to get an application through the system.

“I realize that it is difficult when you can’t file, if there’s some problem with your filing online, and it re-

quires perhaps an arbitration or some other intervention that it does have a personal discussion with somebody,” Pritzker said. “We’re working very hard; we’ve just spun up this outside call center to add on top of the internal IDES capability. And we’re getting to them as fast as possible again with an unprecedented number of filings, it is difficult.”

IDES said in the news release it has processed 33,729 Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation claims, which provide up to 13 weeks of federally-funded benefits to individuals who have exhausted regular state unemployment benefits.

Pritzker announced a new “Get Hired Illinois” website that is aimed at connecting job hunters with employers looking for new employees. That site, at [Illinois.gov/gethired](https://www.illinois.gov/gethired), also has information on virtual job fairs and training opportunities.

He said from June through December, in a partnership with online learning platform Coursera, the state will offer unemployed workers “free, unlimited access to 3,800 online courses and 400 specializations offered by over 160 of the best universities in the world.”

Pritzker said the level of access normally costs \$400 a year, but is free to those who are unemployed in Illinois.

Public Nuisance Ordinance

MENDOTA — The Mendota Police Department would like to remind home and business owners of city ordinances regarding public nuisances.

It is against city ordinance to have accumulations of trash, building materials, abandoned automobiles, machinery, scrap metal, discarded tires, vehicle batteries or any other material that creates a public health hazard on your property. It is also a violation to permit weeds, grass or plants other than trees, bushes or flowers or other ornamental plants to grow to a height exceeding six inches anywhere in the city. Also, all multi-family structures, including structures that consist of both residential and commercial units, and structures which share a wall or walls with another structure, shall be kept free from infestations of insects (including but not limited to bedbugs, cockroaches and disease-carrying insects), rats or other vermin.

The city of Mendota requests anyone who is in violation of the above mentioned nuisance regulations to remove the item(s) from your property. Anyone found in violation will be subject to receiving a citation, which involves a court date and fine.

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Marilyn Chaon

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Your Loving Husband

BYRON CHAON

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You are missed by many. My memories of you are happy but my heart still cries for you.

Marilyn Chaon

HARLEY D. HOAG

JUNE 13, 1931 - DECEMBER 22, 2019

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Mrs. Harley Hoag & Family

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MAY 22, 1932 - MARCH 31, 2014

*Forever missed, never forgotten.
May God hold you in the palm of His hand*

Rick, Linda Brandt & Family

ROSIE SHANNON

JULY 1, 1928 - AUGUST 19, 2012

*May the Lord bless you with His grace
and warm, loving heart.*

From your loving family

BARB MANN

JUNE 29, 1938 - JANUARY 9, 2008

*You were a light in our life that burns
forever in our hearts.*

Rick, Linda Brandt & Family

DONALD H. POLLEX

MARCH 16, 1932 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

*A heart of gold stopped beating, two shining eyes at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove, He only takes the best.*

June M. Pollex

GLEN (BROWNIE) MANN

NOVEMBER 28, 1935 - OCTOBER 25, 1986

*The days may come and go, but the times we shared
will always remain.*

Rick, Linda Brandt & Family

DAY TO REMEMBER

Due to the current restrictions in place, Mendota VFW Post 4079, Mendota American Legion Post 540 and their Auxiliaries will not have a Memorial Day Service.

However, each year it is important to take a moment and reflect on the men and women who have served their nation, and the many who willingly gave their lives to protect us all.

This year let us also sincerely thank our First Responders, the men and women of our local Police and Fire Departments. They work everyday to ensure our safety.

Finally, a salute to the Medical Service Providers. Their profession is equally challenging. We are all better and more secure because of their dedication.

The Flags will be flown in Restland Cemetery, The Lutheran Cemetery and Holy Cross Cemetery the same as in years past. We hope you enjoy them.

Thank you, and God Bless the United States of America

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Following is a list of deceased Veterans from this past year. We apologize if we omitted any names.

William G. Bentley
Dennis P. Cassidy
Joseph E. Chandler
Kevin Corrigan
Russell B. Crews
Richard E. Dewey
Keith H. Eich
Paul W. Fitzgerald
Ronald E. Gregory
James R. Hamacher
Kenneth G. Kurth
Harold W. Kutz
Eugene C. McLaughlin
George T. McMahon
Joseph H. McNally
Robert E. Meinhardt
Robert F. Moffett, Jr.
Francis D. Murray
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Galen B. Schammel
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Robert W. Stevens
Delbert G. Truckenbrod
Ralph L. Weekly
John F. Wiegand
Robert C. Williams
Adelbert L. "Bert" Wise
Lorrell M. "Jack" Woods
Herbert W. Yingling

THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Brady N. Burkart, 20, of 105 20th St., A-4, Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at Stroble Avenue and 15th Street at 10:25 a.m. May 7. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

James R. Grissom, 31, of 303 Second Ave., Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at 14th Avenue and Jefferson Street at 5:14 p.m. May 12. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Henry L. Thompson, 19, of 1200 22nd St., Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at Third Avenue and Fifth Street at 4:55 p.m. May 16. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Paul A. Ortega, 66, of 103 17th St., Mendota, was arrested at 4:25 p.m. May 17 on a Marshall County warrant for failure to appear on a charge of speeding. The subject was released with a Marshall County court date.

NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Medinah S. White, 35, of Milwaukee, Wis., was charged with no valid driver's license at 5:46 p.m. May 18. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Essay contest gives IVCC student chance to write about decades of fulfillment

OGLESBY—When Karla Guskusky of Tonica learned of Illinois Valley Community College's annual Paul Simon Essay Contest – a chance for students to write about how the college changed their lives – she saw it as an opportunity almost 40 years in the making.

A renowned IVCC student-athlete and coach in the 1980s and 90s, Guskusky will graduate from the college's therapeutic massage program in the summer of 2021.

She was a member of IVCC's first volleyball and softball teams and still fondly remembers her initial experience on campus at a summer basketball scrimmage.

"I was waiting on the side to get in and show them what I could do," she recalled in her Simon essay. "In the middle of a fast break, coach Ken Pyszka yelled, 'Karla, get in there!' I darted in from half-court, ran full-speed down the lane, caught a pass from Debbie Hall and somehow made a miraculous shot while being fouled. That was my start at IVCC."

The former Karla Walgenbach was a three-sport captain and MVP who earned a scholarship to Loyola University Chicago to play volleyball and basketball before a broken leg suffered

in an IVCC softball game cost her that full-ride.

"I was devastated, but it opened another door, one that helped mold me into the person I am today: a coach, a mentor, someone who loves to help people."

She met lifelong friends at IVCC including Rhonda Morel, Carol Pratt, Dr. Rhonda Marty-Anderson and Mary Jesse and spent the next decade coaching

IVCC volleyball; her 1986 team finished third in the state with a school record 37 wins and she was named N4C Conference Coach of the Year.

She also refereed volleyball 32 years – including being head official for the 2003 Class A state championship at ISU's Redbird Arena.

Guskusky is a married mother of four sons, fit-

ness trainer and former award-winning bodybuilder. She was a successful salesperson of large farm buildings for 19 years. When that job ended, she turned to IVCC.

"IVCC came to the rescue again by hiring me as a fitness center instructor and by giving me a start in a new career in therapeutic massage. I've never enjoyed

school so much as I have this time around.

"IVCC has been there for me at every stage of my life," she wrote. "It has quietly been my rock, always there when I needed it. I graduated from IVCC in 1981 and now 40 years later will graduate again at 60."

"I am not sure where I would be in this world without IVCC."



Karla Guskusky with grandson Tucker and her Belgian horse Blanche on the Tonica family farm. (Photo contributed)



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BLESSED EVENTS

ROBISON – Mr. and Mrs. Mark Robison (Laura Funfsinn) of Mendota, boy, May 1, 2020, at St. Margaret's Hospital in Spring Valley.

ROMAN O. PERKINS

John and Rachel (Klein) Perkins of Newton, Ala., are parents of Roman O., born Aug. 3, 2018, in Alabama.

Maternal grandparents are Bob and Deb Klein of Mendota.

BROOKS O. PERKINS

John and Rachel (Klein) Perkins of Newton, Ala., are parents of Brooks O., born April 9, 2020, in Alabama. Maternal grandparents are Bob and Deb Klein of Mendota.

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SOCIAL SCENE



Online auditions for CSA Sinfonia will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 30. Brass and woodwind musicians, string instrument players and percussionists ages 14-20 are encouraged to audition.

High school musicians sought for CSA Sinfonia

DeKALB – High school musicians ages 14-20 are invited to audition online for CSA Sinfonia on Saturday, May 30. Auditions begin at 11 a.m. and must be scheduled in advance. Brass and woodwind musicians, string instrument players and percussionists are encouraged to audition.

Linc Smelser will conduct Sinfonia auditions using Zoom or Facetime online meeting software to observe current social distancing guidelines. Musicians should be prepared to play two short contrasting pieces and demonstrate sight-reading ability. Those who meet the skill requirements are invited to become members of the youth symphony for the 2020-2021 season—rehearsal and concert dates to be announced.

Offered by the NIU Community

School of the Arts, this top regional full youth orchestra performs original masterpieces by Dvorak, Tchaikovsky, and Beethoven, as well as music from the 20th century, occasionally including popular music classics arranged for orchestra. The music is fun and challenging, and young musicians enjoy a rewarding experience as musicians in a large orchestra led by a world-class music director.

Smelser, an accomplished cellist and music educator, directs the CSA Youth Sinfonia. He performs regularly as a soloist and with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra. Smelser has most recently been appointed a faculty member of the Music Institute of Chicago in Winnetka. He served as guest lecturer of cello at

the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music from 2006-2016 and is currently on the faculty of both the Chicago Suzuki Institute and the American Suzuki Institute, and is pianist/accompanist of the NIU Suzuki program. Smelser is the conductor and music director of the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra in DeKalb. He teaches private cello lessons at the NIU Community School of the Arts and also directs the CSA youth string orchestra Symphonette.

CSA Sinfonia auditions can be scheduled online at csa.niu.edu or by calling the CSA office at (815) 753-1450. The NIU Community School of the Arts offers online private music lessons this summer on most instruments and registration is open now for children and adults of all ages.

MHS presents Sousa, Becker band awards

MENDOTA – The John Philip Sousa Award and the John Becker Memorial Award winners have been announced at Mendota High School.

Hannah Ambler has been selected for the Sousa Award, which is given to the outstanding senior band student. She is the daughter of Carl and Susan Ambler of Mendota.



H. Ambler

Olivia Ross is the recipient of the Becker Award, which is given to the outstanding sophomore band student. She is the daughter of Kirk and Kathy Ross of Mendota.



O. Ross

The John Philip Sousa Award is given to the graduating senior in recognition for outstanding achievement in instrumental music. The

recipient should exhibit characteristics of good character, dependability, cooperation, loyalty, conduct, appreciation of good music, self-confidence, leadership and a sincere desire to learn music with the welfare of the band in mind.

The John Becker Memorial Award is given to the outstanding sophomore band student. In November of 1981, Becker suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. He was a sophomore in the Mendota High School Concert Band and was devoted to the study of trombone. Becker was a serious student in school, who was extremely loyal to the band program. His long-range plan was to become a music educator. He was well-liked by his peers and respected by the faculty at MHS. Becker had the highest degree of character, held a high expectation for himself and inspired others to do the same. This memorial award was established not only to honor the memory of John Becker, but also his admirable traits as a bandman of the highest standard.

MHS's DeLong named as Arion Award winner

MENDOTA – The 2020 recipient of the Mendota High School Arion Award is Noah DeLong, son of Michael and Janet DeLong.

The Arion Award is to recognize a senior choir student for outstanding achievement in choral music. The recipient must exhibit the following qualities: cooperation over and above normal duties, musicianship and performance, attendance, ambition, diligence, inspiration to others, personal habits and someone who is best qualified to carry on the best traditions of Mendota High School. The candidate must



N. DeLong

have at least a 3.0 cumulative average in school.

DeLong's accomplishments include eight semesters in Concert Choir, Choir President, Madrigal Singer (11, 12) also Madrigal King, ILMEA Senior Chorus (11, 12), ILMEA All-State Honors Chorus (11), ILMEA All-State Chorus (12), BNC Choir (10, 12), Masterwork Project (Mozart Requiem) with Cor Cantiamo (9), IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest (five Best of the Day Awards, nine first-place ratings), Show Choir Combo-Drums (10, 11, 12), The Little Mermaid (Sailor and member of Chorus), Little Shop of Horrors, Audrey II, National Anthem Singer at MHS sporting event – 2018 and We the Least Christian rock band member.

Princeton Public Library is opening drop box

PRINCETON – Officials at the Princeton Public Library appreciate the patrons for holding on to their checked-out items while the library has been closed. Many people have been eager for the library to reopen and library personnel share this aspiration. However, the health and safety of the community and staff is, and will always be the library's

first priority. Therefore, the library is proceeding carefully and in phases to eventually return to its comfort zone.

The library's first phase will be to open its drop box return slots located on the west side of the building. Patrons with outstanding items are encouraged to return items in this manner. From there, personnel will quarantine and sanitize

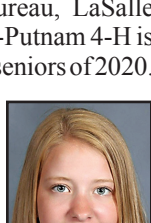
the items before checking them in and returning to the shelves. During this period, the returned items will remain on the patron's account until the items clear quarantine and can be checked in safely by staff, and late fees will not apply to any outstanding items.

This step is important to ensure the collection is expansive and safe for the next

step in the library's reopening plan. Library personnel will contact those patrons with hotspots checked out to coordinate a time when they can accept the return in keeping with Covid-19 safety standards. Also, the library will not be able to collect book donations at this time. Please continue to hold on to them until the library is open to the public.

Spotlight on 4-H - Ashleigh Collins

LaSALLE COUNTY - The University of Illinois Extension Bureau, LaSalle and Marshall-Putnam 4-H is honoring the seniors of 2020. This week, they are highlighting Ashleigh Collins, a member of North Stars in LaSalle County. She recently concluded her senior year at Mendota High School.



A. Collins

Interior design and sheep have been her favorite projects. She has shown sheep for six years and has made four interior design projects.

When asked what she has learned from 4-H, Collins replied, "4-H helped me learn

more about community service and how I can be a better member of my community. I also enjoyed working on committees and being part of a successful team."

Favorite memories for Collins are from her club gatherings. "North Stars is like an extended family and we always enjoy our potlucks and other events in addition to our monthly meetings," she said. "I also really enjoy the county fair."

She advises younger 4-H members to get involved with many projects, even when they do not know much about that area. "There are always others to help you along the way," she noted.

Collins plans to attend Oklahoma State University in the fall where she will pursue

a degree in animal science. She would like to continue her education to obtain advanced degrees and work as an animal nutritionist.

Collins expressed her gratitude to her 4-H leader, Staci Sundberg, who introduced her to 4-H, always supported her, and recognized her as a leader in the club.

If you have questions or if you would like information about joining 4-H, e-mail Toni Pienta at fusinatt@illinois.edu for LaSalle County, Danielle Gapinski at des85@illinois.edu for Bureau County or Anne Scheel at amscheel@illinois.edu for Marshall-Putnam, or call University of Illinois Extension—Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Unit at (815) 224-0889.



Some simple shopping strategies can help people prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Safeguard against COVID-19 when grocery shopping

Supermarkets and other food merchants are allowed to stay open as "essential" retailers amid the mass shutdowns prompted by the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Along with banks, gas stations and takeout restaurants, supermarkets are among the few places that people are allowed to visit to procure the necessities of everyday life.

Even with social distancing and other precautions in place, grocery stores remain high-traffic locations. As a result, many people feel concerned about how to best protect themselves when turning to in-store visits or grocery delivery services to stay stocked on food and other essentials.

• Maintain a six-foot distance. As with other locations, shoppers should keep a distance of six feet between themselves and other shoppers. Do not hesitate to move back or ask someone to move away if you feel concerned about proximity. Shopping

during "off-peak" hours may help thin out crowds and make it easier to maintain social distance.

• Shop small retailers. It can be beneficial to visit independently owned retailers, like local markets, delis and specialty food stores. Crowds at such stores will likely be smaller than the crowds at large chain stores.

• Wipe down products. Data published in The New England Journal of Medicine that tested how long COVID-19 survived on surfaces found the virus was detected up to 72 hours on plastic, 48 hours on stainless steel, 4 hours on copper, and 24 hours on cardboard. While infection from touch may not be as likely as it is from direct inhalation of COVID-19 from an infected individual, it can be helpful to wipe down surfaces, including non-porous packaging, once items are brought home, as well as counters or tables used to unload packages. Wiping down a shopping cart handle

also may be helpful.

• Wash produce. Consumer Reports suggests washing fruits and vegetables in a mild soap-and-water solution to eliminate any possible live virus and pesticides.

• Avoid direct contact. Whether items are delivered or purchased in-store, avoid personal contact with cashiers or other store employees. Pick up and pack your own groceries. Opt to pay with a credit card or another digital pay option like Apple Pay instead of handing over cash. Use your own pen to sign receipts. Scan your own frequent shopper card or have the cashier use a scanner, rather than taking your key ring to hold. Delivery services can place the bags outside of your front door. Tips also can be exchanged electronically for delivery services through an app or online or over the phone.

Some simple shopping strategies can help people prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois host first virtual annual meeting, elect new officers

SOUTH ELGIN – Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) hosted its first virtual Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 9. With a quorum of over 100 members, the organization elected the following individuals to its volunteer Board of Directors with terms expiring in 2023:

Officers: Dana Vierck (Elgin), Second Vice-Chair; Jennifer Archer (Roscoe), Secretary.

Directors-at-Large: Tasha Davis (Montgomery); Angela Schmidt (Rockford).

The following individuals were also elected to GSNI's Board Development Committee with terms expiring in 2021: Michael Campbell (Fox River Grove), Chair; Mark Ackerman (Pecatonica); Linda Caine (St. Charles); Vicky Kohlbacher (Rockford); Betsy Scott (Barrington); Dana Vierck (Elgin); Lois Wollney (Barrington).

Associate Directors on GSNI's Board of Directors represent the voice of girls on the Board and can give input to policies and other governance matters. The following Girl Scout girl members were elected as GSNI Associate Directors with terms expiring in 2021: Maggie

Bell (St. Charles); Anjel Henry (Rock Falls).

National Council Delegates represent GSNI at the 2020 Girl Scout National Council Session and serve as advisors to GSNI's Board of Directors and staff for a three-year term, expiring in 2023. The following members were elected as National Council Delegates at GSNI's virtual 2020 Annual Meeting: (Adult Members) Lauri Doyle (Oswego); Joslyn Gould (Genoa); Amanda Guffey (South Beloit); Jennifer Shepeck (Byron); Janey Welch (Woodstock); Elizabeth Boyd (Plano), Alternate Delegate. (Girl Members) Maggie Bell (St. Charles); Morgan Doyle (Oswego); Emily Hinrichs (Thomson); Harley Miller (Rock City); Maddison Shepard (Crystal Lake); Vivian Tackett-Irwin (Gilberts), Alternate Delegate

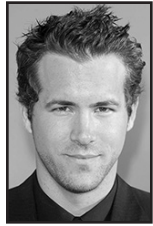
Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois serves 16 counties including parts or all of Boone, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join, visit www.girlscoutsnl.org or call 844-GSNI-4-ME (844-476-4463).

ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Our current pandemic will have a major effect on the next Oscar Awards on Feb. 28, 2021. Normally, in order to qualify for an Oscar nomination, a film must play in a theater in Los Angeles County for one week prior to Dec. 31, but because theaters have been closed there will be no way many movies can be seen to qualify. In response, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has eased the eligibility requirements for films debuting on streaming and VOD platforms if they're made available on the Academy's exclusive streaming site within 60 days of their release, but only if they were previously intended for theatrical release. After theaters reopen, the one-week rule will be reinstated. It further announced that this will be



Reynolds

the final year they'll send academy members screeners, thus also putting an end to the constant pirating of major film screeners.

I've had several fans of "7th Heaven" (1996-2007) ask me what has become of Stephen Collins, who played Rev. Eric Camden. In 2014 he became engulfed in a "Me Too" scandal that accused him of inappropriate sexual conduct with minors -- first one girl, then two others -- decades before. Collins confessed in the pages of People Magazine that he did "something terribly wrong." Although he apologized to one of the girls, his career was over. Stephen was unemployed, so he moved back to his native Iowa, where in July 2019 he wed German "superfan" Jenny Nagel. He was 72 and she was 32. Collins began his career on an episode of "The Waltons" in 1975, and in addition to "7th Heaven" he starred in 21 episodes of "Tales of the Gold Monkey" in 1982.

Ryan Reynolds has prepped for the shutdown. His film "The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard" opens Aug. 28; "Free Guy," with Jodie Comer ("Killing Eve") drops Dec. 11, and the animated "The Croods 2," with Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Leslie Mann, Catherine Keener and Cloris Leachman, is due Dec. 23. He's currently prepping Netflix's untitled film based on T.S. Nowlin's book "Our Name Is Adam," about a man who travels to the past to enlist his 13-year-old self to confront their father, is ready to shoot when the industry reopens.

Kaley Cuoco's first job post-"Big Bang Theory" is the film "The Man From Toronto." It's a comedy about the world's deadliest assassin (Woody Harrelson) and a New York screw-up (Kevin Hart) who are mistaken for each other at an Airbnb. We won't get a big bang from this one until September 2021.

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Couch Theater

(Movies reviewed in this week's column have just been released on video and DVD.)

"Birds of Prey" (R) -- Margot Robbie is at her overly bright, psychotic best as Harley Quinn, notorious lunatic and now ex-girlfriend of The Joker. A diamond belonging to the narcissistic crime lord Roman (Black Mask, played by Ewan McGregor) disappears thanks to a young girl named Cass, and she is marked for death. So Harley turns a tear of self-destruction into a riot of self-discovery and female empowerment, teaming with a mafia don's daughter (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) out for revenge with her crossbow, a sultry siren (Jurnee Smollett-Bell) who uses her voice as a weapon, and a tough Gotham cop (Rosie Perez). The girl gang takes up arms in a very violent defense.

"The Photograph" (PG-13) -- A steamy love story erupts when Mae (Issa Rae) discovers a letter and photograph shortly after her

mother's death. Her mother, Christina (played in flashback by Chante Adams) -- a famous photographer -- is the subject of an article by up and coming journalist Michael (LaKeith Stanfield), who approaches Mae for an interview. The pair have an instant chemistry, and as both Mae and Michael explore her mother's life and motivations, they may end up reliving and hopefully benefiting from the regrets of the past.

"Call of the Wild" (PG) -- It's the classic Jack London tale of a family dog who is spirited away to the edge of the world and forced to fight to survive, updated with CGI and featuring Harrison Ford as a grizzled mountain man. Buck -- a St. Bernard-collie mix -- lives a spoiled life in California when he is stolen and sold as a sled dog in the Yukon territory. As he serves a series of masters, he grows and changes, skirting the line between civilized and feral. He's rescued by John

Thornton (Ford) and the pair cross into uncharted territory in an attempt to answer the call of the wild.

"Fantasy Island" (PG-13) -- Win a trip, visit an island and make a wish! That's the reality of Gwen (Maggie Q), Melanie (Lucy Hale), Patrick (Austin Stowell) and stepbrothers J.D. and Brax (J.D. Hansen and Jimmy O. Yang). Their fantasies seem innocuous enough -- having it all, serving in wartime, revenge on a bully, the man of your dreams -- and Mr. Roark (Michael Pena) is on staff to facilitate the deliverance of these fantasies. But they don't have the wholesome endings found in the 1970s TV version. Yes, guests of this specialized resort are granted the fulfillment of a wish, but unsurprisingly end up with wisher's remorse in this horror-fable by Blumhouse, meant as a prequel to the TV version.

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Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Did I hear correctly that the show "God Friended Me" just had its series finale? I really like the show, but if that was the end of it, we still didn't get any answers as to who was behind the God Account. They left us hanging. This is a great, positive show that we need right now. -- K.L.



Hall

A: Yes, unfortunately, "God Friended Me" aired its two-hour series -- not just season -- finale in late April. The creators of the show didn't get much notice of its cancellation by CBS, but feel they did the ending justice. If you saw the scene on the mountaintop, that was actually filmed for the very first episode, but the footage wasn't used until the finale. The producers also stitched together an ending with more recent takes.

In an article on Deadline.com, co-creator Bryan Wynbrandt explained why fans didn't learn who was behind the God Account: "In the spirit of the show, searching

for one's own place in the world, for Miles [Brandon Micheal Hall], his journey was less about him getting the answer and more about him being ready to receive it. Whether it's God or not God, it was about getting him to a place where he's open-minded and unencumbered by the tragedies of the past and he was fully open to the answer. That was ultimately the journey, and that's what the mountaintop represents. Who it was is less important."

While the message is a beautiful one, I'm with you -- I don't like vague endings. And if you missed the finale, all 22 episodes of "God Friended Me" can be streamed on CBS All Access.

Q: I heard that they are bringing back the family-friendly reality show "Wipeout." How are they going to do this with the pandemic? Do you know when episodes will air? -- T.K.

A: Yes, "Wipeout" will be back -- someday. The hit show aired on ABC from 2008 to 2014 and was recently acquired by the TBS cable channel for a planned 20-episode run, but it hasn't been filmed yet. The obstacle

courses should be similar to the slippery ones that fans are familiar with, but TBS is adding some new challenges.

Brett Weitz, general manager of TBS, said that casting the competitors will only be done "virtually" for now due to the pandemic. Applicants can check out www.wipeoutcasting.com for more information.

Q: Is "Westworld" going to be back on HBO? I really hope it continues, but it doesn't seem like many people talk about it anymore, so I wonder if it's lost viewers. -- P.B.

A: The ratings must be good enough because the science-fiction Western has been given the green light for a fourth season. Evan Rachel Wood, Thandie Newton and Ed Harris star in the series, which had only eight episodes for its critically acclaimed third season but drew an impressive 9 million viewers.

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

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• Trivia Test •

1. U.S. STATES: Which of the 48 contiguous United States has the largest land area?
2. TELEVISION: What city does SpongeBob SquarePants live in?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What color is cyan?
4. FOOD & DRINK: In beer styles, what does the designation IPA mean?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Which two countries share the longest border?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of squirrels called?
7. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Which famous author once wrote, "As full of spirit as the month of May, and as gorgeous as the sun in Midsummer"?
8. MOVIES: In the 2020 movie, what is the real name of

the superhero in "Black Widow"?

9. BUSINESS: Which animal is featured in the Porsche auto logo?

10. HISTORY: What was the name of the dog who was first to orbit the Earth in a space vehicle?

Answers

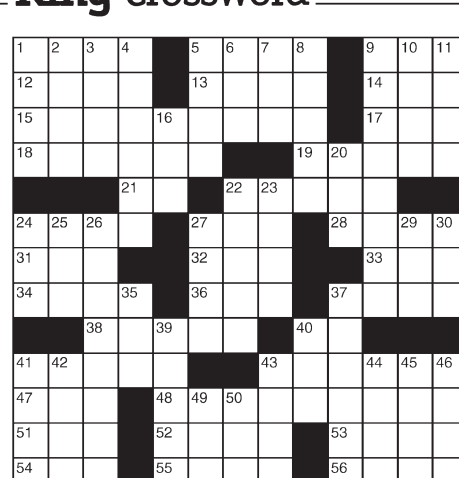
1. Texas
2. Bikini Bottom
3. Blue
4. India pale ale
5. The United States and Canada
6. A scurry or dray
7. William Shakespeare
8. Natasha Romanoff
9. A horse
10. Laika

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Comes together
- 5 Sail support
- 9 Drenched
- 12 Met melody
- 13 From the beginning
- 14 Wall crawler
- 15 Voles
- 17 Back talk
- 18 Man's hat style
- 19 Confound
- 21 First word of "America"
- 22 Gotham City super-villain
- 24 Renown
- 27 Standard
- 28 Linger
- 31 Chicken-king link
- 32 Recede
- 33 Mongrel
- 34 Two-wheeler
- 36 Ph. bk. listings
- 37 Relinquish
- 38 Occurrence
- 40 Letter after lambda
- 41 Discussion group
- 43 Insect with pincers
- 47 Hawaiian neckpiece
- 48 Crockett and Tubbs' show
- 51 Tolkien ogre



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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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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

—

Do you Kasasa?

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* The first sunglasses were invented in 12th-century China and made from smoked quartz. While providing no protection against harmful UV rays, they did give some relief from the sun's glare and also served as a valuable tool for Chinese judges, allowing them to seem emotionally detached during interrogations.

* English Romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) is credited with the first printed use of the words "selfless," "psychosomatic," "bipolar" and "bisexual."

* A study by neurologists showed that some patients suffering from brain trauma and damage on the right-hand side of their brain have a compulsive obsession to tell jokes they find hilarious, while not finding other people's jokes funny at all.

* The hacker group Anonymous once sent thousands of all-black faxes to the Church of Scientology to deplete all of their ink cartridges.

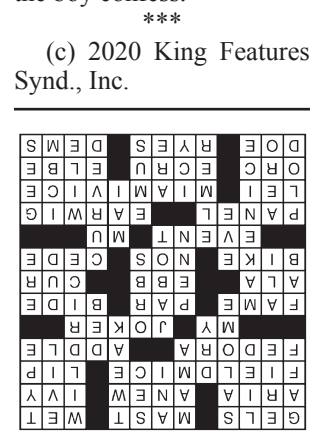
* May 29 is officially "Put a Pillow on Your Fridge Day." This curious holiday derives from an old custom of placing a piece of cloth from one's bedroom in a place where food was kept, helping to ensure a supply of future plenty to the household.

* Sierra Leone is the world's roundest country and sits not too far from Egypt -- the world's squarest country.

* Nearly 3% of the ice in Antarctic glaciers is composed of penguin urine. Due to the subzero temperature in that area, it can't evaporate.

* Think you hate going to the dentist? A 12-year-old French boy once faked his own kidnapping to get out of it! After being located in a village 100 miles from his home, the lad lied to police, even describing his kidnapper's distinctive cheek scar. Only after they had searched for a month and re-questioned him did the boy confess.

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Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

—

King Crossword

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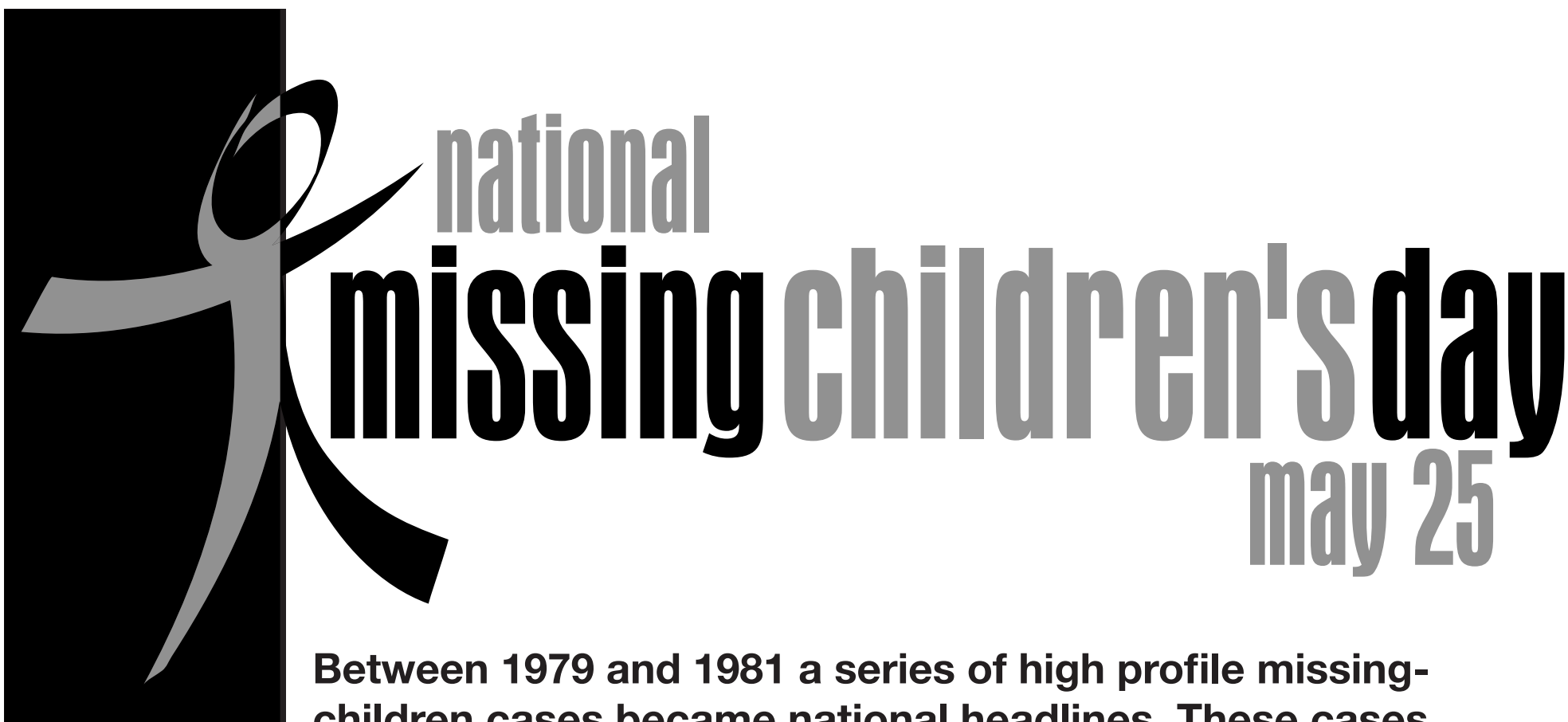


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Between 1979 and 1981 a series of high profile missing-children cases became national headlines. These cases contributed to the shock of the nation's consciousness bringing attention to the seriousness of child victimization and forever changing the response by law-enforcement agencies to reports of missing children.

The tragedies of these children and others exposed a fundamental flaw. There was no coordinated effort between federal, state, and local law enforcement; no national response system in place; and no central resource to help searching families. When it came to handling missing-children cases, the United States was a nation of 50 states often acting like 50 separate countries.

In 1983 President Ronald Reagan proclaimed May 25 National Missing Children's Day. Each administration since has honored this annual reminder to the nation to renew efforts to reunite missing children with their families and make child protection a national priority. National Missing Children's Day is a reminder to all parents and guardians of the need for high-quality photographs of their children for use in case of an emergency, and for the need for everyone to pay close attention to the posters and photographs of missing children.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Enjoy your life today

How do you feel about your life? Would you say you love it? Or do you just get through each day, enduring the things you don't want to do, putting up with the things that frustrate you, wishing you had someone else's life? Do you believe you will finally be happy someday...when you have this or that?

People often say things like: "I'll be happy when I have a different job." "I'll be happy when I'm married." "I'll be so glad

when the weekend gets here!" "I'd be so happy if I had children." And then after the children come... "I'll be so happy when these kids are finally grown and out of the house!"

It's a mistake for us to go through life thinking we can't be happy until we have something we want or our circumstance changes. The truth is we'll always find something to be unhappy about until we learn to be happy in the Lord.

I know about this from personal experience. I got a very bad start in life, and it made me a miserable, angry, insecure person who didn't trust anybody because I believed if I didn't take care of myself, nobody else would. And that caused me to be very selfish and self-centered.

But God didn't create us to live selfish lives, spending all our time trying to get what we want. He put a desire in us to have pleasure, but we will never really experience His blessings – His peace, joy, love, and all the good things He wants to give us – if we live with a "What about me?!" mentality.

John 10:10 (AMP) says, "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]."

The enemy – the devil – wants to steal our joy and destroy our lives. But Jesus came and died on the cross to give us abundant life, "to the full, till it overflows"! And it's a tragedy when born-again Christians don't enjoy their lives because they have a



"barely getting by, hanging on till Jesus comes to get me" mentality.

If you're unhappy and want to enjoy your life, I want to give you two keys to help you get there.

The first key is to make an attitude adjustment.

Having a negative, critical attitude and feeling sorry for ourselves sours everything. We all have things we could complain about, but it doesn't do any good, so we're just wasting our time and energy when we give in to it.

Make a determined decision to have a more thankful attitude in your day-to-day life. Thank God for the good things you can think of right now, and actively look for more things to add to the list each day. This will help you stay focused on God's goodness.

Another way to improve your attitude is to get your mind off yourself and think about others more. Ask God how you can be a blessing and help make someone else's life better. When we're paying attention to others, it's easy to find something we can do, whether it's giving an encouraging word or compliment, a random act of kindness, or a

hug. There's really no end to the ways we can show God's love to someone around us.

The second key is to have a proper perspective.

Loving or hating a thing often comes down to how you look at it. It's possible you can have more joy in your life simply by looking at it from a different perspective.

Whatever you focus on, that is what you're going to get. If you focus on trouble long enough, that's all you'll expect, and it will likely develop.

What we choose to focus on gets larger in our lives. If we don't have a proper perspective of it from God's point of view, it will grow and get out of balance. For example, in marriage, people sometimes get so focused on the things they don't like about their spouse that they totally forget all the good things they love about them.

I know life is not easy, and we all have to deal with hardship at times. But when you're struggling, realize that although you have some trouble, things could be worse.

I certainly don't mean to make light of a serious issue you're facing; my purpose

with this point is to help you keep your perspective based on God's Word and His promises. Because when you choose to trust Him in every circumstance, He will always be bigger than your problems!

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

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times best-selling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and YOUR BATTLES BELONG TO THE LORD (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.

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

Posted by Rev. Susan Presley

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of fear, but one of power, love
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2 Timothy 1:7

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Let's catch up!

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*No passwords are required for any
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Sunday Worship

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SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAY SERVICE

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Samuel in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the only Jesus miracle reported in all four gospels of the New Testament?
Water to wine, Feeding of 5,000, Raising Lazarus, Red Sea parting
3. To which attendees of an event did Jesus refer to as "the salt of the earth"?
4. From 1 Timothy 5, what was the minimum widow age to be put on a church's support list?
40, 50, 60, 70
5. In Judges 9, who had 70 of his brothers killed on one stone?
Belshazzar, Naboth, Hanun, Abimelech
6. From Daniel 4, who dreamed of a tree that reached into Heaven?
Obadiah, Joshua, Nebuchadnezzar, Matthew



ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Feeding of 5,000; 3) Sermon on the Mount; 4) 60; 5) Abimelech; 6) Nebuchadnezzar.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. JOHN 19:26, 27 *Dea.**



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

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

By virtue of the timeshare instrument of the Fox River Resort, 2558 N. 3653 Road, Sheridan, Illinois 60551 and 765 ILCS 101/10-45 establishing managing entity liens for failure to pay assessments and other costs on the timeshare estates held by the owners of the timeshare estates listed below, and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at public auction starting at 11 o'clock a.m. on May 26, 2020, at the east entrance of Etna Road Government Complex, 707 Etna Road, Ottawa, IL 61350.

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

GRANT S BOHANAN, CARRIE J BOHANAN, 312 HOMESTEAD DR, BOLINGBROOK, IL, 60440, according to the Deed dated April 22, 2012 and recorded under File No. R2012 09812, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 5082012, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0007, Use Period Number(s) 33, Phase 1

GRANT S BOHANAN, CARRIE BOHANAN, 312 HOMESTEAD DR, BOLINGBROOK, IL, 60440, according to the Deed dated April 22, 2012 and recorded under File No. R2012 09812, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 5082012, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0394, Use Period Number(s) 05, Phase 6

CYNTHIA CASTELAN, 585 CHESTER CT E, AURORA, IL, 60504, according to the Deed dated September 07, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 18968, in the Office of

the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 10022014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0106, Use Period Number(s) 17, Phase 2

WILLIAM DAVIS III, RUBY B DAVIS, 2904 W 86TH ST, CHICAGO, IL, 60652, according to the Deed dated August 20, 2010 and recorded under File No. R2010 18531, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 9082010, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0061, Use Period Number(s) 03, Phase 1

OLINDA FORBES, ROYAN FORBES, 1384 HINCKLEY ST, MONTGOMERY, IL, 60538, according to the Deed dated November 02, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 22497, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 11182014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0066, Use Period Number(s) 15, Phase 1

JOAN MARINO, THERESE MARINO, JULIE L KEIGHER, JOSEPH WILLIAMS, 7310 E CARPER RD, COAL CITY, IL, 60416, according to the Deed dated September 20, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 27464, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 12122013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0418, Use Period Number(s) 27, Phase 7

JOAN MARINO, THERESE MARINO, JULIE L KEIGHER, JOSEPH WILLIAMS, 263021 RIVERBEND RD, CHANNAHON, IL, 60410, according to the Deed dated September 20, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 27464, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 12122013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0418, Use Period Number(s) 27, Phase 7

JOAN MARINO, THERESE MARINO, JULIE L KEIGHER, JOSEPH WILLIAMS, 1704 NEW LENOX RD, JOLIET, IL, 60433, according to the Deed dated September 20, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 27464, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 12122013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0418, Use Period Number(s) 27, Phase 7

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.

HANOVER PARK, IL, 60133, according to the Deed dated May 19, 2007 and recorded under File No. R2007 14053, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 6142007, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0073, Use Period Number(s) 22, Phase 1

ANTWANE SIMS, ROBIN SIMS, 1319 W GARFIELD BLVD APT 1, CHICAGO, IL, 60636, according to the Deed dated May 30, 2008 and recorded under File No. R2008 13798, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 6182008, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00080, Use Period Number(s) 12, Phase 1

TERMS OF SALE: At the time and location noted above, the timeshare estates listed above will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash.

The timeshare estates will be sold in individual lots unless there are no individual bidders, in which case, they may be sold as a group. In the event the managing entity lienholder or its authorized agent is the purchaser of one or more of the timeshare estates, the managing entity lienholder or its authorized agent may offset against the purchase price of the timeshare estate(s) an amount equal to all or a portion of the amount due under the managing entity lien(s) (and thus, credit bid). Other terms may be announced at the public auction.

Fox River Resort Club, An Illinois Not-for-profit Corporation
By: Barbara L. Lewis
Its: Attorney-In-Fact
No. 0501
(May 6, 13, 20, 2020)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice to the Residents of the Mendota-Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection District: You are hereby notified that a tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Mendota-Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection District of LaSalle and Bureau County, Illinois for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2020 and ending April 30, 2021 has been prepared and the public notice will be posted in five places within the Fire District and also printed in the Mendota Reporter. You are further notified that a public hearing shall be held as to such Budget and Appropriation Ordinance at the Mendota Fire Station, 610 S. Main Street Mendota, Illinois on July 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Mendota-Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection District
No. 0509
(May 20, 2020)

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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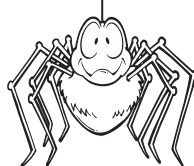
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Rebecca McPheeters,
Designated Managing Broker.



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REALTY & AUCTIONEERING



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Call one of our Agents to set up your private showing.

Joe McConville, Designated Managing Broker 815-910-5673

Marty McConville, Broker 815-200-2233

Richard McConville, Broker 815-539-5673

Sharon Kimrey, Broker 815-343-3600

Melody Nanzer, Broker 815-228-2842

Ryan Coss, Broker 815-830-8636

**NEW
LISTING**



MLS# 10702976
\$89500.00 417 W.
Railroad St Earlville.
1 1/2 story home
on large lot. 2+ car
detached garage. Mail
level bedroom and
bath. 2 bedrooms on
upper level. Fireplace
in living is decorative
only. Fenced in back
yard and above ground
pool. This property will
be sold AS IS. Needs
some paint and flooring.
Roof 2019 CALL



MLS # 10630706 1413 Lakewood Dr. Mendota
\$130,000. Nice 3 bedroom ranch with one bath and half
bath in laundry room. Dining area and eat in kitchen.
Family room with built-ins. Sliding door to large deck.
1 car attached garage. Great neighborhood. Mendota
Lake area. Call for all the amenities.



MLS# 10565940 102 Hubbard Court,
LaMoille \$39,000.00 Needs some TLC 2
bedroom 1 bath first floor laundry, newer 2 car
garage. nice lot in LaMoille. Call for a showing

STAY SAFE!

CALL JOE, MARTY, MELODY, SHARON,
RYAN ON OUR CELL PHONES....

FOR ALL OF YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!!

**CELL PHONE NUMBERS
LISTED TO THE LEFT.**

Not Just A House... It's A Home.