



Portrait in the sky

An incredibly gorgeous sun dog is seen in the southeastern sky during a clear and frigid winter morning in the Mendota area on Jan. 14. Sun dogs are commonly caused by the refraction and scattering of light from horizontally oriented plate-shaped hexagonal ice crystals either suspended in high and cold cirrus or cirrostratus clouds, or drifting in freezing moist air at low levels as diamond dust. The crystals act as prisms, bending the light rays passing through them with a minimum deflection of 22°. As the crystals gently float downward with their large hexagonal faces almost horizontal, sunlight is refracted horizontally, and sun dogs are seen to the left and right of the Sun. Larger plates wobble more, and thus produce taller sun dogs. They can be seen anywhere in the world during any season, but are not always obvious or bright. Sun dogs are best seen and most conspicuous when the Sun is near the horizon.

Tax season opens Jan. 29

IRS continues to make improvements to help taxpayers

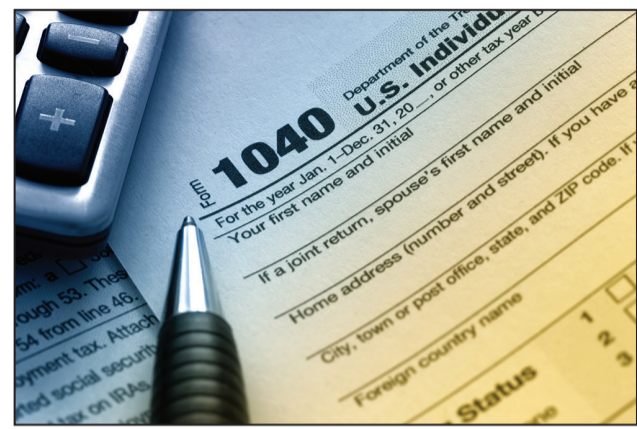
WASHINGTON, D.C. —The Internal Revenue Service announced Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, as the official start date of the nation's 2024 tax season when the agency will begin accepting and processing 2023 tax returns.

The IRS expects more than 128.7 million individual tax returns to be filed by the April 15, 2024, tax deadline.

Although the IRS will not officially begin accepting and processing tax returns until Jan. 29, people do not need to wait until then to work on their taxes if they're using software companies or tax professionals. For example, most software companies accept electronic submissions and then hold them until the IRS is ready to begin processing later this month. IRS Free File is available on IRS.gov as of Jan. 12 in advance of the filing season opening. The IRS Direct File pilot will be rolled out in phases as final testing is completed and is expected to be widely available in mid-March to eligible taxpayers in the participating states.

Taxpayers will continue to see helpful changes at the IRS following ongoing transformation work. Building off the success of the 2023 tax season that saw significant improvements following passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, the 2024 filing season will continue reflecting the focus on improving services to taxpayers.

"As our transformation efforts take hold, taxpayers will continue to see marked improvement in IRS operations in the upcoming filing



season," said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. "IRS employees are working hard to make sure that new funding is used to help taxpayers by making the process of preparing and filing taxes easier."

Some of the new and expanded tools and resources include:

- Expanded in-person service that meets taxpayers where they are by opening or reopening Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs). The IRS will also offer extended hours at many TACs nationwide.

- Increased help available on the toll-free line and an expanded customer call back feature designed to significantly reduce wait times.

- Improvements to the "Where's My Refund" tool, which is the IRS' most widely used taxpayer service tool. However, the tool provides limited information, often leading taxpayers to call the IRS to inquire about their refund status. Updates to Where's My Refund will allow taxpayers to see more detailed refund status messages in plain language.

These updates will also ensure "Where's My Refund" works seamlessly on mobile devices. Taxpayers often see a generic message stating that their returns are still being processed and to check back later. With the improvements, taxpayers will see clearer and more detailed updates, including whether the IRS needs them to respond to a letter requesting additional information. The new updates will reduce the need for taxpayers to call the IRS for answers to basic questions.

- Enhanced paperless processing that will enable taxpayers to submit all correspondence, non-tax forms, and responses to notices digitally and will be able to e-File 20 additional tax forms. Achieving this milestone will enable up to 125 million paper documents to be submitted digitally per year.

- An enhanced IRS Individual Online Account that includes chat, the option to schedule and cancel future

See Tax, Page A5

First State Bank plans Ag Conference Jan. 25

MENDOTA — First State Bank, Mendota, announces a special conference for area farmers. The 24th Annual First State Bank Ag Conference is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Mendota Civic Center.

Starting the program will be Kelly Jackson Hardy, Principal, Clifton Larson Allen. She serves client needs related to tax consulting, planning and compliance. She serves primarily the agribusiness industry and cooperatives. She comes from a farm background and understands the nuances of agriculture. Her talk will focus on the areas of ag taxation and farm succession planning.

The next presenter will be Daniel Overberg. Overberg is Director-Customer Risk for Archer Daniels Midland Company. Overberg specializes in risk management solutions for producer and end use customers. He has

been with ADM for 17 years in various trading and risk management roles.

The keynote speaker, Mike Pearson, will take a deep dive into What is Driving Agriculture Now? He interviews over 1,000 professionals in the ag industry each year. These folds range from experts on the volatile commodity markets to Washington, D.C. politicians, and trade experts from around the world. In this talk, Pearson will synthesize what he has learned from these professionals and help the audience understand what might be ahead in the markets, ag policy and in trade. He was born and raised in South Central Iowa where he grew to love agriculture on his family's hog and cattle farm. He has previously hosted "Market to Market" on Public Television, the Ag News Daily podcast, and currently, viewers can find him behind the anchor desk on



"This Week in Agribusiness" on RFD-TV and listeners can hear him every day as the host of Agriculture of America, a daily ag-focused radio show carried by affiliate stations across the country.

Area farmers are encouraged to contact First State Bank at 815-539-3834 prior to Saturday, Jan. 20 to confirm reservations for the event.

ADM Grain Company, Mendota, and Prairie State Tractor, Mendota, will serve as major co-sponsors of this event and will provide lunch for all those in attendance. First State Insurance will be sponsoring the morning coffee and donuts. Clifton

Larson Allen is sponsoring the soda. Door prizes are being provided by several area businesses including:

Amanda Andreoni-Hageman Realty, Beck Oil Co., Cantlin Law Firm, Chris Eller — the Retirement Specialists, Country Village Meats, Crop Productions Services, Dinges Fire Company, Earlville Farmers Coop, Guilfoyle & Stevenson Law Firm, Horning Tiling, Inc., Foster's Tax & Accounting, LLC., Leffelman & Associates, Leone Grain & Supply, Maplehurst Farms, Mendota Mutual Insurance, Meriden Grain-Pioneer Seed, Northern Partners Cooperative, Prescott Bros. Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, Schimmer Automotive Group, Sublette Farmers Elevator Co., Sublette Mechanical, Troy Grove Coop, Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet, Vaessen Implement & Repair, and West Brooklyn Farmers Coop.

Illinois mandates mental health screenings of students

New law to take effect in Fall 2024

By ZETA CROSS

The Center Square contributor

SPRINGFIELD — Starting in the fall of 2024, a new state law, the Wellness Checks in Schools Program Act, will require yearly mental health screenings for Illinois' 2 million school students.

Mark Klaisner, executive director of West 40 in West Cook County, said schools only have a few months to find a screening model and train people to administer the screenings. The Illinois State Board of Education is currently working through the challenge of exactly how to get a mental health screening process up and running.

The goal is to identify troubled children and intervene before their mental health problems escalate. On Jan. 3 in Perry, Iowa, a small rural school district, a 17-year-old who had been bullied for years shot seven people, including the principal, before killing an 11-year-old boy and himself.

"In 1999, we were all shocked by Columbine. How could that happen? Now it happens every week," Klaisner said.

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LOCAL AND AREA



Prescott Brothers donates to the food pantry
Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry Director Tracy Cooper, right, accepts a donation check of \$25,000 from Prescott Brothers owner Tom Prescott, center. The funds are going toward the roughly \$400,000 price tag on the new food pantry currently being built at 710 Sixth Ave. in Mendota. Others members of the Prescott family joining the celebration are, left to right, Madeline, Karen, and Charlie. (Photo contributed)

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Happy New Year! I wish you all a healthy and happy 2024! I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday and enjoyed some time off with family. It was great to be back to our first full week of school this week after winter break. The students and staff got back into their schedules and routines pretty quickly.

their child to school each day dressed to be outside in the weather. We still go outside to play in the winter. Sometimes we are inside before school, but we go outside at lunch recess. Don't forget to label all of your child's outerwear!

We recently celebrated the December Principal Award winners with a pizza lunch when we returned from winter break. The students invited to the lunch were Amelia Trumper, Arber Aliu, Emilia Owens, Xavier Dean, Jaekob Cockcream, Tony Munoz, Isabella Becker, Raymon Roulston, Daleyza Arteaga, Jayleen Hernandez, Leonel Orozco and Cian Sheppard. Congratulations to all of you!

The students who were nominated for the principal award this past week included Colton Longmire, Addison Borelli, Henry Myers, Dante Barrera, Cullen Stallings, Grayson Kent, Ailani Pedro and Alexander Brown. The winners were Avalia Blanton, Axel Garza, Bryson McLain and Delayni Silva. Congratulations to all of you!

With winter here, I'd like to remind our parents to please make sure you allow plenty of time to get your child to school on time in the morning. With winter roads, it may be necessary to leave home earlier. I'd also like to remind our parents to send

Don't forget to access our district website at www.m289.org to see a wealth of information. You have access to district information and you can also click on each school for building information. Blackstone has teacher webpages, calendars, our monthly Bear Facts, supply lists, principal award winners, etc. available. This is a great resource for parents!

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Blackstone Pizza Lunch
Blackstone School's December Principal Award winners celebrated the occasion with a pizza lunch on Jan. 5. Attending the lunch, front row, left to right, are Xavier Dean, Arber Aliu, Tony Munoz, Amelia Trumper, Emilia Owens and Jaekob Cockcream. Back row, Jayleen Hernandez, Cian Sheppard, Raymon Roulston, Daleyza Arteaga, Leonel Orozco and Isabella Becker. (Photo contributed)

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SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE

LOCAL AND AREA

Pesticide safety education testing-only sessions scheduled

OTTAWA – University of Illinois Extension – Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Unit is offering testing-only sessions and certification program for private pesticide applicators. Certification is required to apply restricted use pesticides. The sessions are in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins will be allowed.

Participants will need to bring a calculator. Calculators must be simple function calculators. No smart phones or smart devices will be allowed.

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

Testing – Only Sessions have been scheduled as follows:

• Marshall – Putnam Counties University of Illinois Extension Office: Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, Noon – 3 p.m. (Private Applicator

Test Only); Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (All Commercial Tests Offered)

Marshall-Putnam Office, 509 Front St., Henry. Register by calling the University of Illinois Extension – Marshall-Putnam Office at 309-364-2356. No charge to attend.

• Illinois Valley Community College: Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, 9 a.m. – Noon (Private Applicator Test Only)

Illinois Valley Community College, 815 North Orlando Smith Rd., Ogleby. Register by calling the University of Illinois Extension – LaSalle County Office at 815-433-0707. No charge to attend.

• LaSalle County University of Illinois Extension Office: Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, 9 a.m. – Noon (Private Applicator Test Only)

LaSalle County Office, 1689 North 31st Road, Suite 2, Ottawa. Register online at by calling the

University of Illinois Extension – LaSalle County Office at 815-433-0707. No charge to attend.

• Bureau County University of Illinois Extension Office: Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – Noon, (All Commercial Tests Offered); Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – Noon (All Commercial Tests Offered)

Bureau County Office, 850 Thompson Street, Princeton. Register online at www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Pesticides/Pages/in-person-testing.aspx, or call the University of Illinois Extension – Bureau County Office at 815-875-2878. No charge to attend.

Private Applicator Manuals and workbooks can be purchased online or at local Extension offices. Extension offices are located in Princeton, Ottawa, Henry and in Ogleby on the IVCC campus. Questions may be directed to Daryle Wragge, Ag Program Coordinator, 309-364-2356.

Stage 212 actively seeking directors for 2025

LaSALLE – Stage 212 in LaSalle is currently seeking submissions from directors for the 2025 season. The organization is looking for a wide variety of well-known, highly recognizable musicals, dramas and comedies to fill the winter, spring, summer and fall slots, but will also entertain proposals for the 2025 “Off-Season” production, which is typically small cast, a little out of the ordinary, and runs in a slot outside of the regular season. The organization will consider all submissions, including repeats of past shows if they have not been performed in the last 15 years.

Anyone interested in submitting a show for consideration should visit the Stage 212 website at stage212.org for application information.

Visitors to stage212.org will find a reference list of all productions Stage 212 has put on in their history, as well as links to a director’s resume and application in Google document form to be completed and submitted online. Form links may also be found on Stage 212’s Facebook page.

Applications are due by Feb. 5. A final selection will be made for recommendation to the Management Committee of Stage 212 in March of 2024. Any questions should be emailed to productionmanager@stage212.org. Stage 212 has been the Illinois Valley’s community theater since 1968 and welcomes anyone interested in participating in a stage production, regardless of previous experience.

Stage 212 auditions for “Jake’s Women” set for January

LaSALLE – Director Larry Kelsey has announced auditions for Stage 212’s Spring 2024 production, “Jake’s Women.” Neil Simon’s hilarious foray into the world of modern relationships, will be held Friday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 27 at 1 p.m. at the theater, 700 First St., LaSalle.

Jake, a novelist who is more successful with fiction than with life, faces a marital crisis by daydreaming about the women in his life. The wildly comic and sometimes moving

flashbacks played in his mind are interrupted by visitations from actual females. Jake’s women include a revered first wife who was killed years earlier in an accident, his daughter who is recalled as a child but is now a young woman, his boisterous and bossy sister, an opinionated analyst, his current wife who is leaving Jake for another man, and a prospective third wife.

Kelsey will be casting one man able to play early to mid 50s, six women for a variety of roles ranging in age from early 20s to early 50s, and one girlable

to play early teens. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. No preparation is needed, and familiarity with the script is not required, but perusal scripts are available by visiting the box office during regular hours, Monday 4-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon. All are encouraged to audition, regardless of prior theatrical experience. Contact the director at jbyrd61@yahoo.com with questions or visit www.stage212.org for more information.

“Jake’s Women” will be presented April 19-28.

Free film screening and community discussion of “Poor Kids” offered by LaSalle Library

LaSALLE – The LaSalle Public Library will host a free film screening and community discussion, in collaboration with Illinois Humanities’ NEA Big Read and the Ogleby Public Library, that invites the public to learn more about the issues facing families experiencing financial distress and to share hopes and ideas for future generations. The event is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23.

Following the film screening, guest speakers from Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Tri-County Opportunities Council, and Illinois Humanities, will lead a community discussion in finding solutions for low-income families living

in under-resourced communities. The program is free, open to the public, and will be presented as a hybrid-style program (in-person or available, live, through the Illinois Humanities YouTube Channel).

The film, “Poor Kids,” was filmed in the Quad Cities in 2012 by Frontline. It brought Americans into the real day-to-day lives of young children growing up in financial distress in the United States. Their stories and the challenges their families faced were stirring, but not unique – more than 16% of Americans, under the age of 18, live in poverty today.

The LaSalle Public Library is located at 305 Marquette and is ADA compliant and welcoming.

For more information, please call the LaSalle Public Library at 815-223-2341. Register for the program, if attending, virtually, through the Program Portal at: <https://sites.google.com/lasalle.lib.il.us/programportal/adult-programs/growing-up-poor>.

About the Guest Speakers

Rebecca Amato is the Director of Teaching and Learning at Illinois Humanities. Prior to her work at Illinois Humanities, she was the Associate Director of the Urban Democracy Lab at NYU and Associate Faculty at NYU Gallatin. Her research interests and writing focus on urban planning, land use, and memory practices with a

special emphasis on mobilizing the public humanities for social justice advocacy. She holds a PhD in U.S. History from The Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Vanessa Hoffeditz has worked as a Community Services Manager for Tri-County Opportunities Council for 13 years. Tri-County is a Community Action Agency whose mission is to investigate the impact of poverty in their nine-county area and work in partnership with individuals, families and communities to provide opportunities that support movement toward stability and self-sufficiency. In her role, she provides support and direction to Outreach staff who work directly

with low-income households. She is also responsible for running the agency’s food pantry which serves Bureau County. Her daily encounters with households experiencing poverty have provided her with knowledge of what these households face as they experience food insecurity, unstable living situations, and daily struggles with meeting basic needs.

Chris Merrett earned his Ph.D. (University of Iowa) in Geography and Planning. He currently serves as the Dean for Innovation and Economic Development, as well as the Director of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA), at Western Illinois University.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Joel D. Johnson

COMPTON – Joel David Johnson, 77, of rural Compton, was surrounded by the love of his family when he passed away from complications of Lewy Body dementia on Jan. 11, 2024, at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford.

A visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, at Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Compton with Rev. Jeff Schlesinger officiating. Burial will follow at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.

Joel was born Jan. 8, 1947, at the Harris Hospital in Mendota. He was the son of Ray and Marie (Foulk) Johnson. He was raised rurally and lived in the country his entire life. He graduated from Mendota Township High School in 1965 and attended Western Illinois University, majoring in history. He did graduate studies in English education at Illinois State University and at Chicago Kent School of Law in Chicago.

Joel is survived by his beloved Jean (McClendon), to whom he was married for 51 years; his children, Jessie (Michael) Robinette, Luke (Kelli) Johnson, Neil (Melissa) Johnson, Brynn (Paul) Honeycutt; grandchildren Jacob, Brady, Erin, Quinn, Levi, Carson, Samuel, and Jean-Marie; sisters, Julia (Jim) Wade and Jill (Stephen) McNeill; sister-in-law, Carrie (Mark) Lijewski; numerous cherished nieces and nephews; and his loving mother-in-law, Betty Brown.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Marie Johnson, and his brother-in-law, Glenn McClendon.

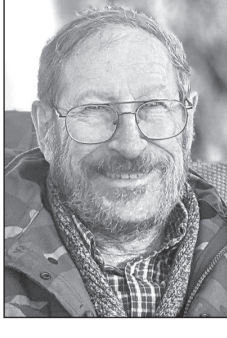
Joel and his wife Jean ran Victorian Building & Repair and American Builders, two general contracting businesses in Mendota, for 32 years. He taught junior high language arts and coached basketball at Paw Paw School District.

Joel also served 33 years on the Mendota District 289 Board of Education, including numerous terms as board president. He was designated by the state school board association as a Master School Board Member.

Joel served as a field artillery specialist in the United States Army Reserve from 1970-1976, attaining the rank of Sergeant. He loved baseball, and coached Little League, Senior League, and Mickey Mantle League teams. He also served as church council president at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Compton.

Those who knew Joel knew his pride in his community, and they felt his deep dedication to the public good, education and learning. Joel was a defender of fairness and a tireless champion for equality. He sought to bring to the world transparency, honesty and truth.

Please direct memorials to the family, to be used for establishing a scholarship in Joel's name. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



John N. Prentice

PAW PAW – John Noel Prentice, 86, of Paw Paw, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, at his home.

A celebration of John's life was held on Jan. 6 at the First Presbyterian Church in Paw Paw. Visitation was from 9-11 a.m., followed by a service officiated by Reverend Ken Foster. Interment of cremated followed at Wyoming Township Cemetery with military and fire department honors.

John was born on Oct. 9, 1937, the son of John and Charlotte (Wiley) Prentice. A proud graduate of Paw Paw High School, Class of 1955, he served with honor in the U.S. National Guard as part of the 129th Infantry. On Oct. 28, 1961, he exchanged vows with the love of his life, Amber (Meyer) Prentice.

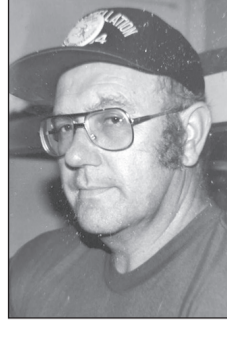
John is survived by his sons, John (Stephanie) Prentice of Paw Paw, and Clinton (Elizabeth) Young of Princeton; daughter Deanna (Dana) Murray of Milan, Mo.; former daughter-in-law, Mary Ann Sarapar; grandchildren, Emily Prentice of Somonauk, Mitch (Hannah) Prentice of Galesburg, and Evelyn Young of Naperville; many nieces and nephews; and his cat, Cassie.

John was preceded in death by his father and mother, John (Charlotte) Prentice; his wife, Amber Prentice; infant son, Robert Noel Prentice; and grandson, Janson Murray. He was also preceded in death by many beloved horses including Fort Silky and his faithful dog Dasha.

Throughout his life, John dedicated himself to hard work. He spent 40 years at Swift in Rochelle and at Caterpillar Tractor Co. in Montgomery. Actively involved in the Paw Paw community, he served on the Village Board, as a Boy Scout leader, and volunteered in youth sports. A source of immense pride, John retired from the Paw Paw Fire Department in 2023 after 65 years as a Firefighter EMT. He played a pivotal role in bringing ambulance services to Paw Paw and was part of the inaugural EMS class for the department.

Beyond his professional life, John was an ardent fisherman, hunter, trap shooter, and casino enthusiast. He was renowned in Paw Paw for his stable of racehorses, which he successfully raced nationwide for many years. He took his last horse around the track at the age of 75.

Memorial offerings may be directed to the First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw or the Paw Paw Fire Department. Please visit www.tormanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guest book.



Betty L. Croisant

MENDOTA – Betty Lou Croisant, 87, of Mendota, went home to be with the Lord on Jan. 10, 2024.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, at Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota, with visitation from 9:30 a.m. until time of service. Pastor Karen Tews of St. John's Lutheran Church of Mendota will officiate. Burial will be at Prairie Repose Cemetery in Dover.

She was born on Dec. 10, 1936, in Berlin Township, Ill., to Perry and Marjorie (Stoughton) Husser.

She is survived by her daughters, Vicki Hurlburt of Rockford and Sherri (Victor) White of Camdenton, Mo.; her grandchildren, Randy Hurlburt (Amber Swann) of Charlotte, N.C., Tony (Amber) Hurlburt of Urbandale, Iowa, Stephanie Hurlburt of Eau Claire, Wis., Zachary (Suzanna) White, of Ogdon, Matthew White of Pesotum, and Kyle (Suha Khan) White of Champaign; great-grandson, Francis Hurlburt (Tony & Amber); and sisters, Donna Heiman of Paw Paw and Kay (Bob) Dever of Bowling Green, Ky.

She was predeceased by her parents, Perry and Marjorie Husser; her beloved brother, Henry "Gene" Husser; Darwin Croisant, the father of her daughters; grandson Daniel Hurlburt and special friend, Delbert Fetzer.

For many years Betty was a seamstress and quilted for her church, St. John's Lutheran in Mendota. She played the organ for enjoyment through the years, teaching herself to play "by ear." She adored her daughters and her grandchildren and spent as much time as possible with them. It was her nature to lend a helping hand when and wherever needed with friends and neighbors. She was an avid Cubs fan and thoroughly enjoyed watching them play at every chance she got and it would not be uncommon to hear her "cheering them on" or perhaps, giving a bit of gentle "criticism." She loved watching her grandchildren play sports as well.

In her early years, she worked at United Airlines in Chicago when it was at Midway Airport. She was married to Darwin Croisant for over 40 years and lived most of her life in Mendota, helping him farm and raise cattle. She spent many years as a paraprofessional working with special needs children in Rantoul.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or St. John's Lutheran Church in Mendota. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Social Security

Four questions about Social Security that can help you plan your retirement

By Mike Weill

PERU – Social Security benefits are part of the retirement plan of almost every American worker. If you're among the many people covered under Social Security, you should know what your future benefit may be. Monthly benefit payments will likely be an important part of your retirement income.

We base your benefit

payment on how much you earned during your working career. Higher lifetime earnings result in higher benefits. If there were some years you didn't work or had low earnings, your benefit amount may be lower than if you had worked steadily. If you never worked and did not pay Social Security taxes, you may be eligible for spouse's retirement benefits. You must be at least 62 years



old, and your spouse must already be receiving retirement or disability benefits.

Your retirement page at www.ssa.gov/retirement is a great place to start mapping out your retirement plan. For example, have you considered:

- Which factors may affect your retirement benefits?
- What is the right time for you to start receiving your retirement benefits?
- What you need to do after you apply for retirement benefits?

• What documents you need to provide us for your retirement application?

You can use your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to get an instant estimate of your future retirement benefits. You can also see the effects of starting your retirement benefits at different ages.

You may also wonder about:

- Benefits for a spouse or children.
- How work affects your benefits.
- Medicare.
- Whether you will have to pay taxes on your benefits.

You can learn more at www.ssa.gov/retirement. Please share this information with family and friends to help them prepare for their retirement.

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

DEATH NOTICES

The Mendota Reporter will print DEATH NOTICES (approximately 50 words including name, age, date of death, time/date of services) free of charge. OBITUARIES will be printed at a cost of \$100 to be billed to the arranging funeral home or prepaid with cash, check or credit card. Please submit obituaries or death notices to editor@mendotareporter.com.

The latest obituaries can be seen on our website, mendotareporter.com.

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

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LOCAL AND AREA

Nearly 200 scholarships available to IVCC students

OGLESBY – Nearly 200 scholarships totaling up to \$400,000 are available through the IVCC Foundation to students planning to attend Illinois Valley Community College this fall.

Deadline to apply is 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8. High school seniors, current IVCC students and anyone planning to enroll at IVCC in Fall 2024 can apply online at www.ivcc.edu/scholarships. This year, applicants are not required to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for these awards.

Scholarships range in value from \$500 to \$4,500. Awards are available in specific disciplines, such as automotive, business, health care, STEM and others. There also are about 50 general scholarships available to students in any program of study.

“I recommend all students apply for our scholarships, because most do

receive an award,” said Tracy Beattie, Executive Director of the IVCC Foundation. “Scholarships can assist with tuition, books and other expenses.”

Scholarship recipient Libby Boyles says students shouldn’t be intimidated by the application process. “The application form is set up perfectly, with all the information laid out, like a questionnaire, and it’s easy.”

The second-year student adds another incentive: “I’m coming out of my first two years of college and going into a four-year university with no debt. That’s big for me and my family.” After graduation this spring, Boyles plans to pursue a finance degree at Illinois State University.

Recipient Anthony Hewitt said scholarships have made it possible for him to pursue a dream career. Without that scholarship assistance, “I wouldn’t be pursuing the career I am (in physical therapy). It’s really

reassuring that I can go to college and not scramble for money.” After graduating this spring, Hewitt plans to transfer to the University of Illinois.

Hewitt has this advice for applicants: “Let your passion come across and take time to prepare before filling out the application. I know there are deadlines but take time and revise if necessary. Use the Writing Center! They really helped me be concise and convey my ideas.”

Boyles said she also enjoyed the Foundation’s scholarship reception last fall, where recipients were recognized. “It’s a good way to get recognized for your accomplishments, because if you received a scholarship, it means you earned it. And you get to meet the scholarship donors and can thank them.”

For more information, contact Foundation secretary Donna Swiskoski at (815) 224-0551 or email donna_swiskoski@ivcc.edu.

Conservation Cropping Seminar set

SPRINGFIELD – Attention Illinois farmers: the annual Conservation Cropping Seminar will take place Wednesday, Jan. 31, with virtual attendance available for a \$15 registration fee. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and soil and water CEUs will be available.

This event will cover how to improve soil health, cover crops, adopt new technologies, improve root health, manage nutrients and provide the latest agronomic research. A question-and-answer session with an Illinois farmer panel will be offered, as well as access to helpful resources.

Topics and speakers for this year include:

- Alternative Farming Methods – Greg Thoren, Stockton, Ill., farmer
- Next Generation of Digital Agriculture: Digital De-commodification, Smart Tillage, and AI – Dr. Lars Dyrud, Earth Optics
- Struggles with Stratification – Marion Calmer, Calmer Corn Heads
- Banded Systems Management-To the Root of High Yield – Chris Perkins, Banded Ag, LLC
- Farmer Panel

This event is organized and made possible with the involvement and support of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District, Doug Hanson, Randy McElroy, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Register by Wednesday, Jan. 24 at ccswcd.com/conservation-cropping-seminars to secure your virtual attendance.

Tax

Continued from Page A1

payments, revise payment plans and validate and save bank accounts.

• A new, pilot tax filing service called Direct File that gives eligible taxpayers a new choice to file their 2023 federal tax returns online, for free, directly with the IRS. It will be rolled out in phases and is expected to be widely available in mid-March. Find more about Direct File pilot eligibility, scope and the participating states on Direct File.

April 15 tax filing deadline for most taxpayers

For most taxpayers, the

deadline to file their personal federal tax return, pay any tax owed or request an extension to file is Monday, April 15, 2024.

Taxpayers living in Maine or Massachusetts have until April 17, 2024, due to the Patriot’s Day and Emancipation Day holidays. If a taxpayer resides in a federally declared disaster area, they also may have additional time to file.

Tips to help people file in 2024

The IRS encourages taxpayers to take steps now to “Get Ready” to file their 2023 individual federal tax return. It’s important for filers to gather all the correct

information they need before filing their return. Organize and gather tax records including Social Security numbers, Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers, Adoption Identification Numbers and this year’s Identity Protection Personal Identification Numbers (IP PIN). Filing an accurate return can help taxpayers avoid refund delays or later IRS mailings about a problem.

People should report all their taxable income and wait to file until they receive all income related documents. This is especially important for people who may receive various

Forms 1099 from banks or other payers reporting unemployment compensation, dividends, pensions, annuities or retirement plan distributions. If a taxpayer receives Forms 1099-K, they should visit What to do with Form 1099-K to help them determine if that money should be reported as income on their federal tax return.

People should plan to file electronically with direct deposit. This is still the fastest and easiest way to file and receive a refund. To avoid delays in processing, people should avoid filing paper returns whenever possible.

HONOR ROLL

Holy Cross School

MENDOTA – Holy Cross School in Mendota has named its second quarter honor roll students for the 2023-24 year.

Eighth Grade Honors: Charlee Dankenbring, Komen Denault, Diego Diaz, Corbin Doll, Karson Doyle, Bear Fitzpatrick, Giselle Gonzalez, Leah Henkel, Shea Kreiser, Kaylee MacDonald, Abby Magallanes, Gaby Martinez, Kamilah Preciado, Maddox Rosales, Elsie Soliman, Ross Sondgeroth, Cole Tillman

Eighth Grade Honors: Ashlynn Rickels, Leah Schwemlein

Seventh Grade Honors: Raegan Atherton, Will Aughenbaugh, Eva Beetz, Joseph Cackley, Abby Delao, Cal Doyle, Quinn Eddy, Liam Jones, Catherine Moench, Kyla Muhlstadt, Yulissia Quintana, Nora Rhynedance

Seventh Grade Honors: Rafael Arteaga, Claire Atherton

Sixth Grade High Honors: Emme Beetz, Cale Full, Linda MacDonald, Lillee Monterastelli, Camden Pawlowski, Ellye Reppin, Molly Wilson

Sixth Grade Honors: Blake Cyrocki, Leo Engels

Fifth Grade High Honors: Mason Atherton, Nicole Cervantes, Eliana Escatel, Samantha Escatel, Henry Happ, Paul Hochstatter, Ming Xi Huang, Sofia Lemus, Brooklyn Mauch, Armani Quintana, Brooklyn Shakespeare, Ally Tillman, Jaxson Zimmerlein

Fifth Grade Honors: Nolan Henkel

Third Grade B.U.G. Roll: Adan Delao, Shayne Full, Alexia Lerma, Kohen Piller

Second Grade B.U.G. Roll: Stella Beetz, Sydney Beetz, Callie Martin, Keegan Mauch, Karissa Weber

Kindergarten B.U.G. Roll: Karter Cassidy, Ty Faber, Nora Mann, Cole Saffranski, Weston Schwingle

Students

Continued from Page A1

The problem is more widespread than the cases that get on the news, Klaisner said.

“If you were to walk into any school and talk to the principal or the dean, they will tell you that behavioral incidents are way up from what they were three to five years ago,” Klaisner said. “It’s fights in the hallways. It’s kids acting out.”

Safe schools, designated schools where Illinois children are assigned after multiple suspensions and expulsion, are “busting at the

seams,” Klaisner said.

“Way before COVID, we saw the increase of instances of disturbed kids acting out at school,” Klaisner said.

The COVID school shutdowns have made the problem worse, he said.

“The rise of behavioral and mental health issues coming out of the pandemic has been astounding,” he said.

For years, experts at the Lurie Children’s Hospital, the Center for Childhood Resilience, and the Chapin Hall Center at the University of Chicago have consulted with Illinois on the best ways to

care for students with mental health problems.

Ideally, a screening session will be a 15-minute, one-on-one conversation between a trained social worker or counselor and a student. Trained screeners have more success in finding problems when they can look for body language and cues, Klaisner said.

Anxiety and depression are triggers for behavioral problems. Screeners may find a child who is concerned about coming to school. The child may think that other students are looking at him or talking about him, indicating

a higher-than-normal level of anxiety.

“Let’s follow up with that young person and see what is going on with them,” Klaisner said.

A decade ago, social workers in schools only dealt with kids who had disabilities, he said. Now schools are finding that many families are dealing with difficult, trauma-based issues that manifest in schools.

“You will find educators who are feeling the pressure of ‘one more thing on our plate.’” Klaisner said. “It is already on our plate and we can’t deny its existence.”

Preschool screening planned Feb. 13th in Mendota

MENDOTA – L.E.A.S.E. will be holding free preschool screenings on Tuesday, Feb. 13, in the afternoon, at First United Methodist Church, 100 E. Sixth St., Mendota.

The screenings are for children who are 3 or 4 years old. L.E.A.S.E. will screen key developmental areas such as motor development, speech, language, vision, hearing and general readiness. You can schedule an appointment by calling Jean at 815-433-6433.

All children must be screened to be considered for the Mendota District #289 Preschool Program. If your child has been screened by L.E.A.S.E. already, he/she does not need to be screened again. Applications for Mendota District #289 Preschool will be at the screenings. The applications and screenings will be reviewed by the preschool team, and you will be contacted as to whether your child qualifies for preschool.



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OPINION



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

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Providing emergency care – 1894

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Jan. 19, 1994.)

By Jessica Nashold

A hundred years ago, the Mendota Bulletin called attention to a lack in the community.

Mendota has long been in need of a suitable place in which to care for the many wounded, which so frequently occur in our city.

Taking initiative to fill that need, the members of the King's Daughters at the Presbyterian Church rented a small house on Jefferson Street, next to Dr. Cook's office.

They have fitted up rooms in which cases may be comfortably cared for. These rooms are now ready for use.

It was emphasized that this facility would be for the benefit of the entire city, and not "sectarian" in management.

The King's Daughters planned fundraising events to benefit this emergency hospital. At a Colonial Tea on Washington's birthday, they cleared \$30 for the cause. At a Floral Bazaar held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Fernberg, just west of the church, they offered paper flowers, lamp shades and novelties. This project showed a profit of \$50.

No details are given as to how the emergency hospital was staffed and maintained.

In early January 1894, a meeting was held to determine a permanent location for the Illinois State Fair. Contenders were Springfield, Bloomington, Decatur and Peoria. Eleven votes were needed and during eight informal ballots, Springfield gained each time until the "necessary majority" was reached.

No other place ever had more than six votes.

On Jan. 8, 1894, fire destroyed a number of buildings that housed exhibits during the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. Guards were posted at the fairgrounds, which were closed, and

Backtracks & Sidetracks

they had earlier attempted to evict tramps who were "swarming into the grounds" but without success.

When the fire was first discovered a guard tried to send in the alarm on four different fire alarm boxes, but they failed to function. He finally used the telephone.

The buildings destroyed were the casino, the peristyle (a row of columns), the music hall and a portion of the manufacturer's building.

20,000 spectators saw the buildings vanish.

It had been hoped by some that these buildings might be allowed to stand for another year.

The fire has decided that question.

Even a hundred years ago the plight of the homeless, especially in big cities, was a cause for concern. Referring to them as "the shelterless," a New York minister advocated offering churches as shelters.

Open the churches to the people, day and night, for sitting rooms, for reading rooms, for lodging rooms, for warmth and shelter. There is no holier use to put them to.

Mendota area people loaded a freight car with 15,600 pounds of meal, flour, clothing and shoes for destitute miners in northern Michigan. A letter from the Gogebic County Relief Society, dated Jan. 12, 1894, expressed thanks for the shipment and also stated that some supplies would be reshipped to Iron Mountain, Mich.

They are in great need there. We have so far fared better than they.

The city council passed a resolution allowing Wheeler & Main to "number the city" under supervision of a committee of aldermen. Wheeler & Main would be permitted to sell numbers for houses and businesses "to such a desire to buy." It was understood that the city would incur no expense in connection with the numbering.

The editor and publisher of the Mendota Bulletin in January 1894 was H.A. Bates. He devoted space to his views on political questions and was particularly opposed to free trade.

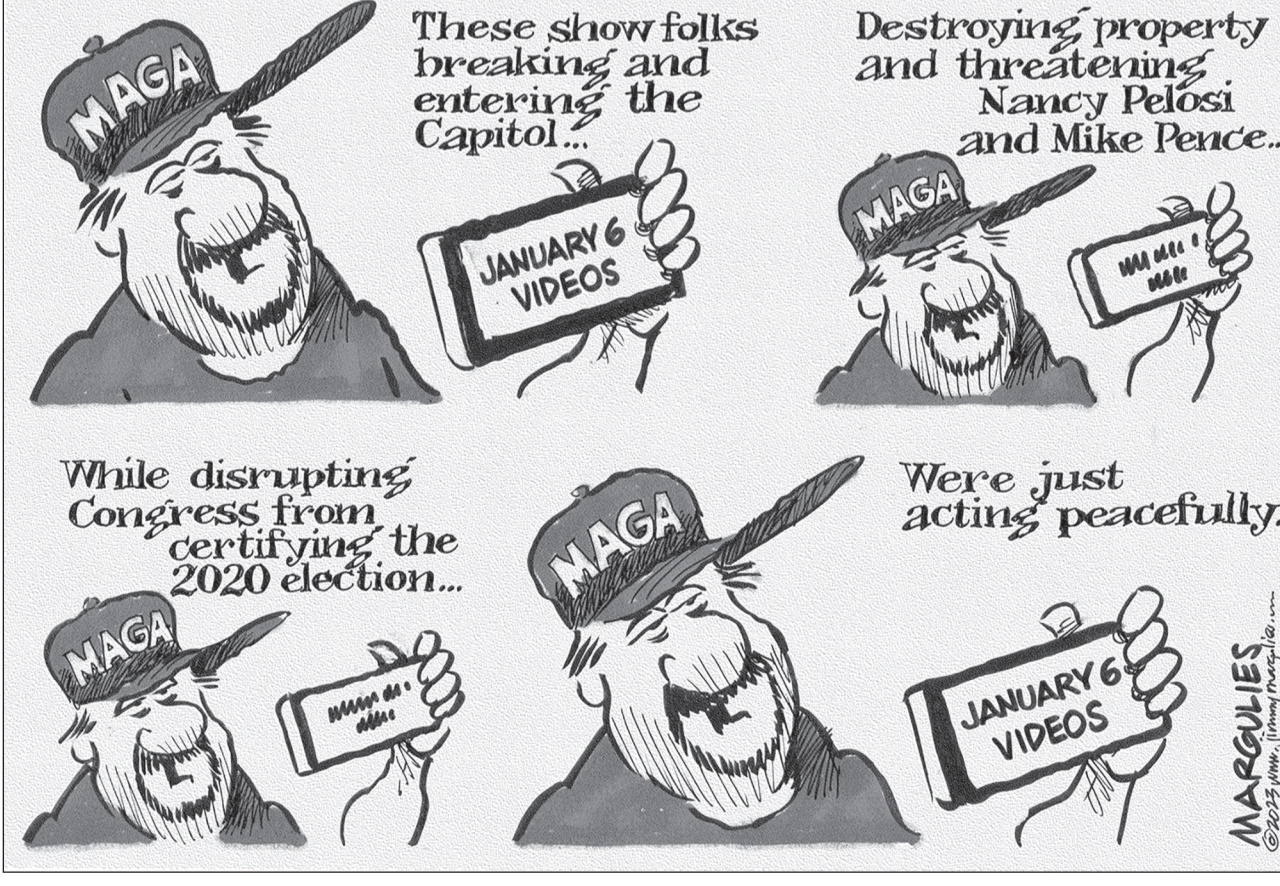
No one is benefitted by free trade except the rich man and under it no poor man can hope to better his condition.

Some home was expressed that Mendota might soon have telephone service. During the summer of 1893, Mendota had granted a telephone franchise to Automatic Telephone & Electric Co. of Chicago. The Bell patent on all telephone parts except for the receiver had expired in March 1893. The patent on the receiver was due to expire on Jan. 30, 1894.

Then, possibly, Mendota may get telephones.

Thomas Rasmus of Chicago and John Widget of Mendota opened a shooting gallery and ten pin alley in the basement under the room south of the post office on Illinois Avenue. They also ordered a phonograph loaded with "the latest songs and sayings" for the entertainment of their customers.

The National Dairy Association stepped up in opposition to the sale of oleomargarine a tax of 7 cents was assessed on oleo and the Internal Revenue Department had a budget of \$50,000 to "run down all offenders against revenue laws." National Dairy Association wanted an appropriation of \$150,000 passed, which would be devoted exclusively to the prosecution of "oleo cases."



Letters Policy

The Mendota Reporter welcomes letters to the editor on public issues of local interest. Letters must be signed for publication; authors' names will not be withheld. Include your address and telephone number. The number will not be published but may be used to verify authenticity. Unsigned, anonymous letters are never published. Keep your letter as concise as possible. The editor reserves the right

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TRI-COUNTY NEWS

Kids & K-9s SPIN Club set in Dixon

DIXON — The highly anticipated annual Kids and K-9's SPIN Club is back for another exciting year of canine companionship and skill-building. Lee County 4-H is thrilled to announce that registration is now open for this unique opportunity where youth and their furry friends can delve into the thrilling worlds of rally, agility, obedience, and showmanship. The deadline for registration is Feb. 3.

The Kids and K-9's SPIN Club invites youth to join a series of engaging sessions from February through June. For those interested in showcasing the impressive skills they've honed throughout the program, the Multi-County Dog Show, June 29, is a great place to show their skills.

To qualify for the Multi-County Dog Show, participants must attend at least six obedience training sessions, ensuring they receive ample training and guidance to excel in their chosen disciplines. The program focuses on skill development and emphasizes responsible pet ownership, empathy, and teamwork.

"I'm excited to see the growth and camaraderie that unfolds each year in Kids and K-9's. This club provides a unique opportunity for youth to bond with



their dogs while developing essential life skills through fun and interactive training activities," said Katie Baker, Lee County 4-H Program Coordinator.

For registration and more information, visit go.illinois.edu/kidsk9 or contact Katie Baker, Lee County 4-H Program Coordinator at kmcb2@illinois.edu or call (815) 857-3525.

About Kids and K-9s SPIN Club

The Kids and K-9s Club is a special interest club that has delighted families and their furry friends for several

years. Led by a dedicated team of experts, the club promotes responsible pet ownership and fosters strong bonds between youth and their dogs through activities such as rally, agility, obedience, and showmanship training. The perfect club for those wishing to participate in the Multi-County Dog Show in June.

If you need an accommodation to participate, please email the contact person for the event. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

Paw Paw Village Board handles business

PAWPAW — The Paw Paw Village Board met in regular session on Jan. 10.

It was learned the village was compensated by True Utilities for the replacement of fire hydrant.

The village is having a new computer software program installed over the next few months.

Cost and methods of cleaning the water tower were discussed.

Residents are reminded that the village's main street, Chicago Road, must be free nightly of any parked cars between Chapman Street and Seventh Street when snowfall is expected above two inches.

The next Village Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Library meeting room.



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TAX PREP GUIDE

Choosing a reputable tax preparer is vital to tax security

As people get ready for tax filing season, it's important that they select tax return preparers with the skills, education and expertise to prepare tax forms properly. Taxpayers are ultimately responsible for all the information on their tax return, regardless of who prepares it.

There are many types of tax preparers, including certified public accountants (CPAs), enrolled agents, attorneys and others. A taxpayer should choose a tax preparer that works best for their needs.

Here are some tips to help people choose a preparer.

Check the IRS Directory of Preparers

Taxpayers can find an enrolled agent, CPA, attorney or participant in Annual Filing Season Program with the IRS Directory of Preparers

Checklist for choosing a tax pro

Before hiring a tax preparer:

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

- Ask about fees. Taxpayers should avoid tax return preparers who base their fees on a percentage of the refund or who offer to deposit all or part of their refund into their financial accounts. Taxpayers should be suspicious of preparers claiming they can get larger refunds than other tax preparers.

- Ask if the preparer plans to use e-file. The fastest way to get a tax refund is by e-filing and choosing direct deposit.

- Choose a firm or individual with a track record. Preparers may need to answer questions about the tax return months or even years later.

- Ensure the preparer signs the tax

return and includes their Preparer Tax Identification Number. Paid tax return preparers must have a PTIN and include it on any tax return they prepare.

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

Watch out for tax preparer scams. Tax return preparer fraud is a common tax scam.

The IRS is committed to investigating paid tax return preparers who act improperly. Taxpayers can file a complaint if they have been financially impacted by a tax return preparer's misconduct or improper tax preparation practices.

Get Ready: IRS website has helpful resources for taxpayers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Internal Revenue Service encourages taxpayers to check out IRS.gov for tips, tools and resources to help them get ready to file their 2023 federal income tax return.

The Get Ready page on IRS.gov outlines steps taxpayers can take now to make filing easier in 2024. Later this month, the IRS anticipates announcing a start date for the 2024 filing season when the agency will begin accepting tax returns.

Interactive Tax Assistant
The Interactive Tax Assistant is a tool on IRS.gov that can help taxpayers with various tax law questions, including:

- Who needs to file a tax return.
- What is the best filing status to use.
- Who can claim a dependent.
- Who is eligible to claim a credit or deduct certain expenses.

Earned Income Tax Credit Assistant

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) helps low- to moderate-income workers and families get a tax break. EITC can reduce taxes owed and may give taxpayers a larger refund. Taxpayers can use the EITC Assistant to determine:

- If they are eligible to claim EITC.
- If they have any qualifying children or relatives.
- The estimated amount of their credit.
- The filing status they should use.

'Where's My Refund?'

Most refunds are issued in less than 21 calendar days. Taxpayers can use "Where's My Refund?" to check the status of their 2023 income tax refund within 24 hours of e-filing. Refund information is normally available after four weeks for taxpayers that filed a paper return. Information on "Where's My Refund?" will update overnight so there is no need to check the tool more than once a day.

IRS Individual Online Account

Taxpayers with a Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number can create or access their IRS Individual Online Account to get information they need to file their return.

With an IRS Individual Online Account, people can:

- View balance owed, payment history and schedule payments.
- Cancel scheduled payments—new feature for 2024.
- Get transcripts.
- View or create payment plans.
- See digital copies of some IRS notices.
- View key data from their most recently filed tax

return, including adjusted gross income.

- Validate bank accounts and save multiple accounts, eliminating the need to re-enter bank account information every time they make a payment.

- View, approve and electronically sign power of attorney and tax information authorizations from their tax professional.

Identity Protection PIN

An Identity Protection (IP) PIN is a six-digit number that prevents someone else from filing a tax return using a taxpayer's Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. The IP PIN is known only to the taxpayer and the IRS. It helps the IRS verify the taxpayer's identity when they file an electronic or paper tax return.

The fastest way to receive an IP PIN is to use the online Get an IP PIN tool that is available now through mid-November. Taxpayers that want an IP PIN and do not already have an Individual Online Account on IRS.gov, must register to confirm their identity.

Filing options on IRS.gov

Taxpayers should make IRS.gov their first stop when looking for options to file their 2023 federal income tax return.

- IRS Free File. Almost everyone can file electronically for free by using IRS Free File. Those who are comfortable preparing their own taxes can use IRS Free File Fillable Forms, regardless of their income, to file their tax return either online or by mail.

- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/Tax Counseling for the Elderly. Taxpayers can find organizations in their community with IRS certified volunteers that provide free tax help for eligible taxpayers including working families, the elderly, the disabled and people who speak limited English.

- MilTax. A Department of Defense program, MilTax generally offers free return preparation and electronic filing software for federal income tax returns and up to three state income tax returns for all military members, and some veterans, with no income limit.

- Direct File pilot. The IRS is piloting a new tax filing service during the upcoming filing season called Direct File that gives eligible taxpayers a new choice to file their 2023 federal tax returns online, for free, directly with the IRS. Find more information on Direct File about pilot eligibility, scope and the participating states.

Find an authorized e-file provider. Tax pros accepted by the IRS electronic filing program are authorized IRS e-file providers. They are qualified to prepare, transmit and process e-filed returns.

Most tax return preparers provide outstanding and professional tax service. However, choosing the wrong tax return preparer hurts taxpayers financially every year.

IDOR tips to prepare for tax season

CHICAGO—The Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) is providing taxpayers with tips and alerting them to changes they may encounter when filing their 2023 state income taxes early next year.

"The 2023 tax filing season is just around the corner and we want to ensure taxpayers are prepared and have the necessary documents and are also aware of improvements that have been made to simplify the filing process," said IDOR Director David Harris. "We strongly encourage electronic filing as it is the easiest way to file and also ensures the fastest refund when one is due."

Gathering 2023 Tax Documents

Some common documents, records, or receipts taxpayers may need to file include:

- Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from 2022 IL-1040,
- Copy of federal income tax return and schedules,
- Copies of all W-2 and 1099 forms,
- Property Number and amount of property taxes paid if claiming a property tax credit,
- Voluntary emergency

worker credit certificate,

- Receipts for qualified education or moving expenses, and

- Routing and account number if due a refund and choose to deposit refund directly into checking or savings account.

Determining Eligibility for Tax Credits

Depending on circumstances, taxpayers may be able to reduce the amount of taxes owed through tax credits. Some popular tax credits include the Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Illinois K-12 Education Expense Credit, and the Property Tax Credit.

The Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has been increased to 20% of the Federal EITC and expanded to include those who are 18-25 years of age and older and 65 and older without a qualifying child, and filing with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) or have children with an ITIN.

The Volunteer Emergency Worker Credit is a \$500 non-refundable tax credit given to volunteer fire emergency workers who qualify, apply, and are awarded the credit.

Expecting a Refund, Here's What to Know

Taxpayers are encouraged to file electronically as early as possible in the tax season and choose direct deposit to ensure the fastest processing and issuance of any refunds. If taxpayers electronically file an error-free return, they should receive a direct deposit refund in approximately four weeks. Taxpayers receiving notices from IDOR should respond as quickly as possible to help expedite processing and minimize any delays in issuing refunds. IDOR continues to increase and enhance efforts to protect taxpayers from identity theft and tax fraud. These highly successful methods combat criminal activity all while striving to disperse tax refunds as quickly as possible.

Needing more time?

While the state of Illinois does grant an automatic six-month extension to file an IL-1040 each year, taxpayers must still pay any money owed on their returns by April 15, 2024, to avoid penalties and interest. If a return cannot be filed by the due date, taxpayers may make an extension payment electronically through My-Tax Illinois. To pay by mail,

they may use Form IL-505-I, Automatic Extension Payment for Individuals Filing Form IL-1040, to calculate and make payments.

Some changes to the 2023 Form IL-1040, Illinois Individual Income Tax Return, and schedules include:

- The 2023 personal exemption amount is \$2,425.
- The original due date for filing the 2023 Form IL-1040 and paying the 2023 individual income tax liability is April 15, 2024.
- The extended due date for filing a return is Oct. 15, 2024.

Assistance for Taxpayers

IDOR's taxpayer assistance numbers are available for tax-related inquiries and include automated menus allowing taxpayers to check the status of a refund, identify an IL-PIN, or receive estimated payment information without having to wait for an agent. To receive assistance, taxpayers may call 1-800-732-8866 or 217-782-3336. Free language assistance for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals is available. For the most up-to-date information, forms, schedules, and instructions for the 2023 tax season, please visit IDOR's website at: tax.illinois.gov



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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Sofia Coppola finally revealed why her Elvis Presley (Jacob Elordi) didn't really sing in "Priscilla." She explained, "I originally wanted to have three Elvis songs, but I always knew that we might not be able to get them. I wanted it to really be focused on [Priscilla's] story ... and to me, it is really more important to have Dolly Parton at the end, to have a woman's voice at the end."



Coppola

Despite being an Oscar-winning director and the daughter of Francis Ford Coppola -- and also having a career that spans decades with films such as "Marie Antoinette" (2006) and "Lost in Translation" (2003) -- Sofia's been competing with male directors to get bigger budgets. "I just see all these men getting hundreds of millions of dollars, and then I'm fighting for a tiny fraction of that," she revealed. And that's why Elvis didn't get to sing much in "Priscilla."

Has the flood of rom-coms on Hallmark, Great American Family, Lifetime and UPtv ruined the genre for movie theaters? Case in point: Glen Powell and Sydney Sweeney's new film "Anyone But You." Powell got noticed in "Hit Man" and "Top Gun: Maverick," while Sweeney excelled in "The White Lotus" and "Euphoria," but they couldn't fill theater seats despite good reviews. In their first week, they grossed \$16 million against a \$25 million cost.

And despite having incredible battle scenes and Oscar winner Joaquin Phoenix as Napoleon, the epic Ridley Scott film "Napoleon" grossed \$213.4 million, but cost \$130 million. The first week of "Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom" only grossed \$58 million against its \$215 million cost. (The original grossed \$136 million in its first week.) But "Barbie's" \$1.5 billion grosses prove that if you've got what moviegoers want, they'll run in to fill those seats.

Ever wondered how much "Dancing with the Stars" pays their celebrities and why it's so important for

them to make the semi-finals? Semi-finalists get \$50,000 for each week they remain in the competition. Plus, those who make it to the end will more than likely walk away with \$345,000, and one of them even gets a mirror ball trophy! It's a lot of hard work, but can be fun and worth the prize money, especially compared to "America's Got Talent." The winner of "AGT" gets \$1 million, but the prize is spread out over 40 years -- yes, I said it, 40 years!

Though, that's still a better case than "American Idol," who gives its winners \$125,000 for winning the competition and another \$125,000 to complete an album in just four months. A \$300,000 advance is also given, but the musicians won't receive a penny from their music until the advance is paid back. Some winners even felt trapped by the record label and weren't able to get out of the contract to record with someone else.

"The Voice" awards \$100,000 to the winner and a record deal as well, but as of this date, not one of its winners has made it big. What's your get-rich-quick scheme for 2024?

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Is "Animal Control" with Joel McHale returning soon, or did it get canceled? Also, what's the latest on the "Community" movie? -- **F.L.**

A: Joel McHale has had no trouble finding employment since he first appeared on screens two decades ago to host the weekly TV clip show "The Soup" on E! He's easily alternated between hosting duties, acting in sitcoms, and appearing as a judge on competitive reality shows. His quick wit has served him well, especially in his latest comedy series "Animal Control," which returns to Fox for its second season on March 6.

"Community," the critically acclaimed series created by Dan Harmon, introduced "Soup" fans to McHale, the actor. Never a big ratings hit, it was wildly original and amassed a cult following. A movie was in the preproduction stage before the writers' and actors' strikes, but now Harmon is worried that they won't be able to coordinate all of the actors' schedules. If and when it does happen, "Community" the movie will air on the Peacock streaming service, although a short run

at local theaters isn't out of the question. ***

Q: Whatever happened to Michael Bolton? I haven't heard any new music from him in years. Did he retire? -- **K.W.**

A: Michael Bolton had two No. 1 Billboard singles in the early 1990s -- "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You" and "When a Man Loves a Woman." Those two big power ballads, along with five other Top 10 hits, made him a household name, but he hasn't topped the charts in quite some time. However, he had been touring as recently as last year, until he had to suspend future dates due to a health issue.

At the age of 70, Bolton recently underwent surgery for a brain tumor, but has been alert and posting on social media, assuring his fans that he's recovering. He wrote in an Instagram post: "Just before the holidays, it was discovered that I had a brain tumor, which required immediate surgery." He added that he's working hard to accelerate his recovery and get back to performing soon.

Last July, he released "Spark of Light," his first album of original songs in 14

years, and also appeared on "The Masked Singer." ***

Q: Is Snoop Dogg really going to be one of the commentators for the Summer Olympics? Will his friend Martha Stewart join him? -- **S.S.**

A: I don't know about Martha Stewart, but Calvin Broadus Jr., best known as Snoop Dogg, will be providing commentary alongside Mike Tirico during primetime on NBC, as well as on Peacock. He'll also tour historic landmarks and talk with the athletes.

You might remember that Snoop Dogg and movie star Kevin Hart teamed up during the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo to provide hilarious commentary for Peacock. According to USA Today, the two "generated tens of millions of views" with their highlights, no doubt leading to the decision from NBC to bring Snoop Dogg on in a bigger role this summer. The opening ceremony kicks off on Friday, July 26.

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

Couch Theater

"Napoleon" (R) -- Director Ridley Scott ("House of Gucci") recruited Joaquin Phoenix ("Beau Is Afraid") to star as the titular character in his historical drama centered on French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. Phoenix gives a very stony but comical performance as Bonaparte, opposite an alluring Vanessa Kirby ("Mission: Impossible") as Josephine, Bonaparte's first wife. The film spans from 1793 up until the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, jumping between chilling battle sequences and intimate moments of Bonaparte's personal life. Many critics have sounded off about the film, highlighting its historical inaccuracy and anti-French sentiments, but Scott had this to say to his critics: "Excuse me, mate, were you there?" The film's available now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"75th Primetime Emmy Awards" (NR) -- Due to the writers' and actors' strikes of 2023, the annual Primetime Emmy Awards were pushed back from their usual September date, and award-season fanatics couldn't be happier that it's finally arrived! Leading the

pack with 27 nominations, including 14 acting nominations, is the incredible comedy-drama series "Succession," which reached its culmination this past May. Other Max series that received nods included "House of the Dragon," "The Last of Us" and "The White Lotus," while actors like Jeremy Allen White ("The Bear"), Jenna Ortega ("Wednesday") and Bob Odenkirk ("Better Call Saul") snagged Lead Actor nominations for their respective series. The show is available to watch in its entirety on Jan. 16. (Hulu)

In Case You Missed It

"Leave the World Behind" (R) -- After winning a bidding war to get the rights to the apocalyptic novel written by Rumaan Alam, Netflix released its film adaptation starring Julia Roberts and Mahershala Ali. Roberts plays Amanda Sandford, a mother and wife who books a beach vacation rental for her family, when sudden mysterious and concerning occurrences ensue. One of these occurrences, a blackout, brings the owner of the rental, G.H. Scott (Ali), and his daughter back to their home. With no choice but to

stay together in this rarest of circumstances, the Sandfords and Scotts bunker down and try to find answers to the terrifying events that show no signs of stopping. Ethan Hawke and Kevin Bacon also play supporting roles in the film, out now. (Netflix)

"Bookie" (TV-MA) -- Italian-American comedian Sebastian Maniscalco leads this comedy series about the day-to-day of a sports bookie named Danny. With his clients often fleeing to avoid paying up, along with a rocky relationship with his partner, Sandra, Danny is often at his wit's end trying to keep the wheels running in his life. Similar to Pete Davidson, Maniscalco doesn't seem to like playing a character other than some variation of himself. But the half-hour episodes do provide good comic relief for those who just want to laugh, especially with Ray (Omar Dorsey), Danny's sidekick, and other characters like Hector (Jorge Garcia) and Lorraine (Vanessa Ferlito). All eight episodes are out now. The jury is still out on whether it'll be picked up for a second season. (Max)

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• Trivia Test •

- MOVIES: What state is the setting for the 1990s movie "Twister"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Lake Okeechobee is in which U.S. state?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president adopted the expression, "Speak softly and carry a big stick"?
- MUSIC: Actor/singer Jared Leto also is the front man for which rock music band?
- HISTORY: The U.S. Civil War ended in 1865 when Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union forces in which Virginia town?
- SCIENCE: Which element has the symbol Pb?
- GAMES: What is the destination in the board game Candy Land?
- TELEVISION: Who was the long-running host of "American Bandstand"?
- U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Alaska?
- LITERATURE: Who is the author of the autobiographical work "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"?

- Answers
- Oklahoma.
 - Florida.
 - Theodore Roosevelt.
 - Thirty Seconds to Mars.
 - Appomattox.
 - Lead.
 - Candy Castle.
 - Dick Clark.
 - Juneau.
 - Maya Angelou.
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Essence
- Sprint
- Weed whacker
- Part of a French play
- Draft status
- Jackson 5 hit song
- Bribe of a sort
- Kanga's kid
- Hindu hero
- Mature, as fruit
- Laugh track sounds
- Painter Joan
- "East of Eden" son
- College life
- Kitten's cry
- Nearby
- USN bigwig
- Waged
- Shade provider
- Candied vegetables
- Plano's state
- Recap
- Wild hog
- pro nobis
- Website assistance features
- Motorist's org.
- Biblical grain measure

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43				44				45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

- Sluggish
- Carrier
- Amsterdam
- Sean Astin film
- Wan
- More (Sp.)
- Fury
- Soccer star
- Mia
- Region
- Cowboy's greeting (Abbr.)
- Sail support
- Priests' garments
- Editor Wintour
- Observe
- October outing
- Brother of Groucho
- Bassoon's kin
- Nobel Prize subj.
- Highland hat
- Drench
- Russian river
- Ran in the wash
- Nashville venue
- Outback bird
- Refusals
- Show to a seat, slangily
- Utter

DOWN

- "How frustrating!"
- Hosp. section
- Map lines (Abbr.)
- Capital of Iran
- Unhappy destiny
- Editor Wintour
- Observe

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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			5	3				1
	6			7	4			

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* From 1953 to 1959, the Cincinnati Reds baseball team went by a different moniker, the Cincinnati Redlegs, in response to America's fear of communism during the McCarthy era, when the term "Reds" could be problematic.

* The word "whisky" comes from the Gaelic phrase "uisge beatha," or "water of life."

* According to researchers at Japan's Nagoya University, electric eels can use their shock to transfer genetic material to nearby fish larvae, altering the larva's genes in the process.

* An AI program using merely 10 seconds of human speech has been able to identify whether someone has diabetes with 89% accuracy.

* Workers at an Akron, Ohio, auto wrecking company creatively stopped a potential car thief by using a forklift to raise him, while inside the vehicle, 20 feet into the air until (no doubt amused) police arrived on the scene.

* If you make a visit to Iceland, you might run across a tiny, intricately designed house known as an alfhof. But it wasn't built for a family of dolls. Rather, such structures are created for the "hidden folk" of Icelandic folklore, creatures often invisible to humans but who are believed to lead lives similar to ours.

* Smokers with better math skills are more inclined to quit smoking.

* When Reza Baluchi, a 44-year-old man from Florida, aspired to cross the Atlantic on a visit to London, he didn't take a plane or boat, but a floating contraption much like a giant hamster wheel! Unfortunately, his mode of transportation was deemed "manifestly unsafe" by the Coast Guard off the coast of Georgia's Tybee Island, and after a three-day standoff, Baluchi's mission was aborted.

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**HAPPY 21st
Birthday
Michelle!**



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Carol Ann Smith, RN
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THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Lonnie P. Clary, 78, of Coloma, Mich., was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Washington Street and 12th Avenue at 12:28 a.m. Jan. 10. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS TO STATE SUPPORTED LAND

Daniel E. Rutledge, 24, of Streator, was charged with criminal trespass to state supported land in the 100 block of South Ninth Avenue, Mendota, at 8:30 p.m. Jan. 10. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Mendota snowmobile routes

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

Designated snowmobile routes are as follows:

- Cherry Street from First Avenue west to Seventh Avenue
- Seventh Avenue from Cherry Street north to Fifth Street
- Fifth Street from Seventh Avenue east to alley between Seventh and Sixth avenues
- Alley between Seventh and Sixth avenues north to Seventh Street
- Seventh Street to Front Street
- Front Street north from Seventh to Eighth streets
- Eighth Street west crossing BNSF railroad tracks
- 15th Street from First Avenue west to Lincoln Avenue
- Lincoln Avenue from 15th Street south to 12th Street
- 12th Street from Lincoln Avenue west to E. Main Street
- E. Main Street from 12th Street north to Illinois Route 251
- Third Street from W. Seventh Avenue west to 12th Avenue
- 12th Avenue from Third Street south to Second Street
- Second Street from 12th Avenue west to 14th Avenue
- 14th Avenue from Second Street south to Division Street
- Division Street from 14th Avenue west to west city limits

City Council rejects request; hears complaint about landlord

By KIP CHEEK
Staff writer

MENDOTA—The Mendota City Council rejected a request and heard a citizen complaint about the condition of a dwelling at its Jan. 15 regular meeting.

The request was from the Illinois Freedom Alliance for a hotel/motel tax fund contribution for its convention scheduled for Saturday, March 9 from 1-5 p.m. at the Mendota Civic Center. The Illinois Freedom Alliance mission statement is to promote the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution through education and active participation in the political process.

City attorney Mike Guilfoyle said a city ordinance states that the city of Mendota cannot donate money to an organization that is not charitable. He added that if it's something providing services to the city as a whole, the city can make a donation. Also, in using the Mendota Civic Center for its convention, the Illinois Freedom Alliance cannot in any way show that it is tied to the city of Mendota.

Mayor David Boelk commended city workers for their job in handling the two

major snowfalls and sub-zero temperature ramifications over the last week. He said the city departments did a wonderful job in keeping things operating.

A non-citizen of Mendota, speaking on behalf of her daughter and grandson, who are Mendota residents, issued a complaint to the city council about a landlord and the deplorable conditions of a dwelling that was being rented by her daughter within the city. She said the landlord promised repairs to the rental upon her daughter moving in, but they were never completed and money paid to the landlord has not been returned upon the woman and child moving out.

"It's time for the city of Mendota to do something about this person," she said. "There are laws to hold him accountable. He's preying on low-income families."

Mayor Boelk said the goal of the city is to employ a full-time building inspector/code enforcement officer that can better monitor situations like these that arise.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5.

To the Policyholders of Mendota Mutual Insurance Company

- ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE -

The 149th Annual Policyholders Meeting of Mendota Mutual Insurance Company will be held at the Company Office at 1019 Main Street, Mendota, Illinois at 1:30 P.M., on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 to conduct business.

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

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

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Reporter unveils revamped website

MENDOTA — As of Monday, Jan. 15, The Mendota Reporter's revamped website at www.mendotareporter.com has been unveiled.

Work on the site has been ongoing in recent months in an effort to bring the best online experience possible to readers in the Mendota area and abroad.

The Mendota Reporter's editorial staff will now have access to a state-of-the-art content management system to bring a more informational and immersive experience to subscribers. Editors will be

able to customize the site and story features as they see fit to deliver local news in the most efficient ways possible to the site's visitors.

As they have in the past, readers will be able to keep up with the top local news and sports stories on the site, as well as police reports, obituaries and opinion pieces.

The revamped site also includes more streamlined methods for those looking to view e-editions and subscribe to The Mendota Reporter online. Feedback from subscribers and readers over the years was considered as

the site's design was made. The site will also include an upgraded advertising experience for local advertisers looking to reach readers online.

Marking the special occasion of the upgraded site, access to stories online will be free to all users for two weeks, from Jan. 17-31. No payroll will be in use on the site during that time.

The Mendota Reporter appreciates your continued readership and looks forward to providing local news to its subscribers in the best ways possible in the future.

Don't miss an issue. Subscribe today. Call 815-539-9396 or stop by our office.



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FOR THE HOME

Improving storage in common areas

Increasing storage capabilities at home is a popular goal among many homeowners and renters. Despite how much space a person may have at home, there's often a desire to have more or maximize the areas that are there. According to the Self-Storage Almanac, there are an estimated 51,206 storage facilities operating in the United States today, and MJ Partners Self-Storage Update says 11.1 percent of households currently rent at self-storage facilities.

People often turn to external storage facilities to house their belongings when space is at a premium at home. Others may focus their organization energy on closets, garages and basements to free up room. But common areas around the home also can provide additional sources of storage. Common areas are locations where people come together for activities.

Living room/family room

Living rooms and family rooms are areas of the home where people spend many hours. These tend to be multifunctional spaces where people entertain, lounge and even enjoy movies or gaming. Possibilities in these living spaces that can create extra storage include furniture that serves double-duty. For example, a storage ottoman adds decorative appeal but also can be filled

with board games or books. Cabinet-style TV stands may not be as streamlined as mounted versions, but they're ideal places to stash games, remote controls and other accessories.

Entryway

An entryway or mudroom can quickly succumb to clutter. When organizing such a space, think about the needs of the household. A storage bench will be a place where everyone can sit to put on shoes, and then stow footwear underneath when not in use. A wall-mounted rack can hold the current season's jackets or sweaters, as well as purses or backpacks for easy access. A shelf with some hooks can store keys or hold a basket to store the daily mail.

Hallway and closet

Closet organization systems can be the unsung heroes in closets utilized by multiple members of the family. These customizable components can be sized accordingly for the space, and then configured as needed with a balance of shelves and hanging racks. An out-of-the-way nook or long hallway can be enhanced with a bookshelf to hold photo albums or that library that only continues to grow as new reading material is acquired.

Homeowners can make common areas more functional with the addition of storage.

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Repurposing a bedroom

It can be bittersweet when adult children decide the time has come to move out of the family home. Parents perhaps get their first trial run of this scenario when their children go off to college or enlist in the military.

Converting a child's bedroom into an area for adults may take some planning. When the time comes and homeowners are emotionally ready to tackle bedroom conversions, these tips can help the process go smoothly.

- Repurpose the space for them. Give a childhood bedroom an adult spin without changing too much. If furniture is in good shape, replace the bedding, change the flooring, swap out artwork, and remove "youthful" items like toys, trophies and other collectibles. When the child comes home to visit, he or she will still feel comfortable in the space.

- Create extra storage. The bedroom can be transformed into a walk-in closet or dressing space. According to the design experts at Houzz, many clients request this type of dressing room situation. There's a bonus if the layout allows the space to connect to the owner's suite or bathroom. This is a major overhaul, so homeowners should enlist a professional contractor.

- Make a fitness center. A bedroom can be turned into a home gym to make working out more convenient. Homeowners should take inventory of equipment they may have and then figure out where existing and new equipment will go. They may need to consult a structural engineer to ensure that the flooring can bear the weight of additional equipment.

- Create a work space. One of the best ways to transform adult children's bedrooms is to convert the spaces into home offices. Those who have been setting up "desks" at dining room tables or elsewhere may be excited about the prospects of finally having a private, dedicated space to work from home.

- Turn it into a craft room. The bedroom can be converted into a space to explore hobbies and various other interests. A dedicated craft space, a reading nook, a place to store photography equipment, or another function can serve as a useful way to repurpose an empty bedroom.

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FOR THE HOME

How to turn your bathroom into a spa oasis

Many health and wellness regimens include treatments that promote relaxation and comfort. According to IBIS World-wide, revenue for health and wellness spas across the United States has risen at a rate of 1.1 percent over the past five years, reaching \$23.3 billion in 2023. The International Spa Association said that while spa visits fell in 2020, likely due to the global pandemic, visits rebounded a year later.

The popularity of spa visits is one indicator that people enjoy being pampered and frequently make time for treatments. While visiting a spa is one way to rest and recharge, individuals may be able to enjoy similar perks if they incorporate these spa-like features in their homes.



Hang artwork
Any space is made more welcoming and classy with the addition of some artistic touches. Hang pictures that will create a relaxing atmosphere, such as floral prints or beachscapes. Integrating

large prints or a gallery wall can add a different dimension to the bathroom.

Change the color scheme
Spas are typically bright and clean and evoke feelings of purity. This can be achieved by choosing white,

off-white or pale gray in the color scheme. An all-white design for fixtures and tiles also makes it easy to swap out accessories when the mood strikes.

Incorporate natural materials

When decorating the space, use natural materials like stone, wood and marble rather than plastic or metal. This can add to the luxury appeal.

Install a rainfall shower head

Upgrade fixtures to make them more luxurious. Multi-head shower fixtures and rainfall shower heads can help anyone unwind and relax. Rain showers can evoke calmness and relaxation as they gently cascade down. Additional shower upgrades can include steam functions, soothing lights and aromatherapy.

Keep the tub
While many adults admit to not bathing nearly as much as they shower, there are ben-

efits to having a deep, spa-like tub. Soaking away the stresses of the day, lounging in the tub with a good book and listening to music while enjoying a bubble bath are all ways to slow down and eke out a bit more quiet, personal time to unwind. Tubs can be outfitted with waterfall features to add to the ambiance even further.

Invest in quality linens
When stepping out of the shower or the bath, individuals can wrap themselves in thick, luxurious towels or robes. Guests also will appreciate comfortable towels if they come to visit.

Certain features can transform home bathrooms into spa-like retreats with a few touches.

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SPORTS

A shameful act at the United Center

This column was originally about the Orlando Magic retiring Shaquille O'Neal's No. 32 jersey he wore for them during his four-year stay before leaving for the Los Angeles Lakers and the Miami Heat, which both have retired his jersey already, before bouncing around the league.

Then my idea shifted toward Pete Carroll leaving the sideline of the Seattle Seahawks, followed by Nick Saban retiring from the University of Alabama, capped off with Bill Belichick parting ways with the New England Patriots and its owner Robert Kraft.

Until, the moment I was embarrassed to be a Chicago Bulls fan happened. On Friday, Jan. 12, the Chicago Bulls played

the Golden State Warriors at home, the United Center in Chicago, and held a special ceremony for its inaugural class of the newly formed Ring of Honor.

In hindsight, a Ring of Honor or Hall of Fame for a team is awesome and sometimes more than not gives players from the franchise recognition they don't receive from the rest of the league or nationally.

I was all for it. We, as in all Bulls fans, knew Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman, Bob Love, Artis Gilmore, and Phil Jackson were locks to be in the first class and receive yet another ovation for what they did for the franchise over the years.

Especially, Jordan, Pippen, Rodman, and Jackson for being key cogs in the dynasty years of 1990-1998, which brought in the only six championships the franchise has to this day.

Others were named to the Ring of Honor, including former Bulls General Manager Jerry Krause.

Krause passed away in 2017 at 77, so he was represented by his widow, Thelma Krause. The Bulls fans in attendance booed when Jerry was initially introduced into the Ring of Honor where Thelma's face was on the jumbo tron shaking her hands in reaction. They showed her again, the fans booed and she began crying.

What a shameful, despicable way to treat people. Whether you hate Krause or not for disassembling the dynasty Bulls, there was no reason for him to be booed almost 30 years later or for his widowed wife who was asked to be there by the team you're supposedly a fan.

And maybe at first, Krause deserved some criticism for the team being disassembled. But, so could Michael Jordan for his attitude and behavior.

Scottie Pippen for his ego and greed. Dennis Rodman for his crazy antics and placing Hollywood events over basketball or the team who pays him and made him a star.

Phil Jackson for his ego and demands. They were all to blame; not just Krause. So, in 1998 when the team disintegrated, it was understandable for Krause to get booed, heckled, slammed in the press, and talked harshly about by every Bulls' supporter. And to some level, the rest of the names associated also.

At the same time, Jackson isn't hired as the Bulls coach without Krause. Jordan remains a great player on a mediocre team because Krause wouldn't have made the moves he did to build a team around the superstar.

Pippen stays with the Seattle Super Sonics, who originally drafted him before Krause traded his pick, Olden Polynice, to Seattle for Pippen.

Rodman stays an underperforming player on the San Antonio Spurs roster because Krause wouldn't have made the trade for him.

Krause didn't play a second of basketball for the Bulls, but he was the mastermind behind the mixing and matching, the piecing, the pressure, the stress, the financial decisions, which made the Bulls dynasty possible.

There are only three franchises who have more championships than the Bulls - the Boston Celtics, the Los Angeles Lakers, and the Golden State Warriors, who won most of theirs after Krause wasn't with the Bulls.

After almost 30 years later, Krause deserves respect for giving the Chicago Bulls and its fans the dynasty to be proud of and talk about in the first place.

I'll end this with my words on Facebook, which actually had someone unfriend me because my opinion differed than his. He said adios, I say peace.

From my Facebook: Of course I know Krause ended the team. Everyone knows. I'm not defending everything the man did. However, at the end of day in 2024, there is negative surrounding every positive in sports. There is absolutely no reason our society, a fan base should be as petty as it was to loath someone who made the Bulls what they were in the first place.

If someone asked every player and coach currently in the NBA, would you sign a contract to win six NBA Championships in eight years but the end result is the team being dismantled and everyone associated going their separate ways?

Everyone would sign. Absolutely everyone.

Not the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance



The Mendota boys' bowling team qualified for the sectional after finishing in fourth place in the Plainfield North Regional on Jan. 15. Left to right, are Caeleb Ensor, Alex Holland, Landon Bauer, Kooper Novak, Paxton Bauer, Nick Sheridan, BJ Bresley and Dean Gilbert. (Photo contributed)

Mendota bowlers headed to sectional

□ Trojans qualify for next round after 4th-place finish in Plainfield N. Regional

JOLIET - In a season full of superlatives, the Mendota boys' bowling team added another highlight to its list after competing in the Plainfield North Regional on Jan. 15 at the Town & Country Lanes in Joliet.

The Trojans executed the necessary criteria for keeping their season alive by finishing fourth in the team standings, allowing them to move on to the sectional round. The top four teams at each regional automatically qualify for the sectional, and Mendota's team score of 5568 was 22 pins higher than fifth-place Plainfield South. This is the first time in MHS history that the bowling team has advanced to the sectional round.

Yorkville claimed the regional championship with a pin total of 5864,

while Oswego East (5854) and Minooka (5824) also advanced to the sectional level.

Three Mendota bowlers finished in the top 25 of the individual standings, led by senior Landon Bauer. He was seventh overall with a six-game series of 1249. Bauer rolled games of 249, 226, 233, 159, 201 and 181.

Sophomore Paxton Bauer finished in 17th place with an 1161 series. He had games of 235, 193, 193, 210, 150 and 180. Sophomore Alex Holland had an 1151 series to finish in 21st place. His game scores included 213, 207, 182, 183, 200 and 166.

Three other team members helped the Trojans to their fourth-place finish. Sophomore Kooper Novak rolled games

of 158, 184, 222, 153, 117 and 168 for a 1002 series.

Junior BJ Bresley and senior Dean Gilbert each competed in three games. Bresley had scores of 218, 139 and 157 for a 514 series, while Gilbert's games were 193, 132 and 166 (491 series).

Thomas Booker of Yorkville was the individual champion with a 1359 series.

Mendota's team will now compete in the Rockford Jefferson Sectional to be held Saturday, Jan. 20 at Don Carter Lanes in Rockford. Start time is 9 a.m.

The top six teams in the sectional will move on to the state tournament, as well as the top seven individuals who are not part of a qualifying team. The state tournament will be held Jan. 26-27 at St. Clair Bowl in O'Fallon.



Third place in tournament
The Northbrook School seventh grade volleyball team finished in third place in the LaSalle Trinity Catholic Tournament on Jan. 5-6. Members of the team, front row, left to right, are Aileen Perez, Yuliza Magallanes, Aliya Delao, Laurali Thompson, Delilah Karahalios and Mia Arteaga. Back row, Kylee Bonnell, Aleeya Garcia, Eliana Eames, Allison McNutt, Giana Godina, Mallory Beck, Lexie Saylor, Ava Mahaffey and Livi Perryman. Not pictured: coach Allison Buettner. (Photo contributed)

Trojan wrestlers drop 2 in triangular

ERIE - The Mendota wrestlers dropped both ends of a triangular meet at Erie on Jan. 11.

The host Erie-Prophetstown squad upended the Trojans, 65-18. The three Mendota wins went to Gavin Stevenson, Payton Gagliardo and Michael Thornhill via forfeit.

The Trojans were taken down by Monmouth-Roseville, 54-12. Madrick Musgrove got a pin win for Mendota at 215 pounds, while Stevenson won by forfeit.

Jan. 11 @ Erie
Erie-Prophetstown 65, Mendota 18

106 - Hawking (EP) pinned Adrian Arteaga (M), 3:49; 113 - Gavin Stevenson (M) won forfeit; 120 - Besse (EP) won forfeit; 126 - Kilker (EP) won forfeit; 132 - Gibson (EP) pinned Trayvon Rucker (M), 3:54; 138 - Johnson (EP) dec. Cole Kleckner (M), 6-5; 144 - Hovey (EP) pinned Gavin Evans (M), 1:57; 150 - Jepson (EP) won forfeit; 157 - Thompson (EP) won forfeit; 165 - Pels (EP) won forfeit; 175 - Crow (EP) pinned Zach Schmidt (M), 0:42; 190 - Payton Gagliardo (M) won forfeit; 215 - Michael Thornhill (M) won forfeit; 285 - Reymers (EP) pinned Nate Giberson (M), 0:54

Monmouth-Roseville 54, Mendota 12

106 - Thung (MR) pinned Arteaga (M), 0:57; 113 - Stevenson (M) won forfeit; 120 - double forfeit; 126 - Spears (MR) won forfeit; 132 - Morales (MR) pinned Rucker (M), 3:49; 138 - Rivera (MR) pinned Kleckner (M), 1:18; 144 - Valverde (MR) pinned Evans (M), 0:43; 150 - double forfeit; 157 - Ortiz-Mora (MR) won forfeit; 165 - Martinez (MR) won forfeit; 175 - Montroy (MR) pinned Schmidt (M), 0:14; 190 - Gandarilla (MR) pinned Gagliardo (M), 1:25; 215 - Madrick Musgrove (M) pinned Lung (MR), 0:26; 285 - Bell (MR) pinned Giberson (M), 0:43

Offensive troubles continue for Lady Trojans in pair of setbacks

□ Hinckley-Big Rock and Hall record victories over Mendota

Hinckley-Big Rock dealt the Mendota Lady Trojans a 51-14 loss in a nonconference varsity girls' basketball game on Jan. 10 at the MHS gym.

Points were again hard to come by for the Lady Trojans as they fell behind 14-3 after the first quarter and 26-8 at intermission. Mendota managed only six points in the second half, including one free throw in the fourth frame.

"I thought we played pretty well, we just got outshot bad again," said Mendota coach John Hansen. "We battled hard on the boards and moved well on defense. We just lost to a better team."

Ella Coss had four points to lead Mendota. Ryleigh Sondgeroth topped the rebounding chart with eight and Grace Wasmer collected six caroms.

Hall defeated Mendota for the third time this season, 51-21, in a Three Rivers Conference contest on Jan. 11 at Spring Valley. The

HINCKLEY-BR 51, MENDOTA 14
Hinckley-Big Rock (51)

	FG	FT	Fis	TP
Murphy	2	0-0	0	6
Michaels	1	0-0	3	2
Wagner	2	0-1	1	4
Martinez	2	3-4	4	8
Cotton	1	1-2	0	4
Herrman	4	0-0	1	9
Carlino	8	2-2	3	18
Totals	20	6-9	12	51

Mendota (14)

	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	1	0-0	2	2
Bokus	0	0-0	1	0
Garcia	0	0-0	3	0
Frey	0	0-0	2	0
Knaff	1	0-2	1	2
Coss	1	1-2	3	4
Sondgeroth	0	0-0	8	0
Martin	1	0-0	2	2
Denault	0	1-2	2	1
Wasmer	1	1-2	6	3
Totals	5	3-8	30	14

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Team	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Hinckley-BR	14	26	42	51	51
Mendota	3	8	13	14	28

Three-point goals: Mendota - Coss 1; Hinckley-Big Rock - Murphy 2, Martinez 1, Cotton 1, Herrman 1

HALL 51, MENDOTA 21
Mendota (21)

	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	2	0-0	5	6
Bokus	1	0-0	1	2
Garcia	0	0-0	1	0
Knaff	2	0-0	5	5
Coss	0	0-2	1	0
Sondgeroth	0	0-0	5	0
Martin	2	2-2	1	6
Denault	1	0-0	2	2
Wasmer	0	0-2	2	0
Totals	8	2-6	23	21

Hall (51)

	FG	FT	Fis	TP
C. Pellegrini	3	2-4	na	8
H. Pellegrini	2	0-0	na	6
Christiansen	3	2-2	na	10
Sterling	7	2-2	na	16
Wozniak	3	0-0	na	6
Hansen	1	0-0	na	2
Delphi	1	0-0	na	3
Totals	20	6-8	na	51

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Team	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Mendota	2	9	16	21	28
Hall	16	25	48	51	51

Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 2, Knaff 1; Hall - H. Pellegrini 2, Christiansen 2, Delphi 1

Lady Trojans have a 4-17 overall record and a 0-7 league mark.

The home team took control from the opening tip, racing out to a 16-2 advantage after the opening stanza. Hall led 25-9 at halftime and 48-16 after three periods.

"I thought every three we took looked good, but they didn't go in for us again," said Hansen. "We've got to keep firing."

Ava Eddy and Ella Martin paced the team with six points apiece, while Eddy, Sondgeroth and Kennedy Knaff each had five rebounds.

MHS girls' wrestling team to compete in Erie Regional

ERIE - The Mendota girls' wrestling team has been assigned to the Erie Regional to be held Friday, Jan. 26 and Saturday, Jan. 27. Mendota is one of 45 schools that will compete in the regional.

In order to advance to the sectional round, a wrestler must finish first, second or third in her weight class. Advancing individuals will participate in the Geneseo Sectional to be held Friday, Feb. 9 and Saturday, Feb. 10.

SPORTS

BOWLING

Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Jan. 3 - 1. Novak Farms 3-1; 2. Mendota Monument 3-1; 3. O'Donnell Excavating 3-1; 4. JJ&L Carpentry 1-3; 5. First State Bank 1-3; 6. Black Bros. 1-3

High team game (scratch) - Novak Farms 1110, Mendota Monument 1063, JJ&L Carpentry 1039

High team game (hdc) - Novak Farms 1241, JJ&L Carpentry 1159, Mendota Monument 1146

High team series (scratch) - Mendota Monument 3108, Novak Farms 3066, JJ&L Carpentry 2956

High team series (hdc) - Novak Farms 3459, Mendota Monument 3357, JJ&L Carpentry 3316

High individual game

(scratch) - Nate Bradford 279, Owen Wixom 277, John Hessenberger 268

High individual series (scratch) - Nate Bradford 764, Owen Wixom 715, John Hessenberger 708

Elks 9 Youth League

Standings as of Jan. 6 - 1. Team 3 22.5-5.5; 2. Team 2 16.5-11.5; 3. Team 4 9-19; 4. Team 1 8-20

High team game (scratch) - Team 4 298

High team series (scratch) - Team 4 817, Team 3 742, Team 2 623

High team series (hdc) - Team 3 1909, Team 4 1885, Team 2 1814

Boys' high game

(scratch) - Keegan Mauch 139, Jaxon Stamberger 116, Maddox Chaon & Parker Krager 98

Boys' high game (hdc) - Keegan Mauch 256, Jaxon Stamberger 228, Parker Krager 225

Boys' high series (scratch) - Jaxon Stamberger 298, Keegan Mauch 279, Maddox Chaon 257

Boys' high series (hdc) - Jaxon Stamberger 634, Keegan Mauch 630, Parker Krager 621

Girls' high game (scratch) - Grace Piskie 120, Sophia Martinez 104, Ady Law 90

Girls' high game (hdc) - Grace Piskie 237, Sophia Martinez 237, Lainey Ramer 225

Girls' high series (scratch) - Sophia Martinez 263, Ady Law 220, Lainey Ramer 219

Girls' high series (hdc) - Lainey Ramer 657, Sophia Martinez 641, Ady Law 622

Elks 11 Youth League

Standings as of Jan. 6 - 1. Team 5 23-5; 2. Team 2 20.5-7.5; 3. Team 3 12.5-15.5; 4. Team 4 10.5-17.5; 5. Team 1 5.5-22.5; 6. Team 6 0-28

High team game (scratch) - Team 2 310, Team 5 300, Team 4 270

High team game (hdc) - Team 2 665, Team 3 642, Team 4 620

High team series (scratch) - Team 5 862, Team 2 829, Team 4 743

High team series (hdc) - Team 2 1894, Team 3 1843, Team 5 1798

Boys' high game (scratch) - Parker Ramer 144, Landon Kent 131, Billy Bromenschenkel 118

Boys' high game (hdc) - Lincoln Daley 226, Jaxen Daley 220, Parker Ramer 215

Boys' high series (scratch) - Parker Ramer 410, Bentley Bejster 310, Billy Bromenschenkel 306

Boys' high series (hdc) - Parker Ramer

623, Bentley Bejster 622, Jaxen Daley 611

Girls' high game (scratch) - Eliana Eammes 97

Girls' high game (hdc) - Eliana Eammes 226

Girls' high series (scratch) - Eliana Eammes 272

Girls' high series (hdc) - Eliana Eammes 659

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Jan. 8 - 1. Leagal Beagles 4-1; 2. Bad Kats 4-1; 3. Ramer Inc. 4-1; 4. CM Farm 1-4; 5. Split Happens 1-4; 6. Sports-N-Stuff 1-4

High team game (scratch) - Split Happens 711, Leagal Beagles 701, CM Farm 687

High team game (hdc) - CM Farm 985, Leagal Beagles 985, Ramer Inc. 942

High team series (scratch) - Split Happens 2074, Leagal Beagles 2070, CM Farm 1926

High team series (hdc) - Leagal Beagles 2922, CM Farm 2820, Bad Kats 2793

Men's high game (scratch) - Matt Ramer 257, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 237, Mike Smith 232

Men's high game (hdc) - Matt Ramer 287, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 287, Ed Roulston 282

Men's high series (scratch) - Matt Ramer 651, Mike Smith 650, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 619

Men's high series (hdc) - Mike Smith 788, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 769, Ed Roulston 761

Women's high game (scratch) - Gail Sessler 181, Jessica Robinson 177, Emily Thomas 175

Women's high game (hdc) - Kim Smith 260, Audrey Holocker 254, Connie Yost 249

Women's high series (scratch) - Jessica Robinson 523, Gail Sessler 506, Emily Thomas 480

Women's high series (hdc) - Kim Smith 730, Audrey Holocker 722, Stephanie Ramer 704

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Living an amazing life

“Amazing grace...how sweet the sound!” “How great Thou art!” “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus...” “There’s just something about that Name!” “Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!”

These are all lyrics to a few old hymns of the church. Their words convey a certain wonder and adoration of the greatness of God. This kind of wide-eyed, jaw-dropping amazement should certainly promote a hopeful outlook on life.

Today we have numerous ways to experience God’s goodness. We can watch and listen to Bible teachings on TV, radio, and the internet, find encouragement in social media, listen to uplifting music, read inspiring books—the list is almost endless.

all the ways the Word is available to us, it seems as though we have lost some of the reverence and respect for God that we once had, and familiarity may be the culprit. Now, it’s not that familiarity is a bad thing necessarily, but when something—or someone—becomes common or ordinary to us, we begin to take it for granted and it is no longer special. I believe this can happen with our relationship with God.

Several years ago, I asked the Lord, “Why don’t I have exciting, special things happen in my life anymore?”

God spoke to my heart and said, “Joyce, I still do those things all the time. You have just gotten used to it.”

God wants us to live amazed by His goodness

in our lives...to actively take notice of the truly wonderful things He does for us. Why? Because when we live amazed, we will never be without hope! Let’s look at the story of Abraham...

God had blessed Abraham abundantly. However, there was one thing that he and his wife, Sarah, didn’t have—a child. Abraham said, “...Lord God, what can You give me, since I am going on [from this world] childless...?”

“And He [God] brought him outside [his tent into the starlight] and said, Look now toward the heavens and count the stars—if you are able to number them. Then he said to him, So shall your descendants be (Genesis 15:2, 5 AMPC).”

Although Abraham’s circumstances looked overwhelming, the Lord brought him out of his tent to amaze him and remind him that He can do the impossible.

I believe we can all spend too much time “in our tent,” looking at our own problems. That’s why the Bible says to look away from all that will distract unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Every time we decide to pray, read His Word or simply dwell on the great things He has done for us in the past, it produces hope. And, like Abraham, we soon begin thinking, Wow, maybe He can do this for me!



If we can’t find anything else to be amazed about, we can at least rejoice that we will live for eternity! But in the meantime, there is much more to inspire our wide-eyed wonder; all we have to do is simply pay attention.

Think back to a time shortly after you began your relationship with God. How did you feel? Were you extremely happy? Were you amazed by the presence of God... His grace... His love for you? How did you express your love and gratitude to Him? Did you laugh, cry, or dance before Him? Did you shout praises to Him or maybe bow in silent reverence? Whatever you did was your expression of the value, or importance, of your new and growing relationship with God.

It’s like a jar of salad dressing sitting on a shelf—most of the seasoning settles to the bottom of the bottle. But when you shake that bottle up, all the ingredients mix together and then the dressing can add flavor to a salad. In the same way, we can stir ourselves up and regain the reverence,

respect, and awe we once had for the Lord. Shake up those memories of what God has done for you. Begin to do what you did when you first experienced God’s presence, grace, and love. Learn to maintain that amazement, because the more amazed you are, the more hopeful, joyful, and peaceful you’ll be—and the more “flavor” you’ll add to this world.

There are several ways we can stir ourselves up. Just stop and think for a moment. Begin to reminisce about the goodness of God in your life. Remember things He’s done for you. Keep a journal to record your prayer needs and then the answers and breakthroughs, or a gratitude notebook to just write down things you are thankful for. Share with others what God is doing in your life! It doesn’t matter whether they’re big or small things; remembrance is vital to maintaining hope, and these things can help remind you.

When you focus on how wonderful God is and all the great things He’s done...is doing...

and even will do in your life, your natural response will be praise, adoration, and awe. Don’t let yourself ever get used to it... stay amazed!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-part teaching resource Filled With Hope. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (Faith-Words). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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Where are the AUCTIONS?

See Page A7!

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Methodist Church

Jan. 21 - 9 a.m. Sunday School;
9:30 a.m. Worship

ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace

jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

So then, my beloved brethren,
let every man be swift to hear,
slow to speak, slow to wrath;
for the wrath of man
does not produce
the righteousness of God.

JAMES 1:19, 20-22
Detail of "Guernica" by Pablo Picasso (1937)



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Jan. 24 - Newsletter deadline

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Wayne Shuman

Please join us for . . .

Sunday Bible Study (all ages) 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Church Builders 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.

Men's Ministry

Ladies & Mens Bible Study

Thursday 6 p.m.

Non-denominational

Please call for more information

COMPTON

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E-mail: immanuelutheran
compton@live.com

"Living in God's Grace as a
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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship at First

Jan. 18 - 5:15 p.m. Church Council
meets

Jan. 24 - 6:30-8 p.m. -

Confirmation class

Online "devotional service" videos continue
every Sunday at
facebook.com/ilccompton and
YouTube. Check our website and Facebook
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Pastor David Jungnickel

E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

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Pastor Brian Hamiel

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info

E-mail: fbfchurch20817@gmail.com

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to glorify God through the equipping
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and raising of His name.

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to worship and learn about
our risen Savior."

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.
SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ezekiel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. By Roman reckoning, about what time of day did Jesus meet the woman at the well at Samaria? Sunrise, Noon, Sunset, Midnight
 3. Which other servant of Pharaoh besides the butler was imprisoned along with Joseph? Baker, Tentmaker, Workman, Seamstress
 4. What archangel argued with the devil in a dispute over the body of Moses? Abaddon, Michael, Gabriel, Chephirah
 5. In Galatians 5, what is the first fruit of the Spirit? Faith, Love, Peace, Goodness
 6. As mentioned 12 times in the Bible (KJV), what is a hyssop? Bird, Beggar, Plant, Robe
- ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Noon, 3) Baker, 4) Michael, 5) Love, 6) Plant

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

By virtue of Section 10 of the Illinois Timeshare Lien and Security Interest Act, 770 ILCS 103/1 et. seq and in execution of certain mortgages on the timeshare estates given by the owners of the timeshare estates set forth below for breach of the conditions of said mortgages and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at public auction starting at 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday January 23, 2024, at the east entrance of Etna Road Government Complex, LaSalle County, Illinois, 1707 Etna Road, Ottawa, IL 61350, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgages.

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.

JASMINE ANDERSON-CRUTHIRD, C/O MITCHELL REED SUSSMAN, 1053 S PALM CANYON DR, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264, according to the Mortgage dated January 26, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 03613, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 28, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0003E, Use Period Number(s) 40, Phase 1 JASMINE ANDERSON-CRUTHIRD, 2608 W 103RD ST, CHICAGO, IL 60655, according to the Mortgage dated January 26, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 03613, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 28, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0003E, Use Period Number(s) 40, Phase 1 JAY BOUCHER, 256 PRAIRIE VIS, CIBOLO, TX 78108, according to the Mortgage dated October 19, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 24873, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 06, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0411, Use Period Number(s) 28, Phase 7 HENRY BROWN and CHARLEEN BROWN, 8044 S THROOP ST, CHICAGO, IL 60620, according to the Mortgage dated August 08, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 16151, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 25,

2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0395, Use Period Number(s) 45, Phase 6 CATHY BURNS and FRITZ BURNS, 265 HALSELL RD, MINERAL AVE WELLS, TX 76067, according to the Mortgage dated January 10, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 01526, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on January 28, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0394, Use Period Number(s) 39, Phase 6 TASHA CARNELL NARTEY and EDWARD NARTEY, 2011 S 13TH AVE, MAYWOOD, IL 60153, according to the Mortgage dated December 27, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2015 00829, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on January 15, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0025, Use Period Number(s) 26, Phase 1 LARRY CARR II and ANNETTE CARR, 118 E 123RD ST, CHICAGO, IL 60628, according to the Mortgage dated July 21, 2012 and recorded under File No. 2012 20318, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on September 20, 2012, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00350, Use Period Number(s) 17, Phase 1 SAHARA CARUTHERS and SHANA BAKER, 1836 S KARLOV AVE APT 304, CHICAGO, IL 60623, according to the Mortgage dated May 10, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 11258, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 17, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0145, Use Period Number(s) 24, Phase 2 SAHARA CARUTHERS and SHANA BAKER, 318 N 5TH AVE APT 21, MAYWOOD, IL 60153, according to the Mortgage dated May 10, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 11258, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 17, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0145, Use Period Number(s) 24, Phase 2 ERIC CORTES and IVAN ARREDONDO, 1409 GREEN OAK TRL, AURORA, IL 60506, according to the Mortgage dated June 05, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 11710, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 06, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0165, Use Period Number(s) 31, Phase 1 ERIC CORTES and IVAN ARREDONDO, 359 MANOR PL, AURORA, IL 60506, according to the Mortgage dated June 05, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 11710, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 26, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0419, Use Period Number(s) 35, Phase 7 BRITNI FINLAY, 2711 IDAHO RD, NAPERVILLE, IL 60564, according to the Mortgage dated November 09, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 26211, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 26, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0419, Use Period Number(s) 35, Phase 7 STEPHON GIST and EBONIE ROBINSON, 21974 HERITAGE DR, FRANKFORT, IL 60423, according to the

C/O MITCHELL REED SUSSMAN, 1053 S PALM CANYON DR, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264, according to the Mortgage dated February 01, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 02958, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 19, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0033, Use Period Number(s) 27, Phase 1 APRIL DECARLO, DAVID DECARLO AND EVAN LAIRD, 4014 BLANCHAN AVE APT 1, BROOKFIELD, IL 60513, according to the Mortgage dated February 01, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 02958, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 19, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0033, Use Period Number(s) 27, Phase 1 APRIL DECARLO, DAVID DECARLO AND EVAN LAIRD, 409 E 2ND ST, LONG BEACH, CA 90802, according to the Mortgage dated February 01, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 02958, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 19, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0033, Use Period Number(s) 27, Phase 1 CHARLES DUNN JR, C/O MITCHELL REED SUSSMAN, 1053 S PALM CANYON DR, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264, according to the Mortgage dated June 10, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 12183, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 30, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0424, Use Period Number(s) 08, Phase 7 CHARLES DUNN JR, 5907 ROSE QUARTZ LN, RICHMOND, TX 77469, according to the Mortgage dated June 10, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 12183, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 30, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0424, Use Period Number(s) 08, Phase 7 BRITNI FINLAY, C/O MITCHELL REED SUSSMAN, 1053 S PALM CANYON DR, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264, according to the Mortgage dated November 09, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 26211, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 26, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0419, Use Period Number(s) 35, Phase 7 BRITNI FINLAY, 2711 IDAHO RD, NAPERVILLE, IL 60564, according to the Mortgage dated November 09, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 26211, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 26, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0419, Use Period Number(s) 35, Phase 7 STEPHON GIST and EBONIE ROBINSON, 21974 HERITAGE DR, FRANKFORT, IL 60423, according to the

Mortgage dated March 21, 2012 and recorded under File No. R2012 09881, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on May 09, 2012, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0019E, Use Period Number(s) 36, Phase 1 MARVIN HALE, 16429 FRANCIS CT, ORLAND PARK, IL 60467, according to the Mortgage dated March 15, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 06069, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on April 02, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00420, Use Period Number(s) 31, Phase 1 DETRICE HARRIS, 5720 POINTE DR APT 5, HAMMOND, IN 46320, according to the Mortgage dated April 07, 2012 and recorded under File No. R2012 08585, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on April 24, 2012, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0083, Use Period Number(s) 29, Phase 2 ROXANNE HILL and JOHN HILL, 2468 LAUREL LN, SYCAMORE, IL 60178, according to the Mortgage dated August 30, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 17598, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on September 15, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0170, Use Period Number(s) 43, Phase 1 JAMES IVY, VALERIE TRIPLET-IVY AND YANNI BUCKLEY, C/O MITCHELL REED SUSSMAN, 1053 S PALM CANYON DR, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264, according to the Mortgage dated June 14, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 15286, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 11, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0006, Use Period Number(s) 30, Phase 1 JAMES IVY, VALERIE TRIPLET-IVY AND YANNI BUCKLEY, 3711 S VINCENNES AVE UNIT 605, CHICAGO, IL 60653, according to the Mortgage dated June 14, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 15286, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 11, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0006, Use Period Number(s) 30, Phase 1 JAMES IVY, VALERIE TRIPLET-IVY AND YANNI BUCKLEY, PO BOX 4282, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92234, according to the Mortgage dated June 14, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 15286, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 11, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0006, Use Period Number(s) 30, Phase 1 JAMES IVY, VALERIE TRIPLET-IVY AND YANNI BUCKLEY, 8140 S RACINE AVE APT 210, CHICAGO, IL 60620, according to the Mortgage dated June 14, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 15286, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds

for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 11, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0006, Use Period Number(s) 30, Phase 1 TAURUS JOHNSON, 959 ROYCE AVE APT B, JOLIET, IL 60432, according to the Mortgage dated May 30, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 11286, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 17, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00980, Use Period Number(s) 29, Phase 2 JAMES MACKINDER II, 214 BROOKLET CIR, SAINT MARYS, GA 31558, according to the Mortgage dated October 16, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 24669, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on December 22, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0371, Use Period Number(s) 49, Phase 3 DENIKA MCMILLEN and AMANDA MCMILLEN, 310 EASTLAND CT, NAPERVILLE, IL 60565, according to the Mortgage dated May 03, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 09553, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on May 20, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0030, Use Period Number(s) 30, Phase 1 PAULA MENDEZ, 2418 CUYLER AVE APT 1, BERWYN, IL 60402, according to the Mortgage dated July 02, 2008 and recorded under File No. R2008 16075, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 17, 2008, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0386, Use Period Number(s) 30, Phase 6 REBECCA MILLER and CHRISTOPHER MILLER, 1720 E DANA AVE, MESA, AZ 85204, according to the Mortgage dated May 15, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 10957, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 11, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0221, Use Period Number(s) 32, Phase 4 JENNIFER J MISELES and RICHARD A MISELES, 214 W CAMBRIDGE DR, DECATUR, IL 62526, according to the Mortgage dated May 23, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 10959, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 11, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0392, Use Period Number(s) 36, Phase 6 JENNIFER J MISELES and RICHARD A MISELES, 102 COLORADO DR, DECATUR, IL 62526, according to the Mortgage dated May 23, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 10959, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 11, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0392, Use Period Number(s) 36, Phase 6 JENNIFER J MISELES and RICHARD A MISELES, 214 W CAMBRIDGE DR, DE-

CATUR, IL 62526, according to the Mortgage dated May 23, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 10959, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 11, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 397, Use Period Number(s) 42, Phase 6 JENNIFER J MISELES and RICHARD A MISELES, 102 COLORADO DR, DECATUR, IL 62526, according to the Mortgage dated May 23, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 10959, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 11, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0077E, Use Period Number(s) 28, Phase 1 MONICA MORALES and JOSE MORALES, C/O MOLFETTA LAW, 1503 S COAST DR STE 202, COSTA MESA, CA 92626, according to the Mortgage dated March 16, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 05764, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on April 02, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0002, Use Period Number(s) 34, Phase 1 MONICA MORALES and JOSE MORALES, 0S479 MELOLANE RD, WEST CHICAGO, IL 60185, according to the Mortgage dated March 16, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 05764, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on April 02, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0002, Use Period Number(s) 34, Phase 1 MARJORIE MORRISON and MARJORIE L BENSON, 9212 S UNION AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60620, according to the Mortgage dated February 03, 2010 and recorded under File No. R2010 03635, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 24, 2010, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0383, Use Period Number(s) 42, Phase 3 MARJORIE MORRISON and MARJORIE L BENSON, 9212 S UNION AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60620, according to the Mortgage dated February 03, 2010 and recorded under File No. R2010 03635, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 24, 2010, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 408, Use Period Number(s) 19, Phase 6 ROTONDA NEELY and MALCOLM NEWMAN, 5910 TEAKWOOD LN N APT D, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55442, according to the Mortgage dated January 04, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 02672, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 13, 2014,

are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0106, Use Period Number(s) 20, Phase 2 ROTONDA NEELY and MALCOLM NEWMAN, 9742 S MANISTEE AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60617, according to the Mortgage dated January 04, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 02672, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 13, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0106, Use Period Number(s) 20, Phase 2 ROY NOWAK and SHERRY FANELLI, 13233 GRIMM ST, CEDAR LAKE, IN 46303, according to the Mortgage dated March 14, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 06107, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on April 02, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00220, Use Period Number(s) 26, Phase 1 ROY NOWAK and SHERRY FANELLI, 36 163RD ST APT 2, CALUMET CITY, IL 60409, according to the Mortgage dated March 14, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 06107, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on April 02, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00220, Use Period Number(s) 26, Phase 1 DENISE PACK, GLENN SEBELIUS AND TOM STANFORD, C/O MITCHELL REED SUSSMAN, 1053 S PALM CANYON DR, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264, according to the Mortgage dated June 28, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 13497, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 18, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0405, Use Period Number(s) 07, Phase 6 DENISE PACK, GLENN SEBELIUS AND TOM STANFORD, 2392 MIRAMONTE CIRCLE, UNIT D, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264, according to the Mortgage dated June 28, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 13497, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 18, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0405, Use Period Number(s) 07, Phase 6 DENISE PACK, GLENN SEBELIUS AND TOM STANFORD, 2392 MIRAMONTE CIRCLE, UNIT D, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264, according to the Mortgage dated June 28, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 13497, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 18, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0405, Use Period Number(s) 07, Phase 6 DENISE PACK, GLENN SEBELIUS AND TOM STANFORD, 516 E 16TH ST, COLORADO CITY, TX 79512, according to the Mortgage dated June 28, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 13497, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 18, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0411, Use Period Number(s) 49, Phase 7 KATHY PRATHER, 6032 YEARY ST, FORT WORTH, TX 76135, a-

No. 0405, Use Period Number(s) 07, Phase 6 RODNEY G PENNY and BRENDA R PENNY, C/O MOLFETTA LAW, 3070 BRISTOL ST STE 580, COSTA MESA, CA 92626, according to the Mortgage dated September 08, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 21591, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on September 25, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0382, Use Period Number(s) 42, Phase 3 RODNEY G PENNY and BRENDA R PENNY, 1003 ANGORA, INDIAN TRAIL, NC 28079, according to the Mortgage dated September 08, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 21591, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on September 25, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0382, Use Period Number(s) 42, Phase 3 RODNEY G PENNY and BRENDA R PENNY, 3510 HILLDALE PT, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78261, according to the Mortgage dated September 08, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 21591, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on September 25, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0382, Use Period Number(s) 42, Phase 3 MANUEL PEREZ and JULIE RAMOS, C/O MOLFETTA LAW, 3070 BRISTOL ST STE 580, COSTA MESA, CA 92626, according to the Mortgage dated October 12, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 24300, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 29, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00540, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 1 MANUEL PEREZ and JULIE RAMOS, 7347 WASH ISLAND DR, SUN CITY CENTER, FL 33573, according to the Mortgage dated October 12, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 24300, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 29, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00540, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 1 JUMIAH PERKINS, 10531 S WABASH AVE FL 1, CHICAGO, IL 60628, according to the Mortgage dated March 20, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 06335, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on April 10, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0411, Use Period Number(s) 49, Phase 7 KATHY PRATHER, 6032 YEARY ST, FORT WORTH, TX 76135, a-

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According to the Mortgage dated August 07, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 16364, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 28, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00540, Use Period Number(s) 15, Phase 1 JAMELIA PRINCE and SHELDON DUNLAP, 2029 PRETA WAY, FORT WORTH, TX 76131, according to the Mortgage dated March 26, 2011 and recorded under File No. R2011 12479, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 08, 2011, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0058E, Use Period Number(s) 04, Phase 1 ISABEL RIVAS and FRANCISCO RIVAS, 393 COLORADO AVE, AURORA, IL 60506, according to the Mortgage dated March 23, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 06341, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on April 10, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0206, Use Period Number(s) 29, Phase 4 ROSALINDA RIVERA and BRIAN MEYER, 509 MADISON AVE, SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI 53172, according to the Mortgage dated October 27, 2012 and recorded under File No. 2012 25357, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 21, 2012, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00670, Use Period Number(s) 45, Phase 1 ROSALINDA RIVERA and BRIAN MEYER, 2968 S 12TH ST, MILWAUKEE, WI 53215, according to the Mortgage dated October 27, 2012 and recorded under File No. 2012 25357, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 21, 2012, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00670, Use Period Number(s) 45, Phase 1 JOSE SALGADO and AMBER SALGADO, 8100 SEAWALL BLVD APT 315, GALVESTON, TX 77551, according to the Mortgage dated April 07, 2011 and recorded under File No. R2011 10351, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on May 10, 2011, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00770, Use Period Number(s) 49, Phase 1 JOSE SALGADO and AMBER SALGADO, 2601 20TH ST N, TEXAS CITY, TX 77590, according to the Mortgage dated April 07, 2011 and recorded under File No. R2011 10351, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on May 10, 2011, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00770, Use Period Number(s) 49, Phase 1 DARLEAN SHIELDS, 6638 S PEORIA ST, CHICAGO, IL 60621, according to the Mortgage dated April 24, 2010 and recorded under File No. R2010 11045, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on May 26, 2010, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0046, Use Period Number(s) 21, Phase 1 DARLEAN SHIELDS, 6638 S PEORIA ST, CHICAGO, IL 60621, according to the Mortgage dated April 24, 2010 and recorded under File No. R2010 11045, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on May 26, 2010, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 92, Use Period Number(s) 42, Phase 2 CAROL STRUBE and JOHN R STRUBE, 3507 W VERNA ST, PEORIA, IL 61605, according to the Mortgage dated October 05, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 20243, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 27, 2015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0410, Use Period Number(s) 40, Phase 7 SOPHIA B TAYLOR, 152 26TH ST, PARK FOREST, IL 60466, according to the Mortgage dated April 18, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 08286, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on May 06, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0420, Use Period Number(s) 18, Phase 7 SOPHIA B TAYLOR, 152 26TH ST, PARK FOREST, IL 60466, according to the Mortgage dated April 18, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 08286, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on May 06, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0420, Use Period Number(s) 24, Phase 7 ROSEMARY VILLANUEVA, 7819 BLAIRWOOD CIR N, LAKE WORTH, FL 33467, according to the Mortgage dated July 27, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 17988, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 13, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0163E, Use Period Number(s) 04, Phase 1 TANESHA WILLIAMS, C/O KANIUK LAW OFFICE PA, 1615 S CONGRESS AVE STE 103, DELRAY BEACH, FL 33445, according to the Mortgage dated July 27, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 15753, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 22, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00640, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 1 TANESHA WILLIAMS, 8952 S EMERALD AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60620, according to the Mortgage dated July 27, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 15753, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 22, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00640, Use Period Number(s) 14, 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.

Purchase price shall be paid in full at the time of sale by cash or certified and immediately available funds. In the event the holder of the mortgages or its authorized agent is the purchaser of one or more of the timeshare estates, the holder of the mortgages or its authorized agent may offset against the purchase price of the timeshare estate(s) an amount equal to all or a portion of the amount due under the mortgage(s) (and thus, credit bid). Other terms may be announced at the public auction. Holiday Inn Club Vacations Incorporated, A Delaware corporation By: Deborah A. Quirk, Assistant Secretary No.0101 (Jan. 3, 10 and 17)

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BUREAU COUNTY, PRINCETON, IL PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DALE D. BILLHORN, DECEASED.) NO. 2023-PR-90 CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Dale D. Billhorn, of the Village of LaMoille, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 15, 2023, to Michael J. Billhorn of LaMoille, IL, as INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR, whose Attorneys of record are SCHWEICKERT GANASSIN KRZAK RUNDIO, LLP, 2101 MARQUETTE ROAD, PERU, IL 61354. Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Bureau County Courthouse, 700 S. Main, Princeton, IL 61356, or with the Representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. If the claim notice is personally mailed or delivered to a creditor of the above entitled cause within 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later. Any claims not filed within the above periods are barred. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a petition to terminate under § 28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 758, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Bureau County Courthouse, 700 S. Main, Princeton, IL 61356 or with the representative, or both, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claims not filed on or before 6

months from the first publication of this notice are barred. Dated: December 22, 2023 Dawn M. Reglin Bureau County Circuit Clerk Princeton, IL 61356 No. 0102 (Jan. 3, 10 and 17, 2024)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY IN RE ESTATE OF Scott C. Sebestin, Deceased. Case Number 2023 PR 211 INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION PUBLICATION NOTICE TO: [x] Creditors and Claimants [x] Unknown Heirs and Legatees
1. Notice is given of the death of Scott C. Sebestin, who died on October 29, 2023, a resident of Sandwich, Illinois.
2. The Administrator for the estate and her address is: Christine Sebestin, 313 Cascade Lane, Oswego, IL 60543.
3. The Attorney for the estate is: Dawn M. Weekly, LEGACY LAW FIRM, LLC, 410 E. Church St., Unit D, Sandwich, IL 60548.
4. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before July 19, 2024. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, LaSalle County, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Representative, or both. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
5. On December 22, 2023 an Order Appointing the Representative was entered.
6. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original Order Appointing the Representative, you may file a petition with the Court to contest the appointment as provided under §6-21 of the Probate Act (IL Rev. Stat. Ch. 110 ½, Par. 6-21).
7. Within 6 months after the effective date of the original Order Admitting the Will to Probate, you may file a petition with the Court to require formal proof of a Will under §6-21, or contest the admission or denial of the Will to Probate, or the appointment of the Administrator under § 9-3 and § 9-4.
8. The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a petition to terminate under § 28-4 of the Probate Act (IL Rev. Stat. Ch. 110 ½, Par. 28-4).
No. 0103 (Jan. 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

HEADING
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF) JOANNE C. SONDERGROTH, Deceased.) Case No.: 24 PR 1 CLAIMS NOTICE Notice is given of the

death of JOANNE C. SONDERGROTH, of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 4, 2024 to CHARLES D. SONDERGROTH, PATTY A. NOLES, AND CHRISTINE L. FINLEY, 961 n. 36TH Rd., Utica, IL 61373, and whose attorney is David M. Kaleel, 806 Jefferson Street, Mendota, Illinois 61342. Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Independent representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or if mailing or delivery of a Claim Notice from the Independent Executor is required, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before the above stated dates is barred. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/serviceproviders.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAZ/gethelp.asp>. Copies of a claim e-filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been e-filed with the Clerk of Court. Dated this 4th day of January, 2024. Greg Vaccaro Circuit Clerk-LaSalle County Courthouse 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350 David M. Kaleel Attorney for Executor 806 Jefferson St Mendota, IL 61342 815-539-5616 kaleel5@frontier.com No. 0104 (Jan. 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, LASALLE COUNTY Request of Molly C Myers Case Number 2024 MR 2 There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from Avery Mae Ruby to the new name of Avery Mae Myers The court date will be held on March 28, 2024 at 10:00 AM at via Remote (video or telephone option) By video conference at lasallecounty.com; Log-in information: follow virtual meeting links. To find out more about remote court options: Phone 815-434-8671 or website: lasallecounty.com. Signed by David M Kaleel, 806 Jefferson, Mendota, IL 61342; 815-539-5616; attorney number 6185606; kaleel5@frontier.com No. 0105 (Jan. 17, 24 and 31, 2024)

death of JOANNE C. SONDERGROTH, of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 4, 2024 to CHARLES D. SONDERGROTH, PATTY A. NOLES, AND CHRISTINE L. FINLEY, 961 n. 36TH Rd., Utica, IL 61373, and whose attorney is David M. Kaleel, 806 Jefferson Street, Mendota, Illinois 61342. Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Independent representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or if mailing or delivery of a Claim Notice from the Independent Executor is required, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before the above stated dates is barred. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/serviceproviders.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAZ/gethelp.asp>. Copies of a claim e-filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been e-filed with the Clerk of Court. Dated this 4th day of January, 2024. Greg Vaccaro Circuit Clerk-LaSalle County Courthouse 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350 David M. Kaleel Attorney for Executor 806 Jefferson St Mendota, IL 61342 815-539-5616 kaleel5@frontier.com No. 0104 (Jan. 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

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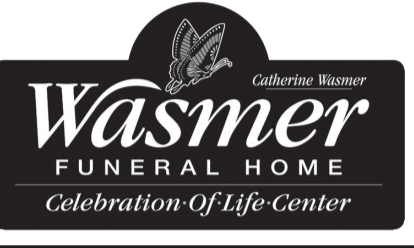
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REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE FEATURED



2100 Guiles Ave., Mendota

First time on the market!! One owner, 3 BDR and 1.5 Bath home with 2 car attached garage and blacktopped driveway all situated on an extra deep lot in Mendota!! This lot is a rare find in Mendota!

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300 1st Ave., Mendota

Classic Ranch! 3 bedroom - 1 bath with full basement - main floor laundry - hardwood floors in living room and all bedrooms - attached 2 garage - NEW ROOF 2023 - updated furnace and central air - storage shed for all those extras!



1011 5th Ave.

Curb appeal! Corner lot!! Front porch!! Beautiful original features still intact!! 3 Bedrooms!! BRAND NEW FURNACE!

PENDING



604 5th St., Mendota

3 BDR, 2 BA home with 2 car garage! Hardwood floors, all appliances to stay. Cash or conventional only. Seller will not make repairs or give credits. Selling AS IS



701 Illinois Ave.

Built in 1916 this building was originally a movie theatre, a five and dime store, and lastly Jerry's Flower Barn. "Everything Old is New Again!" Be the trailblazer and start your business on Illinois Avenue! Zoned Commercial.

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New Listing!

FIND YOUR PEACEFUL SPACE HERE...quiet road, just under an acre and a half, quaint house, large shed and an oversized barn. Natural Gas to the property, home is not on propane. Apple trees on the property. The home is 2 bedroom (main floor bedroom has 3 closets, 1 is cedar lined), one bathroom with a few extra rooms to use as you please. Eat in the kitchen, main floor laundry, upper level bonus room with a bedroom. Maintenance free siding, and a wooden back deck to enjoy the quiet. Large shed with a concrete floor for all the toys, tools or storage. Oversized barn with two-1 car overhead doors, concrete floor, heated and insulated, also has a large loft on the second floor. Property has a corn crib as well. Come see it today. PLEASE NOTE***EARLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT



CALLING ALL INVESTORS! COME TAKE A LOOK at these two buildings being sold together, great for investors. The total square footage for both buildings is 4540. Shared staircase with building to the west. Apartment is 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom and is tenant occupied must have 24hr notice. Newer furnace, A/C 5yrs old, rubber roof. The tax ID # for 708 Jefferson St. is 0133128013.



Rebecca McPheeters,
Designated Managing Broker.



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There may be freezing temperatures and Winter Wonderland-like conditions, but we're available to answer any questions you may have when it comes to finding your next home! Call us today! We can even help you find the market value of your existing home if you are ready to sell!

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