



Illinois minimum wage increases on January 1

Most hourly workers will see \$1 per hour increase

SPRINGFIELD – The minimum wage in Illinois is increasing on Jan. 1, 2024.

Workers will see an increase of \$1 per hour from \$13 to \$14. The minimum wage for tipped workers will rise to \$8.40 per hour and youth workers (under 18) working fewer than 650 hours per calendar year will see their hourly wage increase to \$12 per hour.

“Since day one as Governor, I’ve made it my mission to put Springfield back on the side of working families,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “With this new minimum wage increase, we are once again making Illinois a more affordable and equitable place to live for all of our residents.”

“We’re continuing to not only strengthen our workforce but sustain it by increasing the minimum wage. Leadership matters and we’re proud to see our administration’s sixth



increase go into effect on January 1,” said Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton. “As we continue our work to make Illinois the best state to live, work and raise a family, this new increase brings us one step closer to a more equitable Illinois.”

This will be the sixth increase in the state’s minimum wage since 2019 when Governor JB Pritzker signed historic legislation establishing a schedule of increases culminating in a \$15 per hour minimum wage in 2025.

“Nationally, minimum wage laws have not kept pace with the cost of living,” said Illinois Department of Labor Director Jane Flanagan. “These wage increases have helped Illinois workers pay for the increasing costs of groceries, childcare and other everyday expenses. While many working families are still struggling, we celebrate that once again, on January 1st, workers will get a raise. We also continue to look for ways to make Illinois an even better place to work and live.”

Minimum wage workers are encouraged to review their paystubs in the new year to ensure they are being paid correctly. Workers in the City of Chicago are required to be paid at a higher rate, depending on the size of their employer.

Employees can file a minimum wage complaint with IDOL or by calling the Minimum Wage Toll Free Hotline: (800) 478-3998.

District 280 OKs tax levy; purchases buses

MENDOTA—The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education held a public hearing followed by its regular meeting on Dec. 18.

Truth in Taxation hearing

A public truth in taxation hearing was required because the tax levy amount requested by the district was over the 5 percent threshold from the levy requested for 2023 and the amount of dollars the county clerk sent out in tax bills to be collected in 2022. District 280’s levy request is \$6,108,735, while the county’s extension was \$5,689,808, a difference of \$418,927 and a 7.65 percent increase over the previous year.

Superintendent Denise Aughenbaugh explained that District 280 is facing a very similar truth in taxation situation to other districts in LaSalle County. She noted that LaSalle County tax assessor, Stephanie Kennedy, shared 25 years of township multipliers. There are 37 townships in LaSalle County, and the 2023 multipliers range from 1 to 1.1480.

“We are fortunate to be in this position and not in the negative multiplier scenarios we all were a decade or so ago,” Aughenbaugh said.

Aughenbaugh was happy to report that the proposed tax rate for MHS District 280 is down. She said the tax rate for 2022 was \$2.20 and the proposed 2023 rate will decrease to \$2.10.

She continued that the EAV (equalized assessed value) has increased and the tax rate has decreased, so it is anticipated that MHS District 280 taxpayers will notice the relief in tax bills on behalf of the high school district.

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting agenda items followed the conclusion of the public hearing.

Megan Faber, chairperson of the Transportation Committee, shared that the bus barn has some maintenance and repairs scheduled. There will be a replacement of cracked concrete, plumbing, ceiling tiles and possible furnace work. The committee also reviewed the fleet and considered the purchase of buses.

See Dist. 280, Page A5

Illinois public health officials urging caution around respiratory illnesses as cases are on rise

COVID-19 hospitalizations increase; flu and RSV infections are going up

By ANDREW ADAMS
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Public Health is advising Illinoisans to take precautions to avoid spreading respiratory illnesses as cases around the state and country are on the rise.

IDPH issued a health alert last week to hospitals, long-term care facilities and local health departments advising the use of masks and using screening techniques to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, particularly in areas of the state with elevated levels of COVID-19 hospitalizations.

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 were up 22 percent statewide last week compared to the week before.

Eight west-central Illinois counties are now at “high” levels of COVID-19 hospitalizations according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This means that there were more than 20 hospitalizations per 100,000 people in those counties during the most recent week for which data is available. Iroquois and Kankakee counties in northern Illinois also face high hospitalizations.

Hospital admissions related to COVID-19 have made up around 3 to 4 percent of all admissions in the past

month, according to data on respiratory illnesses from IDPH, the highest they have been since this time last year. Hospitalizations for other respiratory illnesses have also spiked in recent weeks.

These figures are still far below the peaks seen in late 2020 and early 2022, when COVID-19 accounted for roughly 18 percent and 25 percent of hospital admissions respectively.

While statewide hospitalization rates remain at “low” levels according to the CDC, neighboring states Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Iowa all face elevated levels, which has caused some concern for officials at IDPH.

“With the alarming rise in respiratory viruses we are seeing across the state and the country, IDPH is recommending healthcare facilities take precautions to reduce the spread of these viruses and protect their patients, staffs and visitors,” IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra said.

In addition to the coronavirus, IDPH also tracks hospital admissions stemming from influenza and respiratory syncytial virus, a common respiratory virus often referred to as RSV that can be dangerous for certain high-risk individuals, like those with asthma or COPD.



For all Illinoisans, IDPH recommended taking precautions for holiday gatherings, particularly for those at high risk of complications from a respiratory infection like older or very young individuals.

This includes practicing good hand hygiene and proper indoor ventilation for

any gatherings. For someone experiencing symptoms of a respiratory illness, like coughing, sneezing, sore throat, runny nose or a fever, IDPH encourages testing and staying home if possible.

See Caution, Page A5



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Index

Local News	Pages A2,A3,A5,B3
Obituaries	Page A4
Opinion	Page A6
Social News	Page A7
Entertainment	Page A8
The Back Page	Page A9
Sports	Pages B1,B2
Church Page	Page B5
Classifieds/Legals	Page B6



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LOCAL AND AREA

Illinois art contest invites students to let their imaginations run wild



FSB donates to food pantry
Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry Executive Director Tracy Cooper, left, recently accepted a check for \$25,000 from First State Bank Chief Marketing Officer Jan Phalen. The donation is toward the construction of a new food pantry facility at 710 Sixth Ave. in Mendota. (Photo contributed)

Blood drive held Dec. 12 at Mendota Moose Family Center

MENDOTA – The American Red Cross held a blood drive on Dec. 12 at the Mendota Moose Family Center. There were 63 good units collected. There were 51 whole blood donations and 12 power red donations. Multi-gallon donors were Frank Brodtko-one gallon, John Young-one gallon, Michael Maas-two gallons, Amy Shaddick-three gallons, Denise Aughenbaugh-five gallons, Carol McLachlan-14 gallons and Patty Mumm-18 gallons. Congratulations on these milestones.

Volunteers for the day were Paddy Schwemlein, Kathi Stamberger, Margy

Frey, Sandy Schroeder, Lori Schlesinger, Kathy Pierce and Peg Mathesius-Cerveney. Mendota Subway donated sandwiches for the luncheon and Black Bros. Co. sponsored the egg salad sandwiches, BBQ, and chips for the drive. Desserts were provided by Marlene Simonton, Paddy Schwemlein, Leann O'Brien, Kathi Stamberger, Margy Frey and Aimee Holland. The next bloodmobile will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, at the Mendota Moose Family Center. If you would like to make an appointment or have questions, please call Lori at 815-866-3582

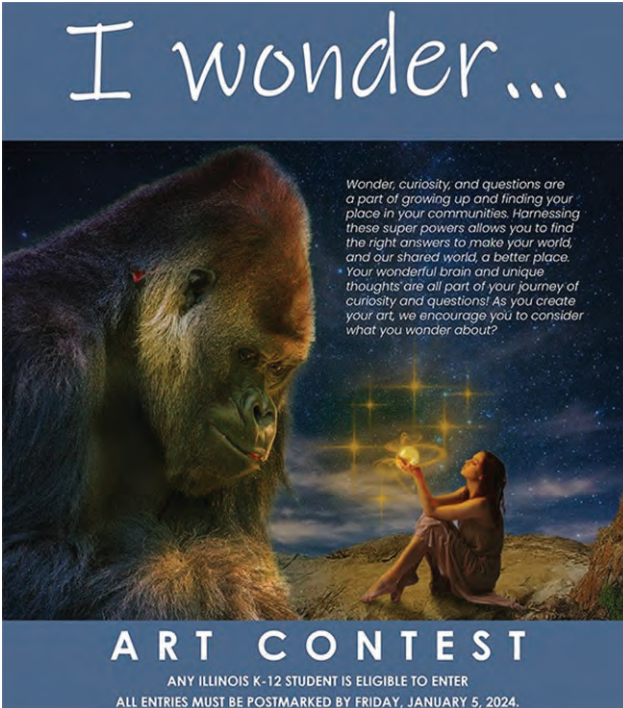
SPRINGFIELD – Wonder, curiosity, and questions are a part of growing up ... and they're the heart of the annual student art contest sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Illinois State Board of Education. Illinois students have until Jan. 5, 2024, to submit entries on the theme of "I wonder ..." The contest asks children from kindergarten through high school to interpret the theme however they want in two-dimensional art, such as a drawing, painting or collage. The contest has four age groups: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Each age group will have a winner and two runners-up. The winners will be announced March 11 to commemorate Arts Education Week. All winners and runners-up will have their work displayed by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum through Aug. 15, and the artwork chosen as "best of show" will be used on a poster sent to schools to celebrate Arts Education Week, March 11-15, 2024. The winner will also be recognized at an ISBE Board meeting, and a framed copy will hang in the Board office. "Saying 'I wonder ...' is the first step in changing the world. It leads to innovation in arenas from science and medicine to art and history," said Christina Shutt, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. "We can't wait to see how the state's young artists tackle such a fun, thought-provoking theme." Contest submissions may be up to 14 inches by 11 inches. They cannot feature copyrighted characters such as Batman. More details are available at bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest. Entries do not have to be submitted via schools; youth groups, home-educated children or anyone else can participate. All that is required is that the artist is a student at any public, private, alternative, or home school in Illinois.

ing and other Career and Technical Education (CTE) program facilities. The new welding lab provides more space, a dedicated classroom, and an improved power supply. The space also allows room for expansion as the demands of the program change to support the local workforce. "Community colleges are about meeting local needs, and our welding lab is an example of how Kishwaukee College evolves. When the community's needs change, we change," said Dr. Laurie Borowicz, President of Kishwaukee College.

Newly renovated welding lab displayed by Kishwaukee College

MALTA – Kishwaukee College unveiled its newly renovated welding lab during an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 17 at the College. The College relocated its welding lab to the B-Wing, closer to the Caukin Build-

ing and other Career and Technical Education (CTE) program facilities. The new welding lab provides more space, a dedicated classroom, and an improved power supply. The space also allows room for expansion as the demands of the program change to support the local workforce. "Community colleges are about meeting local needs, and our welding lab is an example of how Kishwaukee College evolves. When the community's needs change, we change," said Dr. Laurie Borowicz, President of Kishwaukee College.



"We are proud to sponsor this annual student art contest to recognize the critical place of the arts in a well-rounded education," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders. "Every student deserves access to the arts. Learning and practicing

the arts supports students in developing creativity, self-expression, and confidence. Illinois has incredibly talented artists at every age, and I look forward to seeing what our young people 'wonder' about through this year's art contest theme."

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Front: Rose and Larry Leffelman
Back: Mary Reglin, Julie Burkardt, Lexi Willey, Chris Klein, Riley Klein, Karli Althaus, Lisa Quest

Happy holidays, everyone! As another year comes and goes, we'd like to fill you in on a few of the things we've been doing over here at Leffelman & Associates. Between helping our local friends navigate life after some of the challenges this year's weather brought with tornadoes, hail, and high winds, or celebrating their new purchases of homes and autos, we have been BUSY. One of the biggest questions we've heard this year has been "why has our insurance premium grown so much?" This might be a strange place to explain it, but we feel the need to let you know what's really going on. Catastrophic weather and economic fallout from the pandemic have created challenges and stresses at a level never seen before in the insurance industry. Catastrophic weather events used to happen on the coasts or in other states. This year, just OUR local region sustained 5 large weather losses which forced the companies to file claims with their reinsurance companies. These events and inflation drive up the cost of reinsurance, which drives up the cost of your insurance policy. And this doesn't include the problem of increased costs of and the ability to get materials and parts, increased labor costs, and legal system abuse. All these things contribute to a reduced appetite for risk by the insurance companies, which makes insurance a hard thing to write! But we are working diligently to make sure that all our customers have insurance during this very difficult time. We've been getting quite a workout, but it's making us stronger! Whatever comes along, we do our best to take care of all our customers' insurance needs. Our product is financial security, and we are here to protect our customers. So this Christmas Card goes out to you with heartfelt prayers from all of us, that you and your families will have a warm and wonderful Christmas and a new year filled with health and happiness.

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

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Marsha J. Jones

MENDOTA—Marsha Jane Hume Jones, 73, of Mendota, was at home surrounded by her family when she peacefully passed into eternal life on Dec. 18, 2023.

Services will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024, at First United Methodist Church, Mendota with Rev. Mary Bohall officiating. Visitation will be from 2 p.m. until time of services in the church. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

Marsha was born Oct. 11, 1950, in Coral Gables, Fla., to James and Jane (Riegel) Hume.

Marsha is survived by her children, John (Denice) Setchell, Joanne (Dave) McNally, James/Toby (Karrie) Setchell, Jessica (Tom) Sondgeroth; grandchildren Abby, Samantha, Joshua, Brooklyn, Marisa, Kathryn, Mallary, Grady, Haydn, R.J., Marah, Clayton, Maddy, Scarlet and Maelee; great-grandchildren Ryan, Emery, Landon, Adelaide and Matthew; her love, Joseph Jones; step-children Joe (DeDe) Jones, Jennifer (Jason) Fabish, Jason Jones; sister Michelle (Mark) Babin; and step-siblings Drew Patterson, Leslie (David) Patterson, Amanda (John) Ormond.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Jane. Marsha was the president of the H.D. Hume Company. Together with her sister Michelle, the legacy of the company founded by their grandfather Horace Hume was continued. She spent the entirety of her life caring for others, always putting the needs of her family and the community first. She actively supported numerous charities anonymously. Marsha served on the Mendota Hospital board from 2000-2009 and was a member of the Mendota chapter of P.E.O.

Marsha had a profound love for nature and astronomy often escaping to her favorite place in the Northwoods to enjoy it. On many occasions Marsha sent her children and grandchildren random texts telling them to look at the sky. She also enjoyed a good cooking show, quilting, photography, and crazy hats. Marsha actively followed all of her grandchildren's sporting and extra-curricular activities where she would be found evaluating the quality of a brown bag popcorn.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Mendota Museum and Historical Society, St. Jude Runners or Graves-Hume Public Library. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

William J. Crawford

ROCHELLE—William J. Crawford, 84, of Rochelle, passed away at his home on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023.

To maintain William's wishes, there will be no services. The family is looking into a celebration of life at a later date. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

A long-time resident of Rochelle, he was born June 29, 1939, in Dalton, Ark., the son of the late Ollie R. and Sallie B. (Culbreath) Crawford.

He was previously married to Paula Wallingford (preceded in 2000), with whom they had three boys, James (Michelle) Crawford of Amboy, Joe (Connie) Crawford of Mendota and Jason Crawford of Mendota. He had seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Johnny Crawford, Raymond Crawford and Tommy Price.

William served in the United States Army from 1960-1962. Memorials may be directed to the family. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Margaret R. Davis

CONYERS, Ga. — Margaret Ruth Davis, 95, passed away on Dec. 12, 2023, in Conyers, Ga.

A memorial service to honor Margaret's life will be determined at a later date. Please join us in celebrating Margaret Ruth Davis' remarkable life and the lasting impact she had on her family and community.

She was born on June 13, 1928, in Bellevue, Calhoun County, Ill., to Everet Bouyea and Nellie Wineland.

Margaret is survived by her brother, Gene Wineland (Ferrolyn), and sister, Anna Beth Gross (Albert); her daughter, Ruth Ann Howdeshell; 10 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren; and well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Eldon Davis; two sons, Ronald Howdeshell and Lloyd Howdeshell; her daughter, Sharon Donaldson; two sisters, Edna Beaver and Wanda Kupperschmid; and one brother, Dean Wineland.

Margaret had a vibrant personality and was known for her caring and loving nature. She cherished her family dearly and had a warm heart for everyone she met. Margaret found joy in her work and held various jobs throughout her life, including factory work, waitress, cook, and her most beloved role as a bailiff in the LaSalle County court system.

In her free time, Margaret indulged in her hobbies of shopping and dancing. She had a passion for travel and enjoyed exploring new places. Margaret's dedication to service extended beyond her career, as she also volunteered her time after retiring.

Margaret was a member in good standing at Mendota First United Methodist Church and later at Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Conyers, Ga. Her faith played an important role in her life.



Constance A. Novak

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Constance A. Novak, 80, of Melbourne, Fla., formerly of Mendota, passed away Dec. 10, 2023, at Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne.

Visitation will be from 3:30-6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, at Wasmer Funeral Home in Mendota. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Rev. Jeff Windy will officiate and burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Connie was born May 4, 1943, in Mendota to Frank and Beverly (Allen) Yohn. She attended Mendota schools and graduated Mendota High School in 1961. On May 31, 1987, at Starved Rock, she married the love of her life, Marvin C. Novak. On July 18, 1987, they renewed their vows at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in South Burlington, Vt.

She will be dearly missed by three sons, Brad (Amy) Koehler of Cornwall, Vt., Todd Koehler of Willowbrook, and Scott Novak of Hertford, N.C.; three daughters, Julie Koehler of Charleston, S.C., Holli Novak of Palm Springs, Fla., and Shelly Novak of Burlington, Vt.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Connie was preceded in death by her parents, husband Marvin on Aug. 18, 2018, and a sister, Becky Holland.

Connie involved herself in her children's young lives by volunteering for the Cub Scouts and Brownies as well as school librarian through the years. As an adult she was a member of Beta Sigma Phi for decades serving many roles including president, vice president, and treasurer. She was always an avid reader with a special interest in mysteries.

Memorials may be made to Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, 1 East Wacker Drive, Suite 2430, Chicago, IL 60601-1905. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



Social Security

Five things to know when your child with disabilities turns 18

By Mike Weitz

When your child turns 18 years old, they legally become an adult. This is an important time to consider their financial future — especially if they need additional care into adulthood. Here are 5 things that may help you prepare for this milestone:

1. Health and Welfare Decision-making

When your child legally becomes an adult, you can no longer make certain decisions for them about their health and welfare. However, you can stay involved through:

• A Representative Payee: Social Security will determine who best serves as a Representative Payee for your child's benefits. To learn more about the Representative Payee program, read our webpage at www.ssa.gov/payee/index.htm.

• Guardianship: This requires court involvement. It may be necessary if your child can't execute a power of attorney. Please consult an attorney for assistance.

2. Changes in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Eligibility

SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness who have income and resources below specific financial limits.

If your child receives SSI, when they turn 18 we will review their eligibility for continued SSI payments based on the disability rules for adults. For more information, please review the publication, What You Need To Know About Your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) When You Turn 18 at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf.

Please be sure to review this with your child. We also encourage you to check out Social Security's Youth Resources page at www.ssa.gov/youth.

3. Education Transitions

If your child attends public school, they have a few options to continue their education, such as pursuing:

• A diploma: They may pursue further education in college or trade programs with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). More information on the IEP is available at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-118.pdf.

• A certificate: They may have the opportunity to continue in a transitional program in their high school even after they complete their senior year. Most are permitted to remain until they turn 22.

• Employment: Local Vocational Rehabilitation Services can assist with employment options during pre-graduation IEP meetings.

4. Support for Living Arrangements

Once your child turns 18, they may choose or qualify for different living arrangements depending on the services they already receive. If your child receives therapy services at school, how will they receive them once they leave? They could receive them through a Medicaid waiver or private insurance.

Qualification for respite services may also look different. Respite services allow family caregivers time to step away from their duties. It is essential you understand all the ben-

efits and options available to your child after they complete high school before deciding on living arrangements and services.

5. Financial Protections

• Special Needs Trust: Update estate planning documents before your child turns 18. Otherwise, inheritance may terminate your child's governmental benefits.


• ABLE Account: You can deposit funds into this account up to a certain limit each year; however, there are limits on what its funding covers. More information on ABLE accounts is available at www.ssa.gov/payee/able_accounts.htm.

Children receiving benefits on a parent's record may continue to receive those benefits until age 19 if they're a full-time elementary or secondary school student. People who have a qualifying disability that began before age 22 may also be eligible to receive child's benefits at any age. For more information, please review the publication, Benefits for Children at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf.

As your child turns 18, consider these issues while you navigate their financial future. For more information, please contact the Special Needs Alliance at www.specialneedsalliance.org/contact-us or visit the Social Security website at www.ssa.gov.

(Our posting of this article does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of any non-Social Security organization, author, or webpages.)

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



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LOCAL AND AREA

Area school district libraries receive grant funds from state

SPRINGFIELD – Secretary of State and State Librarian Alexi Giannoulis is awarding more than \$1.4 million to qualifying public school districts to the benefit of 2,713 school libraries throughout Illinois.

The grants, awarded once every fiscal year, will support school library services for 1.2 million students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Resources and services provided through the grant include library books, e-books, audiobooks, periodicals, multilingual materials, technology and programs.

Among the school districts receiving funding are: Amboy District 272 - \$850; Mendota District 289 - \$861.11; Mendota District 280 - \$850; Ohio District 505 - \$850; Ohio District 17 - \$850; Paw Paw District 271 - \$850.

"It's imperative that all Illinois students have access to necessary resources including reading materials and learning services at our public school libraries," Giannoulis said. "School libraries serve as places of learning and discovery. These funds will ensure that our libraries are well-equipped to educate and inspire our future generations."

Based on a statutory formula, school districts receive \$0.885 per student for their enrollment at each school having a qualified library. Funding for the program originates from the General Reserve Fund and is appropriated for this purpose by the Illinois General Assembly.

"The members of the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) are pleased to receive these generous grants from Secretary Giannoulis to expand our libraries with a more robust offering of resources and services," said West Leyden High School Librarian and President of AISLE Janine Asmus, which provides leadership and support for the development, promotion, and improvement of the school library media profession and programs to promote life-long learning for the students of Illinois.

"This funding will allow library staff to maintain and bolster school library educational offerings, ensuring that all Illinois students have the opportunity to learn and explore their interests," Asmus said. "All of us at AISLE are most appreciative of the continuous support of our Secretary of State and State Librarian, Alexi Giannoulis."

Starting Jan. 1, Illinois employees can take days off for any reason

SPRINGFIELD – The New Year is beginning with significant changes to employment law in Illinois, as it becomes the third state to mandate paid days off for any reason. As of Jan. 1, the Illinois Paid Leave Act for All Workers will go into effect.

"On Jan. 1, most employers in the state are going to be required to provide 40 hours of paid time off to their workers," said Rob Wilson, President of Employco USA, an employment solutions firm based in Chicago. "Under the Act, employees can request their day(s) off with only seven days' notice."

If the absence is not foreseeable, they only need to request the day(s) off as soon as possible."

Wilson says that employers cannot require or ask their staff to find someone to cover their shifts if they need to take time off. Additionally, he says, employers are prohibited from discriminating against employees who take their paid time off, such as by neglecting to put them on the schedule or giving them opportunities for advancement.

The H.R. expert says that Illinois employers need to be ready right now for these changes.

"Even during the holiday rush, employers need to be thinking about these changes," he said. "You need to hang up the IDOL's notice in a conspicuous place and put the new copy in your employee handbooks. And, you need to ascertain that your records of employees' hours and paid leave are accurate and easily accessible. You don't need to supply paid leave information on every paycheck, but your employees can request this information at any time and you need to have it at your fingertips."

Social Security

How providing race and ethnicity data helps all customers

By Mike Weilt

We are continuously working to better understand how Social Security's programs serve the public. Collecting race and ethnicity data for research and statistical purposes is one way for us to determine whether we are equitably serving the public. Applicants and customers may voluntarily provide this information. It does not affect decisions on benefit applications.

Why does it matter if people provide race and ethnicity data?

When customers choose to provide race and ethnicity information, it lets us know:

- Who our benefit payments and programs are helping and who may be left out.

- What unintended barriers may impact benefits and services.

- Where to expand outreach efforts.

- How to increase awareness of eligibility for programs and benefits.

In other words, race and ethnicity data can help expand access to our programs, which is one of the objectives in our Equity Action Plan at blog.ssa.gov/social-securitys-equity-action-plan. Examples of how we use this information can be found on our Racial Equity Resources webpage at www.ssa.gov/policy/about/racial-equity-resources.html.

Currently, we collect race and ethnicity information on applications for new or replacement Social Security

number (SSN) cards. These applications can be completed:

- Online at www.ssa.gov/number-card.
- At one of our local offices or card centers.

Soon, parents may voluntarily provide this information when requesting their newborn's SSN at the hospital. The option to provide this data will be available in participating states.

We encourage you to provide your race and ethnicity information on your or your child's application for a new or replacement SSN card. This information will help us better understand and serve all our current and future customers.

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

Dist. 280

Continued from Page A1

In the Principal's Report, Joe Masini provided an overview of the fall semester exam schedule and waivers. He also commended the 11 Illinois State Scholars/High Honor Graduates for the class of 2023.

In the Superintendent's Report, Aughenbaugh presented the 2023 tax levy, which was approved by the board.

After discussion regarding the current Chromebook exchange program for the class of 2023, the board approved a one-year free ex-

change for graduates. Graduating seniors who request to keep their Chromebook for future college and career needs may keep it free. Graduates who do not request to keep their Chromebook will return it to the district for technology exchange.

The board considered and approved the purchase of two used buses and trades on two used buses to Central States. The two used 2023 Blue Bird Vision gasoline, 71-passenger buses are \$92,500 each. The trade-ins, Bus #16 at \$3,250 and Bus #5 at \$2,250, were also approved. After

this purchase, the board would like to revisit the current rotation of annual bus purchases with the age of the current fleet.

Following an executive session, the board approved to hire Jaelyn Fitzgerald as a paraprofessional.

Also, the November attendance statistical summary was approved at 93 percent attendance and the 2023 ROE Health Life Safety report was approved.

The next regular meeting of the MHS District 280 Board of Education will be Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 6 p.m.

Caution

Continued from Page A1

Vaccinations for COVID-19 and the flu are available at most pharmacies. A vaccination for RSV is available for those age 60 and older and for some pregnant people.

In some state-run facilities, COVID-19 infections have already interrupted daily life. Earlier this month, the state Department of Human Services announced that several COVID-19 outbreaks had occurred at state-operated developmental centers in Waukegan, Park Forest, Centralia, Anna and Kankakee.

In response, IDHS reduced communal dining, group activities and some planned outings, and introduced social distancing and quarantine measures for those served at the centers.

The number of people testing positive for COVID-19 in these state-run centers has fallen since the beginning of the month, with 12 residents and 22 staff members testing positive as of Dec. 18, down from 58 residents and 35 staff members on Dec. 6.

"IDPH has been working closely with our counterparts at IDHS facilities to monitor conditions, to offer strategies to contain any outbreaks,

and to provide resources, direct consultations and assessments," Hilary Spencer, head of the IDPH infection prevention team, said in an early December news release.

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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.

White Christmases are long gone

There are some facts I don't want to hear or address.


LeBron James passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the all-time most points scored in the NBA regular season.

Minimum wage keeps rising but people who put the time and money toward college and/or advancing their careers are not making more.

Pulling out your own teeth with pliers is a calmer and smoother situation than dealing with

Never the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance



Verizon, Blue Cross Blue Shield, or Xfinity representatives on the phone.

Watching Christmas movies, I've realized another harsh truth we don't want to recognize.

There will not be a white Christmas.

Maybe not forever, but for the foreseeable future and most definitely not in 2023.

I'm writing this on Thursday, Dec. 21 and it was warmer than 50 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and currently at 8:26 p.m., it's 42 degrees.

...in December.

Snow forms when it is 32 degrees or colder. But it doesn't always form when it's less than 32.

Four days away from Christmas and it is 28 degrees-plus warmer than snow creation during the day and 10 degrees warmer at night.

I realize we live in a state where it seems like a blizzard, a tornado, a heat stroke, and a tsunami could happen in the same day, but it doesn't seem realistic Illinois is going to see snow on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day because of the additional sun rays.

And it's not the first time.

Every year feels warmer and warmer in November and December as January, February, March, and even the beginning of April seems more likely for snowflakes, snow men, and snow angels.

Some will blame the greenhouse effect, while others like me, just realize seasons are changing their schedules more often than athletic directors are changing theirs because of weather delays.

I mean it makes sense.

Have you ever witnessed anything on an axis or a regular rotation stay on the same path forever?

Tires can't do it as they go bare, lose lugnuts, or are punctured.

An assembly line.

A flow in a stream.

Electric current.

There are factors influencing change, whether manmade or natural, in everything.

Including when and how our seasons change; the Earth's spin axis tilting with respect to its orbital plane. When the Earth's axis points toward the sun, it is summer for the focused hemisphere. When the Earth's axis points away, winter is upon us.

However, the axis points we are used to have changed.

And they're going to become even weirder as time marches on.

According to Northrop Grumman writer Laura Faye Tenenbaum in "Are Summers Getting Longer, or Are the Seasons Shifting?" published on March 8, 2023, by the end of this century, spring and summer may start about a month earlier, while autumn and winter may start about half a month later. By 2100, summers may last nearly half the year, and there may be less than two months of winter.

I don't know many people who will complain about less than two months of winter. Even those of us who favor winter, like me, are done with it a month or so in.

However, if there is only a month and a half of winter and it starts after December 25, Santa Claus won't need his big red jacket and a sleigh can be replaced with a luxurious speed boat.

How do we change it?

We can't ask Mother Earth to fix her axis rotation schedule.

We can't move the reason we celebrate Christmas, Jesus' birthday.

We can't ask every household to pay for and run snow machines; although it would be cool.

We can erase the perception of Christmas not being as awesome as we want it to be without snow.

Hopefully I tricked you with the can and can't, but honestly, this is going to be the only solution because we can't change Mother Nature, religious beliefs, or financial situations (no matter how hard Joe Biden tries).

The only way to enjoy Christmas and the holiday season to its fullest, without snow, is to relinquish the thought of Christmas only being Christmas with snow.

I know, it will be rough.

But so is LeBron taking the record from Kareem, more and more people making the same amount of money when some don't deserve it, and the agony of siphoning through automated machines or people who don't understand what you're asking on the other line of an important phone call.

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The busy December of 1985

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Dec. 27, 2000.)

By Jessica Nashold

December was a busy month in 1985. The Mendota Ambulance Service took delivery on a Horton ambulance with center-mounted cot. This allowed emergency assistance to patients from both sides while in transit to the hospital.

On Dec. 19, 1985, the Mendota Fire Department received an FMC 195 pumper truck, capable of delivering 1,250 gallons per minute. The city and rural fire protection district joined forces to come up with the \$150,000 price tag. Both would be served by the new truck, which would also be used on mutual aid calls from other communities.

It was also on Dec. 18, 1985, that Mayor James Troupis made a trip to Springfield to check on how Mendota's application for a civic center grant was faring. He was accompanied by members of the Mendota Civic Center building committee – Gerry Bryan, Warren Hanson and Jane Morgan – as well as Sam Darby, an architect. They met with people involved in the state civic center program and Betty Hoxsey, representing Mendota's interests. The Mendotans heard the welcome news that bonds to fund the program had been sold and Mendota would receive certification of its application in January.

Co-chairmen of the civic center building committee, Gerry Bryan and Karren Chamberlain, also, Marge Henkel, with access to Fasco computers, were credited for the state peoples' evaluation of the Mendota application.

They were incredibly impressed.

With certification, \$1.2 million in state funds would allow the Mendota Civic Center project to go forward.

A new R.C. Service Co. garage was under construction, replacing the 50-year-old building destroyed by fire on May 31, 1985.

Thomas Raufer opened an office at 900 Washington St. for the Edward D.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

Jones investment firm.

The grade school board heard Dick McConville, a member of the LaSalle County school reorganization committee, explain the pros and cons of school consolidation. If Mendota lost students from Lee and Bureau counties it might fall short of the enrollment requirement, which it now enjoyed. Public hearings were scheduled for February and March. Dr. Joe Mini, county superintendent of schools, was opposed to reorganization.

He thinks small schools are doing a good job.

The Graves Public Library board selected a replacement for Marie Vickrey, head librarian, whose resignation would become effective on Dec. 31, 1985. Susan Ginocchio would be the new director. Hazel Mae Bauer was named to the newly-created position of assistant director.

Library hours were being lengthened on a 60-day trial basis. They would be 1-9 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday.

Dee Walburn, Friends of the Library president, hoped to see membership increase from about 30 to a 50-75 member range by the end of January 1986.

Thirty police officers from this area were briefed on DUI laws at a training session at the Firemen's Building on Dec. 19, 1985. The new laws would become effective on Jan. 1. Chief Irvin McDougall hosted the program. Instructors were Richard Burton, assistant state's attorney in the LaSalle County traffic division, and Irv Robert Leben, secretary of the state police.

Evelyn Lamps received a plaque of appreciation from the Tri-County Fair Association in recognition of nearly 25

years in charge of the education exhibit at the little country school house on the fairgrounds. Before retiring in 1984, she trained her replacement, Wayne Jones, who took over during the 1985 fair.

Mendota Community Hospital introduced its active medical staff of 11 by means of a display in The Mendota Reporter, using individual head shots.

General Practice – Doctors Kwan Chung, Pervez Khan, John Wacker; Family Practice – Doctors James Durham, William Morgan, Stephen Schubert, William Schuler, Wayne Spenader; Internal Medicine – Dr. John Genter; Obstetrics-Gynecology – Dr. Tirdkhat Sombum; General, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery – Dr. Michael Vercimak.

Mendota Community Hospital was also served by 30 consultants.

Donna Engels joined the law firm of Troupis & Troupis as an associate. She would be available for consultations at the Mendota and Sublette offices.

Reporter editor Lyle Ganther took a camera to record a live nativity scene in the memorial building behind the United Methodist Church on Sixth Street. The scene included several live animals.

Campfire members and leaders, as well as Cub Scouts, sang Christmas carols at the Hi-Rise, Mendota Lutheran Home, Heritage Manor and Mendota Community Hospital. After caroling, the Campfire group partied at the VFW Post and Cub Scouts at the Lincoln School gym.

Jeff Stiel was DJ for a dance at MHS, sponsored by the Trojan Tattler. He was assisted by Brian Dobush. Local businesses donated items to be used as prizes. The Tattler staff provided refreshments.

The Mendota Reporter advertised for a "Typesetter, able to type 60-70 words per minute on a computerized keyboard." Good spelling, grammar and punctuation skills were required.

Where's the big immigration debate?

By Rich Lowry

Do you remember the big national debate on whether the United States would adopt a policy to make the foreign share of the population the highest it's ever been?

Neither do I. For the simple reason, of course, that there wasn't one.

That doesn't mean that the policy wasn't adopted, through inertia and the Biden administration's imposition of a de facto open border for a large swath of asylum-seekers.

An analysis of Census data by Steve Camarota and his colleagues at the Center for Immigration Studies has found that a 4.5 million net increase in immigrants since Joe Biden took office has boosted the share of the foreign born to 15%, the highest ever recorded.

You know all the black-and-white photos of immigrants coming to Ellis Island, the lore about names being changed upon arrival, "your huddled masses yearning to be free"?

We are currently higher than that. We're eclipsing the Great Wave of Immigration with an even greater wave. We hit 14.8 in 1890 and 14.7 in 1910, in what were, until now, the most historic decades for immigration.

Just last month, the Census Bureau was projecting the foreign-born share of the population wouldn't hit 15% until in 2033. Now, we could keep going up from here. "If the immigrant population continues to grow," Camarota writes, "it will set new numerical and percentage records every year going forward."

A straight-line projection shows the share of foreign-born increasing to 15.5 by the end of Biden's term, and to an astonishing 17.3% by the end of a potential second term.

This is not the normal course of business. According to Camarota, the foreign-born population has grown on average by 137,000 a month since the beginning of Biden's term, higher than Donald Trump's pre-COVID-19 42,000 and Barack Obama's 68,000.

What accounts for this? Some of it is a COVID-19 bounce-back in legal immigration. But that's not responsible for the lion's share of the story. The Biden administration has

boosted the foreign-born share of the population well above the pre-COVID-19 trend line.

It has done it by ignoring the law and greasing the skids for new arrivals even if they have no right to be here. Of the total net 4.5 million increase of immigrants on Biden's watch, 2.5 million of that is illegal immigrants. Most of that illegal number is solely a function of discretion and the administration's opposition to excluding bogus asylum-seekers.

The Biden administration's border policy has obviously been the subject of debate, including criticism from his own party. The overall number of immigrants, though, is rarely mentioned, and even treated as an almost illegitimate topic for public consideration.

This makes no sense. The foreign-born share of the population has consequences for schooling, welfare, wages, politics and the broader culture. It is at least as important, if not more so, than trade policy, Ukraine aid, the deficit, infrastructure or a whole host of other issues that are routine fodder for congressional debate and the Sunday shows.

It also should be subject to the approval of the American people and its representatives just like those other issues. We should affirmatively decide whether we want the foreign share of the population to be 15% and growing, or less than 15% and shrinking, and the mix of people who are coming --largely unskilled, or overwhelmingly higher skilled?

Instead, we treat immigration as something that happens to us, like the weather. (Although progressives now seek to influence the weather, so maybe this is a dated analogy.) It isn't. We are making the choices that have gotten us to this point.

The fact is that immigration has operated largely under its own power, and under false pretenses, since the immigration reform of 1965. One reason there's so little discussion of the underlying issue is that many people simply don't know the historic numbers involved.

In short, there's been no debate on 15%, and one, shamefully, doesn't seem in the offing.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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SOCIAL NEWS



Left to right, Margaret Carr, Ruth Meinhardt, Donna Jungnickel, and Lonnie Schaefer add patriot ornaments to the Fort du Rocher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution patriot tree. (Photo contributed)

Local DAR chapter hears of area Good Citizen winners, winter travel tips

MENDOTA – The Fort du Rocher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met Dec. 9 at the First Presbyterian Church. Regent Donna Jungnickel conducted the meeting. Members were reminded to record their volunteer hours on the dar.org web site by Dec. 31. Ornaments were placed on the patriot tree for new members in 2023 – Malinda Jaht, Lonnie Schaefer, Lisa Liscio, and Kim Meinhardt.

Amanda Simpson reported the D.A.R. Good Citizen winners for this year. They were Madelyn Becker, Mendota High School, Makaela Lockwood of Leland, Chesney Auter of Earlville and Addison Duttlinger of LaSalle-Peru. Makaela Lockwood's essay has advanced to district level.

Committee reports followed. Members learned of Nancy Ward, a Cherokee of Tennessee, who became a political leader and advocated for Indian women. Alma Grimes of Ohio served in the Women's Army Corps. She was a communication specialist and received the Living Legend Proclamation. Patriot Margaret Cochran Corbin 'Captain Molly' assisted her husband John who was in charge of the cannon. When he was killed, she took over until she too was wounded. She became the first woman in the U.S. to be awarded a lifelong pension.

Jan Koch read tips for winter travel. To check your battery, turn on lights, then start engine, if lights get brighter with engine running, the battery is going to die soon.

Kasha will be looking into a possible program featuring Kathleen Walvogel, author of Women of the American Revolution, Wives, Soldiers, Sisters of the American Revolution.

The next meeting will be Feb. 10 at the Zion United Methodist Church, Mendota at 10 a.m. At that time, the D.A.R. winners will be recognized along with their parents and counselors with a breakfast.

Any woman over 18 years of age whose lineage traces back to a Revolutionary War patriot, who wishes to learn more about Daughters of the American Revolution is invited to attend the next meeting or go online to dar.org.



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For Crop Year 2024

The Warren G Morrison Trust will accept sealed bids for a cash lease on approximately 71 tillable acres. The legal description is the South 80 acres of the SW 1/4 of Sec 33, Township 35, Range 2, (except the SW 2.95 acres) east of the 3rd principal meridian in Ophir Township, LaSalle County, IL. The pin is 07-33-303-000. The calculated Productivity Index (PI) is 139.

The following must be submitted with your bid:

- A resume pertaining to your farming ability
- A minimum of two (2) references relating to your farming background
- A minimum of two credit references

The successful bidder will be determined based on: price offered, general reputation, performance capabilities, and stability.

The successful bidder will be required to submit a certificate of insurance naming the trust as an additional insured.

All bids are to be submitted and properly signed no later than 5:00pm Friday, January 19, 2024 to attorney Eric Deobler at 511 East Etna Road, Ottawa, IL 61350. No faxed or e-mailed bids will be accepted. Each bid must be in a sealed envelope and clearly marked Warren G Morrison Farm lease.

A lease similar to Farmdoc Form CL 01-0912 will be used. A farm map and model lease may be obtained from Eric Deobler (815)434-2000.

The trust reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to award the contract in the trust's best interests.

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Community Calendar

JANUARY 2024

JAN. 1
M.A.S.S. CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS DAY
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
Wii BOWLING
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10:30 AM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
EUCHRE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JAN. 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25 & 29
EXERCISES
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
8 AM
Feik Lounge –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JAN. 4 & 8
HEARING CLINIC
Sponsored by Civic Center & M.A.S.S.
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Illinois Room –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Please call Sterling Hearing - Kelly for more information (815) 626-3220. Hearing aid batteries available for sale at M.A.S.S.

JAN. 4, 11, 18 & 25
POKENO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM
Feik Lounge –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JAN. 4, 11, 18 & 25
NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB
Sponsored by Civic Center & M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Lounge –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Please bring your craft items to work on. Enjoy visiting with other crafters.

JAN. 4
LEGO CLUB
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
4 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Ages: 1st thru 8th grades. Must register.

JAN. 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26 & 29
BINGOCIZE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM
Feik Lounge –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Bingocize includes bingo & exercise for healthy mind & body.

JAN. 5, 12, 19 & 26
BINGO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Lounge –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
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JAN. 7
COMMUNITY BINGO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Everyone welcome to join us.

JAN. 7
SUNDAY FUNDAY WITH GREENFIELD STATION
Sponsored by Main St Station
2 PM
Main Street
For more info call
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Bar opens at Noon with Loaded Bloody Mary's

JAN. 5, 15, 22 & 29
DOMINOES
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Lounge –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JAN. 8, 15, 22 & 29
TOPS GROUP
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM
Feik Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JAN. 9
GIRL TALK WITH THE EXPERTS
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Sponsored by Mendota's Expressions Salon. Join nurse Amanda Atherton & bilingual nurse Marci Lemus to discuss what to expect as a pre-teen and talk with the experts about makeup. For ladies in grades 4-8. Registration required.

JAN. 10
SMALL FRIES: "BREAKFAST FUN!"
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
4 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
For kids 3 yrs to Kindergarten. Theme: "Breakfast Fun!" Call to register.

JAN. 11
SHAKE RATTLE & READ: "COLOR!"
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
Choose
11 AM OR 6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
For kids birth to 2 yrs old (siblings welcome). Theme: "Color!" Call to register.

JAN. 12
BAKED POTATO BAR
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
11 AM - 1 PM
Feik Lounge –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Ticket Price \$8 at the door

JAN. 13
BLUEGRASS, GOSPEL, COUNTRY MUSIC JAM
Sponsored by Northern Illinois Bluegrass Assoc (NIBA) and Ophir Community Building (OCB)
6 PM - 10 PM
Ophir Community Building in Triumph, IL
For more info call
Jay Allen (815) 488-9154
Free Admission
All acoustic instruments

JAN. 16
CAREGIVER COUNSELING / ALTERNATIVES
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM - 12 PM Walk-ins Welcome
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Beneficial for caregivers needing someone to talk to on how to manage as the caregiver.

JAN. 16
3RD TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
Choose
1 PM OR 6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
January we'll be reading: "The Woman They Could Not Silence" by Kate Moore. New members are always welcome!

JAN. 19
TAYLOR SWIFT PARTY
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
7 - 9 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
DJ Mara will be playing T-Swift songs ALL NIGHT LONG! Come for button making, dancing, friendship bracelets, photo-ops and themed snacks. Must register. For Swifties ages 8 and older.

JAN. 23
BLOOD PRESSURE & BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
11 AM - 12 PM
Feik Lounge –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JAN. 23
ADULT CRAFT @ THE LIBRARY
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
Choose
1 PM OR 6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Let's craft together! Get ready for Valentine's Day. All GOOD things come to those who craft together! Bring your friends for a fun time. Adult crafters only. Registration required.

JAN. 24
MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S. - "FARGO"
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library & M.A.S.S.
3 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Watching: " Fargo"
Snacks provided by M.A.S.S.

JAN. 25
SHAKE, RATTLE & READ
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
For kids birth to 2. Theme: "Opposite Day!" Call to register.

JAN. 26
NEW YEARS POTLUCK
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM
Feik Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JAN. 27
COOKOUT NIGHT
Sponsored by Main St Station Bar & Grill
5 PM
Main Street 714 Mendota
For more info call
(815) 539-7011
Homemade salad bar, potato choice, veggie and dessert. Full menu available.

JAN. 29
TWEENS: NERF WARS
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
For 5-8 grades. Must register. Bring you NERF supplies. Be ready to battle indoors! Refreshments served at 6:30 PM.

JAN. 31
SHAKE, RATTLE & READ
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
11 AM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
For kids birth to 2. Theme: "Opposite Day!" Call to register. This is a repeat of Jan. 25 program.

JAN. 31
VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON - CELEBRATING OUR 2023 VOLUNTEERS
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM
Feik Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700



The Community Calendar Is Brought To You By Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce & The Mendota Reporter. These are some of the local businesses who belong to your Chamber of Commerce:

Kaleel Law Office
Karen Donnelly Law
Ken Otterbach Excavating & Demolition
Kingspan Insulation
Kights of Columbus
Krenz Dental Corp.
Kunz Engineering
Kurt Bruno State Farm
La Esquinita De Oro Ice Cream Shop
Lakeside Liquor & Tobacco

ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo
HOLLYWOOD -- Sir Michael Caine, who has now officially retired at 90 (his last film being "The Great Escaper" with the late Glenda Jackson), confirmed to the BBC: "I keep saying I'm going to retire. Well, I am now. I figured I've had a picture where I've played the lead and got incredible reviews."
He continued, "The only parts I'm liable to get now are 90-year-old men. Or maybe 85. I thought, well, I might as well leave with all this. What have I got to do to beat this?" After over 160 films, he deserves to enjoy the fruits of his labor!

Bryan Cranston has also announced that he will be taking a hiatus from acting in 2026, stating: "It's not going to be like, 'Oh, I'll read and see what I'm going to do.' No, it's a pause. It's a stop. I won't be thinking about [work]. I'm not going to be taking phone calls." He plans to live in France with his wife in a small village and pursue gardening.
Cranston, who at 67 has been in 67 films and 96 TV episodes, will be seen in

the Apple TV+ three-film franchise "Argylle," with Henry Cavill, Bryce Dallas Howard, Catherine O'Hara, Ariana DeBose, John Cena and Samuel L. Jackson, due Feb. 2, 2024. In addition, Cranston is currently completing "Everything's Going to Be Great," with Allison Janney, Simon Rex and Chris Cooper.

But the real shocker is that Nicolas Cage is the actor who truly plans to call it quits! He revealed, "I may have three or four more movies left in me. I thought, 'Okay, my dad died at 75. I'm going to be turning 60. If I'm lucky, I have maybe a good 15 years and hopefully more.' ... It occurred very clearly to me that I want to spend time with my family."
Cage has two sons -- Weston (32) and Kal-El (18, named after Superman). With wife Riko Shibata, he also has a daughter, August Francesca, born last year. Among his five wives were Patricia Arquette



Cage

and Lisa Marie Presley. He's also the nephew of Francis Ford Coppola.
Cage's most memorable films were "The Rock" (1996); "Con Air" (1997); "Face/Off" (1997); "City of Angels" (1998); the "National Treasure" franchise (2004-07); the "Ghost Rider" films (2007-11) and over 100 more films. Cage was nominated twice for an Oscar, winning Best Actor for "Leaving Las Vegas" (1995) and nabbing a nomination for "Adaption" (2002), opposite Meryl Streep and Chris Cooper (who won for Best Supporting Actor).
Cage's upcoming film releases are: the horror thriller "Long Legs," with Alicia Witt and Blair Underwood; the action-horror film "Arcadian," opposite 20-year-old Jaeden Martell and 18-year-old Maxwell Jenkins; and the Australian-Irish psychological thriller "The Surfer." When your next three upcoming films are described as "action, horror and thriller," maybe it's time to break out of the "Cage" and do a rom-com or musical! Merry Christmas, everyone!
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Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson
Q: Is the acclaimed series "Homicide" available to stream anywhere? I've looked on all the major ones like Netflix and Amazon and can't find it. -- **K.S.**
A: NBC's "Homicide: Life on the Street" isn't available to stream yet, but according to an article on TVLine.com, that could change soon. The series aired in the 1990s and starred Yaphet Kotto, Richard Belzer, Melissa Leo and Andre Braugher. Braugher recently passed away at the age of 61 after battling lung cancer. His untimely death has fans inquiring why "Homicide," the show that launched his career, isn't available to stream anywhere.
In addition to its incredible acting, "Homicide" was known for its dramatic montages set to music. Securing the rights to air these songs, instead of dubbing them in with other music, has been a huge goal of NBC and Universal. It'll be well worth the wait once the show can be seen and heard as it originally aired.

Q: Why isn't the actor who played Niles in the new "Frasier" reboot? Is he going to

show up anytime soon? -- **K.J.**
A: Unfortunately, the new "Frasier" series, which is streaming exclusively on Paramount+, is missing a few memorable supporting characters. Kelsey Grammer is, of course, reprising his iconic comedy character of Frasier Crane, which he originated on "Cheers" before the character moved to Seattle and got his own series. But there's no Niles, Martin or Daphne.
Sadly, John Mahoney passed away from throat cancer in 2018. David Hyde Pierce and Jane Leeves are both alive and well, but their characters, Niles and Daphne, are not a part of the new cast. Pierce recently told the Los Angeles Times that he had several other projects in the works and that he "never really wanted to go back" to "Frasier." He further explained that he "loved every moment" of doing the original series, but that he wanted to do other things.
Those things include co-starring in the lovely HBO series "Julia," where he plays famed chef Julia Child's husband, Paul, opposite Sarah Lancashire's titular character. He's also starring in Stephen Sondheim's new Off-Broadway musical

"Here We Are."
If Frasier gets renewed for another season, perhaps Pierce and Leeves will pop in for a guest appearance like Bebe Neuwirth (Lilith) and Peri Gilpin (Roz) did this year.

Q: I'm enjoying the new series about Cary Grant. Jason Isaacs, the actor who plays him when he's older, looks so much like him. Is he related to Oscar Isaac? -- **W.W.**
A: No, they're not related. Their last names differ by one letter. Jason Isaacs is also a Brit, while Oscar Isaac (of "Star Wars" fame) grew up in Miami.
Blue-eyed Isaacs is sporting what look to be brown contact lenses and black frames to play Cary Grant in the limited series "Archie," which you can stream on BritBox. The show gets its title from Grant's birth name, Archibald Alec Leach. It chronicles his life in Hollywood, where he meets and marries actress Dyan Cannon ("Heaven Can Wait").
You might recognize Isaacs from his other credits, including Lucius Malfoy from the "Harry Potter" movies, Colin Ayres from "The West Wing" and Capt. Lorca in "Star Trek: Discovery."

Couch Theater

"Barbie" (PG-13) -- The highest-grossing film of 2023, clocking in at \$1.4 billion, is finally out on streaming! Margot Robbie stars as the titular character in director Greta Gerwig's fourth feature film, opposite a very sassy Ryan Gosling as none other than Ken. The film follows Barbie in Barbieland as she experiences an existential crisis after waking up one day and no longer being "stereotypically perfect." With the help of Ken, Barbie travels to the real world in an attempt to find the child who's playing with her -- her "owner," if you will -- so that she can return to her perfectly pink life. So far, its director, lead actress and supporting actor are all nominated for Golden Globes, and the film itself is nominated in the Best Motion Picture and Cinematic and Box Office Achievement categories. With the cultural movement that "Barbie" became this summer, the last nomination should be theirs

for the taking! (Max)
"Saltburn" (R) -- "The Banshees of Inisherin" star Barry Keoghan jumps into the role of Oliver Quick, a misunderstood, straight-edge student at Oxford University who struggles to fit in with his classmates. After a coincidental meeting with a popular student named Felix (Jacob Elordi), Oliver becomes fast friends with Felix and eventually gets invited to spend the summer at Felix's family estate, called Saltburn. The estate is buzzing with bizarre characters who filter in and out of the lavish property, including fellow Oxford student Farleigh (Archie Madekwe) and family friend Pamela (Carey Mulligan). As the summer comes to an end, Oliver realizes that the life he enjoyed at Saltburn is the only life he wants to live. Out now, this psychological thriller is director Emerald Fennell's sophomore film, her debut being "Promising Young Woman," which also features Mulligan. (Prime Video)

"Beau Is Afraid" (R) -- Directed by Ari Aster ("Midsommar"), this film features Oscar winner Joaquin Phoenix -- and got Phoenix his seventh Golden Globe nomination. He plays Beau, the son of a wealthy businesswoman named Mona, who grew up to become a very anxious, accident-prone adult. Beau receives news that his mother died in an accident as he was on his way to visit her, and as if his astronomically bad luck couldn't possibly get worse, he gets into an accident himself after hearing the news. While the date of his mother's funeral looms closer, all of his plans to get there goes awry, and Beau surrenders to a series of trippy experiences that push him to let out the grief and guilt surrounding him. With an ensemble cast of Patti LuPone, Nathan Lane, Michael Gandolfini and more, this surrealist horror film is out now, after a disappointing box-office release. (Paramount+)

• Trivia Test •

1. GEOGRAPHY: In which city is the Brandenburg Gate located?
2. TELEVISION: Which 1990s TV show catapulted actor George Clooney to fame?
3. MOVIES: Which department store is featured in the 1947 holiday film, "Miracle on 34th Street"?
4. LEGAL: What kind of legislative body is bicameral?
5. FOOD & DRINK: What is the main ingredient in guacamole?
6. LITERATURE: In "The Night Before Christmas" poem, how many reindeer does Santa Claus have?
7. CHEMISTRY: Which chemical element's symbol is C?
8. HISTORY: Who is the first

- female chancellor of Germany?
9. MUSIC: Which female French singer had a hit song with "La Vie en Rose"?
 10. SCIENCE: When did the Krakatoa volcano have its last major eruption?
- Answers
1. Berlin, Germany.
 2. "ER."
 3. Macy's.
 4. A legislative body with two chambers, like House and Senate.
 5. Avocado.
 6. Eight.
 7. Carbon.
 8. Angela Merkel.
 9. Edith Piaf.
 10. 1883.
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King Crossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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DOWN

49	Snaky fish	7	Historic	"Panic Room"
50	Jazzy Fitzgerald	28	French prison	Book after Joel
51	Maintained	29	Cyndi Lauper	Shrill barks
52	Lay down the lawn	30	hit	Poi base
53	Deli loaves	31	10 Thus	Send forth
		32	11 Disarray	Off course
		33	16 Sugary suffix	Sagittarius
		34	20 Tennis champ	USO audience
		35	Murray	Dash gauge
		36	21 Detail, briefly	Skin soother
		37	22 Go sightseeing	40 Make well
		38	23 Shrek, for one	41 Hardly hirsute
		39	24 Writer Lessing	44 Old Olds
		40	26 Whims	45 Layer
		41	27 Jared of	46 Pub order
		42		47 "— Kapital"

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Strange But True
By Lucie Winborne
* In 1837, Thomas Saverland took Caroline Newton to court for biting off part of his nose after he forcibly kissed her at a party.
* The original Xbox had sound snippets of real space missions.
* Korean college students once launched a protest against the amount of air in potato chip bags by building a raft out of them and sailing it across a river.
* When Michael Orchard broke into his neighbor's burning home to rescue their dog, his heart was in the right place but his timing wasn't: The house fire was merely his LSD-induced hallucination.
* Frozen cow manure was the first-ever puck used in a hockey game.
* The word "thug" comes from 1350s India and the Hindi word "thag," which means "deceiver" or "thief" or "swindler."
* Ten thousand light years away from Earth, a huge cloud 1,000 times larger than our solar system's diameter contains enough alcohol to fill 400 trillion pints. To drink it all, everyone on Earth would have to drink 300,000 pints each day for 1 billion years.
* A violin known as "the Blackbird," carved entirely from stone, produces sound comparable to traditional wooden violins.
* Research has shown that people born in September, October and November are more likely to live 100 years or longer.
* French performer Michel Lotito, aka "Monsieur Manget-out," or "Mr. Eat All," could hardly be accused of being a picky eater, having earned a Guinness World Record for strangest diet. His gastronomic feats included downing bicycles, razor blades and even an entire airplane.
* Much like humans, chimpanzees use strategic high ground for reconnaissance on rival groups during "chimp warfare."
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Happy 21st Birthday Michelle!



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\$26 in Reporter Or Money Saver
\$34 To Run In Both

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	E	A	R	O	S	D	T	E	H
E	L	A							
A	V	A	R	O					
C	O	I	B	E					
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THE BACK PAGE

CARDS OF THANKS

A note of thanks to our families, friends and loyal customers during the past 44 years. We appreciate your continued support in keeping Sports-N-Stuff open. We would also like to thank those that stopped to say congrats and good luck the last few days we were open and shared memories from over the years. A special thanks to George, Paityn, Ricky, Rylee and Spike for all their help. We have truly been blessed with amazing family members. May God bless all of you and thanks again for the amazing memories.

Love you all,
Alta & Mary

POLICE BLOTTER

DUI, SUSPENDED LICENSE
Michael B. Henderson, 33, of 104 Second Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Fifth and Main streets at 10:33 p.m. Dec. 23. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

GARAGE SALE/ NOTICE DEADLINES

• Thursday 3 p.m. to appear in Monday's Money Saver.
• Monday 10 a.m. to appear in Wednesday's Reporter.

Tips to thwart burglars from targeting your home

MENDOTA – The Mendota Police Department encourages its citizens to prevent crime before it happens. Taking a few prevention steps could keep your home from being a target. The golden rule in home security is to ensure that your property does not present an opportunity. Please consider these burglary prevention tips.

• A would-be burglar will look for signs of an alarm or cameras. Let them know they cannot enter your home unnoticed.

• Over one-third of home burglaries are termed by police as "no force" entries. Doors or windows that are left unlocked allow easy access to the home.

• Sliding glass doors are another easy way in. They are usually at the rear and can often be lifted out of their frames.

• An unsecured garage door presents an opportunity for a burglar to enter your property if your garage is attached to the home or to find tools to assist him.

• An unlocked shed or out-building likewise presents an easy target. The burglar can use your own tools to enter your home or take valuables such as bikes and lawnmowers.

• A dark property is always attractive. About 90 percent of all intruders choose not to enter a residence that is well lit so keep the main entryways and exterior sections of your home lit, either constantly or using motion sensor lighting.



• Overgrown bushes or trees close to your home allow a burglar to hide and can provide a leverage to higher windows.

• A quick escape is important for a burglar, so high fences or hedges are a real deterrent.

• Burglars prefer to target empty residences. Stop the newspapers when you go on vacation and have a neighbor pick up your mail.

• Install a deadbolt lock. Deadbolts are usually locked with a key from the outside and a thumb turn on the inside. The cylinder should be pick resistant. Lock your doors every time you leave. The more popular times for residential burglaries are weekday daylight hours. In over one-third of all burglaries, there is no forcible entry - someone forgot to lock the door.

• Install solid doors. Out-

side doors should be metal or solid hardwood and at least 1-3/4 inches thick. Frames must be made of equally strong material and each door must fit its frame securely.

• Keep garage doors closed and locked.

• Secure sliding doors and windows. Cut a broom handle to the length of the bottom track so that the window or door will not slide open when forced. Also, drill one hole through both castings and sliding window and insert a nail or pin.

• Secure sash windows. To prevent wooden sash windows from being pried open, drill a downward sloping hole into the top of the bottom window through and into the bottom of the top window and insert a pin or nail. To prevent aluminum windows from being broken into, purchase a track lock that blocks the window track.

Winter Weather Ordinances

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

• Ordinance 41.38 – Parking After Snowfall

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

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

• Ordinance 6.21 – Depositing Snow in Streets

No person within the city shall remove any snow from his private property or from offstreet parking lots or right of way parking into any of the city streets or alleys. This Section does not apply to removal of snow from sidewalks. This Section is specifically directed to, but not limited to gasoline stations, medical and dental clinics, or any other business or corporation which has private parking on the property or in those areas where the term of the city has been dedicated or given over for parking facilities.

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

Notice is given of the Annual Open Meeting at the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry. The meeting is open to the public and anyone wanting to serve on the board or anyone with other business should attend. Election of board members and officers will take place at this meeting. The meeting will be held at the pantry at 918 N. Main Street, Mendota, IL. at 6:30 pm on January 9, 2024.

12272023

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Celebrate Like Your Life Depends on It: DON'T Drink & Drive!



The ratio of alcohol to blood in the body is called the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC). Two people drinking the same amount of alcohol can have drastically different BACs. Body weight, drink strength, amount of food in the stomach, time between drinks and even gender can all affect a person's BAC and level of impairment. While a BAC of .08 is typically the legal limit, impairment can occur at much lower levels. A driver can be arrested with a BAC lower than .08 if a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe the driver is impaired. More importantly, any level of impairment significantly increases the likelihood of a traffic crash, putting your life and the lives of others in danger. The bottom line? If you plan on drinking, getting behind the wheel is always a bad idea.

**This New Year's Eve Just Remember...
Drinking/Drugs + Driving
= DISASTER**

**You can call them tipsy,
blasted, smashed,
bombed, wasted or drunk,
BUT BE SURE TO
CALL THEM FOR
A RIDE HOME!**

"As we have in the past, on New Year's Eve we will be sponsoring our Ride Home Program. Anyone who has had too much to drink can call here as long as they live in the city, and we'll give them a ride home."

The telephone number is 815-539-9331.

~ Police Chief Greg Kellen

Here's to a **SAFE &**

Happy NEW YEAR



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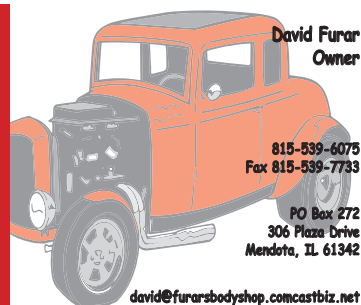
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SPORTS

Illinois high school football districting proposal falls short

Girls' flag football approved

BLOOMINGTON—Illinois High School Association (IHSA) member schools approved 12 of 14 amendment proposals that appeared on the all-school ballot during the annual by-law referendum process that ended on Dec. 19, 2023. Full text of the initial 23 proposals, including the 14 that advanced to the all-school ballot, can be found on the IHSA website.

A proposal that would have significantly changed football scheduling in the state failed to pass (272-379-76). The only other proposal that did not pass sought to decrease the number of allowable summer contact days between coaches and student-athletes.

“The IHSA Board of Directors has already had discussions about the potential of forming a Football Ad Hoc Committee in 2024 in the event that this district proposal failed to pass,” said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. “They want to be proactive in trying to address the issues that are at the root of different football proposals seemingly being brought forth each year. They recognize the myriad issues in IHSA football are unique and can be based on geography, school size, conference affiliation, and the traditional success of a program, which is why no recent proposals have garnered enough support to pass. There is likely no singular answer to these issues, but the Board wants to explore the idea that a large and diverse group from around the state might be able to find some solutions that the high school football community in the state would support.”

The 2023 legislative process brought out the highest voting total in over a decade, as 89.2% of the membership participated in the vote. Below is a summary of the proposals and the vote totals. (The numbers in parentheses indicate the total of yes, no, and no opinion votes. For an amendment to pass, yes votes must outnumber no votes.)

- Proposal 4 (Passes 578-124-24) Allows coaches to conduct out of season strength and conditioning workouts with limits of no more than 4 days per week and no more than 90 minutes per session outside the season. No coaching of the skills of a sport during any session.
- Proposal 5 (Passes 449-233-45): Allows students to meet the residence by-law when their parent/guardian is a full-time staff member at a public school whose attendance boundary they do not reside in if the district has a Board Policy permitting students of employees to attend tuition free.
- Proposal 9 (Passes 547-136-43): Modifies the All-Star games participation limit to include all sports as opposed to just basketball, football, soccer and volleyball.
- Proposal 11 (Fails 302-407-18): Modifies the number of summer contact days restriction from 25 to 18 days.
- Proposal 12 (Passes 566-132-23): Allows coaches to conduct strength and conditioning workouts with limits of no more than four days per week and no more than 90 minutes per session during the summer contact days. Conditioning training does not count against the summer contact day count. No coaching of the skills of a sport during any session in order for the session not to count as a summer contact day.
- Proposal 14 (Passes 422-136-166): Restricts a Pre-Contest Physical Examination from determining a student's eligibility for a contest other than in sports that require weigh-ins or sports-specific nail or skin checks.
- Proposal 15 (Passes 564-36-118): Modifies the participation under an assumed name to match the language passed two years ago in By-law 3.090.
- Proposal 16 (Passes 540-126-54): Eliminates the IHSA Tournament Limitations By-law (5.004).
- Proposal 17 (Passes 410-232-85): Creates the opportunity for football teams to conduct a pre-season scrimmage with another school. Specific scrimmage limitations include the following: Use of IHSA Officials, four separate 12 play segments, no special teams, 48 total play limits per player, no live contact or thud in practice the day before or after the scrimmage. Scrimmage to be held on Friday or Saturday of IHSA Week 7. Players are eligible to participate in the scrimmage after participating in 8 different days of practice.
- Proposal 18 (Fails 272-379-76): Establishes districts in the sport of football to be determined by the IHSA using geography and classification. Eight districts in each class with eight schools in each district. District games in weeks 3 – 9 of the regular season. Top four schools in each district qualify for the IHSA Play-offs. Seeding procedures will be similar to current seeding procedures with teams from the same district not to play in the first round.
- Proposal 19 (Passes 352-48-321): Eliminates the Boys Gymnastics season and contest limitation by-law.
- Proposal 20 (Passes 541-134-48): Eliminate the match limit per tournament language in girls' and boys' volleyball.
- Proposal 22 (Passes 594-18-111): Increase the number of girls' wrestling team contests from 18 to 25.
- Proposal 23 (Passes 464-82-181): Establishes a Girls' Flag Football fall season limitation (Monday of Week 6 to Saturday of Week 21), a pre-season practice requirement of nine practices before a contest and a regular season contests limitation of 25 games exclusive of the IHSA State Series.

Mendota High School bowling

Dec. 20 vs. Plano (varsity boys)	(junior varsity boys)
Mendota 3403, Plano 2362	Mendota 2478, Plano 2005
Mendota scores: Kooper Novak 225, 274, 213 – 712; Alex Holland 168, 158, 212 – 538; Paxton Bauer 201, 217, 234 – 652; Landon Bauer 161, 243, 192 – 595; Dean Gilbert 103, 134, 137 – 374; BJ Bresley 17, 179, 182 – 532	Mendota scores: Caeleb Ensor 140, 151, 134 – 425; Nick Sheridan 200, 151, 139 – 490; Wyatt Sondgeroth 150, 157, 137 – 444; Josh Sondgeroth 143, 121, 137 – 401; Toby Bulen 140, 144-284; Landon Lee 117, 109, 130 – 356; Luis Nunez 78

N. Garcia's first college soccer season is one she'll never forget

Mendota native helps Rock Valley to NJCAA Division II National Tourney

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – When contestants of the Mendota Sweet Corn Pageant are getting ready for the annual event, they are usually waiting for the summer to get over so they can go to college or are working shifts around their pageant schedule.

Naitzy Garcia, a 2023 Mendota High School graduate and the 2023 Sweet Corn Festival Queen, wasn't just doing her hair and makeup during the pageant. She was playing preseason games as part of the Rock Valley College women's soccer team around pageant duties.

Just like the pageant paid off, Garcia's freshman campaign was a success as the Golden Eagles were 16-4-3, were NJCAA Division II Region IV champions, Midwest District champions, and qualified for the NJCAA Division II National Tournament in November in Tucson, Ariz.

“The biggest reason I went to this team is I loved how close it was to home. Rockford is only an hour away from Mendota,” Garcia said. “I'm very family oriented so it was important to me that I didn't have to catch a flight to see my family. I heard great things about the program and the school. The women's soccer team was new to Division II, so I knew since they were able to transfer up a division last year, this was their second season in DII, that there were really big things happening in the program.”

“It's truly an amazing program with a lot of great people. All of the girls, collectively, are so unbelievably talented. It was amazing for me to see how many people truly love soccer the way I do and are dedicated to it just as much as I am. Putting all the talent together made us the powerhouse we were this season.”

This fall was the second DII season for the Golden Eagles, which makes the national tournament appearance the first for the squad in DII, but second in program



Naitzy Garcia, a 2023 Mendota High School graduate, spent her first season in the net as the Rock Valley College women's soccer team's goalkeeper this fall. The Golden Eagles went 16-4-3, were NJCAA Division II Region IV champions, Midwest District champions, and advanced to the NJCAA Division II National Tournament.

history as RVC went to the Division III National Tournament in 2015.

The 16 wins was the first time the Golden Eagles had won more than 10 games since 2019.

For Garcia, she led the RVC goalkeepers with 20 match starts and racked up 1,281 minutes and 66 saves with a .767 save percent.

“It was an experience. A lot of us came from high schools where we were the star players. We were surrounded by players who went out for soccer just to have a sport,” Garcia said. “We come to Rock Valley and we're grouped with so many talented girls that it's kind of like a weight is lifted off of your shoulders because the pressure isn't all on one player.”

“It was kind of hard toward the beginning of the season. You could tell that girls were still trying to do everything by themselves. Once we learned the talent level of everyone on the team and that no one was really doing anything by themselves, we started to work together and that's how we were able to form team chemistry.”

At the biggest tournament of the year, RVC lost in two games as the Golden Eagles fell to #2-seeded Northwest Mississippi Community College, 2-0, and #7 Johnson County Community College, 4-0.

Garcia was on the sideline but couldn't play in Arizona because she was hurt.

With the experience of making the tournament, Garcia said she can't wait for next season as the 17 freshmen are ready for an opportunity to win the championship instead of just being there.

“There was a lot of adversity for us this season and a lot of obstacles that we came across, but the girls on the field really did their part at the national tournament,” Garcia said. “I feel like we know we'll be there next year because that is what we're going to work for. Our coach Kevan Watkins says, ‘It's not a goal anymore, it's an expectation.’”

“We know now what we have to work for and what we have coming for us because this was the first time that even our coach had been to a national tournament. We're ready for next year.”

“It's cool to say we were regional champions and that we made it to the national tournament. All of the fall sports at RVC made it to the national tournament this year, which is really cool. The women's and men's soccer teams and the volleyball team all made it to national tournaments. There has been a lot of celebrating here.”

“I won't forget any of these memories.”



Bound for Greenville U.
Justin Randolph, seated center, signs to play football at Greenville University in Greenville, Ill., next fall. Looking on in front are his brothers, Jonah, left, and Giovanni, right, and his parents, Josh and Jenn. Back row, left to right, are Sue Spanier (grandparent), Jeffrey Currier (uncle), and Diane and John Currier (grandparents). Greenville University is an NCAA Division III school in southern Illinois. Justin Randolph, who is finishing his senior year at Mendota High School, said he is being asked to compete for the quarterback position and is also looking at playing safety on defense. Greenville posted a 5-5 record this fall. (Reporter photo)

Soph boys blast Rockets

ROCK FALLS – Mendota's sophomore boys' basketball team took an early lead and maintained it throughout in posting a 55-46 triumph over Rock Falls in non-conference action on Dec. 21 at Rock Falls. Mendota has an 8-2 overall record.

The Trojans took a 19-13 lead after the opening stanza. Dane Doyle knocked down a pair of three-pointers in the first quarter and added two more in the second as Mendota opened up a 30-20 halftime advantage. Doyle finished the first half with 14 points.

Johan Cortez provided seven of Mendota's 17 third-quarter points in helping the Trojans build up a 47-32 cushion after three periods.

Doyle ended the contest with 20 points and eight rebounds, while Cortez chipped in with 14. Alex Beetz and Keegan Beetz provided seven and six points, respectively.

“Dane Doyle had an outstanding game offensively and his rebounding helped keep Rock Falls off the glass,” said Mendota coach Evan Carroll. “Johan Cortez facilitated the offense with Alex Beetz in foul trouble and we had guys (Jonas Fitzgerald, Grady Jones, Brody Hartt) provide great minutes off the bench.”

SPORTS

Third quarter uprising helps lift Rock Falls over Trojans, 70-54

ROCKFALLS—Mendota and Rock Falls played a tight first half before the Rockets pulled away in the second half to notch a 70-54 victory over the Trojans in a varsity boys' basketball non-conference battle on Dec. 21 at Rock Falls.

Gavin Sands had the hot hand for Rock Falls to start the contest as he poured in 10 of his team's 14 first-quarter points. The Rockets held a 14-11 lead heading to the second period, where the Trojans outscored the home team by three to even things up at intermission, 28-28. Cale Strouss ripped the net for 10 points, including a pair of three-pointers, to help Mendota forge the tie.

The tide turned in the third quarter as the Rockets exploded for 26 points compared to 15 for Mendota, to take a 54-43 advantage. Rock Falls nailed four shots from three-point land in the frame. Mendota's Aden Tillman kept things from getting too far out of hand with three trifectas in the period.

The Trojans connected on just four field goals in the final frame as they were unable to make up the deficit.

Strouss and Tillman paced the Trojans (5-7) with 15 points apiece, while Izaiah Nanez provided nine markers and Braiden Freeman added seven tallies.

Sands topped three Rock Falls players in double digits with 18 points.

ROCK FALLS 70, MENDOTA 54				
Mendota (54)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Strouss	6	0-0	3	15
Aughenbaugh	0	0-0	1	0
Stevenson	1	0-0	0	3
Baird	1	0-0	2	2
Dewey	1	1-3	2	3
Nanez	4	0-2	1	9
Freeman	3	1-1	2	7
Tillman	5	0-0	2	15
Totals	21	2-6	13	54

Rock Falls (70)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Castaneda	1	0-0	1	2
Howard	3	0-0	0	8
Tntn-DeJesus	7	0-3	3	14
Heald	4	2-2	2	12
Sands	7	1-1	0	18
Goff	4	0-0	3	8
Menendez	0	2-2	1	2
Mulnix	1	0-0	0	2
Wolf	2	0-0	2	4
Totals	29	5-8	2	70

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	11	28	43	54
Rock Falls	14	28	54	70
Three-point goals: Mendota- Strouss 3, Stevenson 1, Nanez 1, Tillman 5; Rock Falls - Howard 2, Heald 2, Sands 3				

Trojan grapplers knock off Hall/Putnam Co. & Streator

The Mendota Trojan wrestlers took down Hall/Putnam County and lost to Orion in a triangular meet at Orion on Dec. 19.

Against Hall/Putnam County, the Trojans were 42-24 winners. Gaining pin wins for Mendota were Trayvon Rucker and Cole Kleckner, while the other five victories came via forfeit. Those went to Adrian Arteaga, Jayleen Jordan, Rhett Watson, Reyli Sandoval and Zach Schmidt.

Orion claimed a 70-12 triumph over Mendota. Payton Gagliardo got a pin for the Trojans and Arteaga won via forfeit.

Dec. 19 @ Orion

Mendota 42, Hall/PC 24

106 – Adrian Arteaga (M) won forfeit; 113 – double forfeit; 120 – Ziel (H) won forfeit; 126 – double forfeit; 132 – Trayvon Rucker (M) pinned Conlin (H), 0:29; 138 – Cole Kleckner (M) pinned Scribner (H), 1:44; 144 – Jayleen Jordan (M) won forfeit; 150 – Rhett Watson (M) won forfeit; 157 – double forfeit; 165 – Reyli Sandoval (M) won forfeit; 175 – Zach Schmidt (M) won forfeit; 190 – Irwin (H) pinned Emma Dearing (M), 1:02; 215 – Levine (H) pinned Laina Gonzales (M), 1:02; 285 – Leota (H) pinned Madrick Musgrove (M), 2:19

Orion 70, Mendota 12

106 – Arteaga (M) won forfeit; 113 – Marshall (O) won forfeit; 120 – Nedved (O) won forfeit; 126 – Perkins (O) won forfeit; 132 – Terry (O) pinned Rucker (M), 4:31; 138 – Clark (O) pinned Kleckner (M), 1:26; 144 – Duhs (O) pinned Gavin Evans (M); 150 – Anderson (O) pinned Watson (M), 1:45; 157 – Edmunds (O) won forfeit; 165 – Rodney (O) pinned Sandoval (M), 1:40; 175 – Tyler (O) pinned Schmidt (M), 1:34; 190 – Payton Gagliardo (M) pinned Gibbons (O), 1:42; 215 – Fisher (O) pinned Michael Thornhill (M), 0:48; 285 – Parr (O) won forfeit

Mendota hosted Ottawa and Streator in a triangular meet on Dec. 21 at the MHS gym.

The Trojans picked up a 42-36 victory over Streator. Nate Giberson earned a pin win and Rucker won by decision, while forfeits went to Kleckner, Gavin Evans, Watson, Schmidt and Michael Thornhill.

Ottawa outdueled Mendota, 60-24. Three wrestlers picked up wins via pin for the Trojans – Evans, Sandoval and Angil Serrano. Kleckner got a forfeit win.

Dec. 21 @ Mendota

Mendota 42, Streator 36

106 – Gwalney (S) won forfeit; 113 – Henson (S) won forfeit; 120 – Rodriguez (S) won forfeit; 126 – double forfeit; 132 – Rucker (M) dec. Wachowski (S), 9-5; 138 – Kleckner (M) won forfeit; 144 – Evan (M) won forfeit; 150 – Watson (M) won forfeit; 157 – Thompson (S) won forfeit; 165 – Lukes (S) pinned Sandoval (M), 3:52; 175 – Schmidt (M) won forfeit; 190 – Lopez (S) pinned Gagliardo (M), 3:19; 215 – Thornhill (M) won forfeit; 285 – Nate Giberson (M) pinned Dummitt (S), 0:24

Ottawa 60, Mendota 24

106 – Beegrady (O) won forfeit; 113 – Contreras (O) won forfeit; 120 – Munoz (O) won forfeit; 126 – K. Duffy (O) won forfeit; 132 – Wheeler (O) pinned Rucker (M), 0:46; 138 – Kleckner (M) won forfeit; 144 – Evans (M) pinned McKinnon (O), 2:27; 150 – M. Duffy (O) pinned Watson (M), 5:50; 157 – Stayton (O) won forfeit; 165 – Sandoval (M) pinned Ristau (O), 1:24; 175 – Reding (O) pinned Schmidt (M), 0:31; 190 – Frey (O) pinned Gagliardo (M), 1:48; 215 – Valdez (O) pinned Thornhill (M), 3:59; 285 – Angil Serrano (M) pinned Day (O), 1:55

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LOCAL AND AREA

Grant funding of \$889,855 to aid IVCC and 10 schools in area

JOLIET – Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14) recently announced that Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) will receive \$889,855 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants Program. The grant will help the college provide telehealth services and virtual dual credit classes to IVCC students and students at 10 partner schools in surrounding areas. Underwood, a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, secured funding for the program in the Fiscal Year 2023 government funding omnibus.

"I'm thrilled to bring home federal resources that will directly benefit students at Illinois Valley Community College and 10 other schools in our community," said Underwood. "I've heard from so many people who have been affected by recent hospital closures, including families and first responders, about the challenges they face when it comes to accessing medical care. Securing this grant is part of my ongoing work to protect and expand rural health care in northern Illinois."

"It's especially important for young people to be able to access mental health services, and I'm pleased to see this grant help connect students to mental health professionals. I'll keep fighting for investments like these that expand educational opportunities and access to mental health care in La Salle, Bureau, and Putnam counties."

The grant will help IVCC and 10 partner secondary schools purchase technology to connect mental health professionals with students, many of whom live in rural communities and face barriers to accessing care.

The technology will also be used to set up virtual learning classrooms at IVCC and its partner schools. These dedicated classrooms will create opportunities for students at small or rural schools to take dual credit classes and increase collaboration between students and teachers at different schools.

This grant will serve 6,876 students at the following schools: Illinois Valley Community College – Oglesby; Mendota High School District 280 – Mendota; Regional Office of Education #35 Safe School – Peru; Ottawa Township High School 140 – Ottawa; Hall High School District 502 – Spring Valley; Putnam County High School – Granville; Henry-Senachwine High School – Henry; LaSalle-Peru Township High School District 120 – LaSalle; Marquette Academy – Ottawa; Serena High School – Community Unit School District 2 – Serena; LaMoille Junior/Senior High School – LaMoille.

Have coffee, tea, and meet counselor at IVCC Ottawa Center

OTTAWA – The coffee's on and the welcome mat is down at Illinois Community College's Ottawa Center.

Last year, Ottawa Center Coordinator Jeannette Phalen developed a comfortable and cozy way to de-stress on the decision to launch or extend a college career. Coffee with a Counselor is an opportunity for students and community members to connect with a counselor in a relaxed – and caffeinated – environment two days a week before a new semester opens.

Coffee, tea and all the fixings will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday through the start of spring semester classes on Jan. 11. The counselor is available in between scheduled appointments.

"Jeannette came up with the idea to open more opportunities for interaction with a college counselor without the need to commit to an appointment day or time," explained Valery Calvetti, the on-site counselor.

Anyone is invited to drop in, sip some coffee and get help figuring out their next steps, Calvetti said. "In my experience, adults thinking of starting or returning to college like to express their concerns and receive direction or insights in an informal setting. December is stressful enough and the IVCC Ottawa Center is exploring ways to help ease some of the unnecessary tension."

The IVCC Ottawa Center is conveniently located in



IVCC Counselor Valery Calvetti, right, chats with Samantha Kielski of Marseilles and Emmalee Hill of Ottawa about their futures in health care during IVCC's Coffee with a Counselor program. (Photo contributed)

the heart of downtown. "It's a great place to pick up a college class before or after work or on an afternoon break. Most of our transferable classes are offered Monday through Thursday," Phalen said.

Six of the required courses for students planning to apply for the nursing program are offered at Ottawa Center. Those courses include: Certified Nursing Assistant (ALH 1214), Introduction to Nutrition (ALH 1000), Human Growth and Development (ALH 1002), Introduction to Sociology (SOC

1000), and General Psychology (PSY 1000). Three of those classes also meet the requirement for general education.

Other classes offered this spring include: Global Environment (BIO 1000), a non-lab class meeting the general education requirement for a life science course; Introduction to Business Computers (CSI 1002) for those planning a business major or anyone wanting to increase computer literacy; English Composition (ENG 1002), First Aid (HPE 1004), Speech (SPH 1001); Art Sur-

vey II (ART 1010); History of Western Civilization (HIS 1001), and General Elementary Statistics (MTH 1008).

Additionally, an EMT basic course (EMS 2201) is offered for those interested in becoming an Emergency Medical Technician.

The IVCC Ottawa Center is located at 321 W. Main St., Ottawa. Questions can be directed to Phalen at (815) 224-0800 or jeannette_phalen@ivcc.edu.

"We hope you'll stop in because the coffee is on!" Calvetti said.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Love one another

Over the years, I've made it a priority to study the topic of love in the Word of God. Because when we know how much God loves us, it melts away our insecurities, gives us confidence, and helps us to love ourselves. We can then give God's love away to other people.

In fact, I've discovered the best way (and the only way) to have a happy, powerful life is to get our minds off ourselves and do something for someone else. Helping people—being a blessing and adding value to other people's lives—is what it means to walk in love and follow the example of Jesus.

Ephesians 5:2 (AMPC) says, "Walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for

us, a slain offering and sacrifice to God...."

The New Living Translation says it this way: "Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us...."

Jesus—our perfect and holy Savior—gave His life for us, took all of our sin upon Himself, and shed His blood so we could have a personal relationship with Him and become the righteousness of God. That was His gift to us. Then, once we experience the gift of salvation, our gift to God is how we live our lives.

Jesus says in John 13:34 (AMPC), "I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another."

It's so simple! If we will learn how to follow this one commandment, everything else in our lives will fall into place.

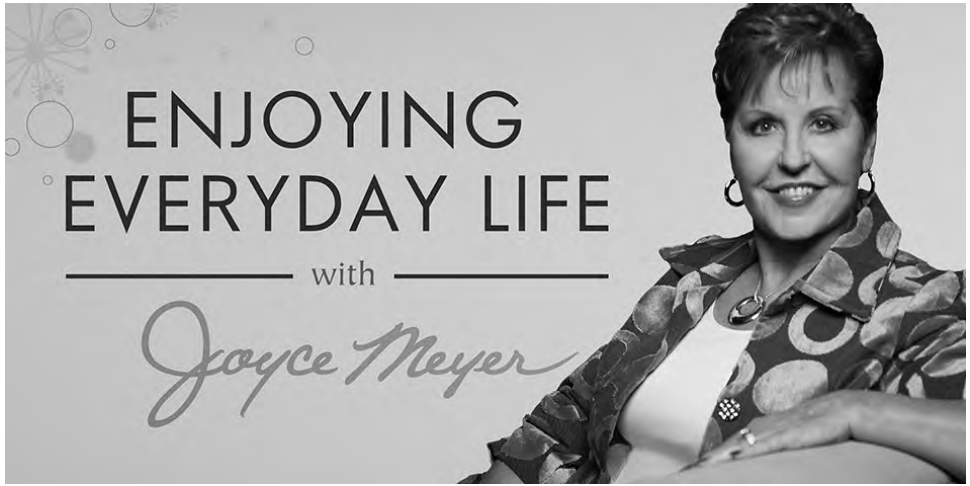
In Luke Chapter 10, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan to demonstrate what it means to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. In verses 30-37, we read that a man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho when he "fell among robbers, who stripped him of his clothes and belongings and beat him and went their way, [unconcernedly] leaving him half dead..." (AMPC).

A priest and a Levite both passed by him and neither stopped to help. Verse 33 says, "But a certain Samaritan, as he traveled along, came down to where he was; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity and sympathy [for him]" (AMPC).

He dressed his wounds and took him to an inn where he could get the care he needed. He paid the innkeeper and told him, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I [myself] will repay you when I return" (v. 35, AMPC).

There are a few things I want you to notice here. First, the Samaritan was traveling the road and was probably going somewhere he needed to be; he had a plan but he was willing to stop and help this man even if it meant his plan was interrupted.

Also, he gave his best



effort to make sure the man had good care and then paid for him to get it. He was obviously willing to pay whatever it was going to cost because he told the innkeeper, "Whatever more you spend, I [myself] will repay you when I return." So, he was planning to come back and make sure everything the man needed was covered.

Jesus is showing us in this story what real love looks like. Sometimes, to truly love others, it's going to cost us something. But you can be assured of one thing: Whenever you give of yourself for someone else, Jesus says you are doing it for Him, and you will always be rewarded (see Matthew 25:40).

First Corinthians 13 lists the characteristics of God's love. It says love is:

- Patient and kind
- Never envious, boastful, or inflated with pride
- Not rude
- Does not insist on its own rights or its own way
- Not self-seeking, touchy, or resentful
- Takes no account of the evil done to it
- Rejoices when right and truth prevail

Bears up under anything that comes

Ever ready to believe the best of every person

Its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances

Love never fails!

It's not always easy to resist being selfish, however, 1 John 4:4 says that the Spirit of God in us is greater than our enemy. It's important to understand that God is not expecting you to be perfect in your love walk or to do it alone. He knows you can't do it without His help! What He wants is for you to simply seek Him through prayer and by studying His Word...and lean on Him for the grace to do what He's asking you to do each day.

I can tell you there's no greater way to live. Today, I have more joy and excitement in my life than ever before, and it comes from letting God love me, then reaching out to love other people. And the more I put my mind to blessing others, the more God provides for me in unexpected ways!

Do you want to sow powerful seeds for your own breakthroughs in life? Would you like

to experience more of God's supernatural joy? Do you want to be like Jesus? You can, and it all goes back to that one simple command: "Love one another."

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *Do Unto Others*. 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.

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

Where are the AUCTIONS?

See Page A7!

The 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

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

OUR CHARITIES NEED OUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!

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- IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:
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 - In Oregon at: Merlin's
 - In Dixon at: Shining Star
 - In Mendota at: The Mendota Reporter/Amboy News office
- BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

YES! Send me my 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

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PETERSTOWN

Weekend Mass
Confession

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Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
9 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Worship

In-person & on Facebook at:
Mendota First United
Methodist Church

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve. 9 a.m. Sunday
School, 9:30 a.m. Worship
Jan. 1 - New Year's Day

ZION UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace
jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Sunday School for Preschool - 6th grade
in fellowship hall during worship service
(Parking lot worship available on 90.9 FM
during Sunday services)

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.
FRIDAY - Youth group 6 p.m.



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

If I can write one verse of truth today
Or give my fellow man a song to sing;
If I can push one needless cloud away
And help men live as children
of the King:
If I can lend someone a helping hand
Or warm a place where friendship
needs to be;
If I can build a bridge where
fences stand
And light a lamp that other men
might see;
If I can open doors of hope this day
By letting someone know that
others care;
If I can speak in words that seem
to say:
I know the heavy burdens that
you bear.
If I can guide a pilgrim on his way
Or pause to bid him stay for food
and rest;
If I can do these, Father, this I pray:
"O let me do them with my very best."

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Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

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www.mendotaupc.org

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WEDNESDAY
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(815) 871-5702 (pastor)

Larry Sheaves, Pastor

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Brian Kelly, Pastor

www.mendotabiblechurch.org

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Worship
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Website:
www.stjohnsmendota.org

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and online via YouTube

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NOTE: Please contact your individual church regarding online services or for other church-related information.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

LUKE 2:39, 40, 42

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Dec. 31 - 10 a.m. Worship; 11 a.m. Fellowship

Facebook page
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9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship at First

Dec. 31 - 10:30 a.m. Worship at First,
Lee (only one service)

Online "devotional service" videos continue every Sunday at
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SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. The main Christmas story is paraphrased from what two New Testament books (KJV)? Mark/John, Acts/Romans, Matthew/Luke, Jude/Revelation

2. Who visited Jesus on the night of His birth and found Mary, Joseph and the babe lying in a manger? Innkeeper, Shepherds, Herod, Magi

3. Where was the young child when the Magi came to visit Him to present gifts? Manger, Under the stars, House, Temple

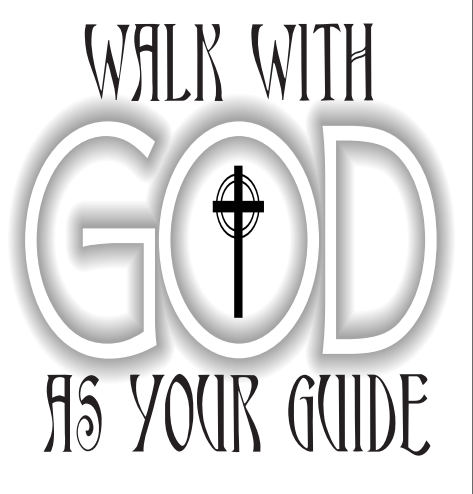
4. How many times does the word "Christmas" appear in the Bible (KJV)? Zero, 1, 2, 7

5. Who was King of Judaea at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem? Solomon, Herod, Balak, Belshazzar

6. What animals were present at Jesus' birth? Lions and bears, Sheep and goats, Cows and donkeys, No mention of animals

ANSWERS: 1) Matthew/Luke, 2) Shepherds, 3) House, 4) Zero, 5) Herod, 6) No mention of animals (in Bible)

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2023-JD-137
TO: Keith Milus, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:
Take notice that on the 15th day of December, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by David A. Greer in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Kayden J. Danley, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 16th day of January, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.
Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.
Dated: December 20, 2023
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 1204
(December 27, 2023)

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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

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113 FINANCIAL

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Barbara Poma
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