

First Annual

## WINTER DINE AROUND

Purchase the Dine Around Featured Item at participating locations in the month of February and see how many Stamps you can get!

Get your  
**OFFICIAL PASSPORT**

and have it stamped  
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- EL RAY DEL TACO
- EL ZARAPE MEXICAN RESTAURANT

- LA ESQUINITA DE ORO
- LITTLE JOE'S GAMING CAFE
- MAIN STREET STATION BAR & GRILL
- MENDOTA MOOSE LODGE
- PARKWAY FAMILY RESTAURANT

- PIZZAS BY MARCHELLONI
- ROSATI'S PIZZA
- SICILY PIZZERIA
- UNCLE JOE'S GAMING CAFE
- ZODIAC'S FAMILY RESTAURANT

See Official Passport for more details. Passports are available at all participating locations. Completed Passports will be entered for a drawing for prizes.

## Winter Dine Around is a win, win, win, situation for everyone

Eat and drink in Mendota during February

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – During the summer and fall food trucks came to downtown Mendota every other Monday to offer different food options.

Although the sun and heat have been replaced by snow and cold, the good times and good eats don't have to stop.

Reimagine Mendota is introducing Winter Dine Around during the month of February.

"For the month of February, we have 15 different participants in bars and restaurants all over town," said Cleetus Friedman, a member of Reimagine Mendota. "We created a passport and essentially what a community member would do is go to each of the participating businesses and they have an item you would need to order to receive a stamp. You have to get eight of the 15 stamps to enter to win the prize."

"The prize is a \$25 gift certificate from all of the participants and some other Mendota related swag. The winner will be chosen during the first week of March."

A password can be obtained at any of the 15 participants. Only one stamp per restaurant per passport, but members in the community can fill out multiple passports.

The participants for the first Winter Dine Around are The Chalet, Cindy's on 34, De La O Restaurant & Bar, El Ray Del Taco, El Zarape Mexican Restaurant, La Esquinita De Oro, Little Joe's Gaming Cafe, Main Street Station Bar & Grill, Mendota Moose Lodge, Parkway Family Restaurant, Pizzas by Marchelloni, Rosati's Pizza, Sicily Pizzeria, Uncle Joe's Gaming Cafe, and Ziggy's Family Restaurant.

"The goal is to drive business to our local restaurant and bars. My wife, Jill Joyce, and I thought of the idea and thought it would be good for Mendota during the colder months. The food truck event was a big success and we think the Winter Dine Around can also be a success."

See Dine, Page A5

## The big performance is here

Mendota H.S. is sending four musicians to the ILMEA All-State event

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – When the Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) All-State selections were made in November, Mendota High School Choir Director James Younger and four of his vocal musicians were excited.

Senior Trekker Klema was selected for all-state vocal jazz, senior Dagen Setchell and junior Nick Reyes were chosen for all-state choir and junior Jillian Younger found her name under honors choir.

Now, it's time to finalize their hard work and accomplishments with Illinois Music Education Conference Performances, Jan. 24-27 in Peoria.

Klema is performing in the All-State Jazz Night Concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26 in the Peoria Civic Center, Setchell and Reyes are singing in the All-State Concert at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27 in the Peoria Civic Center Arena, and Jillian Younger is in the Honors Concert at 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 27 at the arena.

"It's a really nice feeling to see them be rewarded for their hard work. They've been taking lessons, singing in groups, and working on their skills," James Younger said. "When they auditioned, they had to make a virtual audition. They had to record all these different songs and skills, and then we sent them off for judges to listen and rank them."

"First, they're selected for districts and then they're chosen for all-state. They've all put in the work and deserve their IMEA recognition."



The four members of the Mendota High School Choir selected for Illinois Music Educator Association (ILMEA) All-State are ready for the Illinois Music Education Conference Performances, Jan. 24-27 at the Peoria Civic Center. They include, left to right, Dagen Setchell, Nick Reyes, Jillian Younger and Trekker Klema. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

### Trekker Klema

The senior didn't know if jazz was going to be the best choice for him to have success in the ILMEA this year.

However, after eight years of being in music, he's learned you have to take chances.

"This is my first year trying jazz in general. Mr. Younger asked if I wanted to try out for both concert and jazz. I decided to and here I am," Klema said. "My hard work really paid off. Singing jazz, I feel you have more freedom. It's more improv and you can feel the music a little more compared to concert stuff where you have to be more professional."

"I was super excited when I found out I was selected. I wasn't even home.

When I got the email, I was on a college visit. I was in a room being briefed about the college. When we left, I checked the email, and it said I was accepted to all-state. I started freaking out. My mom (Tina Klema) was there, and my dad (Larry Klema) texted me. It's just an exciting feeling."

The ILMEA only chose 12 jazz tenors for the two all-state jazz choirs as each one has six. This means Klema was one of 12 throughout the entire state of Illinois.

### Dagen Setchell

Although he is attending Illinois Valley Community College next year to run cross country and study toward his EMT and paramedic certifications, music has always been an interest.

This year he excelled in

choir instead of band as he tried new things during his senior campaign.

"Choir is the only one I completely qualified for. In band, I went for jazz because I knew I couldn't do double band," Setchell said. "I attempted jazz to see if I could do it because I just got my braces off and I knew it was going to be a challenge. It held me back a little bit, but I still had fun with it."

Setchell joined band in the fifth grade and added choir in seventh grade and hasn't left either.

### Nick Reyes

Setchell will be joined onstage by Reyes as they were both selected for the All-State Concert.

See IMEA, Page A5

## Illinois ranks as No. 1 soy, No. 2 corn producing state for 2023

By **DANIEL GRANT**  
FarmWeek

BLOOMINGTON – Illinois once again produced some of the largest crops of any state in the nation despite drought and other weather challenges last year, according to USDA's crop production report released Jan. 12.

Prairie State farmers produced 648 million bushels of soybeans in 2023 (down from 2022 but the most of any state nationwide) and 2.27 billion bushels of corn (up slightly from the previous year and the second-most nationwide behind Iowa).

Statewide, yields averaged 206 bushels per acre for corn in 2023 (up 3 bushels from the November estimate but down 8 bushels from the 2022 record) and 63 bushels for beans (up 2 bushels from November and even with last year).

The trend of high-



Illinois once again produced some of the largest crops of any state in the nation despite drought and other weather challenges last year, according to USDA's crop production report. (Photo by Catrina Rawson of FarmWeek)

er-than-expected yields was also evident nationwide in USDA's annual crop summary.

U.S. corn production was pegged at 15.3 billion bushels last year with an average yield of 177.3 bushels per acre, both records. Soybean production totaled 4.16 billion bushels last year

(down 2% from 2022) with an average yield of 50.6 bushels (up 1% from the previous year).

"It's a bearish one this year, at least from the reaction so far," Joe Camp, of CommStock Investments, told the RFD Radio Network after the release of the report. "I think it was triggered first

off by these higher yield estimates."

USDA raised corn yield estimates from its previous report by 9 bushels in Nebraska, 4 bushels in Minnesota and 1 bushel in Iowa, along with the boost in Illinois. Iowa finished with a final corn yield estimate of 203 bushels per acre while Indiana was right behind at 201 bushels.

"Those are big states that really add extra production," Camp said. "It's hard to reconcile after the year we had."

"No doubt this crop ended up better than we feared it was going to be," he continued. "Still, to see states like Iowa be ahead of where they were a year ago is hard to put

together."

Futures prices for corn, soybeans and wheat all closed the week on a down note following the release of the report.

"It can be a relief this report is out of the way, with an outlook toward higher seasonal prices normally leading us into spring," Camp said. "But there's nothing really friendly to talk about on this crop report."

As for crop inventory, USDA pegged stocks in all positions as of Dec. 1 at 12.2 billion bushels of corn (up 13% from the previous year), 3 billion bushels of beans (down 1%) and 1.41 billion bushels of wheat (up 8%).

USDA also released its

winter wheat seedings report on Jan. 12. It pegged all winter wheat plantings for the 2024 crop at 34.4 million acres, down 6% from the previous year.

Seedings of soft red winter wheat totaled 6.86 million acres, down 13% from 2023. But Illinois farmers bucked that trend and planted 860,000 acres of winter wheat last fall, up 2% from the previous year and up significantly from 650,000 acres in 2022, USDA reported.

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.)



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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Northbrook December Students of the Month



**Fifth grade:** Jayla Francis, Daniela Arteaga, Drake Silva (not pictured), Emma Renoud, and Angie Vasquez. (Photo contributed)



**Sixth grade:** Sophia McLain, Blaze Clark, Aliya Escatel, Gavin Stamberger, and London Jones. (Photo contributed)



**Seventh grade:** Ava Mahaffey, Isaac Espinoza, Lila Bielema, and Bradley Fultz. (Photo contributed)



**Eighth grade:** Trevor Lengsfeld, Mia Barringer, Klaire Knaff, and Raul Gonzalez. (Photo contributed)

## Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Students brought home Trimester 2 midterm reports on Jan. 19. This is a great opportunity for parents to see their child's academic progress thus far in the trimester. If parents have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher. □□□

We do benchmark testing three times per year as another tool to monitor student progress. We just completed winter benchmark testing. Students will soon bring home their results to share with parents. We will use this data to help us determine the needs of our students and drive instruction. If any changes are made to intervention plans, parents will be notified. □□□

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Conrad Barkman, Zoey Hensley, Kaitlyn Castaneda, Emiliano Valdez, Amyra Hawkins, Addyson Fahr and Addie Moss. The winners were Victoria Lechuga, Aspen Jensen, Anthony Castaneda and Sophia Martinez. Congratulations to all of you! □□□

Parents, please don't forget to send your child to school each day with warm outerwear to be outside. We still go outside in the winter to play and our students should come prepared each day with boots, snow pants, gloves and a hat. Sometimes we are not outside before school, but it does warm up enough for us to go outside for recess at lunch time. It's also very important that parents label all outerwear with your child's name or initials. □□□

Looking ahead, there will be an early dismissal on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Kindergarten students will dismiss at 11:20 and first grade students at 11:30 for a teacher inservice. No lunches will be served this day.

## NCI ARTworks gallery schedules opening reception for work of Carol Crane, Mary Kay Specht

PERU – NCI ARTworks will host the opening reception for the work of Carol Crane and Mary Kay Specht at the NCI ARTworks gallery in the west wing of the historic Westclox building in Peru on Sunday, Jan. 28, from 2 to 5pm. The exhibit is titled "Nature Inspired." It is free and open to the public.

Crane is a recently retired healthcare professional who has been painting and

creating works of art in various mediums for the past 40 years. While Crane has worked in all mediums, over time she has come to favor graphite and acrylic. Her work is inspired by nature, flowers, whimsy, and abstract ideas. She usually works from photographs and has learned most of her skills as a member of the Ottawa Art League, where she has attended lectures and taken classes. Her graphite

"Waiting for a Hug" won best of show two years ago.

Specht has always been drawn to the arts. She favors the impressionistic form of painting and enjoys exploring abstract as well as experimenting with polymer clay. While living in Michigan, Specht founded a group called "Beads, Beauty & Beyond," in which jewelry makers donated their polymer clay jewelry to the local cancer center.

While living in Michigan, Specht studied under author/artist Larry Blovitz as well as with Cheri Petri of the Petri Art Gallery in Pentwater, Mich. After returning to Illinois, she became a member of the LaGrange Art League and took classes

while in the area. Specht now lives in Ottawa, where she is an active member of the Ottawa Art League and continues to study art through the many classes and opportunities provided by the Ottawa Art League and Open Spaces Art Gallery. Over the past seven years, she has received blue, red, and white ribbons for her artwork.

In addition to the opening reception on Jan. 28, the NCI ARTworks is currently open to the public for private viewing by appointment. To virtually preview the exhibit, please visit <https://www.nciartworks.com/january-2024-1t-nci-artworks.html>.

To personally view and purchase the items on exhibit please email [outreach@nciartworks.com](mailto:outreach@nciartworks.com) to schedule a time.

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## “Bonnie & Clyde” kicks off the 2024 production season for Stage 212

LaSALLE—Stage 212’s 2024 season takes off like a shot (or two) with Frank Wildhorn’s Tony-nominated musical “Bonnie & Clyde.” At the height of the Great Depression, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow went from two small-town nobodies in West Texas to America’s most renowned folk heroes and Texas law enforcement’s worst nightmares. Set against a musical backdrop of blues, gospel and rockabilly, “Bonnie & Clyde” is an electrifying story of love, adventure and crime.

“Bonnie & Clyde” will be presented Feb. 2-4 and Feb. 9-11 at Stage 212, 700 First St., LaSalle. Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees begin at

2 p.m. Tickets will be available to the general public for \$22 each beginning Jan. 22, and may be purchased by visiting the box office Monday 4-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon or by calling 815-224-3025 during those hours. Tickets may also be purchased online by visiting stage212.org.

Appearing in the cast are Alexia Donovan as Bonnie Parker, Jake Jakielski as Clyde Barrow, Adysen Boaz as Young Bonnie, Jackson Layhew as Young Clyde, Sarah Hunter as Blanche Barrow, Xavier Barham as Buck Barrow, Fred Davis as Ted Hinton, Kelly Johnson as Emma Parker, Jenny Parks-Hendershott as Cumie Barrow,

Nik Frig as Henry Barrow/Archie/Deputy Johnson, Michael Lee as Preacher, Chris Kelley as Detective Hamer/John, Joe Peshel as Sheriff, Sol Delgado as Trish, Michelle Hainline as Stella, Jennifer Walk as Eleanor, Alex Mintier as Cop/Shopkeeper/Bank Teller, AJ Botero as Governor/Judge, Chris Kieffer as Bob Alcorn/Police Officer and Cole Roark as Deputy Bud/Prison Guard. Featured in the ensemble are Yvette Lucas, Alex Mintier, Carol McConville, Caydence Luke, Jadyn Leone, Maggie Wiegman and Shelby Domoleczny

Production staff includes director/music director Samantha Farb, producer April Ruiz,

production assistant Ella Johns, stage manager Vincent Borzumato, costume coordinator Michelle Hainline, intimacy coordinator Jordan Christopherson, set designer Matthew Farb, set construction crew Matthew Farb, Jason Hainline, Jeff Sudakov and cast, lighting designer Sarah Breyne, sound designer/operator Kyle Foley, projections by Samantha Farb and production photographer Jackie Koncor.

“Bonnie & Clyde” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com).

## Master Gardener Program plans to help you start seeds

STREATOR – Have you tried your hand at seed starting only to be disappointed when the seeds don’t germinate or just die off unexpectedly? The Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall-Putnam Master Gardener Program will be offering several seed starting workshops during the month of February to answer many of the questions new and old gardeners alike have about the seed starting process. Master Gardeners will provide information and demonstrations focusing on the soil type, containers, temperature, light and moisture requirements of various vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Participants will practice starting their own seeds to bring home.

Master Gardeners with various methods and a history of success in seed starting will be available for workshops throughout the service area. These workshops are free of charge and open to the public. The following dates and times will re-

quire registration to ensure materials and space. Seed Starting workshops will be held on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the Streator Public Library, and at the Utica Public Library district located at 224 Mill St, North Utica, on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 5 p.m.

To register for one of these workshops please go to the following links: Streator Public Library-Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.-[go.illinois.edu/streatorseeds](http://go.illinois.edu/streatorseeds) Utica Public Library-February 13-5 p.m.-[go.illinois.edu/startseeds](http://go.illinois.edu/startseeds)

Additional information will be available as other workshops are confirmed.

Please do not hesitate to contact Bettyann Harrison, Master Gardener/ Master Naturalist Coordinator at [bettyann@illinois.edu](mailto:bettyann@illinois.edu) or (309) 364-2356 if you require special accommodations to attend or have additional questions about the Seed Starting Workshops.

## Human Services Transportation Plan Regional Transportation Meeting for Region 3 planned for Jan. 26

PERU – The next Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Regional Transportation Committee Meeting for Region 3 (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, and Putnam counties) will be held on Friday, Jan. 26, at 10 a.m. at the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission, 4231 Progress Blvd, Suite 3, Peru.

Human service organizations with an interest in public transportation are

strongly encouraged to attend, as well as anyone interested in public transit. If you would like further information, please contact via email: [hstp@ncicg.org](mailto:hstp@ncicg.org) or call (815) 433-5830.

There will be reserved time slots available for public comment via Zoom for anyone not able to attend the meeting in person between 10:15-10:30 a.m. If you would like to participate in public comment via Zoom during that time frame, please

call (815) 433-5830 to reserve your time slot.

HSTP identifies transportation needs and develops solutions to improve transportation services for the general public. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and veterans. For more information about NCICG, HSTP, or if special accommodations are needed, please contact Connor Schwinn at (815) 433-5830.

## Nerf Battle returns to Graves-Hume Public Library

MENDOTA – Join Graves-Hume Public Library for one of its most popular programs, the Nerf Battle, at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29.

Bring your Nerf supplies and be ready to battle indoors.

“Our annual Nerf Battle is a program that most of the tweens look forward to every year,” said Jen Bresley, the library’s tween/teen manager. “This program allows 5th-8th graders to battle it out inside the library with their very own Nerf guns. It is always exciting to see the teamwork and sportsmanship that is displayed by the teams when they work together to capture their opponent’s flag. So, for all those wanting to enjoy the library Monday, January 29th, watch out as the library will temporarily become a Nerf gun war zone.”

This event is open to all. No library card required. For more information check out the Graves-Hume Public Library Facebook page, stop in for a newsletter, or call 815-538-5142 to register.

## Want to add fresh herbs to your landscape?

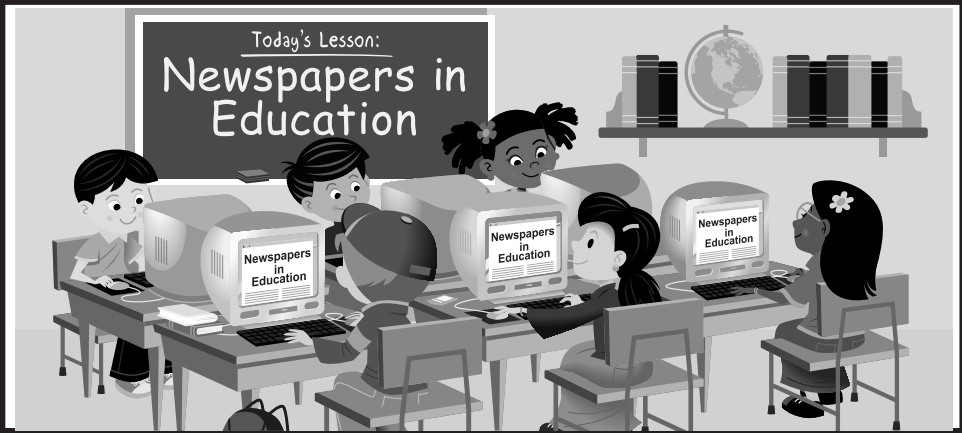
GRANVILLE – Have you always wanted to add fresh herbs to your landscape, but were curious about their care and use?

The University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Program will be presenting a free workshop on Herb Gardening. Participants will learn how to select, plant, and maintain herb gardens so that they add beauty to the home landscape while offering added culinary and other uses.

The workshop will

be held at the Granville branch of the Putnam County Library District, 214 S Meccoy St, Granville, on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 5:30 p.m.

To register, go to [go.illinois.edu/herbs](http://go.illinois.edu/herbs) to ensure adequate space and materials. Please contact Master Gardener/Master Naturalist Coordinator at [bettyann@illinois.edu](mailto:bettyann@illinois.edu) or (309) 364-2356 if you need reasonable accommodation to attend or have additional questions about the program.



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# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Judith M. Lysland

PAWPAW – Judith Marie Lysland, 62, of Paw Paw, passed away Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, at Allure of Mendota, from a stroke in early November.

Cremation care has been provided by Torman Funeral Home. A gathering of remembrance for Judy will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, July 6, 2024, in the basement of the Paw Paw First Presbyterian Church, 398 Chicago Road, Paw Paw. Burial of cremated remains will be at Wyoming Township Cemetery in Paw Paw.

Judy was born on Oct. 14, 1961, in Mendota, to Ronald L. and Sharlene (Becker) Lysland.

Judy is survived by her mother, Sharlene, of Paw Paw; a sister, Linda (John) Due of Mendota; brother-in-law, Mike Reynolds of Paw Paw; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews; her buckskin horse, Tulsa; and her cat, Max.

Judy is preceded in death by her father, Ron, and a sister, Kathryn Reynolds.

Judy attended Paw Paw High School, graduating with the class of 1979. Thanks to everyone involved in her care the last two months.

Please visit [www.tormanfuneralhome.com](http://www.tormanfuneralhome.com).

## Area citizens invited to take broadband survey

OTTAWA—Your voice matters. Help shape North Central Illinois’ broadband future by taking a five-minute survey.

The North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) is developing a Broadband Strategic Plan in partnership with TPMA and BHC to improve broadband connectivity in the region. Access to reliable high-speed internet is vital for education, business, healthcare, and overall quality of life. Broadband access affects every aspect of daily life and is as important as any other utility. Your input is vital in identifying key gaps in broadband access.

To develop the plan, NCICG and TPMA, working in partnership with the University of Illinois Extension, is conducting a survey to gather insights about internet service in the seven-county region

of Bureau, Grundy, LaSalle, Livingston, Marshall, Putnam, and Stark. Your participation in the survey will provide crucial information on the state of broadband in the region and help inform decision-making.

As part of this survey effort, information will be collected about internet service at a variety of locations, including homes, businesses, and community/public buildings. Because this survey includes a speed test component, participants are asked to take the survey while connected to the wi-fi at the site they are answering questions about.


Please take a moment to complete the survey by Sunday, Feb. 11, using the link [go.illinois.edu/ConnectNorthCentralIL](http://go.illinois.edu/ConnectNorthCentralIL).

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Kevin Lindeman, [info@ncicg.org](mailto:info@ncicg.org), 815-433-5830.

## DEATH NOTICES

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

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Artistic Memorials



Publication No. (USPS 339-100)  
Vol. 146, No. 4

A Charter Member of  
Mendota Area Chamber  
of Commerce  
Member Northern Illinois  
Newspaper Association  
and Illinois Press  
Association

The Mendota Reporter  
(339-100) is published  
weekly at 703 Illinois  
Ave., Mendota, IL 61342.  
Subscription rates are \$56  
per year in advance in  
LaSalle, Lee and Bureau  
counties and \$76 per year  
in advance in the United  
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**HOW TO ENTER:**  
If you know where this scene is located in Mendota, write the answer briefly and concisely on a slip of paper and drop it off or mail it to The Mendota Reporter Office. All entries must be received no later than noon on Monday. One correct answer will be drawn each week. Prizes must be picked up at the Mendota Reporter Office.

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## EDUCATION BRIEFS

### G. Brandner obtains nursing degree

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – Grace Brandner of Mendota was among the 1,470 prospective candidates for degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee commencement exercises on Dec. 17. Brandner graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Nursing.

UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with over 22,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

### F. Anderson on Belmont U. Dean's List

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Faith Anderson of Mendota qualified for Belmont University's Fall 2023 Dean's List. Approximately 52 percent of Belmont's 7,338 undergraduate students qualified.

Belmont Provost Dr. David Gregory said, "The Dean's List achievement reflects the hard work, perseverance and dedication to academic excellence of Belmont's outstanding students. It is my privilege to congratulate these individuals on their semester-long academic efforts. To our most recent graduates receiving this distinction, you are hope-inspiring examples to your peers and future colleagues. To the students returning next semester, may this achievement be a stepping stone toward even greater pursuits in your academic journey."

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

### M. Stallings named to SNHU President's List

MANCHESTER, N.H. – Marc Stallings of Mendota has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Fall 2023 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 91-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, N.H.

### P. Marks achieves honors recognition

STEVENS POINT, Wis. – The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,500 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Paige Marks of Earlville achieved honors recognition. Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.90 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) are given the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 and honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74.

### Area students on Olivet Dean's List

BOURBONNAIS – Olivet Nazarene University has named its Dean's List students for the Fall 2023 semester. Among the students achieving the honor are Francine Brandt of Mendota, Noah DeLong of Mendota and Garrett Pertell of Sublette.

To qualify for inclusion on the Dean's List, a student must

have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts university offering more than 140 areas of undergraduate and graduate study, including the Doctor of Education in ethical leadership.

### Area students named to NIU Dean's List

DeKALB – Northern Illinois University has announced its fall 2023 Dean's List students. To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Area students who achieved this honor include: Landon Larkin of Earlville; Kaz Lockwood, William Mashare, Luke Stralka and Milena Stralka, all of Leland; Rutilio Arteaga, Shayna Kerchner, Kevin Lewis and Allison Stewart, all of Mendota.

### E. Massey on UW-Madison Dean's List

MADISON, Wis. – The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Among the students making the Dean's List is Ella Massey of Mendota.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

### Area students on SIU-C Dean's List

CARBONDALE – Southern Illinois University-Carbondale has announced its Dean's List students for the Fall 2023 semester.

Among the students named to the list are Jadyn A. Pickert of Earlville and Ash L. Holland of Mendota.

### Mendotans earn degrees from NIU

DeKALB – Over 1,100 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in December. Included among the graduates are Rutilio Arteaga, Bachelor of Science, Fashion Merchandising; Anthony Aughenbaugh, Bachelor of Science, Engineering Technology-Manufacturing Engineering Technology; and Ilian Hernandez, Bachelor of Science, Nursing, all of Mendota.

Northern Illinois University is a student-centered, nationally recognized public research university, with expertise that benefits its region and spans the globe in a wide variety of fields, including the sciences, humanities, arts, business, engineering, education, health and law.

### Iowa State names Dean's List students

AMES, Iowa – More than 10,800 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2023 Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Among the students achieving the honor are Lisa Tordai of Earlville, senior Software Engineering major; Jack Beetz of Mendota, junior Agricultural Studies major; and Sean Dullard of Mendota, senior Animal Science major.

The latest obituaries  
can be seen  
on our website,  
[mendotareporter.com](http://mendotareporter.com)

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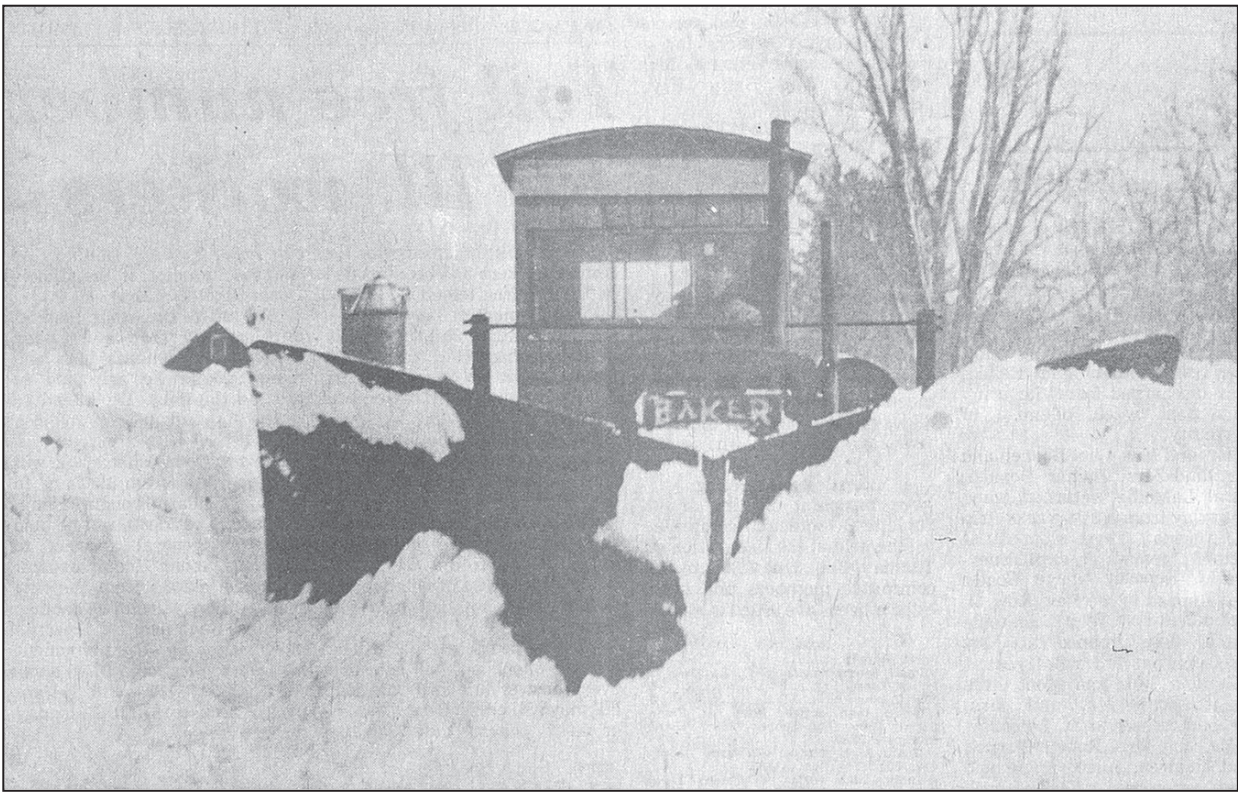


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# LOCAL AND AREA



## Snow plowing from 1936

A photograph printed in the Jan. 28, 1976, *Mendota Reporter*, taken from Jan. 28, 1936, one mile southeast of the old Henkel Bridge at the Althaus Brothers farm on the old Chicago Road shows Dearl Ellsworth guiding the Sublette Township snowplow powered by a Caterpillar tractor with a homemade cab. The snow started Christmas Day 1935 and continued throughout the winter. If a road was plowed open, the next day it would be drifted shut worse than the day before. State highways were closed for days. The Illinois Central Railroad was shut down from Feb. 8-11, 1936.

## IMEA

Continued from Page A1

“It’s really nice because this is my first time doing something this big,” Reyes said. “I did ILMEA last year and I made it to districts but not state. This year I made it.”

“I was really nervous but when I found out someone had the same schedule as me and was going to be at the same practices, it was really nice because I get anxious for big things. I’m a nervous person. This is an interesting experience and I’m really excited.”

Reyes found out he had made the all-state cut when he was working on a song.

He fought back tears as he was busy with his project, but he won’t forget when Mr. Younger told him because he’s proud he pushed himself to move outside of his comfort area and reach for ILMEA success.

**Jillian Younger**

With her father being a choir and band director, Jillian Younger has been

involved in music her entire life in the Northbrook School band and choir, church choir, MHS choirs such as treble, concert, and show, MHS musicals and plays, and 3M Productions performances.

This feat feels a little different than the rest.

“I was in the band room hallway and my dad was just standing there with Mrs. (Paula) Baker. He then said, ‘Wait a minute, before you go to eighth hour, you made the honors choir,’” said Jillian Younger. “I was very excited. Mrs. Baker was surprised by my reaction because usually I’d just say something like, ‘That’s cool.’ But I jumped up a little bit in excitement.”

“It lets me know that I can do this. I can think of music as a career. It makes me think I can potentially do it and do a good job. I have a choice where I could continue in acting. I have the ability to do a lot of the singing stuff. If I work on acting, I could put it together and be an actor.”

## Dine

Continued from Page A1

Friedman moved to Mendota from Chicago in October 2022 and Joyce has been in town for the last 20 years.

Although Friedman is from the bright lights, big city, he enjoys Mendota and sees what it can offer.

“There is really something nice about living in a space where people are kind. I was in the middle of Lincoln Square, about a mile from Wrigley Field, for a good 25 years,” Friedman said. “I got to a point in my life where I’ve been there and done that. I’m still in the city a couple of days a week so I still get that, but it’s so nice to come home to peace and quiet.”

“What I’ve been trying to do is push the agenda of making Mendota a great place. We go to Princeton, Peru, Ottawa, Utica, and all these other towns. Mendota has such potential to be a great town also. I’m all about doing whatever I can do and taking my experience to get it there.”

“All we keep thinking is how do we drive people to support our businesses instead of going to other towns.”

No one is trying to get fat or come to poor health because of too much food.

However, the Winter Dine Around is capitalizing on a reoccurring event since the beginning of time, breaking bread.

“When I was growing up my mother used to have dinner parties and cocktail parties at our house. She would cook for family and friends. Food brings people together,” Friedman said. “We talk about breaking bread. When I started a restaurant in 2008, it was all community driven. There is nothing that brings people together like dining. Why not use what we have in Mendota and that’s getting people together with great restaurants and bars in town.”

“Jill and I do our best to support the business in town anyway. We’re kind of regularly at these places, so it was an easy ask. All we’re asking from the bars and restaurants is to give a \$25 gift certificate for the prize. That’s all it costs them and we’re pushing people to patronize their business.”

“It’s a win, win, win, win, win situation for everybody, so why not?”

## District 280 Board OKs calendar for 2024-25

### □ Students to start school August 14

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education handled numerous items of business during its regular meeting on Jan. 16.

It was learned that the district’s new activity bus is on back order and is not expected to arrive until early March.

During the Athletic Committee report, it was revealed that additional football uniforms were approved to be purchased through BSN Sports.

#### PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Joe Masini shared information regarding the upcoming Illinois Youth Survey (IYS), which is a voluntary survey to be administered on Feb. 7. The purpose is to better understand Illinois youth risk and protective behaviors as they relate to students and their success. Participation will involve completing an anonymous survey to be confidentially administered by a teacher or staff. The survey comes from the Center for Prevention Research and Development/University of Illinois and is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Human Services. On the district’s IL School Report Card, it is reported as a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ whether the district participated in the IYS.

The IL 5 Essentials Survey began on Jan. 23. Students, parents and teachers across Illinois will have an opportunity to participate in the 10th annual statewide survey. It is generated to provide a detailed picture of the inner workings of the school. Parents can also share their thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in this survey. The survey window runs through March 31, and students in Illinois between fourth and 12th grades will take the survey. Important results are shared on the district’s IL Report Card.

#### SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Denise Aughenbaugh provided the district and business report at which time the board authorized her to prepare the FY25 budget.

Commendations were given to the maintenance/

custodial and transportation departments for their excellent snow removal efforts.

The board reviewed and approved the 2024-25 school calendar. The opening teacher institute days will be Aug. 12-13, with students starting school on Wednesday, Aug. 14. The semester will finish on Dec. 20 for the beginning of winter break. The spring semester will start with a teacher institute on Jan. 6, 2025. The earliest possible final day of school will be Friday, May 23, and the emergency/reserve days run through June 2. The board approved the Class of 2025 graduation date for Saturday, May 17.

The board reviewed and approved the memorandum of understanding with the Mendota Police Department to renew the school resource officer, SRO Chad Hochstatter, for 2024-25.

Necessary plumbing work was approved for the transportation department bus garage.

#### PERSONNEL ITEMS

Following an executive session, the board approved the following personnel matters:

- Accepted the resignation of Tom Olsen as bus driver; the retirement request of Tammy Stuepfert as cafeteria worker effective at the end of the school year; and the resignation of Rey Arteaga as girls’ assistant soccer coach.

- Approved the hiring of Demi Salazar as varsity volleyball coach; Laura McNally as sophomore volleyball coach; and Chris Salazar as freshman volleyball coach.

The board appointed the following volunteers:

- Brian Blumhorst, Steve Freeman and Nick Ganz, baseball; Kyle Lopez, track; Ellie Eager, volleyball; Anita Kobilsek, Sarah Motter, Kevin Alleman, Rufus Wilson, Steve Sharp, Shawn Brown, Ken Ladenburger and Kyle Ladenburger, musical.

District 280 has job openings for coaches, a bus driver and a girls’ soccer concession supervisor. For more information, contact the high school at 815-539-7446 or go online at [www.mendotahs.org](http://www.mendotahs.org).

The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board will be Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.

## Sublette Board deciding on gas provider to village

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**

Staff writer

SUBLETTE – Snow and below zero temperatures were not going to stop the Village of Sublette meeting on Jan. 15 at the Ellice Dinges Center.

The meeting did not see much action as the projects on the agenda are hard to accomplish in the winter weather.

In his president’s report, John Stenzel said there was a water leak under the trailer at 404 W. Virginia St. TJS Excavating couldn’t find the water line, but it was able to fix the leak by using a hydro vector to suck the water out of a hole in the mobile home.

Also, Stenzel met with Nicor Gas Company as the village is still working on whether or not to use a different gas service. Storm tile on East Main Street and South U.S. 52 needs to be dug and the president thinks Nicor should cover the cost.

Stenzel ended the report stating garbage charges have been dropped on abandoned houses in Sublette.

In unfinished and finished business, topel work on Richmond, Virginia, and Reeve roadways was discussed. The water main may need to be redirected. The estimated price from Willette, Hofmann & Associates, land surveying, is \$7,500.

A motion to pass the cost for the topel work was going to be made until it was decided to table the motion until the weather would allow the work to be done. If passed now, the work still wouldn’t start until the spring.

The two LED speed signs for Sublette – one is battery powered and the other solar powered – have been ordered and should arrive any day. The LED signs were bought and paid for by grant money received in 2023.

Before the meeting was over, bills were agreed to be paid.

Also, Trustee Larry Ellis brought up microphones being used for the village meetings because some board members are hard to hear from the other side of the room, which has been brought to attention in previous meetings.

## MFD: Keep fire hydrants clear

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

During a fire, seconds

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

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

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## L.E.A.S.E. preschool screenings set Feb. 13

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

The screenings are for children who are 3 or 4


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

All children must be screened to be considered for the Mendota District #289 Preschool Program. If your child has been screened by L.E.A.S.E. already, he/she does not need to be screened again. Applications for Mendota

District #289 Preschool will be at the screenings. The applications and screenings will be reviewed by the preschool team, and you will be contacted as to whether your child qualifies for preschool.



# OPINION



**The Mendota Reporter**

Award-winning Newspaper IPA/NINA Ill. Press Assoc./No. Ill. Newspaper Assoc.

Tonja Greenfield, Publisher  
Kip Cheek, Managing Editor  
Brandon LaChance, News Reporter  
Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager  
Jamie Stanford, Account Executive

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writer or artist. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Reporter management or staff.

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.

## Is it over?

Growing up I always had a book, comic book, newspaper, or magazine in my hand.

I read some of the South Beloit, Rockford, Sycamore, DeKalb, and Mendota education system's books before I saw them on the syllabus.

I read comics and drew my own before stuffing them in the pages to pass along to my friends.

My first job at 10 years old was delivering the DeKalb Daily Chronicle. Then I added the Chicago Tribune to my route to add funds in my piggy bank.

I bought an autographed Barry Bonds baseball. It was a fake autograph from Walmart, but I had earned every penny, and I was happy I had the ball until it was thrown over my neighbor's fence by a kid my sister's aunt used to babysit. I was grounded for two weeks for punching him in the face.

I bought my first pair of Jordans, any candy I wanted from White Hen and multiple scoops, not just one, at the ice cream shop. I went to the movie theater in downtown Sycamore to watch Lion King and the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers so many times I had all of the souvenir cups. Obviously, the White Power Ranger was my favorite.

Plus, I learned how to read the news, understand the news, and accept the importance of what I possessed every day.

It was life.

I had all the sports standings.

The movie schedule.

Cartoons.

Photos of politicians I could draw on.

Obviously, I grew up and the only writing on the newspaper I did was in the crossword, and I actually read the political, environmental, technology stories to know what was going on.

Over the years, I've had subscriptions to Game Informer, Sports Illustrated, TIME, the Chicago Tribune, the New York Times, and the Southern Illinoisian.

When it came time to decide what I wanted to do for a career after I had already put two plates, a rod, and eight screws in my left ankle from a bone-headed decision, I thought the less physical and more brainy position would be a go-to.

Why not writing?

Why not see my name in the newspaper like all those I've been looking at for all those years?

So, I set on a path to become a writer myself. And since you're reading this, I guess it's worked out.

Along the journey through college, a few newspapers, a few magazines, a few blogs, a podcast, a few radio stations, I've seen changes.

Styles, what words can be written and what can't, presentation, and the list goes on, including circulation numbers.

Newspapers, magazines, and radio broadcasts thrived before the internet. Since the virtual, web boom in the early 2000s reader numbers have dipped almost every year and the comments about print being dead or newspapers not being needed became more vibrant.

Of course, I defend, and I'll continue because there is a need, especially in local communities where no one cares about rural Illinois except the people in the communities like myself, every member of the Amboy News and the Mendota Reporter, the readers, and the advertisers.

Then I read about Sports Illustrated laying off a large number of employees on the spot and others in 90 days as the publication of almost 70 years old is over; over as we know it as they plan to continue to have stories but written by AI (artificial intelligence).

This news had to have dampened the aura in every newsroom or broadcast station across the country.

And it should squash the spirits of anyone who enjoys journalism and great stories.

I mean, that's what we all want to do. That's why we become writers and that is what has fueled journalism from the beginning of time.

As readers we want to read something done by a professional who is educated to know how to accurately tell a story with the means, justifications, and the connections of the people behind each happening.


But now stories are going to be generated artificially by technology that doesn't feel, doesn't have connection, can't get behind a story or feel the emotion coming from the subject?

How does a young child grow attachment to reading and writing?

How does a young writer find determination or the desire to become an author or a byline when there won't be professional humans publishing creative work to inspire?

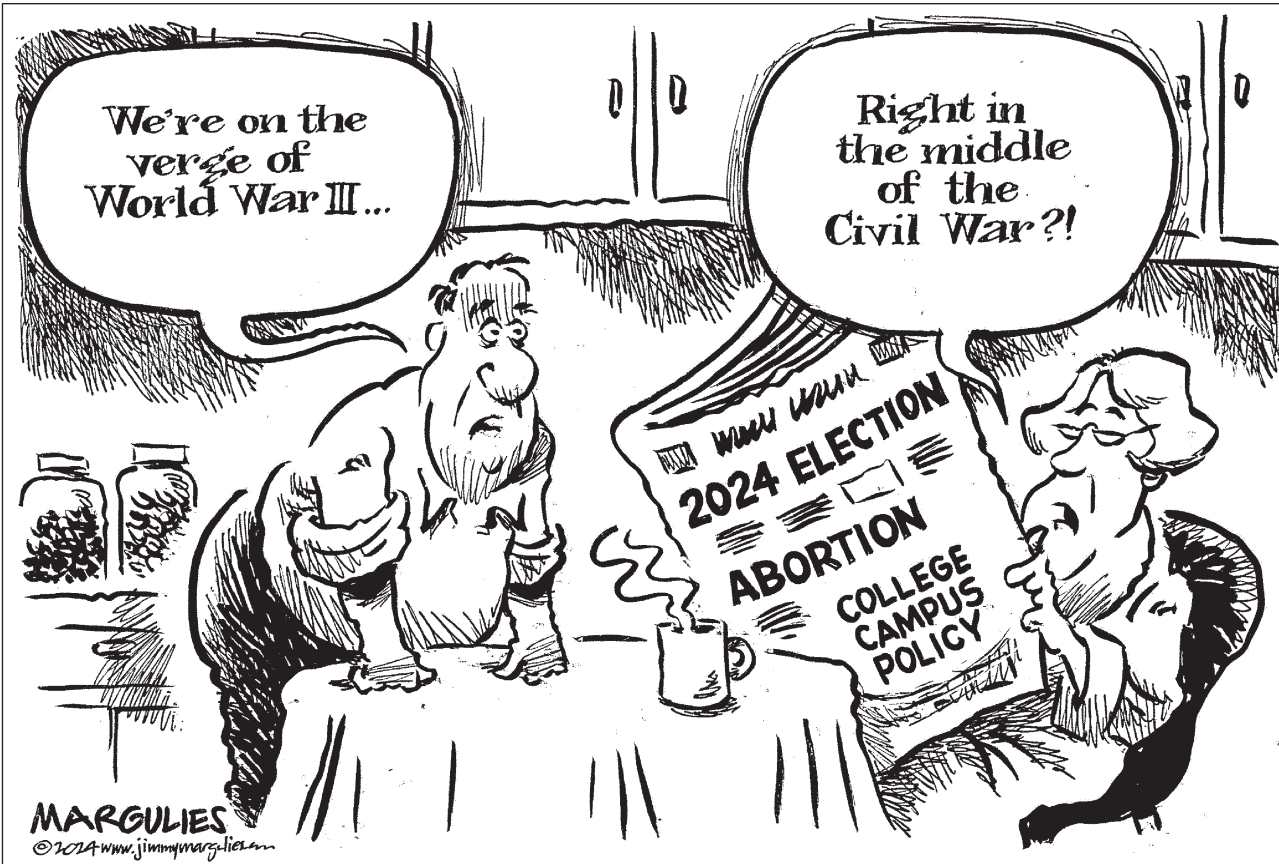
Journalism is my career, so it hits a little harder for someone like me.

But it should hit us all that we're relying more and more on technology to tell us how to live, and now, tell the stories of how we're living.



**Never the Last Chance**

By Brandon LaChance



## Fire department honors J.G. Reul – 1925

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Jan. 26, 2000.)

**By Jessica Nashold**

It was 75 years ago, on Jan. 21, 1925, that the Mendota Fire Department honored J.G. Reul for his 50 years of service at a stag saurbraten supper in the Knights of Columbus club rooms. Reul had recently resigned, but during his 50-year tenure he had twice served as fire chief. He was chief from 1897 until 1905 and again from 1910 until August 1911. Mayor Ralph Madden presented Reul with a golf badge to mark the occasion.

Less than a week later, the department was in action as two frame buildings, west of Hotel Faber, went up in flames. The buildings, owned by Mrs. Theodore Etzbach, were occupied by the Mendota Shoe Shining Parlor and Mendota Poultry Company.

The sign on the shoe-shining parlor fell on firemen John Rutishauser and Walter Gillette as they were directing a stream of water on the fire.

**Their cries for help could be heard for two blocks.**

A break-in at Mendota Township High School resulted in the theft of \$125 from a locked safe. A window in the girls' washroom had been forced open and glass in the door to Superintendent R.E. Beebe's office broken. A railroad iron was used to knock the knob off the safe. A fingerprint expert was summoned, but –

**Mystery surrounds the case.**

Srul Koopersmith, one of Mendota's junk dealers was also visited by a thief. Someone had stolen furs valued at \$300 during the night.

**Mr. Koopersmith took this loss very heavily.**

Rev. Father H. Vincent O'Brien, pastor at St. Mary's, entertained the choir at a three-course 6 o'clock dinner in the Depot Hotel dining room. Between courses there were "songs and music." The group then attended "The White Sister" at the Strand Theatre. The unanimous verdict –

**Father O'Brien is an ideal entertainer.**

## Backtracks & Sidetracks

Stockholders in the Mendota Farmers' Cooperative Supply Co. held their fifth annual meeting on Jan. 19, 1925, at the Strand. There were 231 stockholders present to hear manager John D. Barth report an excellent year.

**A good dividend was declared.**

It was announced that in the coming year, John Barth would be assisted by W.D. Hoagland, J. Harvey Barth and Ed Easter. John Scheidenhelm Jr. was president of the co-op.

Home Bureau members and guests met on Jan. 16, 1925, at the KC club rooms. There were 200 present to hear a talk by C.E. Yale, MHS ag instructor and praise from Bernie Katzwinkel for their fine work in behalf of the Mendota Agricultural Fair, especially for their work in conducting community suppers as fundraisers.

The Rev. A.M. Eels, pastor of the Mendota Presbyterian Church, presented his resignation in order to accept a call from the congregation in Hillsboro. Angus Sillars was appointed moderator until a new pastore could be selected.

Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal life insurance association celebrated its 42nd anniversary in January 1925. It had been founded in Lyons, Iowa, in 1883. Mendota Camp #165 of MWA, was organized on Oct. 24, 1884. Otto Kieslebach, one of 12 charter members, spoke of the quality of neighborliness existing before "the days of automobiles, movies and radios."

Joe Boyle opened Boyle's Smoke Shop north of the Faber Hotel. It was described as an "orderly place" patronized by a "jolly bunch of fellows." Games of cards, pool and billiards could be played. Newspapers and magazines were on hand for reading.

**Bring your friends and spend the evening.**

On Jan. 33, 1925, The Mendota Reporter introduced a new feature, a Crossword Puzzle. A puzzle would appear each week and the solution would be given the following week.

Area farmers were invited to enroll in a two-week course on tractors and gas engines under the auspices of MTHS. The course would be conducted Feb. 2-14 at Tower's factory. The Illinois State Vo-Ag Education Department was sending an instructor. The course consisted of lectures, demonstrations and work on tractors and engines. Those taking the course would supply their own tractors or engines and the following tools: monkey wrench, pliers, hammer, punch, tractor wrench, end wrench and screwdriver. To enroll, farmers would notify C.E. Yale, high school ag instructor, indicating the horsepower of the tractor or name of the engine they would be bringing in; also –

**A fee of \$1 to help pay expenses.**

A pair of MTHS basketball games in January 1925 reflected well on the team coached by H.E. Meyers. At a Jan. 16 game on the Sandwich court, Mendota won by a score of 20-18. Mendota's Louis Spenader, referred to as "the diminutive forward," shot the winning basket in the last 35 seconds of play. The following night, in Mendota, the home team won, 13-12, over Dixon, its second conference win.

Asyndicated column by Arthur Brisbane expressed concern because Japan was building 500 airplanes each month, keeping 17 factories busy day and night. Brig. General William Mitchell was quoted as saying that of the 700 planes available to the U.S. –

**Only 20 would have value as fighting machines.**

George Parsons, one of Mendota's junk dealers, posted prices he was paying for waste material in January 1925: mixed iron, \$11/ton; books and magazines, 78 cents/cwt.; baled paper, 55 cents/cwt.; old auto radiators, 5 cents/pound; and copper, 9 cents/pound.

## What Democrats will never do to defend democracy

**By Rich Lowry**

Joe Biden went to Valley Forge to give a big speech telling us how much he cares about defending democracy against the threat represented by Donald Trump. How much does President Biden care? Enough to give a speech defending democracy, one of what's sure to be many if Trump is his opponent.

Biden's alarm about the precariousness of the American system, though, will never translate into actions he wouldn't otherwise want to take.

To wit, if Joe Biden were, as a matter of the principle, devoted to defending democracy at all costs, the first thing he would do would be to step aside for some younger, more capable, less radioactive Democrat with a much better chance of beating Trump.

Biden taking this step would be politically electric, underlining how seriously he takes Trump's challenge to the republic and perhaps proving to some skeptics that his rhetoric about defending democracy is more than simply rhetoric.

Biden made much in his hackneyed speech -- it probably could have been written by a precocious eighth-grader in an AP government class -- of a painting in the U.S. Capitol of George Washington resigning his commission.

Biden correctly calls it a sublime act, because Washington, who could have been tempted to leverage his position after the Revolution for personal and political gain, gives up power in the service of his ideals instead. Biden makes the contrast between the statesmanship depicted in the painting and Jan. 6, which is fair enough.

It probably doesn't even occur to him, though, that if a supremely talented military and political leader in his prime could step aside for the good of the whole, it should be much easier for a hack politician who is increasingly rickety and unpopular to make a selfless sacrifice for his party and, as he sees it, his country.

No? No. Of course not.

Biden's defense of democracy has to end with him in the White House again, not some other Democrat who might

vanquish Trump easily. (Granted, Kamala Harris would complicate a Biden-stepping-aside scenario, but if the republic is at risk, perhaps Democrats could also be honest about how dreadful Harris is and nominate someone else -- although now we are really entering the realm of fantasy.)

OK, so Biden isn't voluntarily going anywhere. But if the stakes this November are so world-historical, surely the defense of democracy should include some moderation on progressive causes that are easy political targets for Trump. Consider the chaos at the border, which, if Trump makes it back to the White House, will be one of the major reasons. Would saving the republic make it worth going beyond whatever border deal might be in the offing with congressional Republicans and admitting that the Trump policies worked and should be restored immediately? Or is allowing millions of illegal immigrants into the country more important than increasing the odds that democracy itself survives beyond 2024?

Finally, if substantive concessions are too painful, there's always the possibility of staking out some genuinely new ground in the democracy debate itself. Imagine if Biden said that democracy is so important that no one should be striking his probable opponent from the ballot. Or if he said he now realizes that he, too, let down the constitutional order by undertaking executive orders that exceeded his authority and that, on second thought, he needs to lead by example in complete faithfulness to the system.

Would that kill him? Evidently, yes.

Biden's position is that democracy is under such a threat that he -- the man with abysmal approval ratings who most Americans believe can't possibly serve a second term -- needs to run again to eke out a narrow, no-margin-for-error victory against the man who embodies the threat.

Faith in our system of government, patriotism itself, supposedly demands nothing else. And if Biden flubs it, which is a real possibility? Then, I guess it's, "Oh, well, democracy can always be saved again in the 2026 midterms."

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

**Q:** Is that Demi Moore I see in the new “Feud” series? Is this her first acting role since she deserted Hollywood a few years ago?

-- **K.H.**



Moore

**A :** When Demi Moore was married to her husband at the time, actor Bruce Willis (“Die Hard”), started their family in the late 1980s, they would eventually escape Los Angeles for the peaceful mountain town of Hailey, Idaho. They had three daughters, but ended up splitting a decade later. Moore stayed in Idaho and took a break from acting, especially after starring in back-to-back box-office disappointments -- “Striptease” and “G.I. Jane.”

When Moore tried to ease back into acting, the roles were few and far between. In an interview with Red magazine back in 2007, Moore said that “there aren’t that many good roles for women over 40. A lot of them don’t have much substance, other than being someone’s mother or wife.”

But if you look at Moore’s list of credits, there really isn’t that much of a gap between projects. She has had numerous roles over the past two decades; it’s just that they’re not very high-profile.

Her autobiography, “Inside Out,” was published in 2019. During the pandemic, she quarantined in Idaho with her girls and Willis. It was eventually revealed that Willis was suffering from a neurological disorder. He and Moore remain close, along with Willis’ current wife, Emma.

Now Moore is part of a terrific ensemble group of women over 40 in the new FX series “Feud: Capote vs. The Swans,” based on a true story set in the 1960s. Moore plays one of the socialites that author Truman Capote (“In Cold Blood”) betrayed in a tell-all book. Molly Ringwald (“Sixteen Candles”), Naomi Watts and Calista Flockhart co-star, with Tom Hollander playing Capote.

\*\*\*

**Q:** Where have I seen football commentator Kyle Brandt before? I read that he was on the MTV reality show “The Real World,” but I didn’t watch that. He looks familiar to me. -- **Z.I.**

**A:** Kyle Brandt, one of the hosts of “Good Morning Football” on the NFL Network, was part of “The Real World: Chicago” on MTV in 2001. My guess is that you recognize him from his brief acting career where he played Philip Kiriakis on “Days of Our Lives” from 2003-06.

He’s definitely found what he’s good at, which is talking about football. His high-energy, hilarious segment called “Angry Runs,” in particular, will definitely jolt you awake on “Good Morning Football” weekday mornings.

\*\*\*

**Q:** Is “Bridgerton” returning to Netflix anytime soon? I’ve read all the books, so I know there is more story to tell. -- **B.P.**

**A:** Yes, “Bridgerton” will be back on Netflix on May 16 with part 1 of the third season. The second part of the season will premiere on June 13.

New cast members include Daniel Francis (“Once Upon a Time”) and Sam Phillips (“The Crown”). Phoebe Dynevor, who starred as Daphne in the first two seasons, will be sitting this one out, but hopes that her character will return in the future.

## Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD --** Becoming famous has its drawbacks. Two-time Irish Film and Television Award winner Jamie Dornan became a fan favorite as Christian Grey in “Fifty Shades of Grey” (2015), “Fifty Shades Darker” (2017) and “Fifty Shades Freed” (2018). But with that kind of adoration can come unexpected problems. Dornan told The Independent, “I had a situation ... a stalker-type situation before COVID. ... Someone turned up at my house when my kids were there.”



Dornan

The incident scared him so much that he became secretive and withdrew in many ways. “The more I can block that out,” he confessed, “the better it is for me and the family!” It forced him to pull back and change up his approach with his career by slowing things down and becoming more guarded and selective. The notoriety and serial implications that went with the “Fifty Shades” tril-

ogy attracted some savory, obsessed fans.

Since “Fifty Shades,” he’s scored with “Belfast” (2021) and his last film, “A Haunting in Venice” (2023). He will soon be seen in season two of the British series “The Tourist,” which will drop on Feb. 29 on Netflix. No word yet on season three.

\*\*\*

Ryan Reynolds is starring in the live-action/animated fantasy-comedy “IF,” produced by John Krasinski, who also wrote, directed and starred in the film. It follows a young girl who has the ability to see people’s imaginary friends, referred to as “IFs.”

The film captures the voices of Steve Carell, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Louis Gossett Jr., Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, Maya Rudolph, Jon Stewart, Sam Rockwell, Sebastian Maniscalco, Christopher Meloni, Richard Jenkins, Awkwafina and Vince Vaughn. Paramount Pictures will release it in theaters on May 17.

\*\*\*

From seeing imaginary friends to seeing aliens! Writer/director and veteran cinematographer Richard Bakewell has rounded up

some great veteran actors from the ‘80s to costar in “Roswell Delirium.” Based in 1986, the screenplay is about a young woman who believes she can contact aliens that can help cure the after-effects of a nuclear disaster.

To get you in the ‘80s mood, Bakewell has cast Anthony Michael Hall (“The Breakfast Club”), Dee Wallace (“E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial”), Sam J. Jones (“Flash Gordon”), Reginald VelJohnson (“Family Matters”) and Lisa Whelchel (“The Facts of Life”) to support the film’s young star, Kylee Levien (“Emily Ever After”). It drops on Netflix on March 15.

\*\*\*

Tom Cruise, 61, is reportedly dating Russian model Elsina Khayrova, 36. Khayrova is a mother of two who was formally married to a Russian oligarch close to Vladimir Putin for a decade. Now a British citizen living in London, she and Cruise have been seen around Blighty, but somehow, she doesn’t seem to fit the love profile of our “Top Gun!”

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## Couch Theater

“True Detective: Night Country” (TV-MA) -- After several decades, Jodie Foster is making a great return to television by leading the newest season of the anthology crime drama series “True Detective.” Foster plays Detective Liz Danvers, making this her first adult TV role and first starring role in a TV series since 1975! Opposite of Foster is Kali Reis as steely Detective Evangeline Navarro, who partners up with Liz to close out one last case before they go their separate ways. The case centers around the disappearance of eight men who operated a research station in the cold and rough Alaskan night country. The first two episodes are out now, with subsequent episodes releasing every Sunday until Feb. 25. (Max)

“Griselda” (TV-MA) -- Crime dramas abound this week! Hailing from Eric Newman, the showrunner of the series “Narcos,” comes a new crime-drama miniseries led by none other than Sofia Vergara (“Modern Family”). Vergara sheds her usually cheery persona to portray Colombian drug lord

Griselda Blanco, nicknamed “the Black Widow” and “the Godmother of Cocaine.” After being introduced to the drug industry by her second husband, Blanco based her drug trade business in Miami during the 1980s and kept it bustling with profits of \$80 million a month. Alberto Guerra and Vanessa Ferlito co-star in main roles, while Colombian singer Karol G stars in her first on-screen role ever! All six episodes release on Jan. 25. (Netflix)

“Masters of the Air” (TV-MA) -- Based on the 2007 book by Donald L. Miller, this war-drama miniseries features Academy-Award nominee Austin Butler (“Elvis”) and Callum Turner (“Fantastic Beasts”) as Air Force Majors Buck Cleven and John Egan, respectively. The two majors were the first pilots assigned to the 100th Bomb Group during World War II, which was given the name “Bloody Hundredth” due to the incredibly difficult missions and heavy losses incurred. But no matter the ruthless conditions, Buck and John are determined to lead their men through these missions. The cast is hefty,

with over 50 actors noted in the main cast, but make sure to watch out for a few familiar faces like Barry Keoghan (“Saltburn”) and Anthony Boyle (“Harry Potter and the Cursed Child”). (Apple TV+)

*In Case You Missed It*

“Bottoms” (R) -- Produced by Elizabeth Banks (“Cocaine Bear”), this film stars comedian/writer Rachel Sennott (“The Idol”) and Golden Globe winner Ayo Edebiri (“The Bear”) as two unpopular lesbian high school students. This hormonal pair of best friends are desperate and mortified that they’re seniors who haven’t had sex yet, so they hatch a plan to create a feminist self-defense club to help them cozy up to the girls they have crushes on. Rooted in hysterical juvenile chaos, this club escalates into somewhat of a girl gang, even exacting revenge on the conceited quarterback of the football team. Kaia Gerber (“Babylon”) and Nicholas Galitzine (“Red, White & Royal Blue”) co-star. Out now! (MGM+)

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## Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

\* Ever wonder why your kitty tries to play or even fight with its own reflection in a mirror? Animal specialists believe felines don’t realize that their image isn’t another animal because it has no scent.

\* And speaking of scent, the Odeuropa research project has created an online encyclopedia dedicated to the history of smells.

\* Vomitoriums in ancient Rome weren’t actually spaces for gastronomic feasting and purging, but an architectural feature in stadiums that allowed for more efficient crowd exits.

\* Null Island gets its curious moniker from its coordinates: zero degrees latitude and zero degrees longitude. It also doesn’t exist, but is the result of a common error in GIS data.

\* ChatGPT can easily be convinced it’s wrong, even when it’s right.

\* Irving Berlin dedicated all royalties from “God Bless America” to a fund of the same name, specifically for the benefit of such youth organizations as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in New York City. To date, more than \$10 million has been raised.

\* Researchers at Dublin City University found that soccer goalkeepers process both visual and auditory cues more efficiently than other players, as well as non-players, which could be the clue to their speedy reactions during games.

\* By 2027, Sweden plans to boast a city made entirely of wood.

\* The last U.S. conviction for blasphemy went to atheist activist Charles Lee Smith in 1928, after he rented a Little Rock, Arkansas, storefront and put a sign in the window reading: “Evolution Is True. The Bible’s a Lie. God’s a Ghost.” Because, as an atheist, he couldn’t swear the court’s usual oath to tell the truth, he also couldn’t testify in his own defense.

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**King Crossword**

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

E	D	V	S	D	E	H	S	O	M	E	N
Z	I	L	T	V	I	E	S	O	M	E	N
V	H	V	T	V	I	A	I	A	N	O	C
H	O	N	E	S	V	O	R				
S	V	I	D	S	E	T	X	V			
S	D	N	E	L	N	O	C	N	V	A	H
V	I	V	S	E	I	S					
V	W	H	E	S	E	V	H	G	N	O	C
W	V	O	L	G	S	T	E				
D	O	G			K	L	V	L	S		
W	H	D	N	N	O	C					
V	S	L	T	O	D						
C	E	L	T	A	M	P					

## Trivia Test

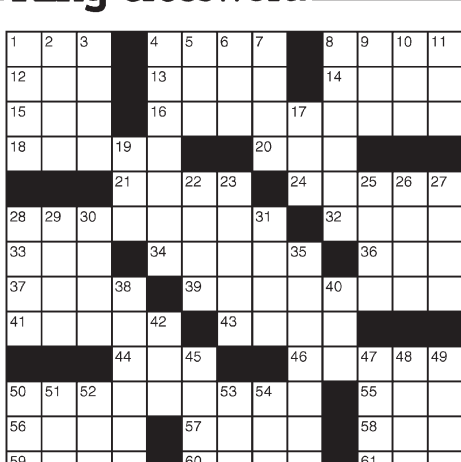
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the last name of Ken, who was Barbie’s boyfriend?
- TELEVISION: In the sitcom “The Office,” the company is in which U.S. city?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which country is The Matterhorn located?
- MUSIC: Which 1990s group was the singer Beyonce a part of?
- U.S. STATES: In which state is Monument Valley located?
- LITERATURE: In which children’s book do the characters Tweedledee and Tweedledum appear?
- MATH: In Roman numerals, what is XLVIII divided by XII?
- MEDICAL: What is a common name for polythelia?
- CHEMISTRY: How many

- elements are listed on the Periodic Table?
- MOVIES: What is the year of the Olympics in the movie “Chariots of Fire”?
- Answers
1. His full name is Kenneth Sean Carson.
  2. Scranton, Pennsylvania.
  3. Switzerland.
  4. Destiny’s Child.
  5. Arizona.
  6. “Through the Looking-Glass.”
  7. IV (Four).
  8. Having an extra nipple, which affects about 1%-5% of the population.
  9. 118.
  10. 1924.
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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- Hot tub
- Pack (down)
- Honeycomb division
- Joke
- Teen fave
- Celestial bear
- Capote nickname
- Difficult problem
- Celery unit
- Pantheon member
- Morays
- Twilight, poetically
- “Bravo!”
- Wry
- Bombbeck
- Raw rock
- Begets
- Melody
- Actress Meg
- Maintains
- Wheel connectors
- Bake sale orgs.
- Victor
- Dugout seating
- Sociable and lively
- “Caught ya!”
- Medicinal plant
- Vogue rival
- Singer Phair
- Reporter’s quest



- Workout count
- Mimic
- Boot camp
- Section
- Water, in Mexico
- Hearts, slangily
- Big fuss
- Calendar abbr.
- Advertise
- Get cozy (with)
- Blunder
- Baton Rouge sch.
- Felon’s flight
- Eggy quaff
- Triathlon segment
- Secular
- Razor sharpener
- Algerian port
- During
- Red planet
- Mrs. Dithers of “Blondie”
- African antelope
- “Hud” actress
- Patricia
- Faxed
- Equine homes
- Butterflies
- Language suffix
- High school subj.
- Declare
- “The Lion King” lion
- Intel product
- Visibility hindrance
- Fire
- Flamenco cheer
- At once
- de-France
- Jungfrau, for one

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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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# LOCAL AND AREA

## First Federal Savings announces promotions

OTTAWA – First Federal Savings Bank recently announced the promotion of Gayle A. Peasley to Vice President of Branch Operations. Peasley has been with the bank since 1995 holding positions in branch management and branch supervision. Most recently, she has held the position of Assistant Vice President/Branch Coordinator.



Peasley



Harris

and in both a management and agent capacity for First Fed Insurance Agency, Inc. She most recently held the position of Assistant Vice President of Human Resources. President and CEO Konni Rodeghier stated, “I would like to congratulate and thank Gayle Peasley and Carol Harris for their dedication and service. Not unlike any other small business, it is the talent and commitment of our team that sets us apart. They are key members of our management team and together we are focused on the future of our community bank.”



## IVCC wants to hear your stories as it preps for centennial

OGLESBY – Over the last 100 years, LPO-IVCC has inspired a lot of stories – all of them yours.

Now, as the college prepares to celebrate its centennial amid a flurry of archive dives, keepsake roundups, and commemorative activities, IVCC is preparing to write its next chapter – and that begins, as it always has, with you!

IVCC wants to collect your memories of the college, and is giving you the opportunity to tell your LPO-IVCC story!

Were you introduced to new ideas, or a career – or your spouse? Are your ties generations-strong?

Who or what had a profound effect on you? Who, or what, exposed your leadership, your entrepreneurial spirit, your artistry, or profoundly impacted your life?

And how did LPO-IVCC fit in the ways you impacted the

lives of others in the Illinois Valley and beyond?

Did you witness the lights going dim and the swelling applause that greeted your appearance on the theater stage? Or do your memories spring from slugging that winning home run or sprinting across the court to congratulate your teammates?

Did the GI Bill propel your college adventure and later career, or did generosity through a scholarship make a difference in your life?

Just as there is no limit to how far LPO-IVCC has taken you, there is no end to the reasons why LPO-IVCC means so much to you. There are no small tales – they all count in making LPO-IVCC what it is and will be. You’re all still a part of the story, as IVCC has been a part of yours for a century and counting.

Tell your story at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/kSY7iKaUFL>



Minds of All Kinds members Aaron Noble, Alexia Gross and Sonja Penney welcomed questions from classmates during Spirit Day 2023. Members of the new neurodiversity group are gearing up for a new semester of activities, support and advocacy. (Photo contributed)

## Minds of All Kinds group starts at IVCC

OGLESBY – IVCC’s newest diversity student organization is finding its voice.

The aptly named Minds of All Kinds is a group for whom neurodiversity is no mystery, and members who formed it last fall have been introducing the group and the concept behind it to classmates. Now they’re deciding what’s next.

Through leadership in campus and community diversity and equity issues, Tina Hardy hopes the group will give members a place to be heard – but she also wants it to be a place to belong. “It’s a place to be you and to tell others about you,” said the coordinator of IVCC’s Center for Accessibility and Neurodiversity.

“Students will have a chance to participate in events and activities they never felt they could before. They will see that they can make contributions and be an important part of a community that has respect for them and a place for them. And that’s a big deal,” said Hardy.

The term neurodiversity acknowledges that brains develop differently, in some cases due to medical disorders, learning disabilities or other conditions. It challenges labels that Hardy says leave people feeling “less than,” or broken, who “get overlooked, sometimes, in conversations” about what will affect them.

Organizations similar to

Minds of All Kinds have sprouted on college campuses to support an often underserved and under-represented population, Hardy said. She says the IVCC group’s formation now is right in a lot of ways: “the right students, the right time at the college, the right time in society.”

What can neurodiversity look like? Hardy cites a few examples: “Some people struggle to communicate verbally or in writing but do advanced math beyond the scope of most of us. Sometimes neurodiversity looks like that. Some people can’t pay attention to boring things but their brains are suited to making decisions, acting quickly and looking at details. Some people might be creative or artistic but struggle with math or reading or organizing their thoughts. Sometimes neurodiversity looks like that.”

Unlike some physical differences, neurodiversity isn’t always apparent. But differences created by dyslexia, ADHD, autism, anxiety and other conditions still create or intensify challenges in anything from making friends or adapting to change to focusing or coping. Strategies, accommodations, or adjustments of environment can help.

Ultimately, Hardy said: “All brains are good brains and have a broad range of skills and abilities that can be valued and used. Expectations and environments

might be the problem, not the brain or the person.”

Member Alexia Gross welcomes questions from classmates because, she says, “it’s good for people to realize that people aren’t less intelligent or cop-outs if they struggle with certain things. I used to feel dumb because of that.”

“We just think and process differently but we’re still people. It’s the way our brains work,” agrees member Laura Pool.

Member Sonja Penney, no stranger to self-advocacy, wants to be an example of it to others. Her previous experience with a neurodiversity group, that she shared with Hardy, proved to be a catalyst for the IVCC group.

She’s happy knowing neurodiverse students have “somewhere to belong if they want to, where they can find support in ways they need to do better in school. And it’s important to me to know that faculty at the school I attend want to support students and actually create that support.”

Neurodiverse students “want to be treated as equals and for our opinions to be recognized,” said member Aaron Noble. He hopes neurodiverse and neurotypical people grow comfortable with each other and the concept. “The group has given me hope that I can make a positive difference in the world. I want to create events where we can talk

about mental health and how to make it better for each of us.”

Meanwhile, members have found somewhere to belong. Noble said he found a best friend. And Gross says she can relax in the company of people who understand her challenges.

“I haven’t had a connection like this before. We look out for each other,” she said. “It’s just really nice to feel like you can say anything and not have to dumb it down to people who don’t understand. I feel like where I live, neurodiversity doesn’t get talked about.”

The group’s members share their abilities on- and off campus. They are successful students. One’s a business entrepreneur. Two are tutors. One enjoys research and has found a niche as a community activist.

As a tutor, Noble says, “I can take concepts that I understand and explain them at a basic level to someone who is just getting introduced to the subject. I know what worked to help me learn, and I can show others that process.”

Adds Penney, “People with different abilities build resilience, and that’s a big skill not everyone has.”

Member Raul Campos believes the group’s diversity is its strength. “One person’s good at this, another at that, and another at another thing, so we come together and are good at different things, not just one.”

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# THE BACK PAGE

## POLICE BLOTTER

### WARRANT ARREST

Dane M. Towne, 27, of 904 Washington St., Mendota, was arrested at noon on Jan. 11 on a DeKalb County failure to appear warrant for driving while license suspended. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

### DRIVING WHILE

### LICENSE SUSPENDED

Kayla M. Falcon, 29, of 407 Fifth Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Second Street and Fourth Avenue at 2:40 p.m. Jan. 17. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### DOMESTIC BATTERY

Ethan A. Brown, 27, of 1415 E. Main St., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery at 6:08 p.m. Jan. 17. The arrest was the result of a 9-1-1 call earlier in the day and a subsequent investigation by the Mendota Police Department. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

### WARRANT ARREST

Steven D. Eisenbach, 42, of West Allis, Wis., was arrested at 11:59 p.m. Jan. 22 on a Racine (Wis.) County warrant for robbery with force after police made contact with him in the 2700 block of East 12th Street. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

## 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 berm of the city has been dedicated or given over for parking facilities.

## Mendota snowmobile routes

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

Designated snowmobile routes are as follows:

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



# DINING & entertainment guide

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714 Main St. Mendota  
815-539-7011  
Carry-out & curbside pick-up always available.

**Friday Night - January 26th**  
Cod Augratin

**Saturday Night - January 27th**  
Cookout Night  
Ribeye or Chops with Salad Bar, Vegetable and Dessert  
Full Menu Available

**Sunday Funday with Big Uproar**  
Feb. 4th from 2pm to 5pm  
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**DINNER FOR TWO**  
Saturday, Feb. 10th

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# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2024

## JAN. 29TH - FEB. 2ND

### MONDAY CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

**FAVORITE TV/MOVIE  
CHARACTER DAY**

**ALL SCHOOL PRAYER, SAINT  
PRESENTATION, & BINGO**

**1:00PM-2:30PM**

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS  
WELCOME TO JOIN

**DONATION DAY**

### WEDNESDAY CELEBRATING OUR NATION

**HOLY SPIRIT DAY**

WEAR RED SHIRT & SCHOOL BOTTOMS

**ALL SCHOOL MASS- 8AM**

FAMILIES WELCOME

**BAGS TOURNAMENT WITH  
COMMUNITY HEROES- 1PM**

### FRIDAY CELEBRATING STAFF

**SPORT DAY**

**ALL SCHOOL STREAM  
12:30PM**

### TUESDAY CELEBRATING STUDENTS

**CLASS COLOR DAY**

PRE K- RAINBOW	4TH- YELLOW
KINDER- GREEN	5TH- WHITE
1ST- ORANGE	6TH- PURPLE
2ND- PINK	7TH- BLUE
3RD- RED	8TH- BLACK

**NO HOMEWORK DAY**

**BOWLING @ ELKS**

STUDENTS NEED CLEAN/DRY  
PAIR OF SHOES

### THURSDAY CELEBRATING VOCATIONS

**DODGEBALL T-SHIRT DAY**

**ALTAR SERVER RECOGNITION**

**5TH- 8TH GRADE  
DODGEBALL  
TOURNAMENT- 1PM**

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# SPORTS



Mendota's Dane Doyle gets a shot up over the tight defense of Amboy's Eddie Jones during the Trojans' 63-48 victory on Jan. 20 at Amboy. (Reporter photo)

## Trojans get road wins over Kewanee, Amboy

Wins are always hard to come by at Kewanee, but Mendota was able to pull off the feat, 62-57, in a Three Rivers Conference battle on Jan. 19 at the Boiler gym. Mendota is 2-1 in league play.

The Trojans got off the bus firing as five different players dented the scoring column on their way to 22 points and a nine-point lead over Kewanee after the opening stanza. Mendota held a 33-27 halftime advantage.

The Boilers were able to battle back in the third period to take a 45-44 lead heading to the fourth, but the Trojans regained their composure and outscored Kewanee, 18-12, in the final frame to pick up the win.

Izaiah Nanez netted six of eight free throws in the fourth and Aden Tillman knocked down a pair of three-pointers and a conventional bucket to secure the victory.

Tillman finished with five treys and 19 points to pace the Trojans. Cale Strouss dropped in 11 points, while Nanez and Braiden Freeman had 10 tallies apiece.

\*\*\*

Mendota survived its own slow start and then a big second-half rally by Amboy

to down the Clippers, 63-48, in a nonconference contest on Jan. 20 at Amboy. The Trojans upped their record to 9-11.

The Clippers came out firing early in the first quarter as a pair of three-pointers and a conventional basket by Quinn Leffelman lifted them to a 10-2 lead. But Mendota finally found its footing and outscored Amboy, 11-1, over the remainder of the period to take a 13-11 lead.

The Trojans were able to stretch the margin to double digits at 29-16 before Amboy closed out the half on a 5-0 run to slice the count to 29-21 heading to the locker room.

Amboy's Eddie Jones scored the first basket of the third quarter to make it a 7-0 Amboy scoring streak before a three-pointer by Mendota's Tillman halted the run. A two-pointer by Tillman gave the Trojans a 36-28 advantage at the 6:04 mark of the third and then the Clippers did all of the scoring over the next two minutes and 19 seconds to take their first lead since the opening stanza.

Brody Christoffersen started a 9-0 Clipper run with a three-pointer, followed by a bucket by Troy Anderson and

MENDOTA 62, KEWANEE 57				
Mendota (62)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Strouss	4	3-6	5	11
Kelly	2	1-2	4	7
Dewey	0	1-2	3	1
Nanez	2	6-9	3	10
Freeman	5	0-0	3	10
Tillman	7	0-0	3	19
Doyle	2	0-2	1	4
Totals	22	11-21	22	62

Kewanee (57)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Jordan	0	0-0	1	0
G. Lewis	3	0-0	0	7
B. Lewis	2	2-4	3	8
Reed	3	2-4	3	10
Conley	0	0-0	3	0
Murray	0	0-0	2	0
Welgat	0	0-0	1	0
Clark	13	6-12	4	32
Ellerbrock	0	0-0	1	0
Johnston	0	0-0	3	0
Totals	21	10-20	21	00

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	22	33	44	62
Kewanee	13	27	45	57
Three-point goals: Mendota - Tillman 5, Kelly 2; Kewanee - G. Lewis 1, B. Lewis 2, Reed 2				

then a steal and slam dunk by Jones. An Ezra Parker hoop completed the scoring binge to give Amboy a 37-36 lead with 3:45 left in the quarter.

The lead went back and forth over the next two minutes with Amboy's final advantage being 41-40. Mendota tallied the final six points of the period on two free throws from Tillman and baskets by Logan Dewey and Nanez.

Mendota's Dane Doyle connected on a three-pointer

MENDOTA 63, AMBOY 48				
Mendota (63)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Strouss	5	1-2	3	13
Aughenbaugh	2	0-0	4	5
Kelly	2	0-0	3	4
Dewey	1	0-0	2	2
Nanez	6	4-8	2	17
Freeman	1	1-2	2	3
Tillman	3	4-4	1	11
Doyle	3	1-2	2	8
Totals	23	11-21	22	63

Amboy (48)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Jones	5	3-4	5	13
Anderson	2	0-0	3	4
Leffelman	6	5-6	4	20
Christoffersen	1	2-3	4	5
Parker	1	2-4	3	4
Daniels	1	0-0	0	2
McNinch	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	16	12-17	20	48

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	13	29	46	63
Amboy	11	21	41	48
Three-point goals: Mendota - Strouss 2, Aughenbaugh 1, Nanez 1, Tillman 1, Doyle 1; Amboy - Leffelman 3, Christoffersen 1				

to open the fourth frame to finish off a 9-0 Trojan run. A Jones free throw broke Amboy's scoring drought, but Mendota went on to outscore the Clippers, 14-6, the rest of the way. Strouss got a steal and a layup to start a 7-0 Mendota run over the next two and a half minutes.

Nanez had 17 points and Strouss chipped in with 13 for Mendota, while Leffelman and Jones netted 20 and 13 points, respectively, for Amboy.

## L. Bauer headed to state bowling tourney

❑ MHS senior takes 4th in sectional

ROCKFORD—Mendota High School bowler Landon Bauer is on his way to the IHSA State Bowling Tournament after his performance in the Rockford Jefferson Boys' Sectional Bowling Tournament on Jan. 20 at Don Carter Lanes in Rockford.

Bauer, a senior, was one of the top seven bowlers not on a state qualifying team, which earned him a trip to state. Bauer, who finished in fourth place overall in the individual standings, rolled a six-game series of 1382. His game scores were 267, 215, 206, 244, 225 and 225.

Mike Robinson of Morton was the individual sectional champion with a 1478 series. Zach Kunkle of Minooka (1440) and Devin Titus of Machesney Park Harlem (1393) were the only other bowlers to finish ahead of Bauer.

Mendota placed eighth out of 15 schools in the team standings with a pin total of 5910. The top six schools earn bids to the state tournament. They were Machesney Park Harlem (6346), Morton (6212), Dakota (6130), Minooka (6103), Dixon (5977) and Rockton Hononegah (5967).

Fiver other bowlers competed for the Trojans in the sectional. Alex Holland fired a 1214 series with games of 258, 196, 158, 184, 215 and 203. Paxton Bauer rolled games of 168, 199, 186, 193, 198 and 217 for a series of 1161, while Kooper Novak totaled 1132 with games of 203, 231, 178, 170, 171 and 179. Dean Gilbert (164, 180, 170, 146 – 660) and BJ Bresley (224, 137 – 361) also participated for Mendota.

The IHSA State Bowling Tournament will be contested on Friday, Jan. 26 and Saturday, Jan. 27 at St. Clair Bowl in O'Fallon.



L. Bauer

## MHS lands familiar coach to area volleyball scene

❑ D. Salazar takes over Spiker program

By KIP CHEEK  
Sports editor

MENDOTA – Anyone familiar with high school volleyball in the Illinois Valley area has probably heard of Demi Salazar. He's held head coach and assistant coaching positions at Hall, LaSalle-Pe-ru, St. Bede, Ottawa, Ottawa Marquette and Henry.

Now, he can add Mendota High School to that list. The 1976 graduate of St. Bede Academy was approved by the District 280 Board of Education on Jan. 16 to become the next coach of the Spikers beginning this fall.

Salazar last coached at the high school level at Hall, stepping down in 2019 after 11 years in two different stints there to allow more time to watch his own family members play the sport. He is currently involved in the Diggersz Volleyball Club out of Spring Valley, but he's eager to get back in the high school gym.

"Mendota had a need and I have a love of volleyball for the entire Illinois Valley," said Salazar. "When I can, I do what I can to increase kids' love of it. I left volleyball for a while because my own granddaughters played and I wanted to see them. They are out of high school now and the next wave is in grade school, so the conditions have changed."

"I did come back because there is a need and I still can help volleyball in the area by getting a new group of coaches experience and

offering multiple systems so they can choose what they think works for them while setting up a system while doing what I love."

Salazar has accumulated more than 400 career wins. He captured two sectional championships at Putnam

County and two at Hall, one of those leading to a fourth-place finish in the state tournament in 2005. He is a

big believer in emphasizing the defensive aspect of the game, something he will instill in the Spiker players once they begin their time together.

"My belief is that defense gets you to state," Salazar said. "I have had three girls with 400-600 kills in one season and setters with over 800 assists in a single season, all area records. But if you look at the underlying reasons, in addition to the hitting and setting skills, the libero from that year did not let anything fall. We had multiple opportunities."

"The major stat I mark is how many times we don't touch the ball on our side. Some of our greatest games, we touched every ball. Every ball is crazy."

"We run a defense primarily called middle-middle."

See Salazar, Page B3

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# SPORTS



The Mendota girls' bowling team finished second in the Three Rivers Conference Tournament on Jan. 17. Left to right, are Brisa Nunez, Lauren Holland and Madison Sproston. (Photo contributed)

## Lady Trojan bowlers grab 2nd place in conference tourney

PRINCETON – The Mendota girls' bowling team captured second-place honors in the Three Rivers Conference Bowling Tournament held on Jan. 17 at Pin Splitter Lanes in Princeton. Kewanee was the host school. Hall took the top team spot with a 2498 series, followed by Mendota with a 2476, Erie-Prophetstown with a 2466 and Kewanee with a 2388.

The participants bowled three regular games and 10 Baker games. Mendota trailed by 156 pins at the start of the Baker format

and then finished just 22 pins out of earning the conference championship. The Baker format comprises a team of bowlers who rotate bowling in each frame in a game.

Mendota's Lauren Holland finished in fourth place overall with a 460 series. Also competing for the Lady Trojans were Brisa Nunez, eighth place with a 375 series, and Madison Sproston, 11th place with a 298 series.

Kristina Armstrong of Kewanee was the individual champion with a 490 series.

## Sophomore boys collect 2 wins

The Mendota sophomore boys' basketball team chalked up a pair of wins over Kewanee and Amboy last week. The Trojans improved to 11-7 overall and 2-1 in the conference.

The Trojans and Kewanee hooked up in a low-scoring affair that went to Mendota, 33-25, in Three Rivers Conference action on Jan. 19 at Kewanee.

Mendota held an 18-13

halftime lead before the home team sliced the deficit to two (23-21) heading to the fourth quarter. The Trojans were able to stretch the lead by outscoring Kewanee, 10-4, in the final frame.

Alex Beetz hit double digits for Mendota with 15 points, while Drew Becker and Dane Doyle connected for eight and seven points, respectively.

\*\*\*

Mendota coasted to a 56-28 nonconference victory at Amboy on Jan. 20.

The Trojans scored 29 points in the first half and then poured it on in the third period with a 22-point outburst.

Doyle had the hot hand for Mendota with 17 points, 15 of them coming in the first half. Alex Beetz was next with 13 points, while Ramiro Palacios provided seven markers.

## Trojan wrestlers set for Sandwich Regional

SANDWICH – The Mendota boys' wrestling team will participate in the Sandwich Class 1A Regional to be held on Saturday, Feb. 3.

In addition to the Trojans, other teams in the regional in-

clude Amboy [Coop], Aurora (Central Catholic), Granville (Putnam County) [Coop], Lisle (Sr.), Mooseheart, Ottawa (Marquette), Peru (St. Bede), Princeton, Sandwich and Somonauk [Coop].

In order to advance to the

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

### Salazar

Continued from Page B2

However, we know the three major defenses in case we have to run them. This is a long process, so my son, Chris, who is also coaching at MHS this fall and knows these, will be a major factor in how quickly we can achieve this. He already trains some of the Mendota junior high kids in addition to other area kids. He also has the same drive and great energy to make this happen quicker."

On offense, Salazar said he runs six major offensive patterns plus variants that can include the setter. He said if the coaches can develop hitters that reach a defense's skill zone, that can be effective with lesser talent.

"Lately, there is a shift from power hitting to tipping and the two-handed push," noted Salazar. "While effective early and needed sometimes, you notice the regionals are often won by hard hitting teams that overcome the defense. So, it appears this promotes season wins but not necessarily regional ones."

Having been around the Illinois Valley all his life, Salazar is well aware of the

volleyball success achieved at Mendota High School. But it's been over a decade (2011) since the Spikers won a regional title, and that will be on Salazar's to-do list as he takes over the program.

"When I started volleyball, the four major schools were coached by Mark Haberkorn (L-P), Mary Stephenitch (Mendota), Rita Placek (Princeton) and possibly me," said Salazar. "The entire area was a powerhouse. We talked and were a think tank, and we understood that the more power teams we could play, the better we were. We need that competition to win a regional. Mendota was the first club atmosphere and Mary was truly great at bringing that group together all year."

"The path back to there is complicated. We lost from what I see six to seven major players from this year's team, so the underclass development is key. We need all available talent and to promote sharing of it. The thought needs to be that we have four years per student to get there. We emphasize that winning in the underclass is a second priority to learning."

Salazar's son, Chris, was hired to coach the freshman team and Laura McNally moved up to the sophomore level. Salazar said Chris is excellent in the area of form and development, which is where the process starts.

"Winning comes from learning," stated Salazar. "We can't get to state just on talent. I believe if we run into something the kids don't know, it is more my fault than theirs. If kids believe in us every day, at the end of the year, we should be better. Smiles make other teams nervous."

Salazar, who is currently the Director of Technology at Henry-Senachwine schools, said he is grateful to be able to get back in the gym at the high school level and pass his vast knowledge of the sport on to the players at MHS.

"My hope is that the staff grows in the knowledge of the defensive patterns and offensive ones to prepare the kids for whatever tasks are before them," explained Salazar. "But at the end of the day, the kids need to love to play in order to win, and we are responsible for fostering that growth."

## Matmen fall to two league foes

SHERRARD – Mendota's wrestlers lost to Sherrard and Sterling Newman in a triangular meet on Jan. 18 at Sherrard.

The Trojans fell to Newman, 78-6. Gavin Stevenson got the lone win for Mendota.

Sherrard posted a 63-12 triumph over Mendota. Madrick Musgrove (pin) and Nate Giberson (forfeit) were on the winning side for MHS.

**Jan. 18 @ Sherrard**  
**Sherrard 78, Mendota 6**  
106 – Bl. Grennan (S) pinned Adrian Arteaga (M), 0:45; 113 – Gavin Stevenson (M) def. Allen (S); 120 – Hansen (S) won forfeit; 126 – Benyo (S) won forfeit; 132 – Br. Grennan (S) pinned Trayvon Rucker (M), 3:04; 138 – Messer (S) pinned Cole Kleckner (M), 1:23; 144 – Ivey (S) pinned Gavin Evans (M), 4:22; 150 – Rude (S) pinned Rhett Watson (M), 1:28; 157 – Francis (S) won forfeit; 165 – Geske (S) won forfeit; 175 – Bleckert (S) pinned Zach Schmidt (M), 0:36; 190 – Williams (S) pinned Payton Gagliardo (M), 0:47; 215 – Newberry (S) pinned Mike Thornhill (M), 3:48; 285 – Nardini (S) pinned Nate Giberson (M), 2:14

**Newman 63, Mendota 12**  
106 – Werner (N) pinned Arteaga (M), 1:08; 113 – Krahl (N) pinned Stevenson (M), 1:53; 120 – Weber (N) won forfeit; 126 – Pender (N) won forfeit; 132 – Bynum (N) dec. Rucker (M), 19-10; 138 – Fratzke (N) pinned Kleckner (M), 3:33; 144 – Knox (N) dec. Evans (M), 7-0; 150 – Adams (N) dec. Watson (M), 13-10; 157 – Dutton (N) won forfeit; 165 – King (N) won forfeit; 175 – Thomas (N) pinned Schmidt (M), 0:49; 190 – Weakley (N) pinned Gagliardo (M), 2:26; 215 – Madrick Musgrove (M) pinned German (N), 0:53; 285 – Giberson (M) won forfeit

## BOWLING

**Wednesday Night Men's League**  
Standings as of Jan. 10 – 1. Novak Farms 7-1; 2. JJ&L Carpentry 4-4; 3. Mendota Monument 4-4; 4. First State Bank 4-4; 5. O'Donnell Excavating 4-4; 6. Black Bros. 1-7

High team game (scratch) – Mendota Monument 1078, Noval Farms 1055, JJ&L Carpentry 1024

High team game (hdcp) – JJ&L Carpentry 1170, Mendota Monument 1156, First State Bank 1154

High team series (scratch) – Novak Farms 3087, Mendota Monument 2973, JJ&L Carpentry 2895

High team series (hdcp) – Novak Farms 3336, JJ&L Carpentry 3333, First State Bank 3279

High individual game (scratch) – Matt Avery 266, Tyler Schmitt 255, Nate Bradford 253

High individual series (scratch) – Matt Avery 709, Mike Smith 688, Luke Ross 670

**Monday Night Mixed League**  
Standings as of Jan. 15 – 1. Bad Kats 9-1; 2. Leagal Beagles 8-2; 3. Ramer Inc. 6-4; 4. Split Happens 4-6; 5. Sports-N-Stuff 2-8; 6. CM Farm 1-9

High team game (scratch) – Split Happens 717, Leagal Beagles 648, Ramer Inc. 639

High team game (hdcp) – Split Happens 945, Bad Kats 942, Ramer Inc. 928

High team series (scratch) – Split Happens 2048, Leagal Beagles 1880, Ramer Inc. 1845

High team series (hdcp) – Bad Kats 2750, Split Happens 2732, Leagal Beagles 2714

Men's high game (scratch) – Matt Ramer 225, Bob Thomas 223, Charlie Betz 199

Men's high game (hdcp) – Bob Thomas 277, Charlie Betz 264, Matt Ramer 253

Men's high series (scratch) – Matt Ramer 583, Bob Thomas 555, Charlie Betz 532

Men's high series (hdcp) – Charlie Betz 727, Bob Thomas 717, Matt Ramer 667

Women's high game (scratch) – Gail Sessler 215, Jessica Robinson 204, Dria Kuntz 202

Women's high game (hdcp) – Gail Sessler 277, Audrey Holocker 277, Dria Kuntz 263

Women's high series (scratch) – Gail Sessler 587, Jessica Robinson 577, Hannah Westphal 481

Women's high series (hdcp) – Gail Sessler 773, Jessica Robinson 748, Kim Smith 717

## LaMoille H.S. boys' basketball

**Jan. 17 @ Indian Creek**  
Indian Creek 68, LaMoille 42  
Stats: Tyler Billhorn 22 points, 9 rebounds; Brayden Klein, 14 points; Connor Deering 5 rebounds

**Jan. 18 @ LaMoille**  
LaMoille 45, DePue 27  
Stats: Billhorn 13 points, 17 rebounds; Deering 12 points, 12 rebounds; Klein 11 points

**Jan. 20 @ LaMoille**  
Orangeville 72, LaMoille 62  
Stats: Klein 22 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists; Billhorn 21 points, 13 rebounds; Josh Martin 12 points, 6 rebounds

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# HONOR ROLL

## Best Of MHS

### 9 Week Progress Report Sophomore Class



Addy Allensworth



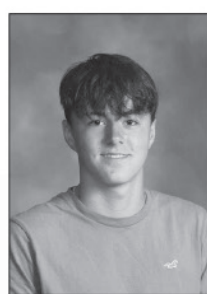
Allyssah Arteaga



Maren Atherton



Emily Banks



Alex Beetz



Keegan Beetz



Ruby Bielema



Kate Biers



Gracie Botts



Lucie Brandner



Christionah  
Brown



Sebastian Carlos



Janae Carr



Stephanie Casas



Geovana  
Castaneda



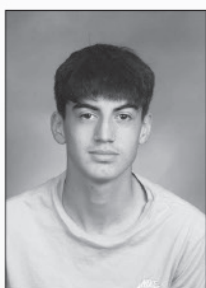
Milianna  
Castaneda



Aaden Castle



Litzy Celis



Johan Cortez



Airam Cuevas



Laylie Denault



Dane Doyle



Corbin Furar



Harlan Gallagher



JazLynn Gambrell



Vivian George



Sofia Gomez



Brody Hartt



Alexander  
Holland



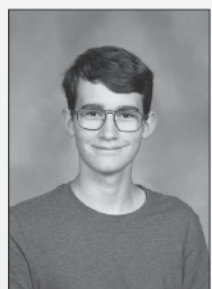
Addi Jones



Grady Jones



Brody Kaecker



Spencer Kain



Hannah Kunz



Aubrey Land



Trey Lee



Jahara Leiva



Ella Lewis



Hannah Mann



Peri Manning



Kate Mikolasek



Amaya Morales



William  
Musanovic



Kooper Novak



Luis Nunez



Ramiro Palacios



Zoey Polk



Lily Prentiss



Elaina Reddin



Jessica Reel



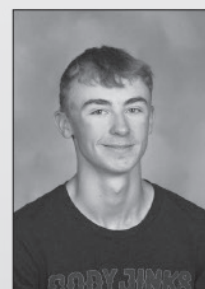
Mauricio Salinas



Ariana Sanchez



Kristal Sandoval  
Rios



Nick Sheridan



Leah Stamberger



Joseph Stewart



Aden Tillman



Sydney Tolley



Carlos Toribio



Anna Valdes



Giselle Vallejo



Chloe Walzer



Talia White

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Discover the power of hope

Romans 15:13 says, “May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound and be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope” (AMPC).

Over the last 45-plus years I’ve spent traveling and teaching God’s Word around the world, I’ve met many incredible people from nearly every walk of life. Some were doing great, seemingly on top of the world. Others confided in me that they were barely getting by, living day-to-day, trying to make ends meet. And many others were dealing with circumstances so difficult that, quite frankly, they

felt defeated and overwhelmed by life.

We will all battle hopelessness at some point in our lives. And no matter who we are or what our situation, HOPE is one thing we all desperately need. The reason is: hope is powerful!

Hope is more than a motivational thought or a fading daydream—hope is a nothing-is-impossible-with-God firestorm refusing to be quenched. It’s an awareness that God is actually expecting, looking, and longing to show you His goodness. Hope is what stabilizes your frantic thoughts and emotions—it’s an awareness that there is no problem big enough to keep God from rescuing you.

These days, it’s easy to be worn down by

hopelessness. People lose hope when they experience overwhelming loss, repeated failures, impossible situations, or when they’re hurt by people they trust. Like most of you, I understand what it’s like to feel hopeless. I spent 23 years of my life filled with pain, abuse, disappointment, unfaithfulness, and one bad thing after another.

Because of this, I wouldn’t get my hopes up. I used to say, “If I don’t expect anything good to happen, I won’t be disappointed when it doesn’t.” But when I got serious about my relationship with God and began studying His Word, I discovered real hope. I learned why hope is important, and how powerful hope can be.

Hope is a positive expectation that something good is going to happen to you because of God’s great goodness. It is not a wishy-washy, vague, wait-and-see attitude, but an action we must choose to take on purpose each day. Hope and faith go hand in hand.

Hope also enables us to endure hardships and long waiting periods, and God uses these times to develop character and endurance in us. Psalm 27:14 says, “Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for



and hope for and expect the Lord” (AMPC).

Hope dares us to believe! It thinks, “You know what? Things might just work out after all.” It’s the sometimes unexplainable, but always undeniable, feeling that today would be a bad day to give up.

Isaiah 40:31 tells us: “But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (ESV).

Regardless of who you are or what condition your life is in, you can’t function successfully without hope in God. If circumstances are bad, you surely need hope. And if they are good, you need hope that they will stay that way!

Hope energizes and motivates us to take action by causing us to step out in faith and act in obedience with God’s Word. Hope believes boldly, decides daringly, speaks firmly, and perseveres passionately. When

we embrace hope on purpose, it influences our thoughts, our attitudes, our outlook, and the way we speak. Hope builds us up as we wait on God.

Hope releases joy, and the joy of the Lord becomes our source of strength (Nehemiah 8:10). Never assume that where you’ve been or where you are is as good as it gets. And when your goal or your situation seems impossible, keep in mind that nothing is impossible for God.

In Matthew 19:26, Jesus said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (NIV). It doesn’t matter what the situation looks like around you; God is greater than any obstacle you may be facing. Everything that has never been done is impossible until someone does it, so why can’t it be you?

Don’t allow your mind to become a hindrance to the things you can accomplish in life. Think big—the way God does! Choose to believe God is going to do something better in your life. So, go

ahead and get your hopes up! God is leading you to something better than you can imagine!

\*\*\*

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

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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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www.mendotaupc.org

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

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

I put on righteousness,  
and it clothed me;  
My justice was like a robe  
and a turban.  
JOB 29:14

Detail of "Four sketches of the head of a man wearing a turban" by Solomon Alexander Hart (1857)

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Available on Facebook Live

Jan. 25 - 6:30 p.m. Webelos  
Jan. 28 - 10 a.m. Worship; 11 a.m.  
Annual Meeting, Rev. Spaulding,  
moderator; Potluck buffet meal to follow  
Jan. 29-31 - Hat, glove & scarf giveaway

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Church . . . That in everything He  
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9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship at First

Jan. 28 - 9:45 a.m. Annual Meeting  
(no Sunday School/Confirmation)

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Pastor David Jungnickel

E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

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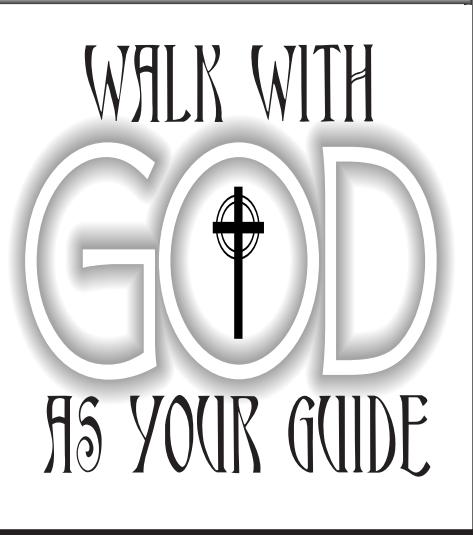
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and raising of His name.  
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to worship and learn about  
our risen Savior."

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

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Habakkuk (KJV)  
in the Old or New Testament or  
neither?  
2. Joseph was buried in a plot of  
ground at Shechem costing how  
many pieces of silver? 1, 7, 30, 100  
3. Which metal, used to sharpen  
other metals, does Proverbs 27  
compare to friends? Gold, Silver,  
Iron, Tin  
4. What is the middle chapter of  
the New Testament? Romans 13,  
Galatians 2, Ephesians 5, Titus 1  
5. The book of Hebrews tells us to  
entertain strangers as they may  
be ...? Demons, Angels, Prophets,  
Reincarnations  
6. From Ruth 1, who was Naomi's  
husband? Elimelech, Mahlon,  
Chilion, Malachi  
ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) 100, 3) Iron, 4)  
Romans 13, 5) Angels, 6) Elimelech

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**1106 Illinois Ave. \$88,000.00**

Nice 2-3 Bedroom 1 1/2 story home in quiet neighborhood. 1409 Sq. Ft. Alley access. Great location in Mendota



**909 Greenridge Ave., Earlville \$135,000**

Loads of opportunity here! Currently used as a sewing center/consignment shop (consigners would stay) Very spacious with 2 half baths and a kitchen. Call McConville Realty for all the amenities.



**2100 Guiles Ave., Mendota**

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



**300 1st Ave., Mendota**

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