



☐ House fulfills Eagle Rank project

"I'm proud of my time in the Boy Scouts," said Owen Simkins, who gave a special shoutout to Ducks Unlimited for help with the wood duck nesting box project. "I've been to Lake Mendota quite a few times. Out of the locations where I put the duck boxes, this is the place I've come to the most and have come to learn the most. It's special."

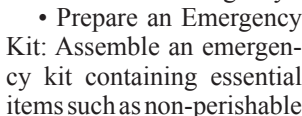
- Building permits are obtained and displayed at the building site before work can begin. If permits are not displayed, work may be stopped until a

A roomful of business owners and citizens attended the council meeting and expressed their concern over code requirements and the cost associated with them to update their buildings.

City Clerk Emily McConville presented Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick's report in his absence. She said rehabilitation of the property at 704 Illinois Ave. that was damaged by the fire will begin soon. First, asbestos must be removed from the building, and the bid opening for this work will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, March 29.

See City, Page A5

- **Develop a Family Emergency Plan:** Create a com-



- **Secure Your Property:** Take preventative measures to safeguard your home and property against potential damage. Trim trees and branches, secure outdoor

- **Look Out for Vulnerable Individuals:** Check on elderly neighbors, individuals with disabilities, and those who may need assistance during severe weather events. Offer support and assistance to ensure their safety and well-being.

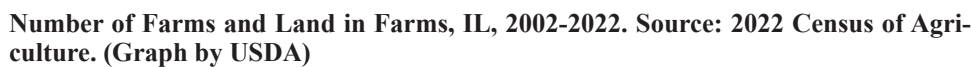
See Weather, Page A5

"This survey is essentially asking the critical question of whether as a country, are we OK with losing that many

The data-rich report, produced by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, spans more than 6 million data points about America's farms and ranches and the people who operate them down to the county level. The census dates back

"The latest census numbers put in black and white the warnings our members have been expressing for years," Duvall said. "Increased regulations, rising supply costs, lack of available labor and weather

See Aq Census. Page A5



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The Back Page Page A10
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Church Page Page B7
Classifieds/Legals Page B8



LOCAL AND AREA

IVSO presents “Be Inspired by Story!” at new time, new venue on March 10

OGLESBY – The Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra (IVSO) recently announced a change in venue and performance time for its upcoming concert, “Be Inspired by Story!”

The event, formerly slated for La Salle-Peru High School, will now take place at the Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg Cultural Centre at Illinois Valley Community College at 3:30 p.m. Sunday March 10.

The concert will showcase the talents of January’s Young Performers Competition winners: Gabrielle Mosley, Senior Division, performing Regrets and Resolutions by Gary Schocker on the flute, and Hallee Loza, Junior Division, performing the Flute Concerto in G Major by Carl Philipp Stamitz. The concert program also features an exciting journey through musical narra-

tives, including masterpieces such as the Hungarian March from Hector Berlioz’s The Damnation of Faust, Aaron Copland’s Concert Suite from Our Town, Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, op. 46, and Igor Stravinsky’s The Firebird Suite (1919 version). Tickets for adults are \$20, college students are \$5 with their student ID, and K-12 students enjoy complimentary admission.

This captivating afternoon of musical storytelling is proudly sponsored by season sponsor Miller Group Charitable Trust and partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

The Weeg Cultural Centre at IVCC is fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and accessible to all patrons. For inquiries regarding accessibility, please contact accessibility@ivso.org.

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Coming Soon!

ILLINOIS VALLEY AREA

LIBRARY

ROAD TRIP!

Starts April 7

Ends May 18

PASSPORT

KEYS

MAP

LIBRARY

Hop aboard the Library Road Trip

MENDOTA – As the weather gets warmer, you may be looking for things to do outside the home. We all love tending to our yards, and gardens, and being outside after a cold winter, but if it’s too rainy to spend time out there, visit your library. Starting Sunday, April 7, libraries across LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam counties are participating in a Library Road Trip.

Everyone is invited to visit their home library, pick up a passport, and hit the road with their favorite music and snacks. Once you get to another library, have your passport stamped at the circulation desk, and take a look around. Every library has its own specialty collection, and organizers would love for everyone to see and experience all Illinois Valley libraries. Have your passport stamped at as many libraries as you’re comfortable visiting and return to your home library to turn in your passport. Your passport and stamps will get you a chance to win a prize from your home library in May.

The road trip will run from April 7 to May 18. Not all libraries have the same hours or rules, so participants are encouraged to call or visit their website or Facebook page before you head out for your trip for the day.

Did you know that you can use your library card at all area libraries? You can also return items at any area library and the item will return to where it came from through a delivery system provided by Reaching Across Illinois Libraries. Additionally, if a library doesn’t have what you’re looking for, another local library may, or it can be ordered from one of the 139 other libraries that are members of the PrairieCat consortia. You can have your items delivered to your home library or your library of choice.

The following communities have participating libraries: Earlville, Mendota, Ladd, LaMoille-Clarion, LaSalle, Oglesby, Ohio, Paw Paw, Peru, Princeton, Putnam County, Wyanet, Reddick, Spring Valley, Selby, Streator, Tiskilwa, Utica, Walnut.

Compton to celebrate Eric McFadden

COMPTON – On Sunday, March 10, the Village of Compton and Mayor Candy Johnson are proclaiming Eric McFadden Day.

McFadden is the UPS delivery driver assigned to Compton, West Brooklyn, and Paw Paw, along with other communities. Compton wants to recognize McFadden for his excellent service in terms of his job and how friendly he is to the residents.

Johnson and Compton are hosting an open house from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 10 to show thanks and officially proclaim the day.

“He’s a great guy. He goes above and beyond, especially for the elderly,” Johnson said. “He also brings treats for dogs.”

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LOCAL AND AREA

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Blackstone celebrated Dr. Seuss Week this past week. It was a week of fun that promoted reading. We included dress up theme days to go with the book of the day. Students got to vote on their favorite book at the end of the week and The Cat in the Hat won. Our students also had the opportunity to participate in a reading challenge. The challenge had students reading at home in a variety of fun and strange places such as under a table, reading in an empty bathtub, reading in pajamas, reading in a funny voice, etc. We had many students participate and earn rewards for completing the challenge.

We celebrated good behavior on Feb. 28. We held our monthly Paw Pride assembly to recognize students who have demonstrated great behavior. Student names were drawn from the golden tickets to play a fun game. We also then drew 10 kindergarten and 10 first grade students' tickets to earn prizes. We passed out some fun prizes that the students were excited about. Our next behavior reward assembly will be March 20.

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Cash Gliatta, Alex Lopez, Xavier Dean, Ryann Leavy, Ro-

man Herrera, Jofiel Mandujano, Elliot Clark and Azalea Wright-Tveten. The winners were Hadley Scheppers, Elsa Shoultz, Emmett Mellott and Abram Fenwick. Congratulations to all of you!

The KIND KID awards for the month of February were recently announced. Congratulations to the students who were nominated by their teachers. The winners were Margaret Bend, Leni Kromm, Eli Sedgwick, Aaron Hernandez, Mila Gunn, Leo Figueroa, Shea Sheppard, Leliah Quijas, Jofiel Mandujano, Brielle Scudder-Taylor, Gavin Foltyniewicz

and Jazlyn Kerchner. We're so proud of these kind students!

We celebrated our February principal award winners with a pizza lunch this past Friday. The students invited were Leon Breitbarth, Elianna Pre, Margaret Bend, Jayce Woods, Gabriel Dykstra, Jordeanys Acosta, Hadley Scheppers, Elsa Shoultz, Axel Garza, Joe Clark, Isa Orozco, Elizabeth Feurer, Samantha Guerrero, Noah Garcia, Isaac Orozco, Emmett Mellott and Abram Fenwick. A picture of the student winners will appear in The Mendota Reporter.

St. Bede Academy welcomes eighth graders to Shadow Days

PERU — See what a Catholic, college preparatory high school experience can do for you during Saint Bede Academy's Eighth Grade Shadow Days.

Saint Bede Academy invites eager eighth graders to step into the shoes of a high school student during its exclusive Shadow Days. Between March 6-13, students can immerse themselves in a day filled with discovery and excitement as you explore the dynamic environment of this esteemed institution.

During Shadow Days, prospective students have the unique opportunity to attend freshman classes, engage with passionate teachers, and interact with the vibrant student body. Guided by experienced student

ambassadors, participants gain invaluable insights into life at Saint Bede Academy. Shadow Days offer a glimpse into the supportive and inclusive culture and top-flight academics that define the school. With newly renovated learning spaces, on-site tutoring, a full-time social worker, financial assistance opportunities, and morning transportation options available, Saint Bede is fully equipped to help students reach their fullest potential academically, socially, and spiritually.

Families can sign up for Shadow Days by going to the Academy website www.st-bede.com and clicking on the banner ad on the main page. For more information, contact Jon Steben, director of enrollment management, at 815-250-0279.



Blackstone Pizza Lunch

February principal award winners at Blackstone School celebrated with a pizza lunch. Students attending the lunch, front row, left to right, are Jordeanys Acosta, Margaret Bend, Gabriel Dykstra and Leon Breitbarth. Middle row, Axel Garza, Elianna Pre, Elsa Shoultz, Isaac Orozco and Samantha Guerrero. Back row, Emmett Mellott, Joe Clark, Abram Fenwick, Elizabeth Feurer, Noah Garcia and Hadley Scheppers. (Photo contributed)

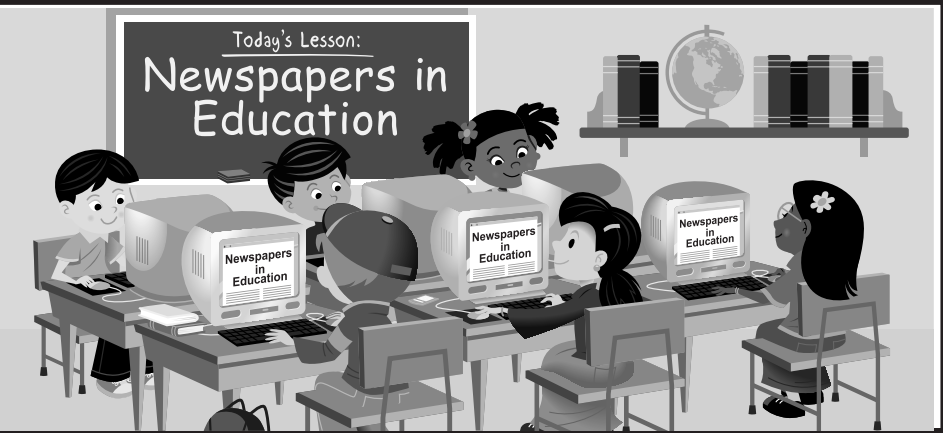
NCICG to host rail station public events

PERU — North Central Council of Governments in coordination with the communities of LaSalle, Morris, North Utica, Ottawa, and Peru, have scheduled events to present information to the public on potential station locations for the proposed new passenger rail service between Peoria and Chicago.

Events will be held in an open house format, which means you can attend at any time. The same materials will be available at all events so you can attend whichever is the most convenient for you. Exhibits will be on display and consultant team members will be available to answer questions. All materials will also be made available on the NCICG website following completion of the events.

Events include:

- UTICA — Tuesday, March 12 from 5-7 p.m., North Utica Village Hall, 248 W. Canal St., Utica
- PERU — Wednesday, March 13 from 5-7 p.m., Peru City Hall, 1901 Fourth St., Peru



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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Barbara A. Bender-Draves

MENDOTA – Barbara A. Bender-Draves, 61, of Mendota, passed away Feb. 26, 2024, with her loving family by her side.

Visitation was Monday, March 4 from 4-7 p.m. at Wasmer Funeral Home. Cremation rites have been accorded and burial will be private.

Barb was born Dec. 14, 1962, in Chicago, to John and Catherine (Brooks) Zaborac. She graduated from Lisle Senior High School in 1980. Barb married Curtis Draves on Nov. 16, 2002, in Earlville.

Barb is survived by her husband, Curtis of Mendota; daughter, Brittany Bender of Seatonville; three sons, William Bender of Mendota, Thomas Bender of Chicago and Timothy Bender of Mendota; five grandchildren, Conner, Riley, Vivian, Samantha, Carter; and one sister, Laura Zaborac of Mendota.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a son Corey on March 8, 1996.

During her work career, Barb was with Caterpillar in the product change control department for over 10 years. She recently retired from Eakas Corporation where she had been in internal auditing and document control for the past 14 plus years.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



Michael C. Martens

HERMANN, Mo. – Michael Carl Martens, 79, of Hermann, Mo., passed away Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, at Caring Hearts & Hands Hospice, Columbia, Mo.

A memorial service was held Friday, March 1 at 11 a.m. at St. James Evangelical Church, Stony Hill, Mo., with Rev. Tom Lloyd officiating.

Michael was born on Feb. 14, 1945, in Aurora, the son of the late George and Elly (Carlson) Martens. He was the husband of Rita (Didier) Martens. They were united in marriage on Nov. 4, 1977, in Mendota.

Michael is survived by his wife, Rita Martens, of Hermann, Mo.; a son, Robert Martens, of Tonica; two daughters, Emily Ngui, of Washington, Mo., and Rachel Martens, of Seattle, Wash.; two brothers, Gary Martens and wife Donna, of Summerfield, Fla., and Alan Martens and wife Veronika, of Oswego; and three grandchildren, Tim Martens, of Hermann and Grace and Evan Ngui, of Washington, Mo.

Michael was a member of St. James Evangelical Church, Stony Hill, Mo.

He worked for Caterpillar Inc. in Aurora as a tool room supervisor. He also taught at Waubensee Community College in Sugar Grove. In his free time, he enjoyed gunsmith work and target shooting.

Memorials may be given to Caring Hearts & Hands of 1307 W. Broadway, Columbia, Mo.



L.E.A.S.E. preschool screenings planned

MENDOTA – L.E.A.S.E. will be holding free preschool screenings at First United Methodist Church, 100 E. Sixth St., Mendota, on Tuesday, March 19 in the morning. 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.

Mendota Elementary District #289 offers three need-based programs for 3- and 4-year-olds: One is a Developmental Program for students who qualify for Special Education Services due to a significant delay in one or more areas. There are two PreSchool classrooms that are funded through the ISBE Grant Preschool for All and have specific qualifiers as "need-based" programs.

There is no charge for the Mendota District Preschool program. Children attend Monday through Friday either in the morning (8:15 to 10:45) or the afternoon (12:15 to 2:45). Transportation is not provided.

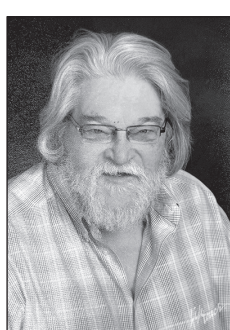
Keith D. Collings

MENDOTA – Keith D. Collings, "Moose" or Papa Keith to his friends, "Bud" to his family, passed away on Feb. 28, 2024, and did not go quietly into the night. After a short visit with the Mendota ER, he made his acquaintance known to the Life Flight crew, then settled with no small amount of trouble (again) with the ICU staff at Carle Health Methodist. After a shot of Jameson's and a beer, Keith went on his way to make new friends, and reunite with family and old friends.

Visitation will be Friday, March 8, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, with a Celebration of his life to follow at 1 p.m., with Rev. Mary Bohall officiating. Cremation rites have been accorded and burial will be private. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Keith was born Nov. 3, 1952, at Mendota Community Hospital to Carroll and Helen (Reinhardt) Collings. He graduated from Paw Paw High School in 1971. Keith married the love of his life, Dessia Shaw, on April 14, 1984, at the First Methodist Church in Paw Paw.

Moose worked for 33 ½ years for Caterpillar, Inc. as a C N C operator. He also worked for several years at HCC, Inc before retirement.



Program scheduled for growing spaces for vegetable gardens

UTICA – Don't have usable space in the ground to grow your vegetables? With spring upon us, and rising grocery costs, both new and experienced gardeners alike are planning what foods can be grown at home. Learn how to use above-ground growing systems for the safe and fruitful production of your favorite backyard vegetables.

The Master Gardener program at the University of Illinois Extension for Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, and Putnam counties will present methods to increase production by maximizing your space, recommending soil and fertilizer practices, and use of available construction materials.

Vegetable Gardening in Raised Beds and Containers will offer growing solutions for every space. Register for this free program being presented on the following date:

• Tuesday, March 19, at 5 p.m. - Utica Public Library, 224 Mill St., Utica. Please register at go.illinois.edu/contveg

Please direct any questions about the program to Master Gardener/Master Naturalist Coordinator Bettyann Harrison at (309) 364-2356 or bettyann@illinois.edu. If you have questions or need reasonable accommodations to attend, please call University of Illinois Extension- Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Unit Office at 815-224-0889. Extension offices are located in Princeton, Ottawa, Henry and in Oglesby on the IVCC campus.

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Food fundraiser to aid Ag in Classroom program

OTTAWA – LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation is hosting a Freezer Food Fundraiser again this year.


Ten delicious meals are available for only \$195. Each meal will feed between 4-5 people. The 10 meals are Hickory Smoked Pulled Pork, Hickory Smoked Pork Loin, Smoked Sausage w/ Peppers & Onions, Chicken Teriyaki, Pork Fritters w/ Mixed Veg, Ham Steak w/ Mashed Tators, Sweet Chili Meatballs, Mostaccioli w/ Meat Sauce, Chicken Cavatappi, and Pulled Pork Mac & Cheese.

To place an order, visit www.lcfb.org for the order form or call the Farm Bureau office at 815-433-0371. All orders must be turned in by Thursday, March 14. The food pick-up day is Wednesday, April 3 from 2-5 p.m. at the LaSalle County Farm Bureau office, 4201 N. Columbus St., Ottawa.

All proceeds will go to the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation Ag in the Classroom programs that provides free hands-on agriculture lessons to fourth grade classrooms in LaSalle County.

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Lisa Says...



Lisa Quest



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LOCAL AND AREA

City

Continued from Page A1

Alderman John Holland presented two ordinances dealing with the purchase of vacant lots for the council's consideration. The council agreed to purchase the lot at 714 Illinois Ave. for \$14,500, lots A & B at 712 Illinois Ave. for \$16,400 and the lot at 716 Illinois Ave. for \$12,800.

Alderman Kyle Kim gave details for the council's deci-

sion on the purchase of a new ambulance. He said Foster Coach Sales in Sterling has a 2022 demonstrator unit with 6,000 miles. The council approved the purchase of the unit for \$371,735. The ambulance will have to be equipped with radio and signage before it can be put into use.

Alderman Jay Miller presented two license requests from the owner of Little Joe's Gaming Café,

713 Illinois Ave., that were approved by the council. They are for a Class A liquor license and for six video gaming machines. Andrew Abbott is the new owner of the business.

Alderman Vicki Johnson said plans are in place for food trucks to be located in downtown Mendota for the upcoming season. She said 11 owners of food trucks have expressed interest in being part of this promotion

conducted by Reimagine Mendota. She said the season will kick off in May and will be held the second and fourth Monday of each month for six months, excluding the Monday after the Sweet Corn Festival. The trucks will be located in the IC parking lot on Main Street.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, March 18 at 5:30 p.m.



Weather

Continued from Page A1

• Stay Connected: Maintain open lines of communication with friends, family, and neighbors before, during, and after severe weather incidents. Share updates and important information to keep everyone informed and safe.

LaSalle County EMA provides a free and reliable way to prepare for severe weather and many other events. Download the free LaSalle County EMA smart phone application from the Google or Apple app store. The app not only provides preparedness information, but it allows individuals to submit storm damage reports

and has a link to the NOAA weather radio feed covering LaSalle County.

"As a community, we must work together to mitigate the risks associated with severe weather and ensure the safety and resilience of our county," said EMA director Fred Moore. "By taking proactive measures and staying vigilant, we can minimize the impact of severe weather events and protect our community members. Together, we can weather the storm and emerge stronger than ever."

For additional information on severe weather preparedness, please click on the resources tab at www.lasallecountyema.org.

Continued from Page A1

disasters have all squeezed farmers to the point that many of them find it impossible to remain economically sustainable.

"Family farms not only help drive the economy, they allow the rest of the nation the freedom to pursue their dreams without worrying about whether there will be enough food in their pantries. We urge Congress to heed the warning signs of these latest numbers. Passing a new farm bill that addresses these challenges is the best way to help create an environment that attracts new farmers and enables families to pass their farms to the next generation."

The data also contained bright spots, including a rise in the number of new and beginning (operating 10 or fewer years on any farm) as well as young (under the age of 35) farmers.

Young farmers made up 9% of all producers, with the 221,233 farms with young farmers making decisions tending to be larger than average in both acres and sales.

In fact, 33% of all farms in 2022 had a new or beginning producer, NASS Statistician Virginia Harris highlighted during a presentation during USDA's Ag Outlook Forum on Feb. 15.

Vilsack said young and beginning farmers have an opportunity to help create a different industry model that not only acknowledges the importance of production agriculture and

the significant investments in large farm operations, but one that also sends a message of hope and opportunity to smaller and midsize operators by giving them multiple sources of revenue and not requiring those operators to also work off-the farm jobs to survive. USDA has been striving to do this with several climate-smart programs and initiatives to help develop diverse market opportunities, he said.

While the number of producers between the ages of 35 and 64 declined 9%, the number of producers 65 and over increased 12% outpacing the 3.9% increase of young farmers. However, more than 1 million beginning producers were counted in the 2022 ag census.

Illinois also is in line with a decrease in farms and farmland, as well as an aging farmer demographic. The number of farms decreased 2.1% to 71,123 (the fifth highest number of farms in the U.S.), with farmland acres falling from 27 million to 26.29 million. The average age of an Illinois farmer rose to 58.6, slightly higher than the national average of 58.1.

Of the 121,342 Illinois farmers, 10,632 are under the age of 35, and 32,538 are new and beginning farmers — an increase from 2017 of 11%.

New census questions dealt with hemp, precision agriculture and internet access. Farms with internet access continued to rise from 75% in 2017 to 79% in 2022. In Illinois, farms with

Of the 121,342 Illinois farmers, 10,632 are under the age of 35, and 32,538 are new and beginning farmers — an increase from 2017 of 11%.

internet access increased slightly from 77% of all farms to 79%.

The census also concluded:

• Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 95% of all U.S. farms and operated 84% of land in farms.

• U.S. farms and ranches produced \$543 billion in agricultural products, up from \$389 billion in 2017. With farm production expenses of \$424 billion, U.S. farms had net cash income of \$152 billion. Average farm income rose to \$79,790. A total of 43% of farms had positive net cash farm income in 2022.

• The total value of crops in 2022 was \$281 billion, up 45% from 2017. For livestock, the value was \$262 billion, up 35%.

• A total of 153,101 farms and ranches used renewable energy producing systems compared to 133,176 farms in 2017, a 15% increase. The majority of farms (76%) with renewable energy systems reported using solar panels.

• In 2022, 116,617 farms sold products directly to consumers, with sales of

\$3.3 billion. Value of sales increased 16% from 2017.

• The 105,384 farms with sales of \$1 million or more were 6% of U.S. farms and 31% of farmland; they sold more than three-fourths of all agricultural products. The 1.4 million farms with sales of \$50,000 or less accounted for 74% of farms, 25% of farmland, and 2% of sales.

• Nearly three-fourths of farmland was used by farms specializing in two commodity categories: oilseed and grain production (32%) and beef cattle production (40%).

• In 2022, 1.2 million female farmers accounted for 36% of all producers. Fifty-eight percent of all farms had at least one female decision maker.

The response rate for the 2022 ag census was 61%; Illinois' response rate was 67.5%. To read the ag census, visit: nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/.

(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.)

BARN SALE

For over 60 years Jerry's Flower Barn has provided Mendota and the surrounding areas with their floral needs and it is with great sadness to announce that we will be closing March 15th.

Thank you to all past employees for your loyalty and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all my customers.

Jerry Prokuski

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SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

View Listing & Photos on website: tumblesonauction.com

ANTIQUES, COUNTERS & ARCHITECTURAL PIECES: Roll Top Desk; Oak Tables; Chairs; Columns & Displays; Old Windows & Doors; Flower Stands; Very Nice Religious Cement Statues; Work & Display Counters; Wood Wagon Wheels; Old Cash Register; Galvanized Tubs; Shutters; Wood Brls; Picket Fence; Ice Cream Table & Chairs; Church Pew; Stained Glass Windows; Bricks From Mendota, Floral Decorations, Clay Pots & Much More!!

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A Lifetime Collection From the Muhlach Estate to be Sold-LIVE IN PERSON ONLY at the DOWNTOWN ON SITE LOCATION of 604 8th St. (Old City Brick Building by RR Tracks) in Mendota, IL on:

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

View Listing & Photos on website: tumblesonauction.com

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OPINION



The Mendota Reporter

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

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

Why not talk about politics?

“There are two things you shouldn’t talk about, religion and politics.”

The amount of times I’ve heard this statement over the years has to be in the same realm as phrases such as “Love you to the moon and back” (thank you loved ones for making me feel I’m worth hopping in a space-suit and spaceship, and leaving Earth behind, seriously, ditto), “Time flies when you’re having fun”, and “Good morning, how are you?”

Never the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance



OK, maybe not the last one, but hopefully you understand what I’m trying to say – religion and politics is routinely avoided by the masses when it comes to conversation center pieces.

I’m not one to speak on religion because I don’t have a positive or negative spiritual background and I don’t have knowledge to back up a conversation because deep rooted religion hasn’t really been in my life.

Although I don’t take part in the speaking side of the conversation, I’ll listen and hear what you have to say. Or what God has to say through you, as you’ll tell me. So, we’ll make this column about politics.

Why don’t we talk about the backbone of our society? Whether we like to admit it or not, the United States of America was founded on overthrowing a government and starting its own based on the assumption we, as a people not individually, could put the ones right for important leadership roles in place to move the country forward and push through any issues.

Which, for the most part, I believe the USA has done. Sure, there are conflicting sides of everything the country has been through, but we’re all here, breathing, living, and not chained in a boot camp unless, well, unless you’re chained in a boot camp, which is more than likely your fault.

I was about to start listing some of the country’s challenges, but they’ve already been listed in a history book or on Wikipedia. We’ve been through colossal difficulties, loss, problems, conflicts, and all of those other words meaning the same thing, and we’ve survived and moved to the next day or the next one of those words.

Maybe the right people were in office when they were supposed to be.

Maybe the right social norm or standard was in place to meet the right moral at the right time to advance forward in life.

On the other hand, there is a chance we goofed up and another decision or choice would have been a better option.

The crazy thing is, it’s our option, as a people and as a country because we get to vote. We get to have a say. There are those who feel a vote doesn’t matter, but there have been many instances in history where it has been proven there is power in every vote.

Ask Donald Trump if he wants to count each vote again...he wouldn’t be the only president or candidate who would take part in tallying every check mark.

Something else I’ve heard, ‘You learn the most from your toughest lessons.’

So, why not talk about politics and what is going on in our government (city, state, federal) to personally learn more about our choices, right or wrong, and prepare to make a better judgment the next time around.

Being in media for a year short of 20 years, I may have heard “Word of mouth is the best form of advertising or spreading the word” once or twice. If this is the case, why are we trying to stop the pendulum from swinging and be quiet instead of sharing thoughts, knowledge, and wisdom?

There is a lot I don’t know about religion and politics, but how are we supposed to know anything if we don’t want to talk about it?

We’ll talk about who is better, Michael Jordan or LeBron James.

We’ll talk about the trail of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard.

We’ll come to blows after a discussion of which beer is better, Budweiser or Miller, or what rapper had the better songs, Tupac or Notorious Big (I’ve seen fisticuffs for both debates).

But we don’t want to talk about the nuts and bolts of the country we live in?



Second Washington Street fire – 1871

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from March 9, 1994.)
By Jessica Nashold

As the National Bank of Mendota prepares to extend to the west, attention has been focused on the history of the area it will soon cover. All structures between the bank and a point west of the hotel have been built since 1871, the year Mendota suffered its second big Washington Street fire.

The first fire, in June 1870, destroyed the south side of Washington Street from Eighth Avenue east to what is now Barr's shoe store. The second Washington Street fire occurred on Nov. 10, 1871, just a month after the great Chicago fire that raged from Oct. 8-10.

In 1871, Mendota did not have a water system, nor did it have a fire engine. In the hope that fires could be kept from gaining much headway, a Citizens' Patrol was organized to walk the four wards at night. Three men were assigned to each ward.

Commendable as this action was, it could not prevent what happened at 11 o'clock in the morning on Nov. 10. Dean's furniture store was located one door east of the Ames building from which the post office had moved to Pohl's building at Main and Jefferson the previous May. A can of varnish fell through a trap door on the second floor, breaking as it fell, and landed on a hot stove in the workshop below. It ignited at once and within minutes the entire frame building was in flames.

This fire spread "both left and right" destroying three frame buildings to the east, then taking out the former post office and a store housing the Hawthorne wagon shop in a building owned by C.S. Guy.

While the fire was in progress, Alderman Crooker made "a feeble attempt" to stop its spread by trying to blow up the building next to Warner's boarding house.

He placed a canister of powder, which exploded...but the building was not much affected. The flames continued to spread.

The Mendota Bulletin mentioned a few fortunate circumstances. The wind was from the north and a good rain had

Backtracks & Sidetracks

fallen the night before. Had the wind been blowing from the south or west, and had the fire occurred during dry weather, it would surely have crossed Washington Street.

There is no telling how wide its ravages might have been.

Although Dean's stock of furniture was a total loss, much of the stock in the other stores was rescued, as well as some furnishings in Warner's boarding house. The six frame buildings were destroyed in about an hour. Damage at Dean's was estimated at \$4,000-\$6,000 for stock and \$1,800 for the building. He carried no insurance. The store was moved temporarily to Main Street, then rebuilt at another Washington Street location.

Two frame buildings owned by William McLaughlin were not insured and loss was estimated at \$1,000. The Ames building, fortunately vacated by the post office a few months before, was insured for \$600, but loss was said to be \$800.

Mr. Hawthorne's wagon shop, in the Guy building, had an uninsured loss of \$300 in stock, which was "mostly saved." The building, also uninsured, was valued at \$300.

Miss Mary Wonderly's millinery shop was in a building owned by C. Bush. The hats were insured for \$400 and Miss Wonderly thought damage was about \$100. The uninsured building was worth \$250.

Mr. Fulmer's flour and feed store suffered a loss of about \$100, as much of his stock was saved, but in damaged condition. The Mendota Bulletin carried Mr. Fulmer's notice that he was relocating at the corner of Jefferson and Illinois. He said he was "scorched but not entirely burned out."

Mr. Warner circulated a petition "numerously signed," asking permission from the city council to rebuild his frame boarding house on the former site, "which happens to be just within

the city limits."

A little later, Warner announced he would put up a two-story brick building.

The evening after the fire, the city council held a special meeting and appropriated \$1,000 for the purchase of a fire engine. They found one in Peoria for \$575 with 250 feet of hose. The CB&Q agreed to bring it to Mendota free of charge.

It would have been a wise move if the city had purchased an engine long ago, but "better late than never."

A fire department was organized.

The Ames site passed into other hands and in 1906, when Northern Illinois Telephone Co. bought the property from H.H. Truckenbrod and John Ultch, there seems to have been another building there, but the telephone company was making changes on it in May.

The Northern Illinois Telephone Co. building east of Hotel Navarre is showing the work of the skilled mechanics. It will be a neat place and we can't blame them for being proud.

Moving day was the first week in October, 1906.

The Northern Illinois Telephone Co. moved into their new quarters on Washington Street this week and during the nighttime have been connecting their wires with the new station.

It continued to be a telephone building through several company changes. It had become General Telephone Co. by the time if left in 1954 to move into a new building west of the library. After extensive remodeling, Reck & Claus law offices moved in, in 1955.

The site of the former Guy building seems to have been vacant in 1912 when Illinois Northern Utilities put up a building west of the telephone building. The Utilities stated their building would be six feet longer than the telephone building. Most recent occupant was Pohl's Office Supply, which has moved one door west.

The March 1 deadline for vacating these two buildings in anticipation of bank expansion has been met.

Joe Biden's inane war on packaging

By Rich Lowry

Joe Biden has met the enemy, and it is smaller packaging for foodstuffs.

The White House is targeting the practice known as "shrinkflation," or companies keeping the nominal price of a product the same while decreasing the amount. This, naturally, is just another way of charging more. If the price is the same, but you're getting only 14 ounces of Wheat Thins instead of 16, you are paying more for your whole-wheat crackers.

President Biden slammed shrinkflation in a Super Bowl video featuring various offending snacks, including Doritos, Tostitos and Oreos. He called it a "rip off," and declared that "the American public is tired of being played for suckers." He may revisit the theme in his State of the Union address.

This has to rank as one of the most economically illiterate and juvenile presidential crusades in recent history.

Shrinkflation is a symptom of inflation, not a cause. And to the extent it is fooling anyone about higher prices, it is helping Biden, whose economic record has been blighted by persistently high prices, especially for food.

A company that is raising its prices can either charge more or reduce the size of its product. What Biden is suggesting is that the former is the best option and companies should always increase their sticker prices.

If he were being cogent, Biden should have held up a bag of Doritos in his Super Bowl video and said, "I don't care what Frito Lay says -- this bag should be .50 ounces bigger and more expensive than it is now. How dare corporate America deal with the stubbornly high inflation the last few years by trying to hide from people how they are paying more for food."

Of course, Biden's goal is to shift blame, yet complaining about smaller bags is only another way of complaining about higher prices. He might as well be pointing out that beef now costs an ungodly \$8 a pound, or that the price of baby food has increased nearly 9% over the past 12 months.

According to a report in The Wall Street Journal, consumers are spending the highest proportion of their disposable income on food since 1991.

The focus on shrinkflation is a variant of the corporate-greed argument advanced by Elizabeth Warren and other progressives. It maintains that inflation is an artifact of companies arbitrarily deciding to raise prices to boost their profits. There is a basic implausibility in this theory. It assumes that for several decades during the long period of low inflation in the U.S. corporations didn't use this pricing power. Then, they suddenly decided to wield it beginning in 2021, coinciding with a period of supply-chain disruptions, loose monetary policy and extravagant federal spending -- all of which one would expect to be drivers of inflation.

As for shrinkflation, even the consumer advocate who has been briefing the White House on this trend, Edgar Dworsky, admits that "these tactics tend to become more prevalent during times of high inflation," in the words of a CNBC report.

The causes of higher food prices, by the way, aren't a mystery. Why is the price of beef elevated? The supply of cattle has declined. What's up with the more expensive Oreos? Cocoa prices, The Wall Street Journal reports, recently passed a 46-year record. And labor costs have gone up with increases in the minimum wage in states across the country.

Still, The New York Times reports that the White House is considering new executive actions to crack down on shrinkflation. Assuming it's within the power of the presidency to influence the size of bags, boxes and bottles of food and drink, forcing them to stay larger would only render the underlying price increases more plain.

One might think that the nation's chief executive would have more important things to worry about than the size of Gatorade bottles, but such is the White House's political desperation on food prices that nothing is too inane or nonsensical.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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CITY CLERK	
Emily McConville, 1404 Ben Mar Ave.,	815-539-7459
FIRST WARD ALDERMEN	
James Fitzpatrick, 807 Pennsylvania Ave., ...	815-538-2474
John Hessenberger, 1406 Hillcrest Drive,	815-539-9934
SECOND WARD ALDERMEN	
John Holland, 902 West Lawn,	815-528-5367
Leo Hochstatter, 1102 S. Park Ave.,	630-841-1315
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FOURTH WARD ALDERMEN	
Mark Peasley, 2111 Cedar Ave.,	815-252-7243
Vicki Johnson, 206 Ninth St.,	815-866-5558

LOCAL AND AREA

IVCC Board OKs purchase of items for its Early Childhood Education Program

OGLESBY – The Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees on Feb. 8 set out to purchase simulation equipment for the Early Childhood Education Program and commission artwork commemorating the College’s Centennial this year.

The College is seeking bids to purchase software kits and baby-sized manikins that can be programmed for childcare, child education and parenting lessons. Costs will be covered by the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Grant.

The Board authorized the commission and purchase of a 10-foot by 20-foot mural highlighting the past and future of the College. Purchased using \$35,000 from the IVCC Foundation CTC Fund, the art will be installed at the entrance to Building C in the Peter Miller Community Technology Center (CTC).

President Dr. Tracy Morris reported:

- Red Cross blood drives sponsored by the Red Cross Club and the Student Nurses Association on campus and in Ottawa this month again set campus records.
- Upcoming activities, including two campus canned food drives, are scheduled this month.
- A Case IH planter was donated to the ag program and has arrived.
- Facility Master Planning continues with planning objectives and ranking of proposed projects.

- Enrollment updates indicate headcount and credit hours increased compared to Spring 2023

The Board also:

- Approved tenure for the following faculty: Theresa Molln, Welding instructor; Chrissy Boughton, Nursing instructor; Cathy Lenkaitis, Nursing Laboratory instructor; Samantha Whiteaker, Nursing instructor, and Emily Morgan, Math instructor.

- Submitted nominations for Illinois Community College Trustees Association awards, including Distinguished Alumnus Award (Dr. John Schibrowsky); Ethical Leadership Award (Fran Brolley); Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Scholarship (student trustee Elizabeth Boyles), and Pacesetter Award (Martha Hoffman Kerestes).

- Learned of the appointment of Kaitlyn Hickey as IT Department Help Desk Support Technician, and resignations of IT Programmer/Analyst James Bock and Assessment Center Assistant Rachael Olson, who will remain a part-time instructor.

- Authorized the return of a grant award that had been intended for a solar array on Building J since plans have changed and that building will undergo a renovation.

- Authorized the donation or disposal of an obsolete piece of equipment in one of the industrial labs.

- Authorized updates to board policies.

Life Line Screening event set for April 4

MENDOTA – Residents living in and around the Mendota can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Mendota Moose Lodge 714 will host this community event on Thursday, April 4. The site is located at 211 E.

12th St., Mendota.

Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health.

- HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels

- Diabetes risk

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SOCIAL NEWS

DAR chapter hosts Good Citizen winners

MENDOTA – The Fort du Rocher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met Feb. 10 at the Zion United Methodist Church, Mendota. Regent Donna Jungnickel conducted the meeting.

Chaplain Alice Giberson gave the opening prayer and blessing for the meal. Madelyn Becker of Mendota, Makaela Lockwood of Leland, Chesney Auter of Earlville and Addison Duttlinger of LaSalle-Peru and their parents were honored with the Good Citizen's Award Breakfast.

After this, the girls introduced themselves and told their plans for the future. Lockwood read her essay, which had advanced in competition.

During the regular meeting, new members Susan Scully and Melinda Jaht were inducted into the chapter by Giberson and placed their patriot ornaments on the Patriot Tree.



Donna Jungnickel, left, congratulates DAR Good Citizen Award winners Makaela Lockwood of Leland, Addison Duttlinger of LaSalle-Peru and Madelyn Becker of Mendota. Not pictured: Chesney Auter. (Photo contributed)

During reports, members heard about patriot James Nickens, a freeborn Black who served in the Virginia State Navy for three years, then in the Continental Army as a private until the end of the war. His commander

didn't let him fight but rather put him at the rear to oversee the baggage. Most veteran free Blacks were not allowed to stay in Virginia, a slave state, after the war. Nickens was one of the few exceptions.

Bev Richardson told about heart attack symptoms in women. These can include: pressure in center of chest, pain in one or both arms, neck, jaw or stomach, shortness of breath, cold sweats or lightheadedness.

Sometimes the signs are subtle and can be confused with the flu.

Kasha Bonnell shared an article on the Navaho code makers and how their work helped the allies win World War II. This top secret group of 29 men developed a code using the Navaho language.

Diane McCully had designed a counted cross-stitch pattern for DAR bookmarks and asked if others would like to help make them for the District meeting.

The deadline to register for the DAR Illinois State Conference to be held April 25-28 in Bloomington is March 20, 2024. The Fort du Rocher web page has been updated and can be viewed at <http://www.fortdurocher-chapternsdar.com>.

The chapter's next meeting will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 9 at the LaSalle Public Library. The program to be given by an IVCC speaker will be on literacy.

Library offers eclipse glasses

LaSALLE – The LaSalle Public Library will offer free ISO certified solar eclipse glasses to individuals and organizations while supplies last for viewing the total solar eclipse, which will occur on Monday, April 8, 2024.

The glasses were made possible through a grant from STAR Net, with funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Each pair of eclipse glasses comes with a DIY carrying case and instructions, and a bookmark to the Library's Program Portal, where additional resources on the eclipse can be found and looked at.

For more information about the glasses, visit or call the library at 815-223-2341. The library is located at 305 Marquette.

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Anything that still has usability and some value.

2. HOW TO PRICE

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3. LENGTH OF SALE

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4. HOW TO SET IT UP

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BRIDAL GUIDE



There are many advantages to hiring a professional wedding planner, who can take the stress out of a process that should be fun.

7 reasons to hire a wedding planner

The average cost of a wedding in 2022 in the United States came out to roughly \$30,000, according to a survey of 12,000 couples compiled by wedding planning site The Knot. The survey also found New Jersey and Massachusetts topped the list of most costly states to tie the knot.

When committing to as significant a financial investment as a wedding, couples may want to do all they can to ensure their big day is a hit. There are many advantages to hiring a professional wedding planner, who can take the stress out of a process that should be fun.

1. Serves as a sounding board: Wedding planners can take couples' ideas and turn them into reality. Seasoned planners know how to help a couple's vision come alive.
2. Lightens the responsibility load: A wedding planner takes time-consuming responsibilities off couples' plates.

These can include scheduling appointments, dealing with vendors, conducting walk-throughs of locations, and more. This can be a big asset to couples who work full-time.

3. Offers a wealth of knowledge: A good wedding planner has years of experience handling weddings and will know which aspects will work and which may not. Also, a wedding planner can likely handle tasks expeditiously, while couples with no experience planning a wedding may not work so quickly.
4. Helps couples save money: Knowledge and experience also comes with contacts in the industry that can help couples save money. The planner likely knows where to get the best deals, and may be privy to insider pricing and other discounts.
5. Serves as a buffer: While everyone wants weddings to be incident-free, conflicts can and do arise. A wedding

planner can serve as a mediator or run interference between challenging family members or even vendors.

6. Reduces overall stress levels: There's a measurable difference between the stress experienced by couples who don't hire wedding planners and those who do. The main goal of a wedding is for it to be memorable and for couples and their guests to enjoy themselves. By leaving the planning to someone else, couples can arrive at the big day feeling more relaxed and ready to have fun.
7. There is an extra person around: Wedding planners can field questions or handle tipping and other tasks on the wedding day, freeing up time for couples to have fun.

Wedding planners can provide support, expertise, company, and industry contacts to make weddings go smoothly.

The responsibilities of bridal party members

A couple's wedding day is one they will never forget. Guests' focus is squarely on the happy couple on the day they're set to make their union official. However, happy couples are not the only ones with important roles to play during a wedding.

Being asked to be in a bridal party is a unique honor. With that honor comes responsibility, as each person in a bridal party can do their own part to ensure a couple's wedding day is a success.

Maid or matron of honor

A maid of honor and matron of honor perform the same functions. The terms are simply unique because a maid of honor refers to a person who has not yet gotten married, while the term matron of honor is used for a person who has gotten married. Brides also may choose a man to serve as man of honor. Whatever title is appropriate, the person who serves in this capacity will help the bride plan the wedding, including being there to offer insight when shopping for a wedding dress. This person also may coordinate the bachelorette party and periodically speak with bridesmaids to ensure everyone is on schedule. The maid of honor will typically give a bridal toast during the reception.

Best man

Don't let the title fool you, as many couples now choose to have a best woman. Like the maid of honor, the best man may be asked to help with wedding planning and is typically tasked with organizing the bachelor party and toasting the groom during the reception. The best man also can help to ensure groomsmen are on schedule with tuxedo fittings.

Bridesmaids/Groomsmen

Bridesmaids stand beside the bride during the wedding ceremony. They can help with planning and help to resolve any last-minute issues that may arise on the big day, such as a vendor arriving late.

Groomsmen stand next to the groom during the ceremony and may be asked to help the best man plan the bachelor party. Both bridesmaids and groomsmen also

may be asked to help host events leading up to the big day, such as a shower or engagement party.

Ring bearer/flower girl

The roles of ring bearer and flower girl are typically filled by young relatives of the couple, such as nieces, nephews or young cousins. The flower girl walks down the aisle in advance of the bride, spreading pedals as

she goes. The ring bearer carries the wedding rings down the aisle.

Parents

If they choose to do so, parents of the happy couple can help to pay for the wedding. The custom of the bride's parents paying the entire bill has largely fallen by the wayside, as many modern couples now pay for their own weddings.

Parents can offer to pay for the engagement party and/or rehearsal dinner, but such generosity is not expected of them.

Serving in a wedding party is a unique and humbling honor. The roles of each person in the party vary, and party members who want to do their best for the couple can study up on their responsibilities in advance of the big day.



Each person in a bridal party can do their own part to ensure a couple's wedding day is a success.

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Time management tips for your wedding day

As any married couple can attest, a wedding day has a tendency to fly by. Couples have much to do on the day they tie the knot, which can make the day feel like a whirlwind.

Certain skills can come in especially handy on a wedding day, and the ability to manage time is certainly one of them. As their big day draws closer, couples can employ these time management tips to slow the day down a little bit.

- Create and distribute a schedule. A schedule can ensure the happy couple and all members of the bridal party know when and where they need to be at certain times during the day. Include all pertinent information on the schedule, including when and where hair and makeup appointments begin, when transportation to and from the ceremony and reception site will arrive and, of course, the start time for the ceremony. A printed copy can help, but a digital copy sent via text or email can guarantee the schedule is accessible via smartphone at all times during the day.
- Collaborate with your photographer in advance of your wedding day. Couples can streamline wedding day photography sessions by collaborating with their photographer in advance. During these sessions, identify the bridal party shots you want to take and then create a schedule of photos so all party members know where they need to be and when. Some couples choose to schedule bridal party photo-shoots before the ceremony, while others prefer theirs after the couple has made it official. Regardless of which option couples prefer, schedule these photos so no time is wasted finding bridal party members.
- Don't forget to set aside time to eat. Anything can derail a wedding day



Maintaining and distributing a schedule of the day's events, including hair appointments, can help engaged couples keep their wedding day timeline on track.

schedule if it's forgotten when couples devise their initial plan for how the day will unfold. Couples might be less inclined to forget hair and makeup appointments and photo sessions because such components are integral to wedding planning. But couples should not forget to leave time for themselves and their bridal party to eat. Schedule a breakfast for all bridal party members (separate ones if couples insist on avoiding each other until the ceremony) to ensure no one sleeps in and throws off the day's timeline. Include time to eat lunch if the ceremony is in late afternoon or early evening. If you forget to schedule time to eat, the timeline will almost certainly be thrown off when everyone gets hungry and requires some sustenance.

• Go over schedules with your vendors. In the weeks prior to your wedding, reach out to your vendors to confirm the day's timeline. Do this prior to handing out a schedule to your bridal party so no one is confused if any last-minute changes are made.

Couples have much to manage on their wedding days. Perhaps no component is more important to manage effectively than time.

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THE BACK PAGE

CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Marion Barnickel wishes to thank everyone for their showing of support in our loss. The donations of food, flowers and memorials were much appreciated. The cards and kind words will always be remembered.

The Barnickel Family

POLICE BLOTTER

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Daniel M. White, 44, of 917 Washington St., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Meriden Street and Guiles Avenue at 6:08 p.m. Feb. 29. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED

Andrew M. Plum, 35, of 111 S. 13th Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at First Street and Second Avenue at 4 p.m. March 1. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Anthony Nevdeck, 46, no address, was arrested at 4:56 p.m. March 3 on a valid Cook County warrant for robbery after being located in the 700 block of Main Street. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

NCAT offers free rides to vote March 19

OTTAWA – North Central Area Transit, or NCAT, is providing free transportation to voting locations in LaSalle County for the 2024 primary election on Tuesday, March 19.

LaSalle County residents may ride NCAT fare-free to any location for early voting, vote by mail ballot drop off, or in-person voting on election day.

Demand is high so it is recommended to schedule your trip a week in advance. Call 833-433-6228 and have the voting location address ready to reserve your seat. Visit ridencat.com for more information.

It's Garage Sale time! Advertise yours here!



High school and college welders will showcase their skills and compete for prizes next month during the Second Annual Welding Competition presented by Illinois Valley Community College and the American Welding Society. (Photo contributed)

IVCC plans welding competition

OGLESBY – Young welders will showcase their skills and compete for prizes on Saturday, April 13, during the Second Annual Welding Competition presented by Illinois Valley Community College and the American Welding Society.

Open to high school and college students who will compete in separate divisions, the competition lets youths showcase their skills, learn about the industry, and network with representatives from local companies and IVCC instructors.

Awards, including scholarships and welding gear, will be given to top winners in both divisions and processes. All competitors receive T-shirts and welding swag. The competition involves a hands-on project and a written quiz and will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in IVCC's East Campus, Building J.

High school students will compete in shielded metal arc welding (SMAW) from 8:30 – 11 a.m. Registration opens at 8 a.m., lunch will be provided at 11 a.m. and awards will be presented at 11:45 a.m.

College welders can compete in SMAW or gas metal arc welding (GMAW). Students

may only register for one competition.

Registration for SMAW begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by the competition at 11 a.m., lunch at 12:30 p.m. and the awards ceremony at 1:15 p.m.

GMAW competitors will register at lunch at 11:30 a.m., followed by the competition at 12:30 and awards at 2:30 p.m.

Register by April 5 to enter. To register, visit www.ivcc.edu/enroll. Use the class ID 14473 for High School SMAW; 14474 for College SMAW and 14475 for College GMAW. Seats are limited to 24 in the high school division and 12 in each of the college divisions. Cost of each division is \$20.

For more information, visit <https://www.ivcc.edu/programsbyareaofstudy/welding/index.php> or call Continuing Education at 815-224-0427.

The event is sponsored by local employers Vactor Manufacturing, HCC Inc., Constellation, Valley Fabrication Inc., On Site Repair Services, Inc., Trademark Services Company, and Carus Corporation. It is hosted by IVCC's Workforce Development Division and Continuing Education Center.

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SPORTS



Regional champions
The Northbrook Middle School seventh grade volleyball team won the regional championship with an 18-25, 25-20, 25-15 victory over Rockford Thurgood Marshall on Feb. 29 at Rockford. Members of the team, front row, left to right, are Yuliza Magallanes, Mia Arteaga, Delilah Karahalios, Laurali Thompson, Ava Mahaffey, Aliya Delao and Aileen Perez. Back row, Allison McNutt, Kylee Bonnell, Livi Perryman, Eliana Eames, Lexie Saylor, Mallory Beck, Giana Godina, Aleeya Garcia and coach Allison Buettner. (Photo contributed)

Spartans win first regional in first opportunity; eliminated in sectional

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer
MORRIS—In previous seasons, the seventh grade Northbrook volleyball team ended its season at the conclusion of the Starved Rock Conference Tournament.

Not this year, as the team enlisted in the IESA Class 3A playoffs. To put a stamp on the first year as an IESA team, the Spartans won a regional championship on Feb. 29 and played in a sectional championship on March 4.

“This is the first year that seventh grade has participated in the IESA Tournament and because of it, I feel like we had an exceptional season,” said coach Allison Buettner. “They’ve left big shoes to fill for the years to come. They are truly a talented group of girls.

I know moving forward, next year and then in high school, they’re going to be a group to watch.

“They love the sport and they play well together as a team. I think they’re only going to standout more as time moves on.”

Buettner, who coached at Mendota High School from 2000-04 before coming to Northbrook in 2006, led the Spartans to the Starved Rock Conference Championship during the regular season with a 16-3 record, and a SRC Tournament title.

Marching into the IESA Class 3A Rockford Marshall Regional, the No. 2-seeded Northbrook squad defeated No. 7 Rockford Kennedy 25-6, 25-6 in the first round, Princeton Logan 25-13, 26-24 in the semifinal, and Marshall 18-25, 25-20, 25-14 in the final.

With one new trophy awaiting its place in the display case, the Spartans tried to earn another at the IESA Class 3A Morris Saratoga Sectional, but the Saratoga squad proved to be a tough task as the Spartans fell 25-10, 25-13.

“We showed up hesitant while Morris played phenomenally. We can’t hang our heads because they were truly an exceptional team,” Buettner said. “We usually have some servers who will get on a long string of serves. We just couldn’t get in a groove.

“In the first match, we only earned one point, a serve ace, and in the second match we earned six points. The rest of our 23 points were either their errors or a side out. We just played very hesitantly.”

The seventh grade Northbrook volleyball team ended its season with a 20-4 record.

Girls’ Flag Football to debut as an Illinois high school sport this fall

BLOOMINGTON—The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) is proud to announce that Girls’ Flag Football will be the latest sport to debut an IHSA State Series, as the IHSA will conduct its inaugural postseason, culminating with an IHSA Girls Flag Football State Champion being crowned, in the fall of 2024.

“The addition of Girls’ Flag Football furthers the IHSA mission of creating participation opportunities for high school students in Illinois,” said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. “The sport has experienced significant growth in a short amount of time, and our member schools are excited to see it become an IHSA sport. The Chicago Public Schools Athletic Administration and the Chicago Bears both deserve significant praise for their grassroots efforts in shepherding and supporting the growth of girls’ flag football in Illinois.”

The IHSA Board of Directors approved the Girls’ Flag Football State Series during their regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 4, 2024. The IHSA will offer a State Series in 40 total sports and activities in 2024-25, in addition to its Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, Unified games via its partnership with Special Olympics, and Athletes with Disabilities divisions in multiple sports.

“It is important for the IHSA to continue to adapt to the interests of our students and schools,” said Dan Tully, the Principal at Notre Dame College Prep in Niles and President of the IHSA Board of Directors. “Girls’ Flag Football is somewhat unprecedented in terms of its growth and timeline for achieving an IHSA State Series. We are enthusiastic about how much has been accomplished in such a short amount of time, and

expect that participation will continue to increase in the years ahead.”

Girls Flag Football joins a growing list of sports and activities that have recently conducted their inaugural IHSA State Series, including Girls Wrestling (2022), Esports (2022), Boys and Girls Lacrosse (2018), and Competitive Dance (2013).

The IHSA has commitments from over 100 schools to participate in the inaugural State Series in 2024, while nearly 40 other schools have expressed that they anticipate fielding a team in 2025.

The IHSA Girls’ Flag Football Advisory Committee has met twice previously and will look to finalize the rulebook and structure of the State Series at upcoming meetings. The IHSA will also create a Request For Proposals in order to find sites interested in hosting the State Finals at an upcoming Board meeting.

“There is a lot of work to done before we crown the first IHSA Girls Flag Football State Champion,” said IHSA Assistant Executive Director Tracie Henry, who will serve as the IHSA Girls’ Flag Football administrator. “We have a group of people who are dedicated to seeing the sport flourish and putting on a first-class state tournament. One area where we know we will need help is with officiating. We hope we can recruit some new officials to the sport, while also having current IHSA officials in other sports, including 11-player and 8-player football, add licenses to referee girls’ flag football as well.”

Individuals interested in becoming IHSA Girls’ Flag Football officials can begin licensing on May 1, 2024.

The inaugural IHSA Girls’ Flag Football State Finals will take place on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 11-12, 2024.

3 Trojans chosen for all-conference honors

I. Nanez a unanimous first-teamer
MENDOTA—Three Mendota boys’ basketball players were recognized for their play on the court by being chosen as Three Rivers Conference All-Conference team members for the 2023-24 season.

Senior I z a i a h Nanez led the Trojans by being a unanimous selection to the first team. Sophomore Aden Tillman landed on the second team, while senior Cale Strouss was an honorable mention selection.

FIRST TEAM
*Braden Clark, Sr., Kewanee; *Izaiah Nanez, Sr., Mendota; *Lucas Simpson, Sr., Newman; *Noah LaPorte, Jr., Princeton; Landon Hulsing, Jr., Bureau Valley; Payton Dye, Sr., Hall; Blaise Lewis, Sr., Kewanee

(* indicates unanimous)

SECOND TEAM
Daniel Sousa, Sr., Princeton; Corban Chhim, Sr., Bureau Valley; Max Bryant, Sr., Hall; Aden Tillman, So., Mendota; Catrell Reed Jr., Jr., Kewanee; Korte Lawson, Sr., Princeton

HONORABLE MENTION
Braden Curran, So., Hall; George Jungerman, So., Newman; Isaiah Williams, Sr., Newman; Cale Strouss, Sr., Mendota

(Final conference standings: Kewanee 8-2, Princeton 7-3, Newman 6-4, Bureau Valley 3-7, Hall 3-7, Mendota 3-7)



Nanez

MHS’s Wasmer named to all-conference 2nd team

MENDOTA—The Three Rivers Conference girls’ basketball coaches have chosen their all-conference team members for the 2023-24 season.

M e n - dota’s lone representative was senior Grace Wasmer, who was selected to the second team.

FIRST TEAM
*Kate Salisbury, Sr., Bureau Valley; *McKenzie Christiansen, Sr., Hall; *Mya Dearing, Jr., Kewanee; *Jess Johns, Sr., Newman; *Camryn Driscoll, So., Princeton; *Keighley Davis, So., Princeton

(* indicates unanimous)

SECOND TEAM
Ella Sterling, Jr., Hall; Kate Stoller, Sr., Bureau Valley; Grace Wasmer, Sr., Mendota; Damaris Diaz, Jr., Kewanee; Lucy Oetting, So., Newman; Miyah Fox, Sr., Princeton

HONORABLE MENTION
Tejhiana Amos, Jr., Kewanee; Kennedy Wozniak, Jr., Hall; Charlie Pellegrini, So., Hall; Elaina Allen, Fr., Newman; Paige Jesse, Jr., Princeton

(Final conference standings: Princeton 9-1, Hall 7-3, Bureau Valley 5-5, Kewanee 5-5, Newman 4-6, Mendota 0-10)



Wasmer

Little 10 picks top boys’ players

EARLVILLE—The Little Ten Conference boys’ basketball coaches have selected the 2024 Little Ten All-Conference Boys’ Basketball Team. The coaches recognized 11 players for the honor.

- **Serena**—Conference Champs, Conference Tournament Champs, IHSA Class 1A Regional Champs: **Richie Armour (Sr...F)—Repeat Unanimous Selection; **Tanner Faivre (Sr...G); Carson Baker (Sr...G); Hunter Staton (Sr...F)
- **Earlville**—Conference Runner-Up, Conference Tournament Runner-Up: **Griffin Cook (Sr...G)—Second Time Selection; Ryan Browder (Sr...F/G)—Repeat Selection
- **Hinckley-Big Rock**—Conference 3rd Place: **Martin Ledbetter (Jr...F)—Repeat Unanimous Selection; Landon Roop (Sr...G)
- **Indian Creek**—Jeffrey Probst (Sr...F)—Repeat Selection
- **Somonauk**—Conference Tournament 3rd Place: **Carson Bahrey (Sr...G)—Repeat Selection
- **IMSA**—Muna Onwameze (Sr...F) (**Denotes a unanimous selection)

Little 10 names top girls’ players

EARLVILLE—The Little Ten Conference girls’ basketball coaches have selected the 2024 Little Ten All-Conference Girls’ Basketball Team. Ten players were chosen for all-conference honors.

- **Serena**—Conference Champions, Conference Tournament Champions, IHSA Class 1A Regional Champions: **Paisley Twait (Sr...G/F)—Three Time Unanimous Selection; **Makayla McNally (Sr...C)—Three Time Selection; **Jenna Setchell (Jr...G)—Repeat Unanimous Selection
- **Newark**—Conference Runner-Up, Conference Tournament Runner-Up: **Kiara Wesseh (Sr...F)—Repeat Unanimous Selection; **Addison Ness (Jr...G)
- **Hinckley-Big Rock**—Conference 3rd Place, Conference Tournament 3rd Place: **Anna Herrmann (So...G)—Repeat Selection: Sami Carlino (Jr...C); Raven Wagner (Jr...F)
- **Somonauk-Leland Coop**—**Haley McCoy (Sr...G)
- **Earlville**—**Madysen Olson (Sr...G)—Repeat Unanimous Selection (**Denotes a unanimous selection)

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SPORTS

BOWLING

Elks 9 Youth League
Standings as of Feb. 17 – 1. Team 3 29.5-14.5; 2. Team 2 28.5-15.5; 3. Team 1 18-26; 4. Team 4 12-32
High team game (scratch) – Team 4 266, Team 3 260, Team 1 & Team 2 214
High team game (hdcp) – Team 3 639, Team 4 618, Team 2 605
High team series (scratch) – Team 4 736, Team 3 689, Team 1 633
High team series (hdcp) – Team 3 1826, Team 2 1804, Team 1 1800
Boys' high game (scratch) – Maddox Chaon 104, Parker Krager 100, Jaxon Stamberg-er 89
Boys' high game (hdcp) – Parker Krager 225, Maddox Chaon 218, Jace Ganther 210
Boys' high series (scratch) – Maddox Chaon 284, Parker Krager 249, Keegan Mauch 247
Boys' high series (hdcp) – Maddox Chaon 626, Parker Krager 624, Jace Banther 611
Girls' high game (scratch) – Grace Piskie 106, Sophia Martinez 94, Ady Law 85
Girls' high game (hdcp) – Grace Piskie 221, Sophia Martinez 216, Ady Law 214
Girls' high series (scratch) – Grace Piskie 261, Sophia Martinez 260, Ady Law 211
Girls' high series (hdcp) – Sophia Martinez 626, Grace Piskie 606, Ady Law 598

Elks 11 Youth League
Standings as of Feb. 17 – 1. Team 5 36-8; 2. Team 2 32.5-11.5; 3. Team 3 23.5-20.5; 4. Team 4 17.5-26.5; 5. Team 1 6.6-37.5; 6. Team 6 0-44
High team game (scratch) – Team 5 380, Team 4 268, Team 2 258
High team game (hdcp) – Team 5 685, Team 3 646, Team 4 620
High team series (scratch) – Team 5 926, Team 4 756, Team 2 724
High team series (hdcp) –

Team 3 1845, Team 5 1841, Team 4 1812
Boys' high game (scratch) – Parker Ramer 174, Gavin Stamberger 136, Jaxen Daley 114
Boys' high game (hdcp) – Parker Ramer 244, Gavin Stamberger 242, Jaxen Daley 233
Boys' high series (scratch) – Parker Ramer 470, Bentley Bejster 316, Jaxen Daley 287
Boys' high series (hdcp) – Parker Ramer 680, Jaxen Daley 644, Bentley Bejster 625
Girls' high game (scratch) – Eliana Eammes, Brooklyn Mauch 90
Girls' high game (hdcp) – Brooklyn Mauch 237, Eliana Eammes 222
Girls' high series (scratch) – Eliana Eammes 241, Brooklyn Mauch 190
Girls' high series (hdcp) – Brooklyn Mauch 631, Eliana Eammes 616

Wednesday Night Men's League
Standings as of Feb. 21 – 1. O'Donnell Excavating 21-11; 2. Mendota Monument 18-14; 3. JJ&L Carpentry 16-16; 4. Novak Farms 15-17; 5. First State Bank 14-18; 6. Black Bros. 12-20
High team game (scratch) – Mendota Monument 1097, Novak Farms 1050, Black Bros. 1013
High team game (hdcp) – Mendota Monument 1168, Novak Farms 1136, Black Bros. 1119
High team series (scratch) – Mendota Monument 3085, Black Bros. 2920, Novak Farms 2892
High team series (hdcp) – Mendota Monument 3298, Black Bros. 3238, O'Donnell Excavating 3164
High individual game (scratch) – Barry Sutton 266, Drake O'Donnell 247, Mike Smith 244
High individual series (scratch) – Scott Vickrey 709, Drake O'Donnell 707, Mike Smith 661

Deer Classic to be held March 8-10 in Peoria

SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will offer on-site license and permit sales, safety education class schedules, harvest pin sales, and more at the 2024 Illinois Deer Classic at the Peoria Civic Center March 8-10.
IDNR staff will offer the following services at its booth:
• Hunting, fishing, and trapping license sales
• Stamp and over-the-counter permit sales
• Conservation police officers to answer questions about laws and best practices
• Wildlife staff to answer questions and provide information about wildlife diseases, herd culling, habitat improvement and more
• Safety education class schedules and locations
• Staff from IDNR's Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) will have information about public access for hunting and fishing on private property
• Deer, turkey, and more pin sales
• Hunting and fishing digests
• Illinois state park guides and other free publications
The Peoria Civic Center is located at 201 SW Jefferson Ave. in Peoria. Illinois Deer Classic hours are 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Go online at illinoisdeerclassic.com for more details, including a complete list of vendors, activities, and admission information.



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MARCH 2024

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YEAR: SENIOR
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- GIRLS SOCCER VS LP, MONDAY, MARCH 25TH 4:30 PM @ MHS
- BOYS TENNIS VS DIXON, THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH 4:00 PM @ MHS
- SOFTBALL VS EV, THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH 4:30 PM @ MHS
- BASEBALL VS EV, THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH 4:30 PM @ MHS

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo
HOLLYWOOD -- Are you ready for the battle of the Frankenstein movies? On the heels of the comedy-horror film "Lisa Frankenstein," which opened dismally on Feb. 9 and starred "Riverdale's" Cole Sprouse as Frankenstein's Monster, it's been announced that Guillermo del Toro has chosen Jacob Elordi as his Monster. No doubt Elordi's 6-foot-5-inch frame fits right into the makeup of the creature. Meanwhile, Oscar Isaac is playing Victor Frankenstein. There's also a third film in the works, directed by Maggie Gyllenhaal, with Academy Award winner Christian Bale as Frankenstein's Monster. It also stars Annette Bening, Penelope Cruz and Peter Sarsgaard. This one's set in 1930s Chicago and focuses on a search for bones that will lead to the creation of the reanimated Bride. This will make it more like the 1935 film "The Bride of Frankenstein," starring Boris Karloff as the Monster and Elsa Lanchester as the Bride.

Originally, it was being made by Netflix, but they dropped it when they opted for del Toro's film instead. Fortunately, Warners picked up Gyllenhaal's sophomore film. ***
Sylvester Stallone has named his heir to ... Rambo! Apparently, "Sly" met Ryan Gosling at a dinner party, and Gosling told him, "I was fascinated by Rambo, and I used to go to school dressed as Rambo and people chased me away and I still didn't stop." Stallone was so touched that he offered, "If I ever pass the baton, I'll pass it on to him because he loves the character." He also confessed, "Obviously we are opposites. He's good looking. I'm not. Seriously! Could you imagine me as Ken? It doesn't work at all." Stallone has made five "Rambo" films and presumably said goodbye to the franchise with 2019's "Rambo: Last Blood." But don't think for a minute that Stallone is slowing down. He's currently shooting "The Epiphany," in which he plays

a hard-nosed, soon-to-retire police detective who teams up with a younger cop and former priest to stop a serial killer in Philadelphia. His Netflix series "Tulsa King," in which he plays a Mafia don, has been renewed for a second season and co-stars his daughter Scarlett Rose Stallone. ***
Disney's newest headache is the soon-to-be-released \$800,000 Canadian comedy-horror film "Mickey's Mouse Trap," due sometime in March. While Walt Disney directed the 1928 short film "Steamboat Willie" (the early incarnation of Mickey Mouse that started it all), it entered the public domain on Jan. 1. No one could have imagined someone would make a film about a group of friends who get trapped in an amusement arcade after closing time and get terrorized by a killer in a Mickey Mouse costume. While he doesn't look exactly like our Mickey Mouse today, it's close enough. There's a louse ripping off the "Mouse House!"

Couch Theater

"Spaceman" (R) -- Based on the 2017 novel "Spaceman of Bohemia," this sci-fi drama stars Adam Sandler as Jakub Prochazka, an astronaut who embarks on an isolating solo journey into space. Six months into his journey, his mental state begins to deteriorate as he misses his life on Earth, and he unexpectedly encounters a large extraterrestrial spider on his ship that appears to come in peace. The spider, who goes by Hanus, tells Jakub that he's there to assist him with his emotional distress. Even though Jakub is unsure of whether Hanus is imaginary or real, he begins to dig deep into his subconscious to persist through his journey and make it home to his wife. Sandler excels in this dramatic role, while Paul Dano lends his mystifying voice to Hanus. Carey Mulligan co-stars. Out now! (Netflix)
"Ricky Stanicky" (R) -- Dean, Wes and JT are a trio of friends who have hatched the ultimate scheme to get away from boring commitments: a nonexistent friend named Ricky Stanicky, who always seems to need them at

the most inopportune times. But when JT misses the birth of his child because he was "taking care of Ricky," people start to become suspicious of whether Ricky actually exists. So, the men come up with another brilliant scheme to hire an X-rated rock-and-roll impersonator named Rod to portray Ricky in front of their partners, family members and friends. What could possibly go wrong? Director Peter Farrelly ("Green Book") takes on this comedy film out March 7, starring Zac Efron, John Cena and William H. Macy. (Amazon Prime Video)
"The Regime" (TV-MA) -- Elena Vernham (Kate Winslet) is the chancellor of an autocracy in a fictionalized version of Europe, and she realizes that her authoritarian regime is starting to crumble around her. At the same time, Elena meets an unstable soldier named Herbert Zubak, who pledges his undying allegiance to her. They become close confidants, and Herbert's ruthlessness begins to rub off on Elena, prompting her to switch up the way she approaches her political

duties. Unable to stand even a single word of criticism by her cabinet or her opponents, Elena slowly but surely starts evolving into a dictator. She's ready to see the world burn if it means she gets to obtain more power. The first episode is out now, and the remaining five episodes will be released every Sunday. (Max)
"The Marsh King's Daughter" (R) -- Daisy Ridley (of the "Stars Wars" sequel trilogy) leads this psychological thriller that will leave you hanging on the edge of your seat! Adapted from the bestselling novel by Karen Dionne, this film follows a woman named Helena (Ridley) who receives news that her father, the Marsh King, has escaped from prison. As Helena unpacks what this could mean for her and her own daughter now that her father is on the run, memories from her traumatic childhood spent in captivity resurface. She realizes the only way she can keep herself and her family safe from the Marsh King is if she takes all that he taught her and beats him at his own game. Out on March 5. (Hulu)

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson
Q: Is it true that next season's mystery on "Only Murders in the Building" will be set in Los Angeles instead of New York? I love the old apartment building they live in on the show. It won't be the same if it's in California. -- **D.D.**



A: I agree, but apparently only part of the season will be filmed in L.A. According to TVLine, Craig Erwich, who oversees Hulu, loves the Big Apple but doesn't want the show to become too insular. However, he assures fans that the Arconia apartment building will always be part of the show. Season three ended with Oliver's (Martin Short) girlfriend, Loretta (Meryl Streep), moving back to L.A., and it's been confirmed that Streep will return for the new season. Joining them will be Charles (Steve Martin) and Mabel (Selena Gomez), who I'm assuming will tag along to L.A. to escape the seemingly cursed Arconia after last season ended with a cliff-hanging murder. Jane Lynch is also expected to

return in some capacity as Charles' stunt double. The announcement of two more big names joining the cast should help alleviate the disappointment of those who aren't pleased with the change of scenery. Molly Shannon ("The Other Two") will play a high-powered businesswoman, and Eva Longoria ("Desperate Housewives") will also recur. No details have been given yet about her character. ***

Q: When is "Yellowstone" returning with new episodes? Is it true that Kevin Costner has left the show? -- **K.S.**

A: The wildly successful series "Yellowstone" will return with six final episodes, beginning this November, but it probably will not include Costner. The Dutton family story will continue with the focus remaining on Rip (Cole Hauser) and Beth (Kelly Reilly). Costner parted ways with the show and its creator Taylor Sheridan when a contract couldn't be agreed upon. Sheridan has a spin-off in the works titled "2024," but no further details have been announced (including whether it will star Matthew McConaughey, as rumored).

As for Costner, he recently released the trailer for his upcoming Civil War-era films, titled "Horizon: An American Saga," which will be released in two parts this June and August. Costner not only directs but stars in "Horizon," along with Sienna Miller and Sam Worthington. He said that he hasn't "felt this way about a movie since ... making 'Dances with Wolves,'" which was the Oscar-winning film he also pulled double duty with back in 1990. ***

Q: What happened to the boxer on the new season of "The Traitors"? I don't recall him being voted out, and now he's gone. -- **A.M.**

A: Former World Boxing heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder was one of only two contestants on Peacock's "The Traitors" who didn't have reality show experience. He told the press that he chose to leave after three episodes because the show was bringing up emotional trauma from his childhood that caught him off-guard. The final straw was when he accused another innocent contestant of traitorous behavior. Wilder exited with his conscience intact.

• Trivia Test •

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which large U.S. city is nicknamed Rip City?
2. MOVIES: Which movie features the quote, "She doesn't even go here!"
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which national capital city is the northernmost in the world?
4. TELEVISION: Which long-running sitcom features a dad named Phil Dunphy?
5. GAMES: In chess, how many knights does each player have at the beginning?
6. GEOLOGY: What natural phenomenon is associated with igneous rock?
7. LANGUAGE: How many official languages are in the United Nations?
8. MUSIC: David Grohl was

- a drummer in which band before he became the frontman for the Foo Fighters?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of alligators called?
 10. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of meat is used in Hasenpfeffer, a traditional German stew?
- Answers
1. Portland, Oregon.
 2. "Mean Girls."
 3. Reykjavik, Iceland.
 4. "Modern Family."
 5. Two.
 6. Volcanic eruption.
 7. Six.
 8. Nirvana.
 9. A congregation.
 10. Rabbit.
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King Crossword

ACROSS

1. Manhandle
5. Annex
8. Trig function
12. Within (Pref.)
13. "Ben-"
14. Toledo's lake
15. "Sure, of course"
17. Bakery buy
18. "Yippeel"
19. Apple music service
21. Pride parade initials
24. "Let me think..."
25. Valley in California
28. Indy event
30. Wall climber
33. Rocker Rose
34. Plains grazers
35. Formerly known as
36. Earth (Pref.)
37. Stink
38. "It's -- real!"
39. Texter's "Enough!"
41. Bring up
43. Tell
46. Pink hue
50. Lena of "The Reader"
51. Sake, e.g.
54. Curse
55. Greek mountain

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						13			14	
15					16				17	
18						19	20			
			21		22	23		24		
25	26	27			28	29			30	31
32					34				35	
36					37				38	
			39	40		41	42			
43	44				45		46	47	48	49
50					51	52	53			
54						55				
57						58			59	

56. Zilch
 57. Rosebud, to Kane
 58. Camp bed
 59. Flag feature
 8. Blood part
 9. Ore source
 10. Aswan's river
 11. Congers
 16. Sailing hazard
 20. Subsequently
 22. Party cheese
 23. Stunning gun
 25. Pester
 26. Chopper
 27. Story thread
 29. Pepsi rival
 31. Victory sign
 32. Longing
 34. Telly watcher
 38. Cleveland squad
 40. Like lions
 42. Expert
 43. Filches
 44. Israeli carrier
 45. Guitarist
 47. Funny person
 48. Visitor to Siam
 49. Ogler's look
 52. Altar affirmative
 53. Jazz lover
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* Andrew Jackson's parrot was kicked out of his funeral for swearing.
* In 1947, The New York Times opined that "the pizza could be as popular a snack as the hamburger if Americans only knew more about it."
* Buzz Aldrin's mother's maiden name was Moon.
* When pirate Richard Worley, captain of the New York's Revenge, captured his second ship, he named it the New York Revenge's Revenge.
* Wisconsin is known as the Badger State because the area's lead miners used to spend winters in tunnels burrowed into hills -- like badgers.

* Jim Carrey was the first actor to have three number one movies in one year.
* The Palais Ideal in France was built entirely of stones that a postman named Ferdinand Cheval picked up on his mail route.
* Honey hunters in Mozambique use special calls to recruit the services of birds known as honeyguides. The birds lead the humans to bees' nests, and in return, they get the leftover beeswax.
* In 1964, a pre-fame 17-year-old David Bowie was interviewed on the BBC program "Tonight" as the founder of The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Long-Haired Men.
* Thomas Edison nicknamed two of his kids Dot and Dash after the Morse code signals.
* Army ants that misinterpret the scent trails left by other ants will sometimes break from the crowd and march in circles. If enough ants join them, they can form massive "death spirals."

* John Quincy Adams was an avid skinny-dipper who included dips in the Potomac River as a regular part of his exercise regimen.
* Crayola came from the words for "oily chalk."
* The U.S. Senate's Rule XIX states that U.S. senators cannot insult their colleagues.

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

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Answers



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815-538-5142
www.graveshume.org

MUSEUMS

Breaking The Prairie Museum and Country Chapel
684 8th St.
815-539-3373

Hume Carnegie Museum
901 Washington St.
815-539-3373

Union Depot Railroad Museum
638 Main St.
815-538-3800

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Dr. Tara Van de Wyngaerde
700 14th Ave.
815-539-6291

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Dirty Dawgs
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815-538-2550

Mendota Pet Salon
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815-878-3185

PIZZA

Sicily Pizzeria L.L.C.
709 13th Avenue
815-539-7550

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Malley Plumbing & Heating
123 South Ottawa Street, Earlville
815-246-6011
IL License #055-009898

Triple Service
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801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

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REALTORS

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1922 Tower Road • Sublette
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McConville Realty & Auctioneering
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815-539-5673

Town & Country Realty
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mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com

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815-539-5321

VAPE/SMOKE SHOP

Smooth Smokes and Vapor
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815-539-3499

VETERINARIANS

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

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

WINDOWS & DECKING

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742



City of
Mendota

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

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State Farm
Bloomington, IL

Spend your time without acquiring regrets

Imagine we're at a graveyard. You look at a tombstone and see the person's name, the date they were born, and when they died. In-between the dates there is a dash. I think it's interesting that a person's whole life—from the time they are born until they die—is represented by that dash.

The question is: What are you doing with your dash?

Time goes by so fast, and you don't want to get to your later years in life and have nothing but regrets. David talks about this in the Psalms.

Psalms 39:4-5 (AMPC), says, "Lord, make me to know my end and [to appreciate] the measure of my days.... Behold, You have made my days as [short as] handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing in Your sight. Truly every man at his best is merely a breath!"

It's so important for us to invest our time in the important things of life. Because you don't want to spend your life climbing the ladder of success only to find out your ladder is leaning against the wrong building when you get to the top!

First Peter 5:8 (AMP) says we should "be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined]...." This is the key to living with purpose, making your time count. Are you living a balanced life, getting enough sleep, drinking enough water, taking care of yourself so you have the energy you need to do what God is leading you to do?

Are you focused on the important things—your relationship with God, spending time with family and friends? The people in your life are more important than money. Are you striving to store up material possessions that are already in the process of



decay and will someday end up in a junkyard? That's what happens to all the things we "worship" here.

There is nothing wrong with having nice things and enjoying them, but we cannot afford to put them before the really important things. So I ask you again: What are you doing with your time? Are you investing it or wasting it?

Wisdom is doing now what you will be happy with later on. A good example of this happened when I had a hip replacement in 2015. After the surgery, I healed very well and quickly. The doctor said it was because I was in great shape physically before surgery. I was in great shape because I've spent lots of time working out, eating properly, getting good sleep consistently, and doing other healthy habits. I paid the price, investing my time in ways that bought me strength and helped me to recover successfully.

Here's another example: I only have six teeth that don't have crowns on them. This is because when I was growing up, I never went to the dentist unless I had an emergency. My dentist finally said, "If you're not going to come in for your regular checkups and cleanings, then don't call us when you have an emergency."

Because I wouldn't take the time to go to the den-

tist on a regular basis and take care of my teeth like I should have, I ended up spending more time getting my teeth repaired later on. It takes a lot of time to get your teeth crowned—and a lot of shots and pain!

The bottom line is if you take a little time to do the right thing to begin with, then you won't be forced to take a lot of time later on taking care of problems that could have been prevented in the first place.

I've discovered eight simple, practical ways you can avoid wasting your time:

- Stop getting upset about things you can't do anything about. Be determined to keep your peace in every situation (John 14:27).
- Don't complain (Philippians 2:14). It's useless and changes absolutely nothing. The more we talk about problems, the bigger they seem to become.
- Don't try to "buy" time by getting less sleep. This actually causes you to lose more time because when you're tired, you make more mistakes than you would if you were properly rested. And every mistake costs time to fix.
- Stop hurrying. This also causes us to make mistakes and waste time.
- Enjoy what you have instead of craving and going

after things you don't have (Ecclesiastes 6:9).

• Don't live in the past. You can't go back and do anything over again. Let it go and get on with life (Philippians 3:8-13).

• Take time to deal with little problems and you won't spend more time later dealing with big ones.

• Identify things that hijack your time and be firm in avoiding them.

We all have room for improvement in our lives. I want to encourage you to make a decision to begin making changes, with God's help, in the areas you need to grow in. You'll have abundant life in Christ (John 10:10) and make your "dash" count as you invest your time following the plan He has for you!

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

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

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

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(815) 538-5587

Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

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

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

March 10 - 9 a.m. Sunday School;
9:30 a.m. Worship

ZION UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace
jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

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



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

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

UNITED PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH

4401 State Route 251
(815) 538-3444

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

E-mail: mendotaupc@yahoo.com
www.mendotaupc.org

SUNDAY: Christian Education-10 a.m.
Worship - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Midweek Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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Worship

WEDNESDAY
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Phone (815) 539-7107 (church)
(815) 871-5702 (pastor)

Larry Sheaves, Pastor

www.newcovenantmendota.org
www.facebook.com/NCAOG

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Sunday School
Worship

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CHURCH

Rt. 251, 1/2 mile south of
Mendota
(815) 538-6876

Brian Kelly, Pastor

www.mendotabiblechurch.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Sunday School
Worship
Evening Service

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH

607 Tenth Ave.
(815) 539-5626

Pastor Elise Rothfusz

E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Website:
www.stjohnsmendota.org

Schedule:
9 a.m. Sunday Worship in person
and online via YouTube

Find us on Facebook

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

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace;
thereby good will come to you.
Receive, please, instruction from His mouth,
and lay up His words in your heart.
If you return to the Almighty, you will be built up;
you will remove iniquity far from your tents.
JOB 22: 21-23

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

1003 5th St.
(815) 538-5603

Website: fpcmendota.com
Accessible

Pastor Laurie Walker

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School following
children's message
Fellowship 11 a.m.

Available on Facebook Live
Facebook page
www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

March 10 - 9 a.m. Second Sunday
breakfast

March 12 - 11 a.m. Produce sort-
ing; 7 p.m. Session



CHRIST'S CHURCH

"He is the Head of the Body, the
Church . . . That in everything He
might have the supremacy." Col. 1:18

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Dave Manion Jim McDowell
Wayne Shuman

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Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Church Builders 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.
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Thursday 6 p.m.

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E-mail: immanuelutheran
compton@live.com

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship at First

March 6 - 5:30 p.m. Lenten meal
at Immanuel; 6:30 p.m. Mid-week
Lenten service at Immanuel

March 7 - 6:30 p.m. Worship team
at Immanuel

March 9 - 8 a.m. Volunteer at
N.I.C.E.

Online "devotional service" videos continue
every Sunday at
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YouTube. Check our website and Facebook
page for more information.



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Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

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La Moille
(815) 638-2348

Pastor David Jungnickel

E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9 a.m.

Children's Sunday School
following children's message

FELLOWSHIP 10 a.m. (nursery available)

Mondays - 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m. Soup & Soul

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Pastor Brian Hamiel

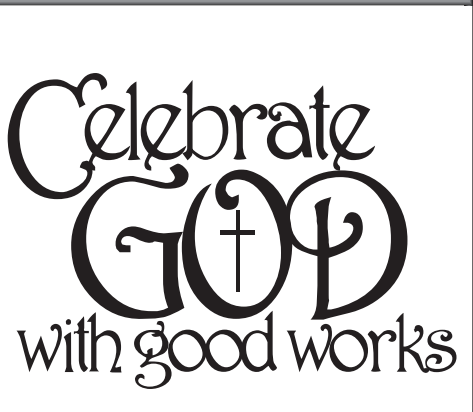
Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info
E-mail: fbfcchurch20817@gmail.com

"At Faith Bible Fellowship, we exist
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and raising of His name.
We would love to have you join us
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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 3 Kings (KJV) in the
Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who said, "I indeed baptized you
with water, but He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit"? Matthew,
Mark, John the Baptist, Luke
3. From Leviticus 14, how long
was a "clean" person required to
remain outside his tent? One night,
Two nights, Four days, Seven days
4. What town or city was Saul of
Tarsus near when he converted
to Christianity? Damascus, Assos,
Corinth, Gaza
5. Jesus says that you have to do
what to see the kingdom of God?
Love one another, Be born again,
Do what's right, Tithe
6. Which apostle's mother-in-law
is mentioned in the Bible? Peter,
Judas, James, Andrew
ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) John the
Baptist, 3) Seven days, 4) Damacus,
5) Be born again, 6) Peter
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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2023-JD-131
TO: Temika Alford, and other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 28th day of November, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Job Crockett, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 12th day of March, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor. Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.
Dated February 27, 2024
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0301
(March 6, 2024)

NOTICE
BIDDING & CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS
Invitation to Bid
Mendota C.C.S.D.
289 will receive sealed bids for Gymnasium Bleacher Replacement for 2024 at Northbrook Middle School, 1804 Guiles Avenue in Mendota, IL.
The work is to remove and replace gymnasium bleachers. The Date of Commencement is after July 8, 2024. The Date of Substantial Completion is August 9, 2024.
Please contact Brad Cox at (815) 539-7631 or visit www.m289.org for additional details.
The Bid Opening will be on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Mendota C.C.S.D. 289, District Office 1806 Guiles Ave. in Mendota, IL 61342.
No. 0302
(March 6, 2024)

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LEGAL NOTICE

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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FINANCIAL

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FURMAN'S Lawn Care and Tree Work. Mowing, bushes, spring clean up, weeding and much more. Call Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please leave a message will return call ASAP. Fully insured, in business since 1999. Servicing Rochelle and surrounding areas.

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

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

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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2022 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4WD, Z71, 37K Miles, Blue.....	\$45,900	2020 Chevy Equinox LT, AWD, 2.0 LTR., 63K Miles, Silver.....	\$21,900
2022 Chevy Equinox FWD LT, 42K Miles, Black.....	\$22,900	2020 Chevy Equinox FWD, LT, 64K Miles, Silver.....	\$18,900
2021 GMC Sierra K-1500, SLT, Crew Cab, 4x4, 36K Miles, White.....	\$43,900	2019 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab, LT 4x4, 59K Miles, White.....	\$32,900
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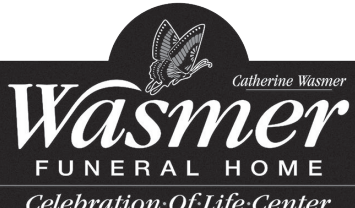
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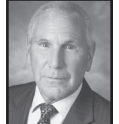
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