VOLUME 146, NUMBER 12

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

ONE DOLLAR, 25 CENTS

Tracy Cooper, director of the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry, dressed as a bunny for the pantry's Easter distribution. The food pantry will be hopping to its new location, 710 Sixth Ave. soon. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

### Food Pantry closing in on its original goal

New location set for April opening

By BRANDON LaCHANCE

Staff writer

MENDOTA – In less than a year the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry and the Mendota community has raised nearly \$380,000 for a new building.

The new food pantry, located at 710 Sixth Ave., is almost complete. In fact, H&H Contractors told food pantry director Tracy Cooper the building should be ready by the second or third week in April.

"It's very exciting," Cooper said. "I can't believe how quickly all of this happened. From finding the property, to giving H&H a call, to fundraising, to almost reaching our goal. Everything is tentative and subject to change, but it's looking like we could be in the building midway through April

and have a grand opening around Memorial Day weekend."
Cooper and the food pantry are still fundraising and asking for donations as the \$380,000 isn't 100 percent raised.

Also, the price tag has risen because the food pantry had to purchase a \$28,000 three-phase generator to supplement the building

"The help from the community has been amazing whether it's from individuals or from businesses," Cooper said. "Obviously, we couldn't do it without everyone coming together to help us."

# "Mamma Mia!"

☐ Musical production to take place March 22-24 at MHS Auditorium

MENDOTA – Mendota High School will present "Mamma Mia!" with music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus of the Swedish musical group ABBA, some songs with Stig Anderson, and book by Catherine Johnson, originally conceived by Judy Craymer.

Performances will be 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 22; 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 23; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 24 in the Mendota High School Auditorium.

"Mamma Mia!" takes place on a fictional Greek island, where Sophie dreams of her upcoming wedding with her father giving her away. The only thing is, she doesn't know who her father is! Her mother Donna doesn't want to talk about the past, so Sophie secretly invites three potential men who could be her father. When all three men come to the island for the wedding, Donna, former lead singer of the 1970s pop group Donna and the Dynamos, is sent into a tailspin with her former



Cast members go through rehearsal in preparation for Mendota High School production of "Mamma Mia!" to be presented March 22-24. (Photo contributed)

back-up singers and best friends supporting her. Told through the crowd-pleasing music of ABBA, Mamma Mia! will have audiences dancing in their seats.

Seating is assigned. For tickets, go online at www. showtix4u.com/event-details/82093. Tickets are \$12

with a small service fee. For more information, contact James Younger at jyounger@ mendotahs.org or 815-539-

### Utilities file slimmed-down spending plans

☐ Consumers likely to pay more each month for infrastructure improvements

By ANDREW ADAMS

Capitol News Illinois

CHICAGO — State regulators are once again considering massive electric utility spending plans that would affect the state's climate goals – and 5.4 million electric customers' monthly bills – after rejecting previous versions late last year.

The Illinois Commerce Commission forced the state's two major electric utilities, Commonwealth Edison and Ameren Illinois, back to the drawing board in December when it rejected the companies' multi-year grid plans on a 4-1 vote. The rare split decision cited a lack of transparency and unclear benefits to

customers among other reasons for the rejection.

The plans – products of the state's Climate and Equitable Jobs Act – propose billions of dollars in



spending and lay out the companies' plans for supporting the state's climate goals, including the transition

away from greenhouse gas emitting energy generation over the next 20 years. The ICC is now reviewing the plans in a process likely to last the rest of the year.

Consumer advocates who cheered

on the ICC's decision to limit rate increases last year say they're also reviewing the plans, which propose less spending than the ones that were rejected last year.

ComEd is asking for \$7.6 billion in spending on grid improvements, a 10.7 percent decrease from their rejected plan. Ameren is seeking \$1.88 billion in capital spending, about a 15.7 percent decrease from its previous request. The plans also include the companies' operational spending, which would be similar to current levels.

See Utilities, Page A5

### Mendota Museum & Historical Society honors first 30 years, building for next 30 years

☐ Alex Revzan takes over as new director

By BRANDON LaCHANCE Staff writer

MENDOTA – When Bryon Walters was voted in as president of the Mendota Museum & Historical Society in November 2022, he wanted to make a difference and help the organization

Fruits of labor from Walters and the 14-member board of directors are officially showing as they're honoring the first 30 years of the society and building for the next 30 years with new hires, purchasing buildings at 907 and 909 Washington Street, and overall expansion.

"We want to be more community involved and get members of the community who love history and are looking for an outlet to find out about history or share the history they know about," said Walters, who has been involved with the society since 2007. "One of our prime goals is to get more youth involved. Generally, it's an elderly passion, hobby, and pursuit.

"Our first 30 years have been tremendous and we're building for the next 30 years. We've had a ton of great supporters and most of that generation has passed away. Now, we have to think hard on how we approach the next 30 years, the new millennium, new technology, new way of reaching people, and the new way of exposing what the museum has for our



Alex Revzan, left, is the new Mendota Museum & Historical Society Director. He is working with the organization president Bryon Walters and the 14-member board of directors (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

society and our community."

Assisting Walters with the expansion and the push for the next 30 years is Alex Revzan, who was hired Nov. 1, 2023, as the director of the museum and society.

Although he is new to the position, he has been involved with the organization before when he interned during graduate school at Northern Illinois University

in 2012-14.

"We have a very large footprint with the Hume Car-

footprint with the Hume Carnegie Museum, the Union Depot Railroad Museum, and the Breaking the Prairie," said Revzan, who has a bachelor's degree in history, a master's degree in public history, and worked at the Driehaus Museum in Chicago for five years before consultant and freelance work. "We have excellent collections. It's very comprehensive. It's fun to be able to leverage the collections and tell the stories. That's our job to do.

"I'd like to help the Mendota Museum & Historical Society grow. We've grown physically with the new

building, and I think we need to identify some funding opportunities so we can really do compelling programs and

exhibitions.

"That's the big thing. It's one thing to have the collections, but we need to share them with the community. Every place has a story to tell. There is history everywhere. It may not be on a grand scale, but it's important to people here and it's important to

share what we have."
Walters thinks Revzan is
the exact person the museum
and society needed to help it

prosper.

"Finding a director was a long, hard search. We can't afford compensation packages like a lot of larger

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SEE SHOPPE LOCAL DIRECTORY
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# **LOCAL AND AREA**

### Northbrook School's February Students of the Month



Eighth grade, left to right, Samantha Tunk, Hayden Cunefare, Julian Valencia, Danny Morano



Montoya, Livi Perrman, Kylee Bonnell



Fifth grade, left to right, Taylyn Piskie, Arianna Quintana, Antonio Arteaga, Daniel Price, Isabella Ramos

### Girl talk with the experts

MENDOTA—Graves-Hume Public Library is hosting a very important and informative program, Girl Talk with the Experts, sponsored by Mendota's Expressions Salon.

Join nurse Amanda Atherton and bilingual nurse Marci Lemus at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 26 to discuss what to expect as a pre-teen, and talk with the experts about makeup.

This program is for young ladies in fourth through eighth grade.

Registration is required. Library programs are open to all and no library card is required. Please call 815-538-5142 to register.

### HSTP Regional Transportation Meeting to take place Friday, March 22 in Dixon

DIXON-ThenextHuman Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Regional Transportation Committee Meeting for Region 3 (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, and Putnam counties) will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, March 22, at Kreider Services, 500 Anchor Road, Dixon.

Human service organizations with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged to attend, as well as anyone interested in public transit. If you would like further information, please contact via email: hstp@ncicg.org or call us at (815) 433-5830.

There will be reserved time

There will be reserved time

slots available for public comment via Zoom for anyone not able to attend the meeting in person between 10:15-10:30 a.m. If you would like to participate in public comment via Zoom during that time frame, call (815) 433-5830 to reserve your time slot.

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

### Blackstone School Report

Sixth grade, left to right, Delaney Tucker, Lydia Rinaldo,

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Billy Bromenschenkel, Dominic Gonzalez

There was lots of green and gold on Friday at Blackstone for St. Patrick's Day. The students enjoyed some fun activities and we even had a couple of leprechauns visit some of our classrooms. Mrs. Reuter and Miss Wilhelm's students each created leprechaun traps in hopes of catching a leprechaun. Their inventions were so creative!

Trimester 2 report cards recently went home with all students. The re-

port cards showed academic and social progress thus far in the school year. Parents need to sign the report card envelope and return it to school. The papers inside can stay at home. Parents should reach out to their child's teacher if they have any questions.

The students nominated for the principal award this week included Colton Longmire, Alex Hougas, Harvey Robison, Pablo Mendez, Waylon Brewer,

Leonel Orozco, Cainan Sellers and Cian Sheppard. The winners were Mila Gunn, William Colin, Natalie Bodie and Lainey Ramer. Congratulations

to all of you!

Spring pictures with Inter-State Studios are scheduled for Tuesday, March 26. Order information went home with all students. Parents can either return the order envelope or order online at www.inter-state.com/order and use

code 85395BA if they would like to purchase pictures. Inter-State will not photograph all students like they do in the fall. They will only take pictures of those students that order pictures ahead of time.

Spring break is approaching. There will be no school for students and staff on March 29-April 7. School will resume on Monday, April 8.



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# **LOCAL AND AREA**

### Compeer Financial awards \$190,000 in general use grants; LaSalle County included

SUN PRAIRIE, Wis. -Compeer Financial's Fund for Rural America, the Farm Credit cooperative's giving program, has awarded 34 General Use Grants, totaling \$190,975.

General Use Grants fund initiatives and organizations whose work enriches agriculture and rural America, aligning with Compeer Financial's mission. These grants will directly

impact the lives of 594,000 people, with one quarter of the funding having a direct impact on farmers across the grant's categories of education, environment, technology or quality of life. In addition, half of the grants will support rural vitality through educational experiences or local healthcare. This is the twelfth cycle of the grant, which has awarded more than \$2.5 million and

impacted the lives of over six million people since inception. The Fund will offer this grant again in May 2024 to provide funding for summer 2024.

"The Fund is proud to provide support to the communities in which our team members live and work," said Karen Schieler, senior corporate giving specialist at Compeer Financial. "The General Use Grants directly contribute to the health and vibrancy of rural America. These innovative ideas and work make a lasting difference."

The 34 organizations receiving support from the General Use Grant Program throughout Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin, include:

Illinois

Farmers Rising: livestock handling and corral system for regenerative

livestock incubator and education farm

LaSalle County Farm **Bureau Foundation:** Taken-Make agriculture kits

Monmouth College: Rural education initiatives educational farm curriculum equipment

Bank: distribution center improvement

Northern Illinois Food

Quincy Children's Mu-

seum: outreach experience for hands-on programming

River Bend Food Reservoir: pallet wrap machine for safe food transportation

Two Rivers Council Foundation: additional storage capacity at food pantry

Western Illinois University School of Agriculture: Feeding Home First snack bags and agriculture education

### STEAM Irish Quartet performing in Princeton's Grace Theater March 30

PRINCETON - The Princeton Theater Group/ Festival 56 will present the STEAM Irish Quartet in performance at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 30 at the Grace Theater, 316 S. Main St., Princeton. Tickets are \$25, available online at festival56. com, by contacting the box office at boxoffice@ festival56.com or leaving a message at 815-879-5656, or at the door. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for

The STEAM quartet takes its name and inspiration from Chicago native (by way of Doolin, County Clare) John Williams's 2001 ground-breaking album of the same name, a dynamic blend of traditional Irish and Celtic melodies with modern rhythmic ideas and chord structures. STEAM carries this forward even further, exploring the themes passed down to John from a family deeply rooted in Irish traditional music and Irish dance by incorporating musicians with backgrounds in the classical and jazz genres.



STEAM Irish Quartet members, left to right, are Jeff Lindblade, Katie Grennan, John Williams, and Steve Morrow. The group will perform March 30 in Princeton.

STEAM is comprised of John Williams (concertina, flute, button accordion), Katie Brennan (fiddle), Steve Morrow (bodhrán), and Jeff Lindblade (guitar, uilleann pipes, Irish flute, tin whistle, as well as vocals).

John Williams is internationally regarded as one of the foremost players of Irish music today.

Grennan's traditional fiddle playing carries the articulation of a gifted classical musician tempered by the soul of a champion Irish dancer.

Morrow brings genre bending, multi-instrumental experience to the bodhrán (Irish drum) as he blends modern and traditional rhythms into the heartbeat and backbone of his music.

Lindblade is a multi-instrumental performer (guitar, uilleann pipes, Irish flute, tin whistle) and vocalist with a passion for traditional and contemporary Irish music.

Upcoming spring events for the Princeton Theater Group include two different shows by the Chicago vocal trio Girls Like Us on Thursday, April 11, and Friday, April 12, and return appearances by David Casas Magic on Saturday, April 27, and John "Elvis" Lyons and the Jailhouse Hound Dogs band on Saturday, June 8. Tickets and additional information is available at festival56.com.

#### Fish Fry Supper at LaMoille Lions Club Friday, March 22

LaMOILLE - The LaMoille Lions Club is hosting a public Fish Fry Supper from 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 22 at the Lions Club located at 308 Howard Street.

The meal contains cod, coleslaw, potato, dessert,

Adults are \$24, children (6-12) are \$7, and children under five are freee.

#### **Iron Chef Pizza Edition for tweens**

MENDOTA – Graves-Hume Public Library will host Tweens Iron Chef: Pizza Edition at 6 p.m. Monday, March 25.

Each group of chefs will be given a bag of ingredients to cook up something delicious to be judged by presentation, creativity, and edibility.

This program is open to kids in fifth through eighth grade. Space is limited.

Please register for this event. Library programs are open to all and no library card is required. Please call 815-538-5142 to register.

#### Stage 212 to present "Readers Theatre Karoke"

LaSALLE - Stage 212 in LaSalle will be celebrating World Theatre Day on Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m. with an evening of karaoke – "Readers Theater Karaoke," that is. Actors will take turns reading from short skits and scenes in a karaoke style-absolutely

no singing involved.

"Readers Theater Karaoke" is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the fun of playing on stage without the commitment of being in a full production. Attendees are invited to observe or participate, and all age groups are welcome for this free event.



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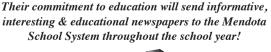
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# **OBITUARIES**

#### Earnest L. Serr 🔙

WACO, Texas - On March 7. 2024, during yet another of several recent hospital visits for a variety of age-related conditions, Earnest Larue Serr, 92, finally received his long-awaited call from God to join his beloved late wife Beverly in

There will be a memorial celebration of both Ernie and Beverly Serr's lives at 11 a.m., on their anniversary, June 10, 2024, (they celebrated their

65th and last one together in 2021), at Clarion Lutheran Church, between Mendota and La Moille, after which their remains will be interred in the Clarion cemetery immediately behind the church, where they purchased a plot and marker years ago, adjacent to those unused portions of the cemetery that were the scene also of many hundreds of hours of Ernie pitching baseballs to his young son.

Ernie was born Aug 6, 1931, on a farm in Botkins, Ohio, to Otto Serr and Sophia (Metz) Serr. He was a bit of a miracle baby (or at least a surprise), as his parents were 50 and 48 at the time of his birth. Ernie was the youngest of their

Raised in a strict but loving God-fearing home, ruled over by his mother, Ernie attended grade school and high school in Botkins and then finished high school in Wapakoneta, Ohio, where his parents moved after leaving the farm. He picked up German, as it was frequently spoken in his home, and he continued speaking German to anyone who would listen throughout his life and even in his final elder care facility. He also reminded nearly everyone he knew that he went to Wapakoneta High School with Neil Armstrong, the astronaut who became the first man on the moon.

Ernie started college at Bowling Green State University (he often told of hitchhiking to and from school), but finished at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, where he played varsity baseball. He decided to go into the ministry, so he stayed at Capital after graduation to enter the Trinity Lutheran Seminary there. That decision not only set him on his career path but resulted in him meeting the love of his life, Beverly Wenzel, an Illinois farm girl who chose to attend Capital University to become a schoolteacher. In pursuit of his seminary degree, Ernie did his internship

at Grace Lutheran Church in downtown San Antonio, Texas. He married Beverly in Peru, on June 10, 1956, and, after Ernie completed his final year at seminary, they moved to Newport, R.I., where Ernie attended the Naval Chaplaincy School. He had a profound respect for the Navy as a result of two of his older brothers serving in the Navy during World War II. His dream of being a Navy chaplain was deferred, and he was put on reserve duty status, as his superiors decided he was perhaps a bit too outspoken to be an ideal fit for military life. Indeed, nobody who has ever gotten to know Ernie would regard him as a sure bet to unflinchingly follow orders and keep his opinions about those orders to himself. Instead of military chaplaincy, God put Ernie on the path

to parish ministry and he was ordained on July 28, 1957. The opportunity to be close to Beverly's family in Illinois led to Ernie's first ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Cullom, Ill., a small farming community about an hour south of Chicago. During his five years serving in Cullom, Ernie and Beverly made many lifetime friends, and welcomed a son, Brian, their only child, born on Dec. 16, 1958

Ernie's next church was a two-point parish in the small town of Schapville, Ill., (a sign on the gravel road leading into the community proudly proclaimed it the home of "49 people, 52 dogs"). He served there nearly three years and once again he and Beverly formed lifetime friendships over late night coffee and card games.

Ernie's third parish, where he would serve from 1965-1981, was Zion Lutheran Church of Clarion Township, a rural church between two small agriculturally-oriented towns in north central Illinois — Mendota, the self-proclaimed "Sweet Corn Capital of the World," where Brian attended school from first grade through high school; and LaMoille, where Beverly taught kindergarten for over 25 years. Again, lifelong friendships were formed both within Clarion Lutheran and the nearby communities. In 1981, Ernie left the parish ministry and became the

Chaplain and Administrator of Mendota Lutheran Home, a highly-regarded nursing home, where he served for 14 years prior to his 1995 retirement. Even in retirement he continued to serve the church, first as an interim pastor for St. Matthew Lutheran in Princeton, and later for many years as a fill-in pastor for a number of Texas hill country churches, as well as St. Paul Lutheran in Crawford. He also officiated the Nov. 13, 1993, wedding of his son to Kathy Ann George, the ceremony held in Baylor's Armstrong-Browning Library. Ernie and Bev moved to the rural Boerne, Texas, com-

munity in 1999, shortly after becoming grandparents to their first Texas granddaughter, Grace, who was later joined by their other two granddaughters, Olivia and Sophia. Their home was a welcoming place for Brian's family for 20 years until moving to Waco in 2019, where they lived together at The Delaney senior living facility until Beverly's death on Nov. 17, 2021.

During his time in Texas, Ernie became a big fan of Baylor University sports (Brian and his wife Kathy are long-time employees of Baylor Law School). Ernie attended dozens of Baylor football and basketball games over the years. Ernie and Brian drove to Indianapolis to watch the 2005 Women's Final Four, where Baylor won its first basketball national championship. During Ernie's last days in the hospital, his doctors reported that he would not let anyone take off his Baylor Bears cap.

Ernie loved the Lord, loved his family, loved his friends (and he made them easily; he could meet someone in a foreign airport and, within 15 minutes, have exchanged mutual invitations to visit "if you are ever in - - - -"), and he loved sports and travel. He handed down his love of sports and travel to his son, who in turn sought to hand it down to Ernie's granddaughters. Ernie and Bev traveled to their 50th state when they accompanied Brian's family to Hawaii; and they made repeated trips to Europe, especially to Germany, Austria, and Slovakia, visiting relatives or good friends in all those places. Ernie and Beverly also traveled with Brian's family on multiple trips to the Pacific Northwest, Disney World, and the Texas coast.

Ernie had a quick sense of humor, and he liked to tease, never out of hostility but always out of a true and loving interest in others. He teased friend and relative, young and old, from small children to centenarians. He used humor and friendliness in pursuit of establishing those close and trusting relationships necessary to becoming an effective minister, teacher, counselor, coach, and family role model. As his health declined (and as news spread of his passing), there were many who noted the influence he had in their – those he ministered to in his congregations, those he worked with in nursing home administration, those he taught in catechism classes, those he counseled at critical points in their lives, those he coached in youth baseball leagues, and those he loved and supported within his extended family.

Ernie often commented about long obituaries in a way that suggested he was not a fan of them (sorry, dad — you should have stuck around a while longer and written it yourself). His "issue" with them was their tendency to treat God's blessings as personal accomplishments, thereby putting the focus too much on the person and not enough on the Lord. Ultimately, according to "Ernie-think," all earthly things and accomplishments will pass away and count for little; and in the end, either there is Christ or there is nothing

Ernie is survived by his son, Brian Serr, and his daughter-in-law, Kathy (George) Serr, and by his beloved granddaughters, Grace Serr, Olivia Serr, and Sophia Serr. Ernie and Beverly's move to Texas meant that they were able to play a significant and influential role in their granddaughters' lives. On their visits to their grandparents' home, Ernie loved to put them in a wagon, attach the wagon to his small lawn tractor, and pull them around his yard and through the neighborhood. And he joyously watched his granddaughters? various sporting events on visits to their home. (He never forgot watching one of his granddaughters hit six three-point shots in a single game, and once loudly remarked from the bleachers that "she's the best player out there" as he watched another of his granddaughters play as a second grader on the fourth-grade volleyball team). He served as a mentor to Grace as she completed her catechism classes, took Olivia along hundreds of times when he went to town running errands, and traveled to Guangzhou, China, to welcome Sophia to the family and help with the return home.

Ernie was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly (whom he has desperately missed and longed to join in heaven since her passing); by his sisters, Leona (and husband Gilbert) Schumann, Margaret Serr (who died as a teenager), and Hulda Serr (who died as a child); and his brothers, Herman (and wife Katherine) Serr, Edison (and Rosemary) Serr, Willis (and Ruth) Serr, and Carl (and Phyllis) Serr. Though Ernie lived most of his adult life in Illinois and Texas, he always made time for his siblings' families in Ohio, attending dozens of reunions, and numerous weddings of his many nieces and nephews (and great-nieces and nephews), occasionally officiating or otherwise participating in their wedding ceremonies. He played a similar role with his Illinois nieces and nephews from Beverly's side of the family, smaller in number but closer in proximity, resulting in hundreds of family events and holidays together, during which he became a major part of their lives. He was also preceded in death by his parents, Otto Serr and Sophia (Metz) Serr; and by Beverly's parents, Harold, and Laura (Schlesinger) Wenzel, all of whom he

Memorials in honor of Ernie may be made to Lutheran World Relief or to Shepherd's Way (a Wichita, Kan.-based ministry dedicated to launching adults with disabilities into independent, community-engaged, and purpose-driven lives). The family would like to express thanks and appreciation to all those caregivers (especially those at The Delaney, The Blake, and Providence and Hillcrest hospitals) who provided assistance to Ernie in the last two-and-a-half years of his life.

The family invites you to leave a message or memory on Ernie's "Tribute Wall" at www.WHBfamily.com.

### Please see more obituaries on Page A7.

#### **DEATH NOTICES**

The Mendota Reporter will print DEATH NO-TICES (approximately 50 words including name, age, date of death, time/date of services) free of charge. OBITUARIES will be printed at a cost of \$100 to be billed to the arranging funeral home or prepaid with cash, check or credit card. Please submit obituaries or death notices to editor@mendotareporter.com.





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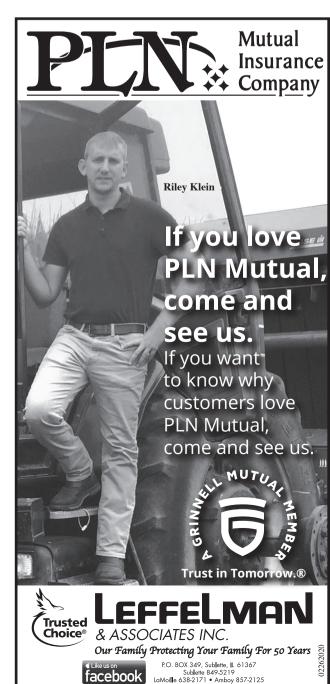
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# LOCAL AND AREA

### 1st Presbyterian Church holding Easter Egg Hunt

MENDOTA - First Presbyterian Church in Mendota is holding an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 30. The church is located at 1003 Fifth St. The event is open to the public.

There will be a drawing for five Easter meal baskets. Each basket will contain enough for four individuals. There will be 8-10 eggs with a drawing ticket and the tickets will be placed in a bag with five to be selected to win the meal baskets. One basket per family.

#### **LaSalle County** courts awarded sizeable grant for technology

OTTAWA - LaSalle County Circuit Clerk Greg Vaccaro has announced that the Illinois Supreme Court has awarded a Court Technology Modernization grant in the amount of \$992,465.74 to the La-Salle County courts. The purpose of the grant is to upgrade technology and related support systems for the operations of the LaSalle County courts.

The grant will allow the purchase of equipment, software, digitizing of files and implementation of an AI web chatbot. The AI chatbot will address consumers needs, offer multi-language support and gets smarter with every use. The AI chatbot is a powerful tool and will be beneficial to all users. LaSalle County will be a leader in using a multi-language kiosk with extensive capabilities to assist the general public.

Vaccaro said, "By receiving this grant, this will help offset the taxpayer dollars to keep the LaSalle County courts technologically advanced. We are fortunate to have received this funding from the Illinois Supreme Court."

### Museum

#### Continued from Page A1

municipalities can," Walters said. "We are very fortunate to have Alex be interested in the position. Hopefully we're making it beneficial and pleasing for him to be here. We want him to be here for the long haul.

"I've liked him since I met him. He's very even tempered and low key. He has a sound mind and an educational background. He's been very enjoyable to work with and we've gotten a lot accomplished since he's been on board."

Since Revzan has come aboard, he has helped for a five-year strategic plan, adjusted the society's bylaws, constructed an organization chart and a new collections program, and created a more professional outlook to the society.

A new director fits with a new building as the Mendota Museum & National Historical Society has purchased the former Pell building at 907 Washington St. and the former Walter Bros. building at 909 Washington St.

The latter will be used as a society headquarters, office area, visitor's greeting area, collection drop off, office personnel, archival and collections work, genealogy, and workshop, while 907 will be used as a public space for programs and to get the best use of its large conference room.

"We're bursting at the seams with a building in Compton, a storage unit, the three museums, and upstairs storage space downtown filled to the brim of our collections and artifacts," Walters said. "The new building allows us to limit the scattering and condense to one building, one roof."

### **Utilities**

Continued from Page A1

Along with the grid plans, the two utilities are also filing rate plans to formalize the changes to customer rates and lay out some unrelated expenses.

In December, because the ICC lacks the authority to reject rate plans, the commission amended the utilities' original filings and only approved the portion of the proposed changes to customer rates that didn't involve grid spending. In a move praised by consumer advocates, the ICC tamped down the companies' proposed profit margins from a 10.5 percent return on equity to below 9 percent for both

"We heard the Commissioners' concerns and have worked diligently these past three months to create a plan that is responsive to their feedback while positioning ComEd to help the state achieve its clean energy and equity goals," ComEd President and CEO Gil Quiniones said in a news release.

In its latest ICC filing, ComEd is proposing increasing residential customer bills by an average of \$3.74 per month next year, with smaller increases in subsequent years. By 2027, the average residential customer could be paying about \$92 more per year than they would be otherwise.

Ameren, which serves about 1.2 million electric customers, has not filed its rate plan. But based on the company's grid plan, rates are likely be considerably lower than in their original filings, which would have raised annual residential costs by between \$200 and \$400 depending on electric use, according to public notices published early last

The updated filings, according to Environmental Law & Policy Center senior attorney Brad Klein, are a "major, major milestone" to getting utilities on track to support state climate goals.

The types of projects outlined in the company's filings include plans related to solar energy, electric vehicles, battery storage, automating electricity distribution and making infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Klein noted he sees some efforts outlined in the plan as beneficial but hard to quantify, such as equitable access to solar energy. Other projects, like proposed upgrades to ComEd's internet connections, might need to be scaled down to make the plans more affordable for consumers, he said.

"These all look like good projects, but there's an overall cost at the end of the day,"

In December, ICC Chair Doug Scott said the commission "cannot determine" if ComEd's original plan was cost effective based on the information contained in the plans, later echoing the finding for Ameren's plan

The commission found the original plans lacked sufficient evidence that they would benefit low-income and traditionally disadvantaged communities - a requirement of CEJA-and that the plans didn't demonstrate how the utilities would keep monthly bills affordable.

Both utilities explicitly responded to those criticisms in their revised filings, including more in-depth calculations that suggest most of the benefits of grid modernization and clean energy will go toward historically disadvantaged and low-income communities.

Since December, utilities have reworked the math they used to demonstrate their plans' benefits and scaled back some spending.

"That has led to real savings," Klein said.

One of the major themes of Ameren's revisions, according to Ameren's vice president for regulatory policy Matthew Tomc, is lowering the rate of capital spending. He said that was in response to feedback from advocates and the ICC's December decision.

"We really see the approval of this plan as critical to providing reliable and affordable service to our customers as well as achieving the clean energy objectives of CEJA," Tome told Capitol News Illinois. But he noted while the

company reduced the spending in this plan by over \$400 million, the projects that were cut or reduced might come back in future plans.

"Going forward, we're

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going to look to the potential need to increase those investment levels," Tomc said. Consumer watchdogs are

still analyzing the full details of the revised plans.

"That's kind of what we're really curious to see in the filing: Are the utilities explaining what they did originally and using different terms or are they actually changing what they're doing?" Sarah Moskowitz, head of the consumer advocacy group Citizens Utility Board, told Capitol News

While CUB lawyers had not fully reviewed the filings as of Friday, Moskowitz said based on conversations she's had with utility officials, she expects to support some of the revisions to the grid plans.

"But there will remain sticking points that we'll probably oppose," Moskowitz said.

The ICC also admonished the companies in December for failing to be transparent in their planning process. In response, both utilities held meetings with community members and advocacy groups earlier this year. Company officials also held weekly meetings with each other to discuss how to handle revisions to their grid

This engagement strategy, and the ICC's rejection of earlier plans, was met with praise from some of those involved. Klein noted "the process is working well."

"I think we've made a ton of progress," he said.

Now, the ICC will consider whether the companies' arguments meet the requirements laid out in state law. Regulators are expected to issue a ruling in these cases by the end of the year, after hearing testimony from consumer and environmental advocates, as well as from staff at the ICC and the Illinois attorney general.

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### MPD finds 40 violations of public nuisance ordinance

MENDOTA - The Mendota City Council handled several items during its regular meeting on March 18. Alderman Jay Miller called for a license committee meeting to be held at 5 p.m. Monday, March 25 in the council chambers.

Police Chief Greg Kellen presented the public nuisance report for March. Focusing mainly on residential properties, he told the council that the department had issued 40 violations so far during the month. The department will next inspect commercial/business properties. The city's incinerator burn pit will open for the season

on Monday, April 1. Hours of operation are Monday from 3-6 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The burn pit is closed on Wednesday and Sunday. The incinerator burn pit is located south of Mendota near the sewage treatment plant.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, April 1 at 5:30 p.m.

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#### What happens when Social Security Trust Fund runs out of money?

#### By BRENTON SMITH

The Heartland Institute

The standard line about Social Security leads voters to believe that even if Congress does nothing, the system will continue to pay scheduled benefits for nearly another decade. That is roughly the life expectancy of someone turning 80 years old today.

For those of us who are 79 years old and younger, the problem with the analysis is that Congress is not in a position to do nothing as Social Security transitions from private banker to creditor.

Over the next 10 years, Congress will have to refinance \$2.7 trillion of debt held by the Social Security Trust Fund, much to the chagrin of those who claim that the Social Security Trust Fund doesn't exist.

The media and so-called experts tend to view this process as a seamless transition that will go unnoticed by the public markets. The reality is that the government will have to borrow more from the public markets at uncertain rates as the Treasury competes with private borrowers for cash. This likely means higher rates for both the U.S. Treasury and for private businesses.

The relationship of Congress and the Social Security Trust Fund dates back to the 1977 Social Security Amendments, which increased taxes and reduced benefit levels. The combined changes allowed the Social Security system to grow into the largest customer of the U.S. Treasury Department, buying nearly \$3 trillion of debt from the government from 1983 to today.

That pool of money largely insulated the government from the reality of borrowing in the public markets. As excess cash from Social Security flowed into government securities, the borrowing cost of the government dropped from 10.8 percent to 2.4 percent in 2023.

There is nothing illegal or unreasonable about this relationship. What is unreasonable is for the public to fail to acknowledge that the relationship between Social Security and the government has changed, and how those changes will affect the way the public pays for government services.

From the mid-1980s to 2010, Social Security generated excess cash, which served to make spending easier in Washington. Essentially, Social Security provided a buffer between Congress and its profligate ways.

That stopped in 2010. For the next 11 years, the program depended upon interest to pay the scheduled benefits, meaning Social Security was a player on the sidelines of government finance. The Social Security Trust Fund basically allowed Congress to stand still while the imbalances implied by the system continued to grow. That buffer entirely evaporated in 2021. For the rest

of time, when the Social Security Trust Fund redeems a bond for cash in order to pay the bills, the Treasury Department must find a source of funds. The government has two options: It can increase taxes in order to buy the debt or sell new debt to a new lender.

The federal government is looking at unwinding 30 years of subsidized borrowing over a relatively short period of time. Americans should be paying close attention.

This refinancing burden arrives at the exact time that Social Security is reducing its role as the nation's private banker. In short, the best customer of the U.S. Treasury is about to become a direct competitor. If you owned a shoe store, and your best client was leaving you, it would be a worrisome event. The problem in this case is exponentially larger because the best client is leaving you so that he can open his own shoe store

It would be wonderful if Congress could do nothing. (Brenton Smith (think@heartland.org) is a policy advisor with The Heartland Institute.)

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# Junior Woman's Club Style Show – 1947

**Backtracks** 

**Sidetracks** 

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from March 19, 1997.) By Jessica Nashold

The Junior Woman's Club's third annual spring style show was a major event. It was presented on March 11, 1947, in the high school auditorium and featured 70 models, "from tots to grandmothers."

Garments were supplied by Yohn's, Westerman's, Spurgeon's and The Toddler Shop.

Shoes came from Holdenrid's, Barr's and Miller-Jones. Musical interludes were solos by vocalist Daisy Salzman and by Marilyn Ashley on alto sax. The cornet trio of Joe Brady, Hugh Richardson and John Jackson also performed.

Merle Mayer, fashion reporter, described the styles being modeled. The 'tiny tots' came first.

#### They wore fancy little dresses and suits in pastel pink, blue and yellow.

Next came suits, two-pieces dresses and dresses with nailhead or braid trim. Hats included "smart new felts with plaid taffeta ribbon trim." Sportswear being show featured jackets, pedal pushers and beach togs as well as a "casual suit with Eisenhower jacket."

Refreshments were served in the cafeteria to all the participants after the show. General chairmen were Mrs. Willard Austin and Mrs. Wayne Halboth. Lois Blackwood was president of Junior Woman's Club in 1947.

On March 15, 1947, Mendota High School hosted the sectional speech and drama tournament. Miss Hazel Payne was in charge of drama and H. Herbert Houston directed the competition in speech. Twenty-one schools with 300-400 students took part.

The MHS play, "Afraid of the Dark," advanced to state competition. It had an all-boy cast. Lamar Brewbaker was stage manager. Paula Stenger also took her reading entry to state. Although Mendota debaters failed to take a first or second place, the teams received "the highest ratings of any team participating."

Fully aware of the benefits to be derived from inter-school rivalry, the MHS board voted to allow school buses to transport student activity groups to out-of-town events.

#### The board and superintendent feel every good use should be made of the equipment available.

It was in 1947 that the American Berkshire Association expressed interest in erecting an office building on Waldorf property at the northwest corner of Washington Street and 14th Avenue. The building would be valued at \$35,000. A change in zoning from residential to commercial would be required. Although they did not object to this building, people in the neighborhood didn't want to see the classification changed. The Zoning Board of Appeals suggested that a clause be inserted that in the event American Berkshire discontinued use of the proposed building, the zoning would revert to residential. The subject became academic when American Berkshire did not come to Mendota.

The Mendota Woman's Club marked its 50th anniversary on March 17, 1947. The club was founded on March 15, 1897. Club yearbooks were displayed with the exception of 1906 and 1908, when no books were assembled. The first piece of birthday cake was served to Mrs. Claude Radley, oldest living president of the Mendota club. Mrs. Harold Dean was president in 1947.

The Rev. Wilbert E. Hare, wife Isabel and son Wilbert Jr. arrived in Mendota the evening of Saturday, March 8, 1947, and stayed in the Ellis Hotel. Rev. Hare delivered his first sermon in the Presbyterian church on March 9

The following day, household goods arrived and the Hares moved into the manse on Monday morning.

It was announced that Spare Stamp No. 11 in ration books would be validated April 1, 1947, for 10 pounds of sugar. It would remain in effect through Sept. 30.

The Men's Club of the Methodist

church sponsored a paper drive to fund the Boy Scout troop it was sponsoring.

The boys need funds for activities and for their camping trip this

John Edwards was scoutmaster.

Lions welcomed Richard Phalen as a new member when they met in March 1947 at Hattie Eckert's. They began considering a building of their own. Because of good attendance, it is difficult to find a place to

"meet and eat" large enough to accommodate them. The Lions Den was built out at the fairgrounds later in 1947. However, Mrs.

Eckert was retained to prepare meals.

The Art Club at MHS was busily engaged in producing four four-color insert pages for each of the 375 Atodnems being printed in 1947. A silk screen process was utilized.

The Senior class promises its Atodnem to be the best thus far.

A full-page history of the H.D. Hume Co. was published March 13, 1947. The company, which opened in Mendota in January 1941 with a payroll of three, now had 65 employees. The presentation included pictures of men at work. Mr. Hume told The Reporter, when asked, that he had been invited to come to Mendota in 1939 by Les Oester, "a one-man chamber of commerce."

In 1947, Mr. Hume received Patent No. 2,413,373 for a device allowing harvesting equipment to follow the contour of the ground.

A bill was introduced in the state legislature to provide \$75,000 toward flood control in Mendota. The work was described as –

Whatever may be necessary for protection from floods rising in Mendota Creek, East Bend Creek, First Creek and their tributaries in or adjacent to the city of Mendota.

Estimated cost of the work was \$100,000 and it was anticipated the balance of \$25,000 would be taken care of locally, perhaps by a bond issue.

In 1943, when Mendota had received four inches of rain in a half hour, damage from flooding had been in excess of \$50,000.

# No, illegal immigrants didn't build America

Joe Biden doesn't have a problem with illegal immigrants. He's made that clear in his shame-faced retreat from his impromptu use of the term "illegal" during his State of the Union address. He regrets using the offending word, doesn't

want to disrespect illegal immigrants and believes that they

are absolutely essential to the success of the United States.

"Look, they built the country," Biden told Jonathan Capehart of MSNBC. He added that they are "the reason our economy is growing."

Yes, where would America be without the essential contribution made to its economic vigor by desperate people crossing the border in violation of our laws? This is all very revealing. Biden certainly sounds more like a president who has had a largely open border rather than one who, as he's been insisting lately, wants to shut down the border if only Republicans would pass the legislation he wants. Why, if Biden's correct, would we deny ourselves the benefits of

It's true that illegal immigrants overwhelmingly work once they get here; it's why they come in the first place, after all. But the idea that a fraction of all immigrants, whose numbers have only drastically increased in the past couple of decades, "built the country" is a ridiculous fabrication and a profound insult to American workers, past and present. Prior to today, the highest percentage of all the foreign-born

in the U.S. population was 14.8%, around the turn of the 20th century. Roughly one out of seven people obviously weren't responsible for the construction of America. As for illegal immigrants specifically, they didn't constitute

the majority of any job category in America as of 2018. Even construction workers --involved in the literal building of the country's physical plant -- were 65% native-born.

Biden is exaggerating, too, when he suggests that the economy is growing only because of illegal immigrants. But it is true that legal and illegal immigrants have made an outsized contribution to recent economic growth

According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics,

which aren't flawless but capture the big picture, the total number of employed people in the U.S. increased by 2.3 million between February 2020 and February 2024. Over those four years, the foreign-born employment level increased by 3.3 million, whereas the level of native-born employment is still down by a million.

Steve Camarota of the Center for Immigration Studies estimates that roughly half of those immigrant jobs are going to illegal immigrants.

Needless to say, this isn't the political bragging point that Biden might think. "Bidenomics -- it's been great for immigrants regardless of legal status" is not a slogan the president should want to use in a campaign against Donald Trump.

To attribute our economic growth to immigrants is to ignore the contributions of the 85% of the country that is native-born, and all its work, investment and spending.

The deeper problem is how the surge in immigrant labor coincides with a decline in labor-force participation among low-skilled Americans facing direct competition from the foreign-born. A report by Steven Camarota notes that the labor-force participation rate of native-born men without a bachelor's degree is 75.6%, still lower than the pre-pandemic level of 76.3% in the fourth quarter of 2019, and lower than in 2006 (80.5%) and 2000 (82.6%).

Constantly adding less-skilled immigrant workers to the labor force may increase overall GDP, but it doesn't make the U.S. wealthier on a per capita basis, the more important metric. According to a Congressional Budget Office analysis, greater levels of immigration will increase GDP "by an average of 0.2 percentage points a year from 2024 to 2034, leaving real GDP roughly 2% larger in 2034 than it would be otherwise." On the other hand, real GDP per person "would be 0.8% smaller."

Biden gives no indication that he sees such trade-offs. Who'd want fewer of the migrants "building our country" when we can have constantly more?

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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# **OBITUARIES**

#### Dr. Richard L. Pommier

ARLINGTON-Dr. Richard Louis "Dick" Pommier, 88, of Arlington, passed away peacefully at home on March 11, 2024.

Mass of Christian burial was at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 16, 2024, at St. Patrick's Church in Arlington with Rev. Gregory Jarzombek OSB officiating. Visitation was at the church on Saturday from 9 a.m. until time of services. The Hurst Funeral Home in Ladd is entrusted with his funeral arrangements.



Richard was born on Sept. 9, 1935, in St. George, Ill., to Leonel Joseph and Regina (Ruel) Pommier. He married Ruth Mary McDonald on June 24, 1967.

He taught English and Latin at Hall High School for 15 years. He received a Master of Science in Education from Illinois State University, a Master of Arts Degree from University of Notre Dame, and Doctor of Philosophy in Education from Southern Illinois University.

Richard was a member of St. Patrick's Church in Arlington, a member of the Holy Name Society and a member of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Anna. He was a reader and sang in the choir; he had a very beautiful voice.

Richard was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, where he served as Grand Knight. He was very active in church and community. He enjoyed painting and cooking. Pallbearers will be Ryan Lindenmier, Jack Rooney, Paul

Rooney, Bruce Smith, Tom Smith, and Scott Finders. Online condolences may be viewed and remembrances

shared at www.hurstfuneralhomes.com.

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Shirley A. Bogren

SPRINĞFIELD – Shirley Ann Bogren, 90, of Springfield, formerly of Bloomington and Mendota, passed away on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at The Bridge Care Suites,

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Fairlawn Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Ind. A private inurnment will be at Garland Brook Cemetery. Columbus, Ind. Cremation rites have been accorded by Carmody-Flynn Funeral Home,

Bloomington. She was born Oct. 1, 1933, in Erie, Pa., the daughter of

Arthur and Evelyn Marriner Durbin. She married Rev. Dr. Thor Bogren Jr. on Aug. 29, 1959. He preceded her in death on Sept. 27, 2001 She is survived by a daughter, Kristin Bogren of Spring-

field and two nieces, Natalie (Tim) Matthewson of Ogilvie, Minn. and Debra Dimmitt of Nashville, Tenn. In addition to her husband, she was also preceded in

death by one son, Erik Bogren in 2022 and one sister, Joan Shirley received her bachelor's degree from Park College

in Parkville, Mo., and her master's degree from the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. She worked as a teacher in Minonk High School, then as a substitute teacher for the junior high and high schools in Mendota. As the family traveled with her husband's work,

she became a teacher's aide at the Heyworth grade school and last worked as a lifeguard and swimming instructor in Greensburg, Ind. Shirley was very devoted to the church where her husband pastored, in Minonk, Mendota, Normal, Greensburg, Ind., and Columbus, Ind. She sang in the choirs and helped with the congregational and church events. After the death of her husband, Shirley continued her involvement by becoming

at Fairlawn Presbyterian Church and at Love Chapel Center, both in Columbus, Ind. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Love Chapel Center, 311 Center St., Columbus, IN 47201.

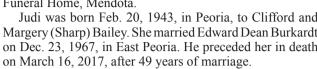
active in church committees and various other positions, both

To express condolences online, please visit www.carmo-

Judith A. Burkardt -

MENDOTA-JudithAnn(Bailey) Burkardt, 81, of Mendota, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2024, at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford with family by her side.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at noon on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Holy Cross Church, Mendota, with Father Peter Pilon officiating. Burial will be at St. Mary's Cemetery, Sublette. Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 22 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota.



Her survivors are son Scott, his wife Traci, most-loved

grandson Colin; sister Marilyn Meiner and brother Ron Bailey; sisters-in-law Jeanne Bailey, Lola Burkardt, Pat Burkardt, Beverly Burkardt, Eileen Johannes, Jane Harris, Marilyn Carls, and Mary Lou Burkardt; brothers-in-law George Meiner, Bill Burkardt, Rod Carls, and Tom Burkardt; and several nieces and nephews. She graduated from East Peoria High School and earned

her teaching degree from Illinois State University at Normal. She taught 32 years in Mendota, primarily in fourth grade, retiring in 1998. Known as "Mrs. B.," she loved her students and her teacher friends. Students might remember her green hat and apron, along with her wet noodle.

Upon retirement, Judi and Ed spent winters in Tucson, Ariz., following her grandparents, parents, and later by her sister, brother, and spouses. She was a member of Holy Cross Church. Things she loved besides family and friends: books, her screened-in porch, dogs (Tinker, Fat Albert, and Bo), Steak n' Shake, jokes, laughter, HGTV, cheesecake, and smiles. She especially enjoyed attending Colin's baseball games and blowing her blue plastic horn in excitement, which got Scott kicked out of a game because he was defending her right to blow her horn. We should all remember her infectious giggle and her great smile.

Memorials in her memory may be directed to American Heart Association, Holy Cross Church or Stonecroft Village Retirement Community, Mendota. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



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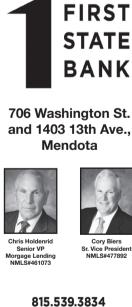
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# **ENTERTAINMENT**

### Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Tom Cruise's "Mission: Impossible 8," which has been shot so far in England, Malta, South Africa, Norway and Italy, resumed shooting in February after the strikes were settled. It's no longer called "Dead Reckoning Part Two" and will have a new title when it opens in May 2025

Cruise's next project will be directed by four-time Oscar winner Alejandro G. Iñárritu, who won for directing "Birdman" (2014) and "The Revenant" (2015). The title and the script, written by Iñárritu and his "Birdman" co-writers, is an original story created by the 60-year-old director, who excels as a filmmaker despite having attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

The film is Cruise's first in his partnership with Warners, his new studio. However, he plans to keep making "Mission: Impossible" films, which will reconnect him to Paramount.

Speaking of Paramount, they're taking a different direction with the "Transformers" franchise. The

live-action franchise began with "Transformers" (2007), starring Shia LaBeouf, and cost\$200 million while grossing \$710 million. "Dark of the Moon" (2011), also starring LaBeouf, cost \$195 million and grossed \$1.124 billion. Mark Wahlberg starred in "Age of Extinction" in 2014 (\$210 million cost with a \$1.104 billion gross) and "The Last Knight" in 2017 (\$260 million cost with only a \$605.4 million gross).

Then in 2018, John Cena and Hailee Steinfeld starred in "Bumblebee," which cost \$135 million and only grossed \$468 million. In 2023, Anthony Ramos starred in "Rise of the Beasts" (a \$200 million cost, but a disappointing \$439 million gross). So, Paramount's remedy is to turn "Transformers" into an animated feature with the voices of Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson and Brian Tyree Henry. Doesn't that defeat the magic of seeing real "Transformers" transform?

Wait 'til you read this! The British Board of Film Classification just "woke" up after 60 years and is changing the rating for Dame Julie Andrews "Mary Poppins."

The film, being rereleased in England to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the classic children's film, will now be sporting a PG (parental guidance suggested) rating because of the use of one word: "hottentot," by Admiral Boom (played by Reginald Owen). He uses the term when referring to the chimney sweeps whose faces were blackened by soot. It was used by Europeans to refer to the group of nomadic herders in South Africa known as the Khoekhoe. They still live in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape Provinces in the southwestern coastal regions of South Africa and Namibia.

How absurd is it that children now have to get permission from their parents to see "Mary Poppins"? Do they really believe that six decades of children have all been corrupted? First, Disney had all those problems in Florida and now this in England! Just a spoonful of sugar makes "The Wokeness" go down!

#### Couch Theater

Robinson). Ever the dutiful

"Wonka" (PG) -- The origin story of chocolatier Willy Wonkawas such a success at the box office that it became the eighth highest-grossing film of 2023. Starring Timothee Chalamet as the title character, the movie kicks off in a dreary 1934 Europe, where Willy arrives with a few coins in his pocket and an intention to establish his own chocolate shop. However, a grimy pair of locals hoodwink Willy into staying at their boarding house, tricking him into signing a contract that he wouldn't be able to pay off for years. Not to mention, the rival chocolatiers won't let him sell chocolate anywhere in the town. But even with all the odds stacked against him, the happy-go-lucky chocolatier is determined not to fail. Co-starring a great ensemble cast, including Calah Lane, Keegan-Michael Key, Sally

"Damsel" (PG-13) -- Millie Bobby Brown ("Stranger Things") leads this dark-fantasy film out now! Elodie (Brown) is a princess whose father has found a match for her in Prince Henry (Nick

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**Money Saver** 

\$34 To Run In Both

2 Column x 2"

\$26 in Reporter

**Or Money Saver** 

\$34 To

Run In Both

Hawkins and Olivia Colman,

'Wonka'' is out now. (Max)

daughter, Elodie agrees to marry Prince Henry, amid warnings from her stepmother, Lady Bayford (Angela Bassett), that she doesn't trust his family, especially his mother, Queen Isabelle (Robin Wright). Elodie quickly discovers this for herself after participating in a ceremony that leads to the prince himself chucking her into a cave with a dragon to repay an ancient debt. Stuck

with nothing but the clothes

on her back, Elodie must

outwit the fearsome dragon

to escape the cave in one

piece. (Netflix) "Miller's Girl"(R) -- Martin Freeman ("Black Panther: Wakanda Forever") and Jenna Ortega ("Wednesday") star opposite each other in this erotic thriller, produced by Seth Rogen. Ortega portrays Cairo Sweet, an 18-year-old Tennessean girl who lives alone in her family's mansion. Cairo begins taking the creative writing class of Jonathan Miller (Freeman), a semi-successful author who is impressed by Cairo's extensive knowledge of literature. Cairo's best friend, Winnie (Gideon

Adlon), raves about the idea of a teacher-student affair and even convinces Cairo to seduce Miller. Cairo does attempt to entice Miller, but the repercussions that follow are quite dangerous. Out now to rent. (Prime Video) "Love Island: All Stars"

(TV-MA) -- You might've heard of the "Love Island" dating game show and its many versions around the world. But the U.K. series came back in a major way with a season featuring former contestants and fan favorites from previous seasons. The show follows its original format, with a handful of men and women who enter the "Love Island" villa for a few weeks and "couple up with" another contestant to win the prize money of 50,000 pounds. But you should expect some insane twists along the way, in true "Love Island" style. Notable contestants are footballer Tom Clare. Georgia Steel ("Celebs on the Ranch"), former Playboy Bunny Hannah Elizabeth and Chris Taylor ("Barbie"). The full season is out now! (Peacock)

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Carol Ann Smith, RN

Love, Joey

### **Celebrity Extra**

#### By Dana Jackson

Q: When does Lisa Vanderpump's new show premiere? Will any of the cast of "Van-

derpump Rules" be in it? -- **K.J.** A: "Van-



Vanderpump ning April 1. It features an all-new cast selected to work at an exclusive French estate by "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" alum (and

restaurateur) Lisa Vander-

According to Hulu, each

episode follows her elite staff working and living together 24/7 while they try to provide a curated experience for their guests. Meanwhile, Vanderpump is also deciding whether she wants to make this French pop-up experience -- and its staff -- a full-time business for her growing empire.

Q: What happened to the show "Elsbeth"? They aired one episode, and now it's gone. Has it been canceled already? -- *C.I.* 

A: You're not the only one to ask. The new detective show -- and spin-off of "The Good Wife" and "The Good Fight" -- generated fantastic ratings when it premiered in late February, attracting 4.5 million viewers to CBS. The show stars Carrie Preston as a quirky but whip-smart, "Columbo"-type lawyer from Chicago who ends up in the Big Apple. Don't worry, though; it's coming back. The show begins by re-

vealing who the murderer is each week to the audience, similar to another hit show. Peacock's "Poker Face." But don't let this deter you! The fun is watching Elsbeth outwit the NYPD and trick the suspect into confessing. Her purpose is to observe the police force for any corruption, but she somehow always ends up solving their cases.

In addition to Preston, "Elsbeth" has a solid cast that includes Wendell Pierce, Carra Patterson and Gloria Reuben. Guest stars include a who's who from past hit sitcoms, including Jesse Tyler Ferguson ("Modern Family"), Jane Krakowski ("30 Rock"), Retta ("Parks and Recreation") and Linda

Lavin ("Alice").

Unfortunately, "Elsbeth" had to go on a four-week hiatus because of President Biden's State of the Union Address and the NCAA March Madness tournament. CBS plans to re-air the pilot before "Elsbeth" returns with its second episode on April 4.

Q: Is it true that Eddie Van Halen's son played guitar on the "Barbie" soundtrack? I thought I saw the name "Van Halen" in the credits. -- N.N.

A: Yes, Wolfgang Van Halen, son of the late "Van Halen" guitarist Eddie Van Halen, ended up on the "Barbie" soundtrack by chance, but also because of his talent. He met the movie's music producer Mark Ronson while performing at the Taylor Hawkins' tribute concert in 2022. The two became friends, and Ronson asked him if he'd collaborate on the fabulous composition titled "I'm Just Ken." He even performed the song on stage alongside Ryan Gosling's Ken at the Academy Awards this month, along with another great electric guitarist -- Slash from Guns N' Roses.

#### · • Trivia Test • -Strange 8. LANGUAGE: The Latin

1. LITERATURE: What is the name of the kingdom in "The Princess Bride" 2. GENERAL KNOWL-

EDGE: In British royalty, what is King Charles' family name? 3. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom features Sheldon's

catchphrase "Bazinga!"? 4. U.S. STATES: Which U.S. state is home to the Awatovi Ruins, a national historic landmark?

5. HISTORY: According to a WWII government slogan, what sinks ships?

6. GEOGRAPHY: What is the name of the small principality that lies between Spain and France?

7. ANATOMY: Which part of the brain controls hunger?

**ACROSS** 

Dennings 12 "That - I

ask"

14 Writer

15 "What -

16 Journal

18 Singer

option 23 Sweetie

24 Different

25 Exile isle

LeShan

mean?"

word "caput" refers to what part of the human anatomy?

9. SCIENCE: Which color has the longest wavelength in the visible spectrum? 10. FOOD & DRINK: What

is the primary alcohol used in margaritas? Answers

1. Florin.

2. Mountbatten-Windsor.

3. "The Big Bang Theory."

4. Arizona. 5. Loose lips.

6. Andorra. 7. Hypothalamus.

8. The head.

9. Red. 10. Tequila.

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### **But True** By Lucie Winborne

\* Using high-pressure,

high-temperature techniques that mimic Earth's diamond-forming conditions, scientists can transform the carbon in peanut butter into sparkling gemstones. Chew

\* And speaking of chewing, snails have thousands of tiny teeth on their radula, the tongue-like organ they use for grinding up food, making them one of the earth's toothiest creatures.

\* Mary, Queen of Scots, was history's youngest monarch, ascending to the throne at a mere 6 days old. Coming in at second place was Emperor Shang of China's Han Dynasty, who in 105 A.D. assumed his royal position at 100 days old.

\* If stored correctly and not contaminated, honey can last for thousands of years without spoiling.

\* A piano's frame is made

\* Though T-shirts have existed since the late 1800s, the plain white version gained popularity as a wear-alone garment thanks to Marlon Brando's portrayal of Stanley Kowalski in the movie "A Streetcar Named Desire."

\* One out of every seven American jobs is related to transportation.

\* The "United States Postal Service Anthem," a unique song composed by (appropriately) Jack Stamp, is an official musical salute to the USPS, its employees, and its role in American life.

\* In some WWII POW camps, the Nazis would allow Allied soldiers to play board games like Monopoly, even providing the games. The British exploited this opportunity by using compasses, banknotes, and real-world maps in place of standard boards and pieces, as a means of helping prisoners to escape.

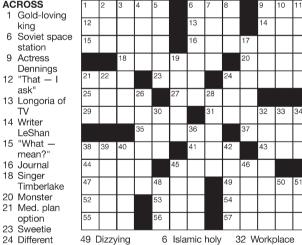
Thought for the Day: "If no one ever took risks, Michelangelo would have painted the Sistine floor." - Neil Simon (c) 2024 King Features

Synd., Inc.

Solution time: 26 mins. **Answers** 

— **King** Crossword

**King** Crossword



49 Dizzying designs 52 Dad on 27 Russian villa 29 Deceived Black-ish"

53 Swiss canton

54 Bellini opera

31 There 35 Rocker Adams

37 Harvard rival

38 City near

41 Prefix with

gender 43 Shrill bark 44 Teensy bit 45 Frenzied

47 Pampering

places

57 Idyllic spots DOWN Central

Equal (Pref.)

56 Favorite

gigs 4 Matty of

tions 28 Doubter

55 Feminine side 11 Greedy sort

5 Melting snow 30 Notable time 51 Prof's aides © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

40 Senior mem-19 Hot rum 21 Skirt edge 22 Roman 1051 42 14 pounds 45 Aesopian 24 Discoverer's 46 Apple product

17 Plant science

city Infamous tsar

8 Shaft of light

9 IRA relative

10 Worship

26 Photo collec-

48 Young dog 50 LBJ's succes-

8 7 3 2 9 4 6 1 5

t 8 7 1 8 2 2 2 6 7 8 8 9 1 1 7 9

**Answer** 

Weekly SUDOKU

Member

FDIC

33 Yalie

34 Gym unit

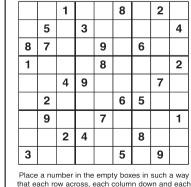
38 Rice field

39 Arcade pio-

also-ran

36 Nails the test

#### 3 1 8 6 2 5 4 9 7 Weekly SUDOKU 1 9 2 8 4 3 5 6 7 8 8 9 7 1 4 6 8 3 8 by Linda Thistle 9 L l Z E 6 t 8 S 2 t 6 L 8 S 9 E L



small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine. DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY! © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

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# **TRI-COUNTY NEWS**

### Letter addressing residential chickens to be sent to Lee County by village of Sublette

By BRANDON LaCHANCE Staff writer

SUBLETTE - Sublette Village President John Stenzel had something he wanted to address at the March 11 Sublette Village Board meeting at the Ellice Dinges Center.

The issue was Lee County stating or a proclamation of allowance of chickens on residential property.

Stenzel read a letter to the board and meeting attendees he wrote to Lee County addressing chickens asking if he should send it to Dixon.

County was going to take control of the chicken permits and regulations. He stated why the topic should be

In the letter, Stenzel asked if Lee

brought to and dealt with by each individual community instead of the entire county. Or that each village and town in the county should have a vote or a say on the matter.

"We have a hard enough time with cats running loose, how are we going to deal with the noise and smell of chickens?' Stenzel asked the board. "We have houses in bad shape that we are constantly giving ordinances to. If this goes in effect and people put up chicken coops, those will have to be kept up also. With regulations, who is going to enforce them?

"It may work if people have to have special use permits to own chickens within village borders and have any and all neighbors sign off that it is OK for them to have them."

Stenzel had brought up the debate with the county previously and Lee County sent him a petition amendment from Chapter 5 in the Resident District, Section 6, Title 10 Zoning Regulations where it sates chickens are allowed in Lee County under regulations.

It also said there will be a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 1 in the County Board Room in Dixon to further discuss the matter.

Stenzel ended the discussion by stating what he views as the two rules, that if put in place and adhered to, would void all other rules from being made. First, residents have to respect neigh-

bors' property. Second, people don't have to like

their neighbor, but they need to be sociable and understanding of their neighbor.

All present trustees (Larry Ellis, Julie Kessel, Bob Bulfer, Scott Hanson, Rich Klaser, and MacKenzie Belan) agreed with Stenzel and said he should send the letter to Lee County.



Sublette Toy Show

Cool, but dry weather greeted attendees of the annual Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show on March 16-17. (Reporter photos by Brandon LaChance)

### Paw Paw plans clean-up days, spring events

PAW PAW – The Paw Paw Village Board met in regular session on March 13.

The village's new computer program software installation is progressing, with training and tweaking for our specific needs as necessary.

The water line leak on Lions Drive has been repaired.

The Paw Paw all-village clean-up will be on April 29-30. Electronic recycling will be included, but no tires

Water tower cleaning will be conducted later in the Spring. Once it is cleaned, it will be reassessed for any need of further maintenance.

A zoning board training program of best practices informational meeting will be held for local municipality officials later in the Spring. In other news:

United Methodist Church of Paw Paw's Bake and Salad

Sale will be Saturday, March 30, 8-11 a.m. at the Paw Paw Community Center. Please pre-order salads and pies by calling 815-757-2010.

The Paw Paw Lions Club Spring BBQ will be held Saturday, April 6. Dinner will include two boneless pork chops, baked beans, baked potato, applesauce and roll for \$15. Kids' meal is also available - hot dog and chips for \$3. Carryout or drive-thru (no inside dining) at the Paw Paw Community Building. Serving from 4:30-6:30 p.m., while supplies last.

The Paw Paw Garden Club Spring Fling Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 4, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the community parking lot. For questions, call 815-712-0526.

The next Village Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 10.



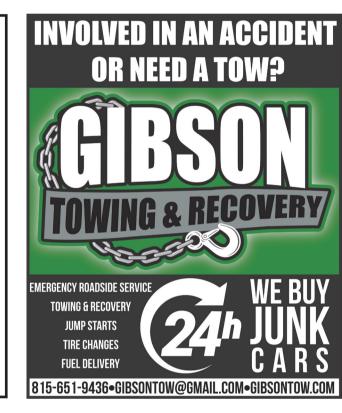


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# THE BACK PAGE

### **Population** continues to decline in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD-The exodus from Illinois continues.

A new report by the Illinois Policy Institute shows Illinois suffered population loss among all eight Illinois-based metro areas and 87 of Illinois' 102 counties from July 2022 to July 2023.

Using the latest data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, IPI found that Chicago's population loss accounted for approximately 50% of the state's total decline of 41,000 residents in 2023. When calculating the total who moved out with 8,300 that moved in to Illinois, the net decline is nearly 33,000. In addition to Chicago, metro areas including Decatur, Springfield and Bloomington-Normal showed big declines relative to the size of their population.

Cook County experienced the nation's second-largest county population drop, with more than 58,000 residents moving out of the county. Some have decided to relocate to the suburbs, while others left the state. Only Los Angeles County, California, had more residents move.

"It is affecting every corner of the state," said Bryce Hill, director of Fiscal and Economic Research. "It's not just a Chicago problem, it's not just a downstate problem, it's affecting communities across the state.'

Gov. J.B. Pritzker's office says it will continue challenging the state's estimated population decline and, after requesting a review, announced in January that the U.S. Census agreed it missed or undercounted the 2020 Census for those living in group facilities.

"I'm pleased that the Census Bureau has recognized the undercounting that I and many members of Illinois' Congressional Delegation have worked to remedy since the 2020 census results were first released," Pritzker said in a statement.

Hill said the latest numbers are not an anomaly.

"Population decline is in its tenth consecutive year according to Census Bureau estimates, so it's been a growing trend," said Hill.

Hill said residents are leaving for states with lower taxation, including Florida, Indiana, Wisconsin and Texas. According to the data, of Illinoisans who leave the state, 97% moved to lower-tax states in 2022.

"If lawmakers don't take steps to reduce the crippling burden of taxes on residents, people will likely continue to leave Illinois as they have done for the past decade,"

#### **City Ordinance**

#### **Animals-Pet Waste Ordinance**

• The purpose of this section is to establish requirements for the proper disposal of pet solid waste in the City of Mendota so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.

• Requirement for disposal. All pet owners and keepers are required to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any property, public or private, not owned or possessed by that person.

•Exemptions. Any owner or keeper who requires the use of a disability assistance animal shall be exempt from the provisions of this section while such animal is being used for that purpose.

· Violations and penalties. Any person(s) who is found to have violated the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$25 and no more

#### **CARDS OF THANKS**

Marcella Bonnell and family would like to thank everyone for all of the wonderful birthday cards and greetings that they sent for her 90th birthday. She really enjoyed reading them all.

#### **POLICE BLOTTER**

#### WARRANT ARREST

Eric W. Post, 31, of 100 S. First Ave., Mendota, was arrested at 8:55 a.m. March 15 on an Ogle County warrant for driving while license suspended after police officers were called to First Avenue and Division Street for a disturbance. The subject posted bond and was released with an Ogle County court date.

#### WARRANT ARREST

Edmund C. Robinson, 43, of 1200 Washington St., Mendota, was arrested at 6:25 p.m. March 16 on a Grundy County warrant for failure to appear on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. The subject posted bond and was released with a Grundy County court date.

#### **BATTERY**

Brandi N. Palmer, 30, no address, was charged with battery after police officers were called to 111 S. 13th Ave. for the report of a physical disturbance at 12:35 p.m. March 18. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

#### GARAGE SALE/ **NOTICE DEADLINES**

- Thursday 3 p.m. to appear in Monday's Money
- Monday 10 a.m. to appear in Wednesday's Re-

#### **Public Nuisance Ordinance**

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

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

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

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free to walk in a normal fashion. Its easy-adjust height system allows it to be the perfect fit/height for anyone from 4'10" to 6'1" and supports up to 300 pounds. The new stand-assist handles enable you to distribute your weight across your arms and shoulders, not your hands and wrists to help reduce back, neck, wrist pain and discomfort. It features comfortable arm pads, hand brakes, a fold-down seat, a backrest and two storage bags. It's built



with aircraft-grade aluminum to be sturdy yet lightweight, and its sleek design and oversized wheels make it perfect for tight spots in the house or walking in the yard.

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# SPORTS

### The Fields jersey will be gone by August

I've been contemplating what I would do with my Justin Fields jersey if he was no longer on the Chicago Bears come the 2024-25 season.

The brainstorming became a reality on Saturday, March 16 when he was traded to the Pittsburgh Steelers for a sixth-round draft pick, which could become a fourth-round selection depending on playing time.



Not the Last Chance By Brandon LaChance

Although the decision is still undecided, it is a fact, the Justin Fields jersey I bought at Soldier Field during his rookie season in 2021,

which I only bought because the vendors didn't have Eddie Jackson jerseys.

However, even if I bought a Jackson jersey, I'd still be Bears' jersey-less for the next season as he was released in February and hasn't signed with a team, yet. I erroneously thought he was still with the Bears until

There are many NFL experts saying Jackson is a "trap" and teams should stay away. He may have a productive season or two left, but not worth representing with an expensive jersey.

I digress and return to Fields.

The jersey may be given to a nephew. But they're both into football and would probably fight each other over who gets to wear Uncle B's jersey.

There is Lily Pads, Salvation Army, Nightengales, and other locations where the donation would be a worthy cause. On the other hand, what if a Green Bay Packer fan or a Minnesota Viking fan bought the jersey for a low price in order to burn, damage, ridicule or mock the Chicago Bears?

I'm not having it.

I could sell it. However, if I'm getting rid of the jersey for maybe nothing, who is going to buy it since Fields isn't a Bear anymore and not thought of very highly after a disappointing 10-28 record in three seasons? The jersey is not autographed, but in great shape since worn less than 10 times.

Maybe I should burn it as a disgruntled believer in Fields who has been let down. The 11th overall draft pick showed signs of athletic greatness and made a few Bears fans truly believe he could be the guy to right the wrong that has always been the Chicago quarterback with a few exceptions in Jim McMahon (who I was recently told I look like by Tom Thayer, also a member of the 1985 championship squad) and Jay Cutler.

Neither of them great or an all-time legend, just one won the lone Chicago Super Bowl and the other put up good box score numbers and quotes and facial expressions for ultimate entertainment memes and social media posts.

I could let it sit in my closet. This is probably the worst idea because I would see it every day, get mad, and ponder the bonfire idea.

The whole thought process and conversation stinks. We, or maybe just I, wanted Fields to be the guy.

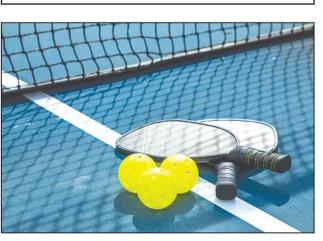
Through a different offensive coordinator each year of his young career, the 25-year old QB gave us a glimmer of hope the offense could move the ball down the field even though he had very few weapons at his disposal, especially when every running back was hurt and defenses were keyed in on wide receiver DJ Moore and tight end Cole Kmet, who I think were the only valuable ball catchers the Bears had during Fields' tenure.

Sorry Darnell Mooney, you didn't make the list.

The impending 2024 NFL draft will take place April 25-27 and the odds are at 100 percent the Bears are going to select Caleb Williams, the highly touted QB from USC.

In my opinion, the franchise is going to go through the same growing pains with this new QB as it did for the last three years with Fields.

This time, I'm not buying a jersey just to battle internally of what to do with it when he isn't there in a few seasons.



With a significant increase in participation, pickleball undoubtedly has piqued the curiosity of millions more who have not yet picked up a paddle.

### Explaining the wildly popular sport of pickleball

Crowded pickleball courts are a testament to the popularity of a sport that has taken many communities by storm. A 2023 report from the Sports & Fitness Industry Association indicates just under nine million people played pickleball in 2022, which marked a stunning 159 percent increase in participation over just a three-year period.

With such significant increases in participation, pickleball undoubtedly has piqued the curiosity of millions more who have not yet picked up a paddle. Individuals whose curiosity

has compelled them to give the sport a try can consider this rundown of pickleball so they're as prepared as possible upon picking up their paddles.

#### The sport

Pickleball, invented by a congressman from the state of Washington and two friends in the 1960s, combines components of badminton, ping-pong and tennis. A ball made of plastic is used in pickleball, and the ball is slightly larger than a

See Pickleball, Page B2



Mendota's Crystal Garcia battles for the ball with an Orion opponent during the Lady Trojans' season-opening game on March 16 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

### Orion spoils girls' soccer season opener

MENDOTA - The Mendota girls' soccer team opened the 2024 season with a 4-1 loss to Orion on March 16 at the MHS field.

Orion struck first when it sailed in

a goal eight minutes into the game and added another nine minutes later. The Chargers tacked on two more goals before the end of the first half, including on a penalty kick.

The Lady Trojans avoided the shutout when Crystal Garcia scored off of an assist from Addi Jones in the second half.

Ariana Sanchez was in goal for

### Carlos breaks tape to claim 400-meter dash

SYCAMORE - The Mendota boys' track team went There were eight teams in the event.

The Trojans finished sixth in the team standings with 28 points. Sycamore took top honors with 166 points.

Sebastian Carlos turned in the best performance on the day for Mendota with a first-place finish in the 400-meter dash in a time of 54.10.

Mason Koch also had a good effort for the Trojans by taking second-place honors in the long jump with a distance of 18-3.

In the freshman-sophomore meet, Mendota was seventh in the team standings with 18 points.

The Trojans' best finish was by the 4x800 meter relay team, which placed second in a time of 10:41.07. Runners were Gavin Stevenson, Berat Imeri, Carlos Toribio and Spencer Kain.

**Sycamore Varsity Invite** 

Sycamore 166, Rochelle 86, Aurora Central Catholic 58.5 Woodstock North 53, Genoa-Kingston 44, Mendota 28, Indian Creek 12, Ottawa 10.5

Mendota 1st place: Sebastian Carlos, 400m dash, 54.10 Mendota 2nd place: Mason Koch, long jump, 18-3

Mendota 4th place: Anthony Kelson, 800m run, 2:24.98; 4x400m relay (Koch, Aaden Castle, Kelson, Carlos), 4:03.35 Mendota 6th place: 4x160m relay (Castle, Brandon Lead-

ley, Anthony Seablom, Koch), 1:28.03; Koch, triple jump, 36-6 Mendota 7th place: Kelson, 55m hurdles, 10.03 Mendota 8th place: Kain, 1600m run, 6:36.42

Sycamore F-S Invite Sycamore 145, Aurora Central Catholic 110, Rochelle 82,

Woodstock North 44, Genoa-Kingston 24, Ottawa 24, Mendota 18, Indian Creek 6 Mendota 2nd place: 4x800m relay (Gavin Stevenson,

Berat Imeri, Carlos Toribio, Kain), 10:41.07 Mendota 3rd place: Gael Garcia, long jump, 17-5

Mendota 5th place: Imeri, 800m run, 2:29.77

Mendota 6th place: 4x160m relay (Garcia, Robert Botello, Bailey Ryan, Liam Sheppard), 1:32.04; Botello, triple jump, 31-5

Mendota 7th place: Castle, 55m dash, 7.83; Garcia, 200m dash, 29.04; Madrick Musgrove, shot put, 30-5

Mendota 8th place: Botello, 200m dash, 29.36; Hector Gonzalez, 1600m run, 6:13.36

### **Elam leads Lady Trojans** with pair of top finishes

Freshman wins hurdles, high jump

SYCAMORE - The Mendota Lady Trojans went up against 10 other teams in the Sycamore Indoor Invite on March 12. Mendota's varsity finished ninth in the team standings with 34 points. Huntley grabbed first-place honors with 59 points.

Freshman Mariyah Elam led the Lady Trojans with top three finishes in four events. She won the 55-meter hurdles in a time of 9.68 and captured the high jump with a height of 4-10. Elam was second in the triple jump at 33-7 and was third in the 200-meter dash at 29.13.

In freshman-sophomore action, Mendota scored 12 points and was 10th in the team standings. Huntley scored 113 points to finish first.

Lexie Cocanour had the best finish among MHS competitors, placing second in the high jump with a leap of 4-3.

Sycamore Varsity Invite Huntley 59, Kaneland 56, Aurora Rosary 54, LaSalle-Peru 50, Aurora Central Catholic 48, Wheaton St. Francis 44, Sycamore 42, Genoa-Kingston 40, Mendota 34, Woodstock

North 29, Burlington **Central 9** 

Mendota 1st place: Mariyah Elam, 55m hurdles, 9.68; Elam, high jump, 4-10 Mendota 2nd place:

Elam, triple jump, 33-7

Mendota 3rd place: Elam, 200m dash, 29.13 Mendota 8th place:

4x800m relay (Eden Pecher, Briza Cervantes, Emily Banks, Hannah Kunz), 13:24.68; Laylie Denault, long jump, 13-6

Sycamore F-S Invite Huntley 113, Kaneland 86, Sycamore 54, LaSalle-Peru 52, Aurora Central Catholic 38, Burlington Central 25, Wheaton St. Francis 21, Aurora Rosary 16, Genoa-Kingston 15, Mendota 12, Woodstock

Mendota 2nd place: Lexie Cocanour, high jump, 4-3

Mendota 4th place: Aby Buettner, 55m hur-

Mendota 8th place: Reushawna Durr, 55m dash, 9.10; Pecher, 55m hurdles, 12.03; 4x160m relay (Harlow Foltynewicz, Buettner, Alexa Carlos, Christionah Brown),

### Baird, Freeman fire shutout over Rock Falls

MENDOTA - Hitting was light for both teams, but runs scored was in favor of Mendota as the Trojans posted their second straight shutout win of the season, 4-0, over Rock Falls in nonconference varsity baseball action on March 13 at the MHS field.

The Trojans scored single runs in the second and third innings, and then added two big insurance runs in

the fifth. The game was called in the sixth inning because of darkness.

Mendota managed only three hits off of two Rock Falls pitchers. Izaiah Nanez stroked a double, while Braiden Freeman and Jace Baird both singled. Freeman, Justin Randolph and Josh Figueroa drove in runs for the Trojans.

Two Mendota pitchers combined for a four-hit shutout. Baird got the start and the win, working five innings and allowing four hits and no runs. He struck out three and walked one. Freeman hurled a scoreless sixth, fanning one and walking one.

1:42.83

Mendota's game at Plano scheduled for Monday, March 18 was postponed and will be made up on Friday, April 12 at 4:30 p.m.

# **SPORTS**



Mendota's Linnea Escatel closes in on an Orion player possessing the ball during Lady Trojan soccer action on March 16 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

#### **Pickleball**

Continued from Page B1

tennis ball. Tennis courts, which many communities have now re-designated as pickleball courts, are still widely used as playing surfaces for pickleball players. The nets for pickleball are lower than for tennis, and that's due to science. According to the paddle and apparel manufacturer Paddletrek, after the first bounce a tennis ball retains about 60 percent of its bounce, which means it can reach a height of nearly 46 inches. A pickleball retains between 38 and 44 percent of its energy after bouncing, which means it peaks around 30 to 34 inches. That's why tennis nets are typically lowered for pickleball competitions.

### Is pickleball a team sport?

Socialization is one of the foremost health benefits of pickleball, potentially helping to reduce feelings of loneliness that can increase risk for depression and other conditions. Pickleball can be a team sport if players prefer doubles competitions, but it's also played in one-on-one settings as well. But even players who prefer singles competitions can reap the socialization benefits of pickleball by engaging with their

competitors and the wider community of local players. When does a pickleball game end?

Debate is ongoing as to whether professional pickleball should institute a shot clock to increase the pace of play, but no such clock currently governs the game. According to USA PickleballTM, games are normally played to 11 points, and players must win by two. Tournament games may play to 15 or 21 (win by two).

The popularity of pickleball has exploded in recent years. Non-players who are curious are urged to give this beloved sport a try.

### **BOWLING**

#### Elks 9 Youth League

Standings as of March 9 – 1. Team 3 40.5.15.5; 2. Team 2 32.5-23.5; 3. Team 4 20-36; 4. Team 1 19-37

High team game (scratch)

- Team 3 277, Team 4 276,
Team 2 229

High team game (hdcp)

– Team 3 651, Team 4 629,
Team 2 614

High team series (scratch)

– Team 4 815, Team 3 751,
Team 2 656

High team series (hdcp) – Team 4 1874, Team 3 1873, Team 2 1811 Boys'high game (scratch)

Parker Krager 112, Kee-

gan Mauch 110, Michael Eames 92 Boys'high game (hdcp)— Parker Krager 235, Keegan

Mauch 227, Michael Eames 217 Boys'high series (scratch) -Parker Krager 292, Keegan

Mauch 292, Michael Eames 250 Boys' high series (hdcp) -Parker Krager 661, Keegan

Mauch 643, Michael Eames 625 Girls'high game (scratch) -Grace Piskie 117, Brooklyn Bejster 112, Sophia Martinez

Girls' high game (hdcp)

– Brooklyn Bejster 240,
Grace Piskie 231, Sophia
Martinez 221

Girls' high series (scratch)

- Grace Piskie 293, Brooklyn
Bejster 279, Sophia Martinez
251

Girls' high series (hdcp)

– Brooklyn Bejster 663,
Grace Piskie 635, Lainey
Ramer 624

#### Elks 11 Youth League

Standings as of March 9 – 1. Team 2 39.5-16.5; 2. Team 5 37-19; 3. Team 3 34.5-21.5; 4. Team 4 29.5-26.5; 5. Team 1 11.5-44.5; 6. Team 6 0-56

High team game (scratch)

– Team 1 302, Team 2 290,
Team 5 283

High team game (hdcp)

### Team 3 666, Team 2 634,

Team 4 615

High team series (scratch)

– Team 5 838, Team 5 825,
Team 2 804

High team series (hdcp)— Team 3 1885, Team 2 1836, Team 4 1778

Boys'high game (scratch)

- Parker Ramer 142, Jaxen
Daley 140, Bentley Bejster
131
Boys' high game (hdcp)

– Jaxen Daley 256, Bentley Bejster 229, Billy Bromenschenkel 216

Boys'high series (scratch)
- Parker Ramer 391, Bentley
Bejster 333, Jaxen Daley 313
Boys' high series (hdcp)

Jaxen Daley 661, Bentley
 Bejster 627, Billy Bromenschenkel 606
 Girls'high game (scratch)

Eliana Eames 103, Brooklyn Mauch 76Girls' high game (hdcp) –Eliana Eames 228, Brooklyn

Mauch 220 Girls'high series (scratch) – Eliana Eames 285, Brook-

lyn Mauch 222 Girls'high series (hdcp)— Eliana Eames 660, Brooklyn Mauch 654

# Monday Night Mixed League Standings as of March 11

-1. Ramer Inc. 27-18; 2. Split Happens 25-20; 3. Leagal Beagles 23-22; 4. Bad Kats 22-23; 5. CM Farm 21-24; 6. Sports-N-Stuff 17-28

High team game (scratch)

– Split Happens 826, Leagal
Beagles 709, CM Farm 660

High team game (hdcp) – Split Happens 1046, Leagal Beagles 990, Sports-N-Stuff 960

High team series (scratch)

-Split Happens 2124, Leagal Beagles 1901, Ramer Inc. 1882 High team series (hdcp) -Split Happens 2784, Leagal

Beagles 2744, Ramer Inc. 2743 Men's high game (scratch)

-MattRamer226, Mike Smith 222, Aaron Holocker 218

Men's high game (hdcp)
-Aaron Holocker 282, Mike
Smith 267, Brendan Ramer

Smith 267, Brendan Ramer 261 Men's high series (scratch) – Mike Smith

582, Matt Ramer 569, BobThomas 538Men's high series (hdcp)Carl Reistad 726, MikeSmith 717, Aaron Holocker

712 Women's high game (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 241, Hannah Westphal 210,

Emily Thomas 204
Women's high game
(hdcp) – Jessica Robinson
294, Hannah Westphal 275,

Dria Kuntz 264
Women's high series (scratch) – Emily Thomas 553, Jessica Robinson 550,

Dria Kuntz 541
Women's high series
(hdcp)-Emily Thomas 730,
Dria Kuntz 724, Hannah

Westphal 721

#### Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of March 13

– 1. O'Donnell Excavating
62-38; 2. Mendota Monument 53-47; 3. Novak Farms
50-50; 4. JJ&L Carpentry
50-50; 5. First State Bank
48-52; 6. Black Bros. 36-64
High team game (scratch)

Novak Farms 1057, First
 State Bank 1057, Mendota
 Monumnt 983
 High team game (hdcp)

- First State Bank 1183,

Novak Farms 1168, Black Bros. 1105 High team series (scratch) – First State Bank 2989, Novak Farms 2862, Mendota

Monument 2804
High team series (hdcp)
- First State Bank 3367,
Novak Farms 3195, Black

High individual game (scratch) – Luke Ross 289, Tim Dessing 276, Scott Vickrey 265

High individual series (scratch) – Luke Ross 710, Nate Bradford 700, Dave Mammen 644



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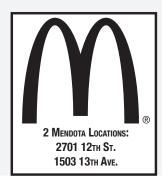
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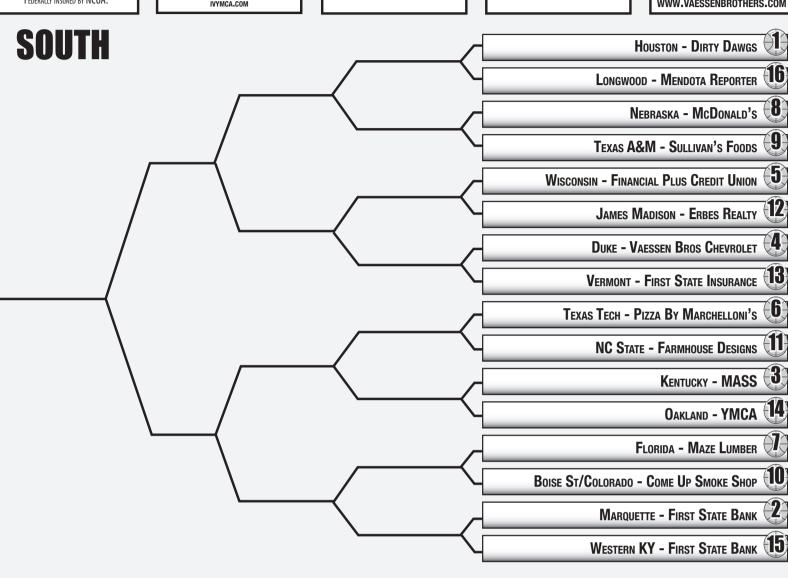


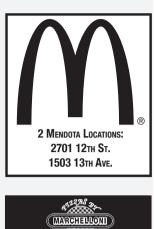
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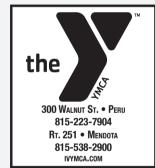


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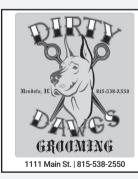
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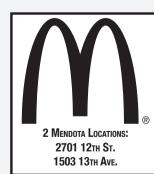












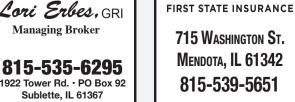


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# **LOCAL AND AREA**

### The fruitful vs. the frustrated life

In John 15:16 Jesus says, "I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last" (NIV). In fact, the Bible has a lot to say about how Christians bear fruit—and there are two ways that we can do it. One is by displaying the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). And the second way is by getting out in the world where God has planted us and being good to people.

I'm talking about helping people who are hard to love or don't seem to deserve it. Or giving to the poor and getting involved with people so you can make a difference and help make their lives better, rather than spending all of your time trying to make yourself happy.

I've discovered that being selfish and self-centered never makes anyone happy. Living for God is really just the opposite of that. God does want to bless us and give us the things we need, but when we give our lives to Him, our purpose is to serve Him.

In Matthew 12:33 (NIV) Jesus says, "... The tree is recognized by its fruit." And this is how people know who we are. Just as you recognize an orange tree by the oranges it

produces, you know a Christian by the fruit of their lifestyle.

I've said often that you won't be recognized as a Christian just because you have a Christian bumper sticker on your car or you wear Christian jewelry or go to church every week. Most of the time people won't care what you have to say if your behavior doesn't back it up.

The fruit of our lives is seen in our behavior—what we do to help others and our attitudes—as well as what we say. It's the visible expression of the invisible work that God is doing in us.

Jesus says in John 15:8 (AMP), "My Father is glorified and honored by this, when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My [true] disciples." In other words, we're not proving anything to anyone simply by what we say. It's the fruit of our lives that proves who we really are.

So it's good for us to frequently ask ourselves: Who am I helping in my life? How am I making a difference or making someone else's life better?

The key to bearing good fruit is found in John 15:5 (AMP), which says, "I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me

ENJOYING

EVERYDAY LIFE

with

and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union from Me] you can do nothing."

Jesus is telling us that as we spend time with Him in prayer and by studying the Bible, His Spirit is working in us, changing us little by little (2 Corinthians 3:18), causing us to reflect His image or characteristics more and more. It's a progressive transformation that takes time and requires a consistent commitment throughout our lifetime.

If you aren't spending regular time with Jesus and growing in your relationship with Him through prayer and Bible study, I want to challenge you to reevaluate your priorities and put first things first. The truth is we put our time into what we really want to do. And if something is truly important to you, you will find time to do it.

God created you be-

cause He loves you, He wants to have a personal relationship with you, and He wants to do amazing things in you and through you. Every day is a gift from God and it's so precious!

coyce Meyer

Ephesians 3:20 (AMP) says that God "is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us." He has a plan for you and He will give you everything you need to fulfill your destiny as you seek Him and grow stronger in your faith in Him.

I want to encourage you to focus on Jesus and live by the wisdom He reveals to you in His Word. If you choose today to help someone else, not only will you be happier, but you'll find that good fruit brings true satisfaction and fulfillment.

\*\*\*

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 BATTLE-FIELD 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.

Check out the

"Help Wanted"

ads in the Marketplace of





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Reporter



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& the Illinois Press Association

# CHURCH DIRECTORY Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

### *MENDOTA*

#### **ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS**

Rev. Peter A. Pilon, Pastor Fr. Jeff Windy, Parochial Vicar Ray Fischer, Jose Lopez, and Hector Diaz, Deacons

#### **HOLY CROSS, MENDOTA**

**Weekday Mass Weekend Mass Confession** 

#### STS. PETER AND PAUL, **PETERSTOWN**

**Weekend Mass** 

Confession

#### **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

100 E. Sixth St. (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 24 - Palm Sunday; 9 a.m. Sunday School; 9:30 a.m. Worship

March 28 - 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service March 29 - Good Friday.

9 a.m.-noon Bake Sale at First State Bank lobby; 6 p.m. Choir practice (all welcome); 7 p.m.

Ecumenical Good Friday service at Zion United Methodist Church

#### 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.** 



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 - II:30 a.m. **WEDNESDAY:** 

Midweek Bible Study - 7 p.m.

#### **VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH**

"Faithful & Effective" 505 W. 7th Ave. (815) 539-9081

**Pastor Steve Breedlove** 

**SUNDAY** 

**Sunday school** Worship

**WEDNESDAY** 

**Prayer Service** 

#### **NEW COVENANT** ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rt. 251 at Lake Mendota P.O. Box 54

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

Larry Sheaves, Pastor www.newcovenantmendota.org

www.facebook.com/NCAOG

"Preaching the blood, book and blessed hope."

> **Sunday School** Worship

#### **MENDOTA BIBLE 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** 

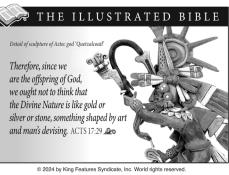
E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

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.

#### 



#### 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 II a.m. Available on Facebook Live

**Facebook page** www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

March 24 - Palm Sunday March 26 - 11 a.m. Produce sorting March 30 - 10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt



#### **CHRIST'S CHURCH**

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

1107 Main St. (815) 993-2462

#### **Wayne Shuman**

Please join us for . . . Sunday Bible Study (all ages) 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Church Builders 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m. Men's Ministry Ladies & Mens Bible Study

> Thursday 6 p.m. Non-denominational Please call for more information

#### **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

398 Church Road, Compton

**Pastor Jeffrey Schlesinger** (815) 539-6567 Wheelchair accessible

Website: www.ilccompton.org E-mail: immanuellutheran

"Living in God's Grace as a Neighbor to the World"

compton@live.com

#### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

March 20 - 5:30 p.m. Lenten meal at Immanuel; 6:30 p.m. Mid-week Lenten service at Immanuel

March 21 - 5 p.m. Church Council March 23 - 8 a.m. Volunteer at N.I.C.E.

March 24 - 6:30 p.m. Confirmation class Online "devotional service" videos continue every Sunday at facebook.com/ilccompton and

YouTube. Check our website and Facebook page for more information.



### LA MOILLE

#### ZION EVANGELICAL **LUTHERAN CHURCH**

LaMoille (Clarion) 4 miles west of Mendota on Rt. 34

(815) 539-7820

Sunday Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Accessible

#### COMMUNITY UNITED **METHODIST CHURCH**

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

### TROY GROVE

#### **FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

208 W. South St., **Troy Grove Pastor Brian Hamiel** 

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info E-mail: fbfchurch20817@gmail.com

"At Faith Bible Fellowship, we exist to glorify God through the equipping of His saints, teaching of His Word and raising of His name. We would love to have you join us

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

to worship and learn about

our risen Savior."

### BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of 2 Thessalonians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neitner?
- 2. From Titus 1, Paul wrote that unto the pure all things are ...? Gold, Righteous, Worthy, Pure
- 3. What archangel is mentioned by name in the book of Jude? Gabriel, Silas, Michael, Melchizedek
- 4. In 1 Kings 21, who forbid Naboth to give his vineyard to Ahab? The Lord, Jezebel, Absalom, Balaam 5. Jared was the father of Enoch and lived how many years? 110,

450, 600, 962

6. In Psalm 103:5, what bird's youth is renewable? Dove, Eagle, Raven, Swallow

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Pure, 3) Michael (Jude 1:9), 4) The Lord, 5) 962, 6) Eagle

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

**EUREKA SAVINGS BANK** 1300 13th Ave., Mendota, Ill. Phone (815) 539-5656

FIRST STATE BANK 706 Washington St., Mendota, Ill. Phone (815) 538-2265

MENDOTA MONUMENT CO. 606 Main St, Mendota, III. Phone (815) 539-7276

MERRITT FUNERAL HOME 800 Monroe St., Mendota, III. Phone (815) 539-7211



TRIPLE SERVICE, INC. 801 Monroe, Mendota, III. Phone (815) 539-3828

2112 W. Main St., Mendota, III. Phone (815) 539-8500 ZIGGIE'S RESTAURANT

WASMER FUNERAL HOME

Rte. 34 East, Mendota, III. Phone (815) 539-5060

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the miscellaneous busi-

ness of the said town;

and after a Moderator

having been elected,

will proceed to hear

and consider reports

of officers, and decide

on such measures as

may, in pursuance of

law, come before the

meeting; and especially

to consider and decide

Regular Agenda Items

Dated March 18, 2024

Linda Corrigan, Town

**NOTICE** 

ship Board meetings

are held on the second

Monday of every month

at 5:00 p.m. unless

otherwise posted. The

dates for 2024-2025

are as follows: May 13;

June 10; July 8; August

12; September 9; Octo-

ber 14: November 11;

December 9; January

13; February 10; March

Linda Corrigan, Town-

NOTICE

The regularly sched-

uled Mendota Township

Board meeting of Mon-

day, April 8, 2024 has

been rescheduled to

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

at 5:00 p.m.

(March 20, 2024)

10; April 14.

ship Clerk

No. 0310

Mendota Town-

**Cemetery Business** 

(March 20, 2024)

the following:

Clerk

The

No. 0309



MENDOTA • EARLVILLE • LAMOILLE • TROY GROVE • SUBLETTE • COMPTON • WEST BROOKLYN • LELAND

#### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLICATION** NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (Adult Name Change) IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT. LASALLE

COUNTY Request of CHARLES JAMES CONSIDINE Case Number 2024 MR

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from **CHARLES JAMES** CONSIDINE to the new name of CHARLES WILLIAM HELMIG, V The court date will be

held on May 1, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 204, LaSalle County Courthouse, via video conference. No 0304

(March 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

#### NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on February 29, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Hermosillo Lawn Care located at 408 17th Street Mendota, IL. 61342. Dated: February 29, 2024. Rigoberto Her-

mosillo Applicant. No. 0305 (March 20, 27 and April 3, 2024)

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLICATION**

NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (Adult Name Change) IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, LASALLE COUNTY Request of LESLIE

SHANNON SMITH Case Number 24MF There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from LESLIE SHAN-NON SMITH to the new name of WYATT ASH-**ER SMITH** The court date will be

held on May 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 300. LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL. No. 0306

(March 20, 27 and April 3, 2024)

#### NOTICE NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2020-JA-55 TO: Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 14th day of March, 2024 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Malaysia Wiggins, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 24th day of April, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination 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, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may

lose all parental rights

to your child. If the peti-

tion requests the termi-

nation of your parental

rights and the appoint-

ment of a guardian with

power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for Unless you appear you

will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

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 an order or judgement entered. Dated March 14, 2024

Greg Vacarro, Clerk No. 0307 (March 20, 27 and April 4, 2024)

#### NOTICE NOTICE FOR

**PUBLICATION** No: 2020-JA-55 TO: Jazmin Casey-Wiggins and other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern: Take notice that on the 14th day of March, 2024 a petition to ter-

minate your parental

rights was filed under

Criminal Justice Center

Courtroom 223 at Otta-

wa on the 24th day of

April, 2024, at the hour

of 8:30 a.m., or as soon

thereafter as this cause

may be heard, a Termi-

nation Hearing will be

held upon the petition to

have the child declared

this proceeding to take

from you the custody

and guardianship of

the minor, to terminate

your parental rights and

to appoint a guardian

with power to consent

to adoption. You may

lose all parental rights

to your child. If the peti-

tion requests the termi-

nation of your parental

rights and the appoint-

ment of a guardian with

power to consent to

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all parental rights to the

You are entitled to have

an attorney represent

you at all stages of

these proceedings. If

vou are financially un-

able to afford a private

attorney, the court will

appoint an attorney for

Unless you appear you

will not be entitled to

further written notices

or publication notices of

the proceedings in this

case, including the filing

of an amended petition

or a motion to terminate

Now, unless you appear

at the hearing and show

cause against the peti-

tion, the allegations of

the petition may stand

admitted as against you

and an order or judge-

Dated March 14, 2024

(March 20, 27 and April

**NOTICE** 

ANNUAL TOWN

**MEETING** 

NOTICE IS HEREBY

**GIVEN** 

To the legal voters, res-

idents of the Town of

Mendota in the County

of LaSalle and the State

of Illinois, that the Annu-

al Town Meeting of said

Town will take place on

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

being the second Tues-

day of said month at the

hour of 6:00 p.m. at 602

Main Street, Mendota,

IL. for the transaction of

Greg Vacarro, Clerk

parental rights.

ment entered.

4, 2024)

child.

you.

Linda Corrigan, Townthe Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denship Clerk ny, in the Circuit Court No. 0311 of LaSalle County en-(March 20, 2024) titled 'In the interest of NOTICE Malaysia Wiggins, a minor', and that in the

The Restland Cemetery lot-owners' meeting will take place at the Mendota Township's Supervisor's Office at 602 S Main St., Mendota, IL on April 9, 2024, at 4:00

No 0312 (March 20, 2024)

#### a ward of the court 101 under that Act. The Court has authority in **LEGAL NOTICE**

publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

#### 105 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

#### 113 FINANCIAL

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

#### 119 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.'

#### 127 **SERVICES AND** REPAIRS

FURMAN'S Lawn Care and Tree Work. Mowing, bushes, spring clean up, weeding and much more. Call Jeremy Furman 815761-9619. Please leave a message will return call ASAP. Fully insured, in business since 1999. Servicing Rochelle and surrounding areas.

#### 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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.

#### 301 **ANTIQUES**

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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#### 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle, End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

#### 405 **HOUSES FOR SALE**

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, intention or 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.

#### 501 APARTMENT FOR RENT

#### **APARTMENTS** FOR RENT: **MENDOTA** 1 & 2 Bedrooms.

Appliances, A/C 779-375-8932 815-498-2262

#### 511 STORAGE UNITS

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203 **HELP WANTED** 



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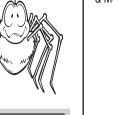
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Money Saver & Mendota Reporter 815-539-9396

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2022 Chevy Equinox FWD LT, 42K Miles, ...\$22,900 Silver

2021 GMC Sierra K-1500, SLT, Crew Cab, 2019 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab, LT 4x4, 4x4, 36K Miles, White.......\$43,900 59K Miles, White......\$32,

2020 Chevy Equinox FWD, LT, 64K Miles

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2021 Chevy K-1500 Custom 4x4 4cyl Turbo, 90K 2017 Chevy 1500 Suburban, 4x4, SLT, One Owner, ...\$27,900 Sunroof, DVD, 40K miles.....

2021 Chevy Equinox FWDLT, Sunroof, Navigation, 2017 Chevy K-1500 Crew LT, 4x4 66K Miles,

...\$17,900 Maroon.

2020 Chevy K-2500 Regular Cab 4x4 WT, 6.6 gas, 2016 GMC K-2500, Crew Cab, Denali, 4x4, .\$29,900 Sunroof, Diesel, 76K Miles, Black.....\$44,900

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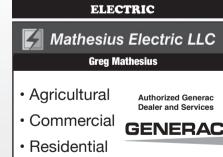
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# McConville



Joe McConville Designated Managing Broker



612 S. Main St., Mendota, IL 815-539-5673

E-mail: office@mcconvillerealty.com mcconvillerealtymendota@gmail.com Website: www.mcconvillerealty.com

Call one of our Agents to set up your private showing. Joe McConville, Designated Managing Broker 815-910-5673

Marty McConville, Broker 815-200-2233

Sharon Kimrey, Broker 815-343-3600

Melody Nanzer, Broker 815-228-2842 Peri McConville, Broker 815-910-5337



1106 Illinois Ave., \$79,900

Nice 2-3 Bedroom, 1-1/2 story home in quiet neighborhood. 1409 sq. feet. Alley access. Great location in Mendota.

\$135,000 311 Stilson St., Earlville

MLS#11967172. This large home has 4 large bedrooms and 2 full baths. First floor laundry. It sits on a corner lot with a 2 car detached garage. Ready for a new owner.



# **FREE MARKET ANALYSIS**

WE CAN LET YOU KNOW THE MARKET

VALUE OF YOUR HOME.

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