

Memorial Day Tribute



Remembering our heroes

Mendota's Memorial Day Service was conducted in front of a large crowd at Restland Memorial Gardens on May 27. The Veterans' Memorial Council, The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4079, its Auxiliary, American Legion Post 540 and the Mendota Alumni Band participated in the program, the purpose of which is to honor and remember all veterans resting on domestic or foreign soil for their commitment and unselfish contribution to our present way of life with liberty and freedom for all. Bill Hunt, Navy veteran, was the master of ceremonies. Eva Beetz was guest speaker as the 2023 Patriot Pen essay winner. (Reporter photos)

District 280 waives certain student fees for '24-25 school year

Board handles personnel matters

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education set fees and prices for the next school year at its May 20 regular meeting.

In action from Superintendent Denise Aughenbaugh's report, registration fees, lab fees, driver's education fees and student participation fees are all waived again for the 2024-25 school year.

Chromebook insurance is \$25 and is optional to purchase for repairs.

Lunch prices were set at \$3.65 for students and \$4.40 for adults; breakfast price is \$2.25; milk price is 55 cents.

Athletic admission prices were set at \$5 for adults; \$4 for student, senior citizen, child; \$12 for adult with two or more children under the age of 18; \$60 for adult all-season ticket and \$40 for student and senior citizen all-season ticket; \$125 for football parking space.

In other items from Superintendent Aughenbaugh, the board considered and approved the local wellness policy and triennial assessment for review; approved the first reading of PRESS PLUS 114 board policy updates; and approved the FY25 consolidated district plan.

The Board reviewed the ENGIE stadium and digital solutions update. A public notice will be posted prior to the June 17 board meeting stating the district's intention

to address energy conservation and savings measures at its facilities through a guaranteed energy savings contract with the ENGIE contract amendment.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

During Principal Joe Masini's report, Nicole Cromwell, assistant principal, presented recommendations for the 2024-25 Student Handbook. The board reviewed and approved the handbook updates pending school attorney review.

Masini presented the Athletic Committee recommendations for winter sports bids, which were approved.

Brock Zinke, athletic director, provided a presentation on the athletic program year in review.

OTHER ITEMS

The board held an executive/closed session. Upon return to open session, the board took action on the following:

- Hired summer custodial help—Jennifer Watson, adult; Elias Sumner and Marco Balcazar, students;
- Hired Enrique Guzman as second shift custodian;
- Approved the resolution assuring re-employment for the 2024-25 school year to staff on the non-certified or employee support personnel list;
- Accepted the resignation of Evan Carroll as sopho-

See Dist. 280, Page A5



MHS students chosen to attend Boys, Girls State

MENDOTA—Five Mendota High School students will attend Boys State and Girls State this summer.

Three outstanding MHS students have been selected to attend the 87th Annual Premier Boys State held at Eastern Illinois University in June. The program, sponsored by the American Legion, is designed to teach young men about voting and the election process in a democratic society. Over 750 eleventh grade boys from around the state will attend the week-long leadership seminar.

Mendota High School students attending Boys State include Sam Matura, the son of Samuel and Jeannie Matura of Mendota, sponsored by the American Legion; Benjamin Bresley, son of John and Amanda Bresley of Mendota, sponsored by the Mendota Lions

Club; and Quin Holland, son of Troy and Aimee Holland of Mendota, sponsored by the Mendota Elks Lodge.

Two deserving MHS students have been selected to attend the Illini Girls State held at Eastern Illinois University in June. The program, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, is designed to teach young women to understand and appreciate their roles as United States citizens. Approximately 600 eleventh-grade girls from around the state will attend the week-long leadership seminar.

Mendota High School students attending Girls State include Lily Bokus, daughter of Mike and Kaela Bokus of Mendota, sponsored by the Mendota Lions Club, and Ella Martin, daughter of Jason and Lisa Martin of Mendota, sponsored by the Mendota Elks Lodge.



Wild Bill returns to Mendota

James Butler Hickok, also known as Wild Bill, returned to Mendota over Memorial Day weekend in the form of actor Walt Willey, who brought Wild Bill back to life in his portrayal of the Troy Grove-born Hickok. Willey presented Wild Bill!, an afternoon with James Butler Hickok, "My Time in Illinois," during six performances at the Hume-Carnegie Museum in Mendota on May 25 and 26. Hickok was born on May 27, 1837, in Troy Grove, and spent time in Mendota before heading west where he ultimately met his demise in Deadwood, S.D., on Aug. 2, 1876. Willey, who was born in Ottawa and is best known for appearing on the ABC soap opera All My Children, tours the country with his one-man show about the legendary Wild West icon Wild Bill Hickok. (Reporter photo)



SEE SHOPPE LOCAL DIRECTORY AT WWW.MENDOTAREPORTER.COM



Index

Local News ...	Pages A2,A3,A5,A7,A8,A9
Obituaries	Page A4
Opinion	Page A6
The Back Page	Page A10
Sports	Page B1
Entertainment	Page B3
NIE Fun Page	Page B5
Church Page	Page B7
Classifieds/Legals	Page B8



LOCAL AND AREA



50 years in ministry
 Rev. Larry Sheaves, pastor of New Covenant Assembly of God in Mendota, was honored at district council for being an ordained minister for 50 years. This is quite an achievement that few attain. Pastor Sheaves has pastored at several churches ranging from Florida to Illinois and has been pastoring in Mendota for 37 years. His wife Leah has been faithfully by his side. (Photo contributed)

OSFM announces recipients of 2024 grant program

SPRINGFIELD – The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has named the recipients of the 2024 Small Equipment Grant Program. A total of \$4 million was awarded to 165 fire departments/districts and EMS providers across the state. The program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000 each for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment.

Among the fire departments receiving grants are the Sublette Fire Protection District (\$25,200) and the Leland Community Fire Protection District (\$18,442).

This program is an innovative approach to a problem that has long caused difficulties for fire departments and not-for profit ambulance services in Illinois, particularly those that have hardships in generating the necessary revenue for small equipment. The purpose is to allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small equipment that they may otherwise not

be able to purchase. The OSFM received 417 applications, requesting around \$9.5 million in funding for this grant period.

“We continue to see and hear about the need and understand the issues fire departments face when it comes to funding across the state. I am proud this year we were able to increase our grant funding to \$4 million, a \$2.5 million increase from last year, which has allowed us to award over 100 more departments money to purchase lifesaving tools they might not have been able to afford otherwise,” said Illinois State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera.

Most Illinois fire departments, fire protections districts, township fire departments, and stand-alone, nonprofit ambulance service providers were eligible to apply. All fire departments, fire protections districts and township fire department applicants were required to have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years prior to applying.



Mendota High School Class of 2024 graduates Madelyn Becker, second from left, and Valerie Valdez, fourth from left, were awarded with scholarships worth \$500 each from Taco Guzman. The Guzman crew, left to right, of Naitzy Garcia, Sandro Guzman and Rosa Guzman gave the scholarships to help them live their dreams like Sandro has with the Taco Guzman food truck. (Photo contributed)

‘I believe in dreams’

Taco Guzman fuels dreams with \$500 college scholarships to two Mendota High School Class of 2024 students

By Brandon LaChance
 Staff writer

MENDOTA – At one time, the Taco Guzman food truck wasn’t imaginable.

After it became a thought, it didn’t seem realistic.

As a fryer it wasn’t a grill. As a grill it wasn’t a tent. The tent wasn’t a booth.

The booth wasn’t what you see now, the Taco Guzman truck, designed the way owner Sandro Guzman wanted it.

Each step of the way, he put his blood sweat, tears, and determination into his dreams.

“Taco Guzman started 10 years ago with me helping the Hispanic community. People asked me to do benefits to raise money, so I did a lot of fundraisers for the Hispanic Community,” said Sandro Guzman, who moved to Mendota in 1989. “That’s how the idea for Taco Guzman began because people were asking me, ‘Hey, why don’t you open a restaurant?’”

“Every time they asked me, it kept putting the idea into my head. Every time I was in Chicago or the suburbs, I saw a food truck and I told myself I wanted to do that. I didn’t think it was going to happen because I didn’t have the money. I asked myself, ‘How can I make it happen?’”

Guzman worked at Lube Cube full-time for 15 years. When the wheels began to roll in motion with the food truck idea, Guzman worked 90 hours a week for three years as he did both, Lube Cube and Taco Guzman.

Through his work ethic and motivation to work for himself making food for his community, the mechanic was able to put down the wrench and permanency pick

up a spatula as a cook and business owner.

Being a man who wants to help in any way he can and as a man who knows when you set your mind to something it can be accomplished, Guzman decided to award two Mendota High School Class of 2024 graduates, Valerie Valdez and Madelyn Becker, each with a \$500 college scholarship to aid them in working toward their goals.

“Through the process, I didn’t have the support. I didn’t have someone telling me, ‘Come on buddy, let’s go do it,’” Guzman said. “I’m always a person who is willing to help anyone who needs it. That’s what Taco Guzman is about, helping the community. When policemen or firefighters come for food, I don’t charge them. I’m just trying to pay back the people who watch over us 24 hours a day.”

“It makes me feel good to help the community. I want to help people who want to build their own career because I know what it takes. I want to be a person who can be support for others like I didn’t have. That’s why I decided to do the scholarships. It’s a way to say thank you to the community and help others succeed.”

“I want to help others live their dreams like I’m living mine. I believe in dreams and I know people can do it.”

With the help of his wife Rosa and daughter Maria, Guzman decided to indulge in the idea of cooking for more than his family and fundraisers on a little fryer from Walmart.

Carol Ramer nudged him to enter a taco competition during the 2018 Tri-County Fair.

He did, and he won.

“People who tried the food asked again, ‘Why don’t you have a restaurant?’ I thought

here we go again. I got my license and was doing catering, weddings, and I built myself a food truck in 2019,” Guzman said. “I had no idea what I was doing. Everything was fine, but I was determined to make my dream come true. I wanted to customize my own trailer.”

“I wanted the trailer I wanted. I needed and wanted a food truck. It was my dream to get the truck I have now. I’m still living my dream. Taco Guzman helped change my life. I was an alcoholic. I started an alcoholic anonymous group to help others stop drinking, too. Taco Guzman is my therapy. I’ve been clean for 17 years. I hope others can quit drinking.”

Now Guzman has loyal employees and helping hands in Naitzy Garcia, who gave him the idea of awarding scholarships, Karina Pantoja, Diego Raya, and more.

Watching them put in their 100 percent effort lets Guzman know he made the right move by fighting anxiety of not being able to make it or succeed, by giving multiple opportunities to eat or prepare food to his communities.

“It seems like everywhere we go, we sell out,” Guzman said. “Mendota has been great. Amboy is my second home and they support us so much. Monday is my day off but I go to the Monday Food Truck nights for both towns because I want to give back and support them.”

“I don’t have a way to pay back the communities of Mendota and Amboy for the way they’ve supported me. The scholarships are at least a small step. I believe in dreams and if I did it, I know other people can. I hope Madelyn and Valerie use them to do great things.”

“If you have a dream, get up, and go do it.”

Nightengale’s Thrift Shop
 Invites You to Join the Fun On Us!!!!
Free Summer Swimming!

Your Continued Support Makes Programs Like This Possible

Swim Hours:
 Sunday-Saturday 12p-5p
 Mon-Wed-Fri Nights 7p-9p
 Adult/Handicap Swim & Parent Toddler Swim:
 Sunday-Saturday...10a-12p
 Mon-Wed-Fri 5p-7p

Mendota Swimming Pool
 1100 Meriden St.

Nightengale’s Thrift Shop
 708 Jefferson St., Mendota

Blackstone School Report
 Stacy Kelly, Principal

Thank you to all of the parents of incoming kindergarten students who attended our registration night on May 22. Parents were able to complete the registration process. The families were also able to meet the kindergarten teachers and take a walk around the school. If parents were unable to attend this event, please call our office at 539-6888 as soon as possible so we can help you finish registration for your child for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year.

We are excited that Blackstone will be implementing a new reading curriculum beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. Because of this, we have many older materials to get rid of. This past week, our students were able to take home many books that they picked out and will get to keep at home. There could be more coming home before the end of the year. The students were excited to get the books and we hope they practice reading them over the summer!

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Gabe Dykstra, Harper DeBeck, Zoey Hensley, Maybell Godinez, Colton Boysen, Jonas Landeros,

Amyra Hawkins and Allias Francis. The winners were Matias Chapa, Lionardo Smith, Maggie Larson and Rayla Nagy.

Pattern Day was a huge hit for one of our May spirit days. The school was full of colorful and different patterns. Thanks to all who participated!

The final principal pizza lunch of the year was held on May 24th. The May winners that attended were Nathan Gonzales, Caine Quarzenski, Stephen Giacinto, Cerenity Moss, Emma Ridge, Charlotte Crotty, Matias Chapa, Lionardo Smith, Braxton Eames, Bentley Baxter, Grayson Kneebone, Hadley Reinhold, Merakim Riniker, Laken Weber, Maggie Larson and Rayla Nagy. The students had a great time celebrating their award.

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to donate chips or drinks for our end of year picnic. We had a great response and had so many people volunteer to help right away. If you signed up to donate something, we are asking to have it to Blackstone by Wednesday, May 29. We will enjoy our school-wide picnic lunch on Monday, June 3.

LOCAL AND AREA

MHS students in child development class learn the foundations of skill acquisition, personality development

MENDOTA – In Melissa Sallee’s classroom at Mendota High School, students are encouraged to think about the brain and its co-existence with the world.

Sallee stated, “We start by having students write a letter to their younger selves. This allows the students to warm to the process of seeing how they themselves have developed.”

Students then learn about various theorists through the length of the course but are currently learning about Jean Piaget. According to the National Library of Medicine, “Jean Piaget (1896-1980) was a renowned psychologist of the 20th century and a pioneer in developmental child psychology. Piaget did not accept the prevailing theory that knowledge was innate.”

Students have had multiple learning experiences in which they work to better understand the “coming online” of a child’s brain. This includes making a version of play-doh, coloring and assembling brain caps which diagram the parts of the brain responsible for each action or reaction that occurs in a child’s brain. At present, students are learning about Piaget’s theory in action as they are working in teams to prepare a presentation on the four seasons of intellectual development that Piaget proposed. This not only allows students to practice practical skills such as research and public speaking but will allow them to look more into topics that interest them. Some students who are leaning toward a career in teaching will have a chance to present their first classroom lesson.

Oftentimes, students have an interest that drives them to enroll in the elective course. Some plan to start a family post-high school and want to learn more about pregnancy, parenting, or how to care for a child. Others plan to enter a field that benefits from basic knowledge of the developing child such as medicine, social work, or psychology. Students who are interested in a career specific to children, are encouraged by their school counselor to use this course as a foundation for their career. Some students may go on to work toward a career in Early Childhood Education as a childcare provider, or as a paraprofessional, or even a licensed educator in the primary or secondary setting.

Sallee is a Nationally Board Certified clinical mental health counselor who also teaches Family and Consumer Science. Sallee noted, “I have always loved teaching Home Economics but after working in clinical mental health, I began to have my own learning process about how to teach child development. High school students in a Child Development course or Parenting course are experiencing a parallel pro-

cess. They are learning about developmental processes as they themselves are developing. The power of a high school student understanding the importance of the formative years is remarkable. The seeds of knowledge planted here provide a foundation for personal growth as well as a ripple effect on our community as these young person’s go on to utilize these concepts in their own adult lives.”

In the present courses, sophomore Christianah Brown reflects on her learning experiences. She notes “it’s been valuable to learn about children’s development in understanding the phases that Piaget theorized. I learned how children develop and think. I learned that education has not always been this way. Education is now embraced and an understanding of the importance of early childhood education is known. It’s important to me, personally, because if someone wants to have kids, this course will help them to be competent parents knowing Piaget’s phases of development. I see how parents are learning at the same time that they are parenting”

MHS alumnus Jaelyn Fitzgerald is a college student studying psychology now, as a 21-year-old, and working as a paraprofessional at her alma matter. The classes in FCS started her interest in studying psychology. “I learned how children’s minds developed,” she said.

As Fitzgerald continues her education she will finish at Sauk Valley, earn a BA in Psychology and go on to work toward the BCBA credential with a Master’s behind it. “I would like to work in a therapy center and have my eye on a particular center that helps children preschool aged to adolescent who are neurodiverse and have social emotional disabilities”

Fitzgerald looks back at the course and remembers the impact that Sallee has on students. “She had the ability to get us engaged in the coursework; she forced us to dig deeper into the why.” Currently, Fitzgerald is working as a paraprofessional in the life skills room and provides 1:1 support to students throughout the day.

“I love being able to get to know these kids and see the wide range of abilities the kids have regardless of the diagnosis,” she said.

Another MHS alumnus, Makayla Lara, stated she has used Child Development coursework to spring into her career. “The course helped me learn about the development of an infant/child inside of the womb and after birth. It taught me about all the different factors that may influence a child’s psychological development, intellectual growth, physical



Sophomore Christianah Brown has learned how children develop and think in the child development class at Mendota High School. (Photo contributed)

development, and social development. This helped me to have a better understanding of how children develop to prepare for my career as a labor and delivery nurse.”

Lara feels the course may help her have a springboard for concerns in the newborn such as trouble with feeding or not reacting to sound. She is currently doing her pre-requisites for the RN program at IVCC and then will transfer to ISU to continue her education to become a labor and delivery nurse.

MHS offers a broad range of vocational; career technical education courses that prepare students for their post high school successes. Included in the Family Consumer Department are: Nutrition and Culinary Arts I, II, III, Styles and Textiles I, II, Child Development, Parenting, and Personal Wellness. Also in the CTE program are courses in Agricultural and Industrial Technology, as well as Business Education. Students who wish to pursue these habits further may also attend the area career center while in high school.

OSF Occupational Health services available along the Interstate-80 region

OTTAWA – OSF HealthCare has announced an update to the OSF Occupational Health services available in the I-80 market. As part of an ongoing commitment to transform, preserve, and sustain evolving health care, OSF HealthCare is realigning its occupational health services across the region.

According to Dawn Trompeter, president of OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center and Saint Paul Medical Center, these changes were made to benefit its patients. “These adjustments to OSF Occupational Health services will maximize

our resources while maintaining exceptional patient care,” Trompeter said. “This involves strategically reallocating services across the I-80 markets to guarantee efficiency and deliver quality care through specialized centers of excellence.”

As of Monday, May 6, the OSF Occupational Health department will provide the following services at these locations:

Full Service
 • OSF Occupational Health – Peru, 1412 Midtown Road, Peru | (815) 538-1353. Services

by appointment Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Walk-in drug screens available Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

• OSF Occupational Health – Ottawa, 1614 E. Norris Drive, Ottawa | (815) 431-3077. Services by appointment Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Walk-in drug screens available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

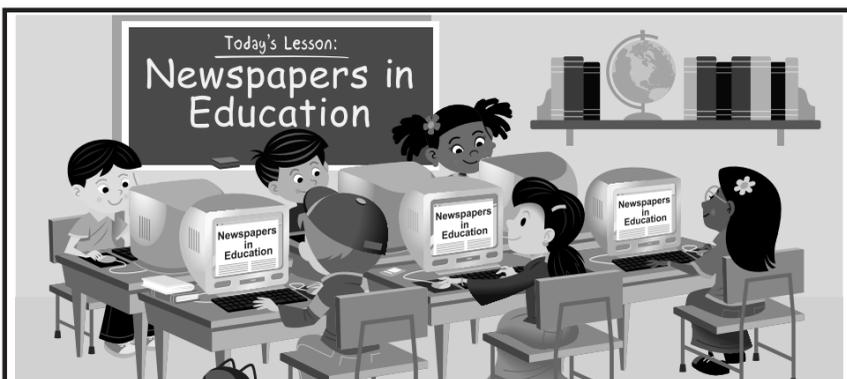
• OSF Occupational Health – Streator, 111 Spring Street, Streator | (815) 431-3077. Services by appointment Wednesday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Walk-in

drug screens available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the laboratory

OSF OnCall Urgent Care – 2911 Columbus St., Ottawa; 1715 N. Division St., Morris

dot physicals – 7 days a week, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Drug screenings – 7 days a week, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Drug Screenings Only
 • OSF Saint Paul Medical Center – Mendota (Laboratory), 1401 E. 12th St., Mendota, (815) 538-7232. Walk-in drug screens available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.



A BIG THANK YOU to the 2023-2024 NIE Sponsors

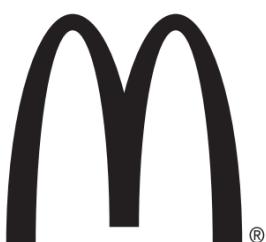
FINANCIAL



Setchell Agency, Ltd.



MAZE LUMBER
 Build it once. Build it right.



Their commitment to education will send informative, interesting & educational newspapers to the Mendota School System throughout the school year!



703 Illinois Ave. • Mendota, IL 61342
 815-539-9396 • www.mendotareporter.com



Your Source for Ag Financing



- Agricultural Real Estate Loans
- Equipment & Machinery Loans
- Livestock Financing
- Operating Loans & Lines of Credit



Joe Brizgis



Brad Cook

Contact the experts at Eureka Savings Bank today!

NMLS# 447018

250 Marquette St. LaSalle, IL 61301	1300 13th Ave. Mendota, IL 61342	105 West 1st South St. Wenona, IL 61377	2959 Peoria St. Peru, IL 61354	101 N. Columbia Ave. Oglesby, IL 61348
---	--	--	--------------------------------------	--



Eureka Savings BANK

Check Us Out Online!



*Loans and Lines of Credit are subject to credit approval.

OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Mary Ellen Jennings

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. – Mary Ellen (West) Jennings, 74, of Punta Gorda, Fla., went to eternal rest on May 24, 2024, surrounded by family and friends in her final hours.

There will not be a funeral and she will be cremated.

She was born Aug. 16, 1949. She grew up in Mendota and graduated from Mendota High School.

She is survived by her husband, Mark, and her children, Mike Watts, Michelle Mull and Heather Clary.

Her family is comforted in knowing that Mary is now free of pain. We made some wonderful memories together.



Edmund Robinson Jr.

MENDOTA – Edmund Robinson Jr., 70, of Mendota, passed away on Saturday, May 25, 2024.

Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota, is assisting the family with arrangements.



IVCC's Hispanic Leadership Team exhibits a cultural heritage mural that was completed this year and has gone on display in time for graduation. The mural is displayed in the hallway leading to a popular student gathering space, the Student Life Space. Left to right, are Emily Tran, Ashton Watkins, Emma Coss, Ariana Benitez, Jennifer Cortes, Allayna Elnicki, Azul Flores, and Lynn Keyt. (Photo contributed)

Special Memorial service on June 10 for the Serrs

LaMOILLE – Clarion Lutheran Church, between Mendota and LaMoille, is pleased to invite community members to a special worship service on Monday, June 10, dedicated to the memory of Earnest and Beverly Serr. The service will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed by interment in the Clarion cemetery and then a luncheon in the Clarion parish hall.

Earnest and Beverly Serr were well-known in the Mendota and LaMoille communities during their 35 years living in the area. Rev. Serr was the pastor at Clarion from 1965-1982, and then served as Chaplain and Administrator of The Mendota Lutheran Home from 1982-1996. Beverly was the kindergarten teacher in LaMoille for over 25 years, and she also made numerous contributions within Clarion and in the larger community. They moved to Texas in 1999 to be near their grandchildren. Beverly passed away on Nov. 17, 2021, and Ernie passed away recently, on March 7, 2024.

June 10 was selected as the date of the service because it was Earnest and Beverly's anniversary. Their son, Brian, will be leading the service. Casual attire is welcome.

Special mural placed in IVCC Student Life Space

OGLESBY – A new painting rich in symbols and colors and abundant with promise, family solidarity, and roots traced six centuries into the past will soon hang in a central Illinois Valley Community College corridor near a popular student gathering spot.

The 13-foot-by-10-foot canvas, completed by IVCC's Hispanic Leadership Team and conceived by its president, Ariana Benitez, is now on display in the hall leading to the Student Life Space for everyone passing through the area to see.

Benitez's central figure, The Graduate, wears an oversized graduation gown and is being cradled by a large pair of hands. The gown symbolizes "all the possibilities you can grow into." The hands stand for "all the hard work of our ancestors to make us what we are now," she said.

Draped over The Graduate's shoulders is a scarf in rainbow colors like a traditional serape, and behind the figure is a sunny disc featuring flags of the Latin American region. The figure's mortar board tilts over its eyes in Benitez's nod to muralist Diego Rivera's spirit of universality and timelessness.

Classmates spent the school year completing the mural, stopping in for an hour or two between classes to surround Benitez's centerpiece with scenes framed in triangles. "We did it in sections to give everybody a way to contribute. You feel what you feel and put it on canvas," she said.

Elements range from an Aztec calendar and a temple to familiar musical

instruments, a dancer, foods, national sports like soccer and boxing and familiar plants like cactus and agave. The popular game loteria is represented, as is a tree with multi-colored leaves symbolizing family. Aztec influence and traditions carry over into modern day Mexico.

The minor elements are as important as the central character and carry on the theme that "this mural only works because of the help of others," Benitez said.

Plants, foods and scenery so rooted in Hispanic cultural and physical landscape reminded Yair Santiago of when he was a child and moved with his family back to Mexico briefly. "Everything's so familiar," he says as he studies the painting and recalls how family ties made adapting to and learning about that new culture enjoyable.

The small Illinois village where Ashton Watkins grew up didn't expose him to a variety of cultures, but HLT and IVCC supplied plenty of diversity. "I always wanted to travel, and HLT helped me learn about other cultures."

"We embrace and celebrate different cultures wherever we come from," Advisor Sara Escatel acknowledged Watkins' statement. "We pass on our appreciation of our culture and make sure people are proud of where they're from."

HLT's launch less than 14 years ago opened a welcome committee and a support system for incoming students as Hispanic-language enrollment started to rise, Escatel recalled. The organization had 19 members this year.

Aseret Loveland remembers needing

the role models and peer models who emerged. "I only knew Sara. I didn't see many people who looked like me," the Project Success counselor recalled of her student years.

Many students may be first-generation college students competing with cultural expectations and not knowing how to reach their graduation or career goals, Escatel said. Benitez remembers when she started college last year feeling "super alone. It was hard to engage."

Since then, she's raised her visibility on campus and found a voice, though "I'm not outspoken and it's still a struggle," she says. Art provided an outlet and a solace, and she wants to pursue it as a career.

Through a career in art therapy, she hopes to "help people use art the way art helped me. I've been into drawing and painting for a long time, and it's still my career path, but from another direction. I want to help people and children to express themselves when words don't help."

Benitez had always wanted to create artwork for a school she attended to memorialize her time there, and now that dream has come true too. "I've done that now with friends and a community that made it all possible. We've left our mark here!"

The art doesn't yet have a title, but a brief brainstorm across the table yielded a possible one. The quote from civil rights activist Cesar Chavez -- "Si, Se Puede!" -- has become a slogan in Spanish culture, Escatel said.

It means: "Yes, it can be done."

DEATH NOTICES

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

The latest obituaries are online at mendotareporter.com

CHOOSING A MEMORIAL IS NO TIME TO SETTLE FOR IMPERFECTION

WE TAKE QUALITY AND WORKMANSHIP VERY SERIOUSLY. WE'RE NOT SURPRISED WHEN OUR CUSTOMERS DO TOO. AFTER ALL, WHEN CHOOSING THE MOST PERMANENT THING YOU'LL EVER BUY, IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO DEMAND PERFECTION. AND WHEN YOU DEAL WITH US, IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO RECEIVE IT.

Mendota Monument Company
606 S. Main St.
539-7276
(800) 845-5809

Artistic Memorials

Wasmer FUNERAL HOME
Celebration-Of-Life-Center

Catherine Wasmer, Director
Bus: 815-539-8500 - Cell: 815-228-6260
2112 W. Main St., Mendota, IL 61342

NORTHERN ILLINOIS Seamless Roofing INC.

Leak-Proof... Guaranteed!

705 Illinois Ave.
Mendota, IL 61342

815-539-5142

nilsroofing.com

DURO-LAST THE WORLD'S BEST ROOF. Authorized Contractor. NRCA • BBB

It's Garage Sale time. Advertise yours in The Reporter!

The Mendota Reporter
Publication No. (USPS 339-100)
Vol. 146, No. 22

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

The Mendota Reporter (339-100) is published weekly at 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342. Subscription rates are \$56 per year in advance in LaSalle, Lee and Bureau counties and \$76 per year in advance in the United States outside those three counties.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Mendota Reporter, P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342. Phone (815) 539-9396.

Where is it... in Mendota?

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

THEN YOU CAN WIN!
The winner will receive: **\$1000 MENDOTA BUCKS**
To spend at any Mendota Chamber of Commerce member.

Brought to you each week by:

SETCHELL AGENCY, LTD.
618 6th Street • Mendota, IL 61342
815-539-9311

Can you identify this photo?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:
Community Health Partnership
Winner: Alta Stroyan

Chris says, Be insured.

When bad things happen, make sure you have an insurance company that's committed to helping you repair, rebuild and grow. Rockford Mutual is that company. We've been putting lives back together for over 118 years.

Rockford Mutual Insurance Company provides insurance coverage for personal auto, homeowners, businessowners, commercial auto, and farmowners.

For more information and a quote, contact your Rockford Mutual Agent:
Chris Klein

LEFFELMAN & ASSOCIATES INC.
Our Family Protecting Your Family

Trusted Choice®
Like us on facebook

P.O. BOX 349, Sublette, IL 61367
Sublette 849-5219
LaMoille 638-2171 • Amboy 857-2125

LOCAL AND AREA



Brenda Grobe is this year's recipient of the Conkey Family Award at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center. Recognizing Grobe for the award, left to right, are OSF Saint Paul Medical Center Leadership, Heather Bomstad, Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer; Antonio Andere, Vice President, Ancillary & Support Services; Grobe, and Dawn Trompeter, President. (Photo contributed)

Grobe named Conkey Family Award winner

MENDOTA – The recipient of the 43rd Annual Conkey Family Award was announced on May 13 at OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center as part of National Health Care Week. This year's honoree is Brenda Grobe, a dedicated

hospital administrative assistant. Grobe has devoted nearly 39 years as a Mission Partner and resides in Mendota. She was recognized by a fellow Mission Partner for embodying kindness and compassion. Whether managing the

gift shop or assisting with administrative duties, she excels in every responsibility. Her thoughtful actions, such as surprise gifts and cards, mirror her commitment to the OSF Mission. Known for her warmth and helpfulness, Grobe is cherished by her

friends, patients, and visitors, who often seek her out for guidance and a welcoming smile. Established in 1982, the Conkey Family Award honors exemplary service, with its inaugural presentation in 1983.



Janelle Bieschke, a patient access associate

Bieschke chosen as Sunflower Award winner at Saint Paul

MENDOTA – OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center is excited to announce that Janelle Bieschke, a patient access associate, has received the Sunflower Award. Bieschke, who has been with OSF HealthCare for just over a year, resides in Peru.

"The Sunflower Award honors care team members outside of nursing for the exceptional care they provide to our patients, and Janelle is truly deserving," said Heather Bomstad, vice president and chief nursing officer at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center.

Bieschke's nomination mentioned her exceptional help in connecting to OSF MyChart. After three weeks

of failed attempts to link her son's OSF MyChart to hers, Bieschke resolved the issue and even followed up to confirm the records were updated, preventing the need for additional paperwork. This small act made a significant difference for the family.

OSF HealthCare encourages patients, family members, and fellow staff to recognize caregivers who have provided exceptional care and service by nominating them for an award to honor their dedication. For more information about the DAISY and Sunflower Awards or to submit a nomination, visit: <https://www.osfhealthcare.org/saint-paul/guest/thank-caregiver/>

Mendota man enters guilty plea to charges; sentencing is Aug. 1

MENDOTA – A Mendota man pleaded guilty to one count of child pornography and two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse during a May 16 court appearance in LaSalle County court in Ottawa.

Brett W. Merritt, 55, entered a blind plea of guilty to one count of child pornography (Class 3 felony) and two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse (Class 2 felonies). The court accepted the pleas and found Merritt guilty of the charges. He will appear before Judge H. Chris Ryan for sentencing on Thursday, Aug. 1 at 1 p.m.

Merritt was arrested on July 11, 2023, following the execution of two LaSalle County search warrants, one being the home of Merritt at 803 14th Ave., and the other being his place of business located at 800 Monroe St., Mendota.

His arrest followed a six-month investigation into multiple and various crimes. Mendota Police were assisted in the arrest by the Illinois Attorney General's Forensic Computer Crimes Unit, the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office and the LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office.

Merritt appeared in court on July 12, 2023, where he posted the required bond of \$75,000 and was released. He

appeared for an arraignment on Aug. 3, 2023, where indictments were returned by a Grand Jury on two counts of child pornography and two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

The case was continued to Oct. 12, Dec. 21 and Feb. 29, 2024. Final pre-trial was then set for May 16 and a jury trial for May 20 when the defendant entered a blind plea.

The offense of aggravated criminal sexual abuse carries the possibility of imprisonment between three and seven years and a fine up to \$25,000. The child pornography offense carries the possibility of three to five years in prison.

Dist. 280

Continued from Page A1

more boys' basketball coach and appointed Carroll as a volunteer boys' basketball coach;

- Hired Ryan Reeder as sophomore boys' basketball coach;
- Hired Nathan Hackenberger as freshman boys' basketball coach;
- Accepted the resignation of Liz Zinke as Junior Class sponsor.

The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board will be Monday, June 17 at 6 p.m.

Rep. Fritts to begin summer tour of district

DIXON – State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) announced his 2024 Summer Tour of District 74.

"I am excited to begin my second annual summer tour to speak with as many local constituents as possible," said Rep. Fritts.

The tour consists of traveling office hours and coffee & conversation events held on alternating weeks from June 7 to Aug. 30. Coffee & conversation events will all be held at locally-owned coffee shops and restaurants. Rep. Fritts will also team up with local chambers of

commerce to visit and tour a local business each week in order to better understand their state needs.

Rep. Fritts continued, "I look forward to meeting with as many of my constituents as possible this summer, all while spending time at local establishments in an effort to better learn the needs and struggles of the district."

- Coffer & Conversation Events**
- Wednesday, June 5, 8-10 a.m. – Lincoln Way Café, 137 N. Elm St., Franklin Grove
 - Wednesday, June 12, 8-10 a.m. – Shabbona Café,

114 W. Comanche Ave., Shabbona

- Thursday, June 20, 8-10 a.m. – Sunset Inn Restaurant, U.S. 30, Amboy

Traveling Office Hours

- Thursday, June 6, 11 a.m.-noon – Franklin Grove Library, 112 S. Elm St., Franklin Grove

- Thursday, June 13, 10-11 a.m. – Paw Paw Public Library, 362 Chicago Road, Paw Paw

- Thursday, July 11, 10-11:30 a.m. – Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, 800 Washington St., Mendota

LAMOILLE BUFFALO DAYS

June 7-9, 2024

<p>THURSDAY, JUNE 8 5:00-7:00 Paint the Town(\$5) Gurney street (behind bank) Foam Party Included/Snacks provided. (Rae 910-7711 / Ashley 878-7909)</p> <p>FRIDAY, JUNE 9 4:00 Food-Taco/Special/Beer Tent Opens 4-8 Airtime Inflatables (Wristbands \$10) Axetreme Throwing 5:30 Baby Buff Winners Announced-Allen School 6:00 Prairie Princess- Allen School (Mara 579-1833) 5K Stampede-High School (Stacy 878-6962) 8-12 Music By WILDCARD Beer Tent 11:00 Egg Sandwiches 10:00 Parade Registration will be at the High School parking lot. Parade Route will go North this year on Main Street, starting at Burnett Street, ending at the Park.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Congratulations 2024 Grand Marshalls: Newt & Mary Lundquist and Jan Becker. In Memory of: Robert Henry and Norm Hall</p>	<p>SATURDAY, JUNE 10 8:00 Tractor Show (Munro 303-1960) 10:00 Food/Beer Tent Opens 10:15 Bed Race Registration 10:30 Bed Race Begins Parade Registration – HS Parking Lot 10-4 Vendor Fair (Tammy Mc-stoats-Stachowiak 830-8215) 11:00 Parade-Main Street (Jeremy 343-6848/Brian 200-2899) 12:00 Adult WaterFights Registration-Sheldon Street by Park 12-4 Silent Auction 12-8 Airtime Inflatables (Wristbands \$20) Axetreme Throwing 12:30 Kiddie Tractor Pull-Park 1:00 Adult WaterFights Begins 1-3 Kids Fun fair 1-5 Cedar Creek Ranch Petting Zoo with Pony Ride (included in wristband) 2:30-4:30 Foam Party - included in wristband) 3-7 Music By GREENFIELD STATION - Beer Tent 8-12 Music by CODY CALKINS BAND - Beer Tent 11:00 Egg Sandwiches</p>	<p>SUNDAY, JUNE 11 9:00-10:30 Churches of LaMoille Service Park Pavilion Guest Speaker: Wayne Antusas 10:00 Biscuits and Gravy (food tent) 10:30 Sign Up Bags Tournament - Beer Tent 11:00 Food/Beer Tent Opens Bags Tournament begins Kiddie WaterFights Registration – Sheldon Street 11:30 Kiddie WaterFights begins 12-4 Axetreme Throwing 1-6 Music by BURN N BUSH - Beer Tent 2:00 Live Auction – Beer Tent (Lori 252-2827) 5:30 50/50 Drawing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Complete listing of events: www.lamoillebuffalodays.org Or call 815-878-5858</p>
---	---	---

Come get your buffalo burger!

OPENING DAY

Wednesday, June 5 at NOON

2024 Admission – FREE –
Compliments of Nightengale's

Swim Hours:
Sunday – Saturday.....12p-5p
Mon-Wed-Fri Nights.....7p-9p
Adult/Handicap Swim & Parent/Toddler Swim
Sunday - Saturday10a-12p
Mon-Wed-Fri Nights.....5p-7p

Mendota Swimming Pool
1100 Meriden St. Mendota 815-539-5884

— LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON —

FACEBOOK
Mendota IL Swimming Pool

FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

CALL TO BOOK LESSONS OR PRIVATE PARTIES

OPINION

The Mendota Reporter

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

Kip Cheek, Managing Editor
Brandon LaChance, News Reporter
Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager
Brent Hatch, Account Executive

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

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

Frivolous lawsuits cost jobs, hurt economy in Illinois

By Keith Battaglia

It's time to sound the alarm on an issue that is crippling small businesses across Illinois: the overwhelming burden of financial harm caused by the cost associated with the rise in number of frivolous lawsuits in our state.

As a small business owner in McHenry County and a board member for the Associated Builders & Contractors, I have seen countless businesses close because of the costs associated with systemic lawsuit abuse.

At my mechanical and electrical contracting business, we are certainly feeling the pinch, and it's not just in our present operations but also our ability to chart growth in this tough economic environment.

Did you know that every resident of Illinois, including small business owners like me, pays a so-called "tort tax" of over \$1,800 per person annually? This staggering figure doesn't just add to our overhead operating expenses, it siphons off the resources we need to innovate for the future.

The broader impact is even worse. An independent study estimated the loss of over 146,000 jobs in the wholesale trade sector across the U.S. in 2023 tied to costs from frivolous lawsuits. Every one of those jobs lost represents lives and livelihoods directly affected by the financial strain of excessive litigation.

The stacked costs of skyrocketing insurance premiums and navigating a complex web of regulations are only making matters worse. These barriers prevent us from hiring the next talented worker or pursuing the next innovative project.

This isn't just about my company. This is much bigger than that. This is a widespread crisis impacting small businesses across our state.

We are seeing our neighboring states capitalize on our challenges. They are doing a better job attracting businesses and talent as a result. These were once the foundation of Illinois' economy but sadly those days are no longer.

We're not just losing numbers on a spreadsheet – we're losing the very people who make our communities vibrant and robust.

It's time for Springfield to take decisive action. We need relief from these burdensome costs and regulations that do nothing but hold us back. Engaging the business community to streamline these processes is crucial.

We have the expertise and firsthand experience to pinpoint where change is most needed. All we need is for our lawmakers to listen.

We can't wait for more businesses to shut their doors or flee our state. The time for action is now. Our state, local communities, its citizens, and the fabric of our local economy depend on it.

(Keith Battaglia is owner Battaglia Industries in Cary, Illinois, and a board member of Associated Builders & Contractors – Illinois Chapter)

Public Servants

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Tammy Duckworth (D), Washington, D.C. office: G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, telephone (202) 224-2854, fax (202) 228-4611; Chicago office: P.O. Box 10793, Chicago, IL 60610, telephone (847) 794-8977.

Dick Durbin (D), Washington, D.C. office: 711 Hart Senate Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510, telephone (202) 224-2152, fax (202) 228-0400; Chicago office: 230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3892, Chicago, IL 60604, telephone (312) 353-4952, fax (312) 353-0150; Springfield office: 525 S. Eighth St., Springfield, IL 62703, telephone (217) 492-4062, fax (217) 492-4382.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Lauren Underwood (D), 14th District, Washington, D.C. office: 1410 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515, telephone (202) 225-2976; Sandwich office: 207 E. Church St., Unit F, Sandwich, IL 60548, telephone (630) 549-2190.

ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

JB Pritzker (D), Springfield office: Office of the Governor, 207 State House, Springfield, IL 62706, telephone (217) 782-0244; Chicago office: Office of the Governor, James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, 16-100, Chicago, IL 60601, telephone (312) 814-2121; e-mail GovernorsOffice@illinois.gov.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Juliana Stratton (D), Springfield office: 214 State House, Springfield, IL 62706, telephone (217) 558-3085, fax (217) 558-3094; Chicago office: James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, Suite 15-200, Chicago, IL 60601, telephone (312) 814-5240; fax (312) 814-5228; e-mail LtGovernorsOffice@illinois.gov.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Alexi Giannoulias (D), 213 State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62756, telephone toll free in Illinois (800) 252-8980.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Kwame Raoul (D), Springfield main office: 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701, telephone (217) 782-1090, TTY (877) 844-5461; Chicago office: 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601, telephone (312) 814-3000, TTY (800) 964-3013; Northern Illinois Regional Office, Zeke Giorgi Center, 2005 S. Wyman St., Suite 307, Rockford, IL 61101, telephone (815) 967-3883, TTY (815) 967-3891.

COMPTROLLER

Susana A. Mendoza (D), Office of the Comptroller – Springfield Executive Office, 325 W. Adams, Springfield, IL 62704, telephone (217) 782-6000; Records Center (800) 877-8078.



Living it up – How it was back in 1930

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from May 31, 2000.)

By Jessica Nashold

There may have been no televisions and compact discs in 1930, but there was no shortage of entertainment. On June 2, 1930, the Don Hopkins Players pitched their tent on the vacant southwest corner lot at Monroe and Illinois. They were sponsored by the Home Talent Play committee at the Elks, chaired by Al Elsesser.

On opening night, the Elks Drum Corps paraded the streets and halted at the entrance to the Hopkins tent. A talented cast presented a different play on six successive nights. A season ticket at \$1.75 would admit the bearer to each performance, or the holder could choose to take a party of six to a single show. Advance publicity indicated an expert Hollywood cameraman would roam the streets of Mendota during the Hopkins Co. stay, taking pictures of the crowds at the show and other scenes about the city. They would be shown at the Strand the following week.

Everybody will want to see themselves in the movies.
This plan must have fallen through as there was no subsequent announcement of local scenes being shown as promised. The Hopkins Players were competing that week with a number of graduations, which undoubtedly affected attendance.

On Memorial Day night, there was a Battle of the Bands at Puritan Park. Buddy Fisher, "The Joy Boy," & His Fisherman alternated with Cliff Peterson & His Buckeyes. Both were MCA bands. Admission was 50 cents and dancing \$1 per couple (probably for the evening).

At Puritan, the swimming pool opened with Rufus Dewitz, MHS football coach, and his wife, Frances, in charge. On Memorial Day night at Kakusha, Snell's band was featured and on June 1 it was Chapin's Illinois Band. At Pleasure Park in Troy Grove, music was provided by Eddie Bieser's band.

A new bus service, Blue Motor Coach Lines, offered two daily trips to Rockford and to Peoria, morning and evening. At Peoria, passengers could connect with a bus for St. Louis and points south and west. At Rockford, they could connect for Madison and other points in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Stops in

Backtracks & Sidetracks

The Reporter asked, in Farm News, who had tenanted the same farm for the longest period of time. One contender was George Fuelner who had farmed the William Schaller farm for 23 years.

He takes as much pride in this place as if it was his own.

The annual meeting of cemetery lot owners found everything in satisfactory shape. Lot owners not covered by Perpetual Care were to be assessed \$2 per lot per year for maintenance. Officers were: Bernard Katzwinkel, president; R.N. Crawford, secretary-treasurer; Dana Miller, F.R. Bailey and D.A. Tower, trustees.

Clement Bauer of LaMoille, dealer in farm implements, advertised two all-day demonstrations. On June 2, 1930, he would be at the L.C. Bauer farm five miles west of Mendota. On June 3, he would be at the Ray L. Swisher farm, two miles east of Mendota. The Rumley Do-All Tractor with Tower Surface Cultivator would be put through their paces.

Alderman Harry Ossman, third war, was pleased to see the council vote for a cement walk from the southeast corner to the northwest corner of Blackstone Park. At some future time he hoped to see a second walk from the southwest corner to the northeast corner, with a drinking fountain at the intersection.

For the present he is satisfied.

The final word on Wilson's coupe was that every glass "except one" was broken.

Mendota were at the Hotel Faber on the northwest corner of Jefferson and Main streets, now a vacant lot.

Among fashion notes from the Della Allen Shop was news of costume jewelry made from sour milk. The material was called Prystal. Items valued at \$3 were being offered for 98 cents.

The Rev. James A. Wilson was released from the LaSalle County jail in Ottawa on bail pending outcome of an appeal. He had been there from Jan. 30, 1930, until May 22, and was now able to join his family in Chicago.

However, his woes continued to mount. On May 27, he and his wife were en route to Mendota in their Ford coupe when the reverend attempted to pass a sedan east of Earlville. Six or eight school children were aboard. That car was being driven by Gus Guelde. Just as Wilson attempted the pass, the car driven by Guelde swerved across the centerline. Wilson turned off the pavement and two wheels sank in the soft dirt. As he attempted to regain the road, the car overturned.

At the Dan Carney farm nearby, the Carneys could hear breaking glass and Carney rushed to the spot on foot while his wife followed in the Carney car. The Wilsons were pulled from the wreckage. Mrs. Wilson suffered cuts and bruises. Rev. Wilson had a broken collarbone. Mrs. Carney drove the Wilsons to Harris Hospital, while Mr. Carney was able to drive the damaged coupe to Mendota.

The Wilsons telephoned their daughter in Chicago to come and get them. In a weird coincidence, at the very spot where their accident had occurred, the daughter also lost control and tipped over as well. Luckily, there was no injury to the daughter or damage to her car.

The body is twisted and in bad shape.

When The Reporter came out on June 5, 1930, the Wilsons were still recuperating at the Harris Hospital.

Harrison Butker is right about men and women

By Rich Lowry

To judge by the internet reaction, Kansas City Chiefs place-kicker Harrison Butker is guilty of a dreaded double-dink -- a missed field-goal attempt that embarrassingly hits both uprights -- with his commencement address the other day.

The NFL has distanced itself from Butker's unadorned socially conservative speech at Benedictine College, a Catholic school in Kansas. He's accused, meanwhile, of potentially driving women away from the NFL and, even worse, perhaps offending Taylor Swift by quoting one of her lyrics.

The first thing to say about this is that Butker is a traditionalist Catholic who gave a speech to traditionalist Catholic students graduating from a traditionalist Catholic school. Should we be surprised he sounded like a traditionalist Catholic?

He wasn't going to endorse abortion or pride month or transgenderism. And if you're not a Catholic (I'm not), his views on priests and the power of the Latin Mass are going to leave you cold, for a simple reason -- they aren't for us.

Complaining about the intensely Catholic subject matter of his address is a little like listening to the keynote at a philately convention and being shocked that it's all about stamp collecting.

Of course, the substance of Butker's talk was much more serious, and he had important, indisputably correct things to say about men and women.

His line that has drawn the most fire was directed at the graduating women: "Some of you may go on to lead successful careers in the world, but I would venture to guess that the majority of you are most excited about your marriage and the children you will bring into this world."

Butker was surely making a sociologically true statement about the women of Benedictine. If he had been talking at Vassar, he might have couched his remarks differently. Still, his observation has a more general applicability.

According to an analysis of public-opinion surveys by the Institute for Family Studies, "Strong majorities of mothers under 55 agree that housework is as fulfilling as employment. Depending on the year and the survey you prefer to cite,

between 53% and 79% of mothers had this view." Yes, some mothers find employment outside the home more fulfilling, but many stay-at-home mothers "see the work they are doing as valuable, important and satisfying."

It should be OK for someone to occasionally give voice to their perspective. No one walked out when Butker delivered these lines; in fact, he got applause. And he wasn't being callous -- he broke down when talking about his own wife embracing "her vocation as a wife and as a mother."

He had advice for the men in his audience, too, telling them to be "unapologetic in your masculinity," and to "never settle for what is easy." What's the counter to Butker's advice? That men should be defensive about their masculinity and always take the easy way out? That they should spend more time smoking pot and playing video games?

"As men," he continued, "we set the tone of the culture, and when that is absent, disorder, dysfunction and chaos set in. This absence of men in the home is what plays a large role in the violence we see all around the nation." What Butker said is strongly supported by the research, as fatherlessness is associated with child poverty and reduced educational attainment, increased idleness and more jail time among young men.

An offended columnist at The Kansas City Star hammered Butker, saying the kicker insisted on "belittling the human value of others." But the kicker spoke of the importance of speaking and acting "in charity," and the columnist admitted that when he has discussed these matters with Butker in the past, "he's been remarkably respectful when I've expressed a contrasting view."

That sounds like someone who isn't a hater, but who has deeply grounded views and who believes -- for good reason -- that if he doesn't speak the truth, few others in his position will.

The verdict regarding Butker's address should be -- good from 55 yards.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
(c) 2024 by King Features Synd., Inc.

LOCAL AND AREA

Potawatomi Nation land transfer in DeKalb County advances in Illinois House

Concerns remain over Potawatomi plans for the area

By **PETER HANCOCK**
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — A bill that would help the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation expand their newly established reservation in DeKalb County advanced out of a state House committee last week, despite concerns about the tribe's long-term plans for the property.

House Bill 4718 would authorize the state to hand over what is now Shabbona Lake and State Park to the tribe for \$1. It also allows the tribe and the Department of Natural Resources to enter into a land management agreement under which the land would remain open to the public for recreational use for an unspecified period.

The bill is part of a larger effort by the Potawatomi to reclaim land that many historians and legal experts now agree was illegally taken from them in the mid-19th century. Since then, the tribe has been headquartered in northeast Kansas, but it has spent much of the last 20 years trying to reestablish a reservation on land it once owned in Illinois.

Those efforts came to fruition in April when the U.S. Department of the Interior agreed to place into trust 130 acres the tribe had purchased in DeKalb County, making it the only federally recognized tribal land in Illinois.

The proposed transfer of Shabbona Lake and State Park would add greatly to the acreage the tribe has acquired so far, and that land presumably would become eligible for inclusion in the new reservation. But some homeowners in the area who've become accustomed to living next to a state park say they're nervous about the kind of changes their new tribal neighbors could bring to the area.

"A casino. I mean obviously, we've all had that conversation," Becky Oest, whose family owns a home on property adjacent to the newly designated reservation, told the House Executive Committee.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi currently operate a hotel and casino complex on their reservation just north of Topeka, Kan. But tribal chairman Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick assured the House committee the tribe has no such plans for the property in Illinois.

"That has not been our intention," Rupnick said. "Thirty years ago, when there was no gaming in Illinois, we definitely pushed in that direction. Today, we're just trying to make sure that we get the land secure."

Rupnick insisted the tribe's immediate plans are to work with IDNR to keep the property open for public recreation. But some Republicans on the committee questioned why, if the bill becomes law, the state should continue to pay for operation of park land that it would no longer own.

The bill passed out of the committee on an 8-4 partisan vote. It now awaits final action in the House and Senate.

(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of newspapers, radio and TV stations statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.)

MENDOTA FARMERS MARKET
SATURDAYS 8am - Noon
MAIN STREET
(815) 252-9605

MENDOTA KIDS FISHING RODEO
Kids ages 3-15 are welcome. Every child wins a prize, and receives a hot dog, chips and a drink for lunch.
Sunday, June 9th
Lake Mendota
Registration
10:00 am - 11:00 am
Fishing
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

EARLVILLE LIONS FEST 2024
FRI JUNE 7th - begins @ 3PM until 11:30PM
SAT JUNE 8th - begins @ 12 NOON until 12 Midnight
DOWNTOWN EARLVILLE @ DODGE PARK - 200 S. Ottawa Street
SAT JUNE 8th - 4:30 to 7pm - LIONS PORK CHOP DINNER catered by "5B's" of Waterman
\$16 dinner includes: 2 pork chops, applesauce, baked beans, cole slaw, dinner roll, butter
BEER GARDEN - BOTH FRIDAY 7th AND SAT 8th: large-sized beer garden serving beer, seltzers, water + soda's / Budweiser Beer Wagon - all available for purchase - bring your lawn chairs, room for dancing. No outside beverages or coolers will be allowed into the park - wristbands needed for entry into beer garden area - AGE 21+ for entry into beer garden / large stage area with 4 bands in the evenings on FRI & SAT / 3 large 20x40 tents for the public to enjoy
2 BANDS ON FRIDAY:
• 4PM - 7PM - JESSIE'S GIRL
• 8PM - 11PM - SNAPSHOT
2 BANDS ON SATURDAY:
• 4:30PM - 7:30PM - JEFF MANFREDINI - solo artist
• 8PM until 12 midnight - FREE BEER AND CHICKEN BAND
BEER GARDEN HOURS:
• FRIDAY JUNE 7th - 3PM - 11:30PM
• SATURDAY JUNE 8th - 12 noon - 12 midnight
SAT JUNE 8th - EARLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI PORKCHOP DINNER @ 4:30PM
(tent, tables, & chairs will be provided for classes ending in "4"), FOLLOWED BY THE 1ST EVER PRESENTATION OF THE EARLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME CEREMONY @ 6PM!
*Earlville Business Association is sponsoring a BAGS TOURNAMENT on FRI night
*LITTLE MISS & LITTLE MR. EARLVILLE CONTEST - on SATURDAY @ 12 noon on the stage at Dodge Park
*KIDS FACE PAINTING - SATURDAY 1PM until 4PM / 50/50 raffle tickets available all day FRI & SAT
*FOOD VENDORS: 5 B's on SAT 4:30-7pm / The Dirty Bird Chicken on FRI 4-8pm / OTHER FOOD VENDORS: Taco's Guzman, Stray Dawgs, Oh Pickles, Presbyterian Church Lemon Shake-Ups and more / Get your Queen of Hearts tickets @ The Lounge Bar in downtown Earlville / 50/50 drawing on SAT night / Community Church Service SUN @ 10:30am @ Dodge Park / possible Parade SUN 9th @ Noon

LELAND TOWN AND COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS
4TH ANNUAL DALE KIDD MEMORIAL CAR SHOW
VENDORS WILL BE PRESENT
REGISTRATION \$20 PER CAR
SATURDAY JUNE 15TH, 2024
RAILROAD ST, LELAND IL, 60531
STARTS AT 10AM
AWARDS PRESENTED AT 3PM
REGISTRATION COMPLETED THE DAY OF THE SHOW

JRD
Janko Realty & Development
Janko Realty currently has **1, 2 and 3 bedroom and studio units** available for rent in Mendota. Please check out our available rentals and applications online at **www.jankorealty.propertyware.com** or call **815-830-4422**.

Community Calendar

JUNE 2024

OCT. 1, 2023 - SEPT. 30, 2024

ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE FUNDRAISER
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
Feik Senior Parlor - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700
Our goal for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$1000. Please help us reach our goal. Drop off cans at the northeast back door of the Civic Center.

JUNE 1
THE HISTORY OF THE BURLINGTON RAILROAD IN MENDOTA
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
11 AM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call (815) 538-5142

Historian Leo Phillip will be here to discuss why Mendota was so important for the railroad. By exploring the forgotten services and functions of the railroad, we gain insight into a bygone era when the rhythmic chug of locomotives and the clatter of tracks were integral parts of everyday life.

JUNE 3, 7, 17, 21, 24 & 28
BINGOCIZE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM
Feik Lounge - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700
Open to anyone in the community.

JUNE 3, 10, 17 & 24
TOPS CLUB
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700
Anyone welcome.

JUNE 3, 10, 17 & 24
DOMINOES
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Lounge - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700
All are welcome to join in the fun.

JUNE 4, 11, 18 & 25
EUCHRE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM (Noon)
Feik Senior Parlor - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700
All are welcome!

JUNE 4, 11, 18 & 25
Wii BOWLING
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10:30 AM
Feik Senior Parlor - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700
All welcome to come and enjoy the fun.

JUNE 5, 19 & 26
BEGINNING CROCHET CLASS
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM - 2 PM
Feik Senior Parlor - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700
New class being offered. Barbrie Crochet will be here to teach crochet from beginners to advanced. Bring your own crochet hooks and yarn.

JUNE 6 & 20
HEARING SCREENINGS
Sponsored by Civic Center & M.A.S.S.
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Mendota Civic Center

For more info call (815) 539-7700
Hearing aid batteries available at M.A.S.S. to purchase. Bring in old batteries to recycle.

JUNE 6, 13, 20 & 27
POKENO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM (Noon)
Feik Senior Parlor - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700

This game is a combination of Bingo & Poker. Pennies are used, so bring your penny jar. Call M.A.S.S. for more information @815-539-7700

JUNE 6, 13, 20 & 27
NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Lounge - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700
Bring your needlework or crafts to work on or just come for the comradery.

JUNE 7
LUNCH IN THE PARK
Sponsored by Mendota Rotary Club
11 AM - 1:30 PM
Veteran's Park
For more info call (815) 539-7743
Menu: Hot dog lunch, Brat lunch, Burger lunch, Pork Chop lunch, Pulled Pork lunch. Lunches include sandwich, chips, drink and desert treat. Ala Carte menu available. Proceeds benefits youth in the community.

JUNE 2
COMMUNITY BINGO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Lounge - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700
Anyone 18 and older welcome to join the fun!

JUNE 7, 21 & 28
BINGO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Lounge - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700
Open to anyone in the community.

JUNE 14
SPRING GARAGE SALE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
8 AM - 3 PM
Feik Lounge - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673
Donations accepted beginning Monday, June 10th. "Bargain" Fill a Bag for \$3 starting at 1 PM.

JUNE 17
SUMMER READING REGISTRATION BEGINS
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
10 AM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call (815) 538-5142
Join us as Graves-Hume Public Library district hosts 'Read, Renew, Repeat.' We've teamed-up with iREAD to bring you a fun summer full of free programs for every age!

JUNE 18
3RD TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
Choose 1 PM OR 6 PM
FREE
1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142
In June, we are reading and discussing: "The Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson. Please stop by the library to pick up a book for the discussion.

JUNE 18
CAREGIVER COUNSELING / ALTERNATIVES
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM - 12 PM
Feik Senior Parlor - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673
A staff member from Alternatives for the Older Adult is available to find caregiver resources or to just talk to caregivers of any age.

JUNE 18
BLOOD PRESSURE / BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
11 AM - 12 PM
Feik Senior Parlor - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700
Free to anyone in the community.

JUNE 25
GANGSTER HISTORY OF THE MIDWEST
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call (815) 538-5142

Put on your zoot suit and follow in the footsteps of America's most infamous gangsters as they turn the Midwest into their personal crime vacation land. Filled with deadly bank robberies, explosive shootouts, brutal murders, and daring kidnappings. Chad Lewis, author and researcher of the strange and unusual will turn the spotlight into some of the Midwest's most notorious gangs.

JUNE 26
MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S. - "LA LA LAND" (STARRING RYAN GOSLING/EMMA STONE)
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library & M.A.S.S.
3 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call (815) 538-5142
Snacks (popcorn and beverages) provided by M.A.S.S.

JUNE 28
"CELEBRATING FATHER'S"
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM
Feik Lounge - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673
The meat dish will be furnished. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

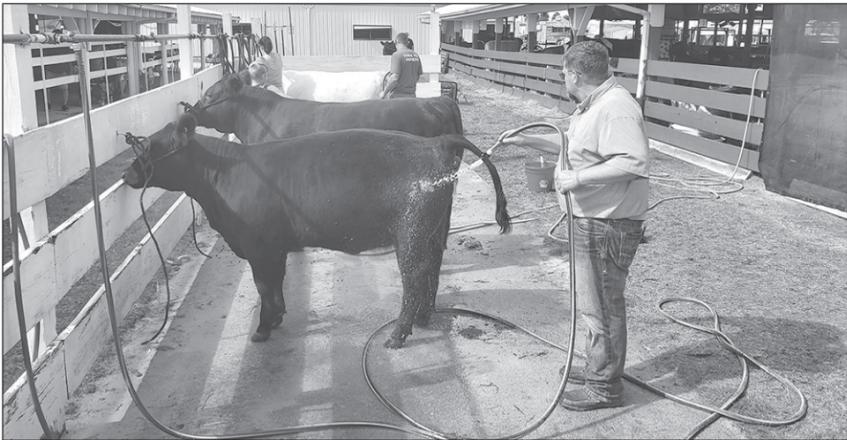
JUNE 29
MENDOTA FIREWORKS CELEBRATION
Sponsored by Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce
Gates open at 7 PM



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

- Painting Parties by Lucy
- Parkway Family Restaurant
- PC Tech 2 U
- Phelan Steel Construction Company
- Pizza by Marchelloni
- Plano powered by Pure Fishing
- Prairie Land Millwright, Inc.
- Prairie State Tractor
- Prescott Brothers
- Purpose Nutrition

LOCAL AND AREA



The 2024 Lee County Fair & 4-H Show is July 25-28 at the Lee County 4-H Center & Fairgrounds, 1196 Franklin Road, Amboy.

Lee County Fair expands Open Show

AMBOY – The 2024 Lee County Fair & 4-H Show is July 25-28 at the Lee County 4-H Center & Fairgrounds, 1196 Franklin Road, Amboy. The four-day event is a throwback to the old-time county fair with petting zoo, pony rides, midway of games, bounce houses, a barrel train, axe throwing and the County Fair Speedway.

The Lee County Fair Association is now accepting entries for the 2024 Jr. Show and expanded Open Show.

The Open Show now includes departments in cooking/baking, floral arrangement, gardening, fibers (quilting and sewing), photography and art.

“We were so happy with the number of entries at last year’s fair, the committee decided to increase the opportunities for people to be involved,” said Katie Pratt, secretary.

The Open Show includes non-livestock projects and is open to any resident from any county of any age. 4-H members and Jr. Show participants may enter the open show with projects not already entered in the 4-H show or Jr. Show. Entries must be submitted by July 1. Fee per entry is \$2.00 with a limit of two entries per class.

In the flower arrangement and photogra-

phy departments, classes are separated for entries from professional (businesses) and amateur participants.

“We’d love to see our local floral shops and photographers show off their best work in a fun competition, and earn bragging rights until next year’s fair,” said Pratt.

All rules, details and entry information can be found at www.leecountyfairgrounds.com under Lee Co. Open Show.

The Jr. Show is open to youth ages 8 to 20, as of Sept. 1, 2023. Project departments include all livestock and small animals, as well as visual arts, mechanical sciences and crops. Visual arts projects can be any art project created using paper, fiber, metal, mixed media, cake decorating, natural materials, etc. Mechanical sciences projects include model rocketry, electricity projects, woodworking and computer work. Youth need not be 4-H members to participate. Visit www.leecountyfairgrounds.com to find the online entry form and department and class descriptions. Entries are due July 1.

A full fair schedule and more information about other great fair activities and events is posted at www.leecountyfairgrounds.com or like “Lee Co. Fair & 4-H Show” on Facebook or Instagram for the latest information.

Rabid bats found in state; IDPH issues warning

CHICAGO – With the weather warming up, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is warning the public to beware of wild animals that may carry rabies, especially bats, as they become more active this time of year. The warning follows the discovery since May 10 of the first two rabid bats of 2024 in the state in Cook and Will counties, IDPH said. The bats were recovered inside two homes in those counties and subsequently tested positive for rabies.

“Rabies is a fatal but preventable disease,” said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. “It is important that Illinois residents know how to prevent rabies exposure to protect themselves and their loved ones. Bats are the most common carriers of the rabies virus in Illinois but not the only carrier. Illinois residents should stay away from bats and any wild, unfamiliar, or stray animal, as well as any animal that appears to be sick. Groups of bats can move into people’s homes and that underscores the importance of knowing the ways of keeping bats out of your home.”

Public health officials stress that if a bat is found inside a home, it is important to try and cover it with a container and contact animal control so it can be tested for rabies. (See below for tips on how to capture a bat.)

IDPH is also reminding the public to make sure that rabies vaccinations are up to

date for pets and any valuable livestock and horses for which a rabies vaccine is available. If a pet is exposed to a high-risk wild animal – such as a bat, skunk, raccoons, fox or coyote – pet owners should immediately contact a veterinarian for advice.

Rabies is a virus that affects the nervous system. People can get rabies after being bitten by an infected animal. Rabies can also be contracted when saliva from a rabid animal gets directly into a person’s eyes, nose, mouth, or a wound. People usually know when they have been bitten by a bat, but bats have very small teeth, and the bite mark may not be easy to see. If you find yourself in close proximity to a bat and are not sure if you were exposed, for example, you wake up and find a bat in your room, do not kill or release the bat before calling your doctor or local health department to help determine if you could have been exposed to rabies and need preventive treatment. If the bat is available for testing and test results are negative, preventive treatment is not needed.

If you have been bitten by any animal, seek immediate medical attention. Bite wounds can become infected and if the animal is high risk for rabies, preventive treatment, must begin quickly.

An animal does not have to be aggressive or exhibit other symptoms to have rabies. Changes in any an-

imal’s normal behavior can be early signs of rabies. A bat that is active during the day, found on the ground, or is unable to fly is more likely than others to be rabid. Such bats are often easily approached but should never be handled.

The following tips can help prevent the spread of rabies:

- Do not touch, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or litter.
 - Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home. Do not try to nurse sick, wild animals to health. Call animal control or an animal rescue agency for assistance.
 - Teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly. “Love your own, leave other animals alone” is a good principle for children to learn to reduce the risk of exposures to rabid animals.
 - Maintain homes and other buildings so bats cannot get inside.
 - If a bat is in your home, do not release the bat outdoors until after speaking with animal control or public health officials.
 - After consulting with animal control or public health officials, you may need to capture the bat for rabies testing to determine if you need preventive treatment.
 - Steps you can take to capture the bat are:
 - When the bat lands, approach it slowly, while wearing gloves, and place a box or coffee can over it.
 - Slide a piece of cardboard under the container to trap the bat inside.
 - Tape the cardboard to the container securely, and punch small holes in the cardboard, allowing the bat to breathe.
- For more information about rabies and keeping bats out of your home, visit the IDPH website.

GRASSER'S
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

SUMMER IS COMING!
Are you ready.....

Get your air conditioner checked & cleaned or replace that old unit with a new high efficiency unit.

SCHEDULE SERVICE

815-882-2111

American Standard
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING



BUSINESS CARD BULLETIN BOARD

Eureka Savings
BANK

1300 13th Avenue • Mendota, IL 61342
(815) 539-5656

www.eurekasavings.com MEMBER FDIC

Nightengales Thrift Shop

708 Jefferson St., Mendota
Open 12-3:30
Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat
1st and 3rd Saturday
-1/2 Off



Catherine Wasmer

Wasmer
FUNERAL HOME
Celebration-Of-Life-Center



2112 W. Main St. • Mendota • 815-539-8500

Advertise Your Business Here!

Call For Info:
(815)539-9396



SULLIVANS
FOODS

1102 Meriden St., Mendota • 815-539-9341

MEYERS
FURNITURE & FLOORING

HWY 251 SOUTH • MENDOTA • 815-539-6263

SR **STARVED ROCK**
WOOD PRODUCTS

Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinetry • Millwork
Staircases & Custom Projects

1605 Division St., Mendota
www.starvedrockwoodproducts.com
815-538-7797

FIRST STATE INSURANCE

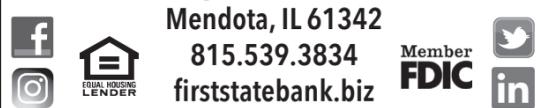
INSURANCE - ALL LINES

MIKE WASMER 715 Washington St.
815-539-5651 P.O. Box 497
Mendota, IL 61342
Fax: 815-538-2614 email: fsi@mtco.com

FIRST STATE BANK

706 Washington St. • 1403 13th Ave.
Mendota, IL 61342
815.539.3834 Member FDIC

firststatebank.biz



GENERAC
GENERATOR SALES, SERVICE, AND INSTALLATION

GENERAC

JD BELCHER
ELECTRIC
Generators are our only business!

309-246-2102
1696 STATE ROUTE 17
LACON, IL
WWW.JDGENERATORS.COM

Advertise Your Business Here!

Call For Info:
(815)539-9396



FURAR'S
BODY SHOP

P.O. Box 272
306 Plaza Drive
Mendota, IL 61342
Phone (815)539-6075



DAVID FURAR, Owner

LOCAL AND AREA

Illinois Office of Tourism launches new outdoor content series, "Real People, Real Stories, Real Outdoors"

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Office of Tourism recently announced its new outdoor video series featuring stories from Illinois adventurers spotlighting the extensive range of outdoor recreation and activities available throughout the state. The series of videos titled, "Real People, Real Stories, Real Outdoors," aims to capture genuine experiences of Illinois residents and visitors exploring the outdoors, while highlighting the state's natural beauty and outdoor adventures.

Home to 70 state parks and recreation areas, 2,900 lakes and seven national scenic byways, there is no shortage of outdoor adventure in Illinois. The stories featured in this new content series uncover picturesque nature trails, hidden gems, iconic landmarks, unique stays and beyond.

"This campaign inspires visitors to explore all that Illinois has to offer and positions the state as a leading outdoor destination – especially in downstate Illinois," said DCEO Director Kristin Richards. "Illinois' one-of-a-kind outdoor experiences have the power to attract a large market of outdoor enthusiasts and bring economic development to more rural areas of the state. This campaign shows the world why Illinois' outdoor wonders should be at the top of everyone's travel bucket list."

"In our increasingly hectic and digital world, it's vital to reconnect with the great outdoors, where every hiking trail offers a journey of discovery and every beautiful scene reveals a moment to remember," said Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. "As spring approaches, we hope this new series inspires visitors and residents to get outside and discover the incredible parks, trails, and recreational areas in every region of Illinois."

"The essence of 'Real People, Real Stories, Real Outdoors' perfectly captures the natural beauty and awe-inspiring experiences you can find at Illinois'



state parks, encapsulating how Illinois is truly an outdoor enthusiast's paradise year-round," said Daniel Thomas, Deputy Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism. "From hiking and cycling to horseback riding, canoeing, fishing and more, there are endless opportunities to explore and enjoy nature across Illinois."

The content series features up close and personal stories of friends and families in Illinois as they explore outdoor destinations, including:

- A love letter to family camping & fishing in Illinois: For Dennis and Carol Sporleder, visiting their home state of Illinois is an opportunity to create special memories with their granddaughters by returning to some of their beloved places like Rock Cut State Park near Rockford and Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Park in Oglesby.

- Finding beauty in a nature escape from Chicago: Watch as a group of friends escape Chicago to discover the beauty of diverse landscapes like Camp Aramoni's luxury safari-style campground in LaSalle County and Rend Lake in Southern Illinois. The group's experience creates an easy itinerary for outdoor adventure options like paddling,

swimming and off-the-grid camping with friends and family.

- Adventures in Illinois to challenge and inspire you: Follow Chicago adaptive climber Meaghan Cusack and her squad to some of Illinois' best climbing spots for people of all abilities and skill levels, including Cave-in-Rock State Park, Giant City State Park near the Shawnee National Forest and breathtaking Pere Marquette State Park along the Mississippi River.

The new outdoor content

series will be available on Illinois Office of Tourism's website, EnjoyIllinois.com, as well as Enjoy Illinois YouTube and social channels, including Facebook, Instagram and TikTok as part of Illinois Office of Tourism's upcoming seasonal outdoors campaign. The series will also reach international markets as well, appearing in Canada, U.K., Australia and New Zealand to inspire travel to Illinois. This video content initiative is supported by both Brand USA and Matador, media partner and award-winning hub for video travel content.

To view "Real Stories. Real People. Real Outdoors," go to www.enjoyillinois.com/great-outdoors/. For more information about Illinois and to start planning your Illinois outdoor adventure, visit EnjoyIllinois.com and follow @EnjoyIllinois on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

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

12 acres in Melugins Grove Rd, Compton IL.
Partially wooded, good building lot. Great for deer & turkey hunting.
\$130,000

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

TONY'S TREE SERVICE

- Tree Trimming
- Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Gutter Cleaning

Stump Grinding starting at \$25.00
\$25.00 off Gutter Cleaning
\$100.00 off Tree Removal
\$50.00 off Tree Trimming
Dump Truck Load of Mulch or Rock Delivered \$100.00 a load

Residential & Commercial
Seniors get a discount

815-503-9273

• Free Estimates • Fully Insured •

House for Sale In LaMoille
203 Martin Street

4 Bedroom. 1 Bathroom. Large Lot
Newly Remodeled
\$115,000.00
Call - 815-228-1566

CALL US FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

PRO MASTER

X T E R I O R S

Satisfaction Guaranteed
Roofing, Siding, Decks, Gutters & Gutter Guards

promasterroofx.com
630-397-0232 or 877-800-0776

Sandwich, IL
Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-6:00 | Saturday 9:00-12:00
Like and follow us on FB

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Manning named to Dubuque Dean's List

DUBUQUE, Iowa - The University of Dubuque has named its Spring Semester 2024 Academic Dean's List. Among the students named to the list is Paige Manning, a sophomore from Mendota.

Full-time students in good academic standing (registered for and having earned 12 or more letter grade credits for the term) who earn a term grade point average of 3.5 or above and who do not have any grades of Incomplete for the term are named to the Dean's List. Once grades have been submitted for any Incompletes, the Office of Academic Affairs will review eligibility again for possible placement on the Dean's List for the given term.

Dean's List is awarded for the fall and spring semesters only and may be awarded retroactively.

E. Guelde graduates from UW-Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee held its commencement exercises May 19 in Milwaukee.

Among the students receiving their degree was Emma Guelde of Mendota, Bachelor of Science, School of Education.

UWM is the second largest university in the state of Wisconsin, with over 22,900 undergraduate and graduate students.

Join millions of older Americans who are rediscovering the joy of walking

"I'm on the move again with my UPWalker!"

FREE Shipping!

The UPWalker is a revolutionary new mobility device that can change your life by changing the way you walk. It enables you to stand upright when you walk- with your spine straight and your eyes looking straight ahead. Your weight is supported by your upper arms and shoulders, some of the strongest parts of your body. Traditional walkers and rollators force you to put the pressure of your body weight on your hands and wrists. You push them in front of you, looking at the ground instead of where you going. The UPWalker moves with you, with your body perfectly aligned and your feet 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.

Why spend another day bent over and shuffling around- or worse yet, plopped in front of the TV all day. Pick up the phone and take back your life. Call now.

Old Way

Better Way

From the makers of the original UPWalker®

- Stand-Assist Handles
- Comfortable Seat
- Folds Easily
- Adjustable Backrest
- Optimized Center of Gravity
- Easy-Brake Wheels

Plus, now you can choose between dark luster silver or champagne

Includes 6 FREE Accessories! (a \$142 value)

UPWalker® Premium Lite
from Journey Health & Lifestyle

Call now Toll-Free
855-422-0203

Please mention promotion code 601943.

WANTED!

CLASSIC CARS TOP \$\$\$\$

Mercedes, Porsche, Jaguar, Corvettes, Vintage Cars,
Foreign & Domestic, Restored & Unrestored,
Hot Rods, Mopars & Vintage Motorcycles

Call Jim at 630-201-8122

Where are the AUCTIONS?

See Page B2!

THE BACK PAGE

Mendota woman arrested for home invasion

MENDOTA – On May 14 at approximately 8:28 p.m., the Mendota Police Department and the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office responded to the 4100 block of East Third Road, in reference to a home invasion in progress.

On May 22, Jamie B. Danley, 37, of 507 Third St., Mendota, was taken into custody, by members of the US Marshal's Great Lakes Regional Task Force (from LaSalle County,) at an undisclosed location. Danley was arrested on a no bond warrant for home invasion and aggravated battery. She was transported and released to the jail without incident.

This incident is still under investigation by the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office and the LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office.



Robert A. Dyer West Virginia man arrested in Mendota on child porn charge

MENDOTA – LaSalle County Sheriff Adam Diss reported on May 22 that LaSalle County Sheriff's Office Investigators arrested Robert A. Dyer, 25, of Harpers Ferry, W.V., on three counts of possessing child pornography. Dyer was arrested at a short-term rental property in Mendota.

Investigators from the Sheriff's Office were assisted by the Illinois Attorney General's Office High Tech Crimes Bureau.

Dyer was transported to the LaSalle County Jail where he was held with no bond.

On May 23, Dyer was released from the LaSalle County Jail and given a notice to appear in court.

Investigators with the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office are members of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

POLICE BLOTTER

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Randy C. Weathers, 38, of 509 Plaza Drive, Mendota, was charged with disorderly conduct after police officers investigated the report of a disturbance in the 500 block of Plaza Drive at 6:35 p.m. May 21. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Shontrea D. Allen, 39, of 804 Second Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Eighth Street and Fourth Avenue at 5:13 p.m. May 22. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Antonio Escatel, 47, of 180 E. Highway 52, Mendota, was arrested at 5:50 p.m. May 23 on a valid Lee County arrest warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court after police officers responded to a call for service at the Escatel address. The subject posted the applicable bond and was released with a Lee County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Juan P. Mandujano Mancera, 29, of 407 11th Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Main and Washington streets at 9:11 p.m. May 25. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Tyler Pelka, 30, of LaSalle, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at First Avenue and Ninth Street at 10:09 p.m. May 25. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Ismael J. Guzman Fonseca, 26, of 109 Division St., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at First Avenue and Fifth Street at 12:44 a.m. May 26. The subject was also arrested on a valid Lee County warrant for contempt nonpayment. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date. The subject also posted bond for the warrant and was provided a Lee County court date.

DUI

Jorge L. Maldonado Rodriguez, 34, of 2592 Welland Road, West Brooklyn, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after police officers were dispatched to the area of Washington Street and Indiana Avenue for an unwanted subject at 3:07 a.m. May 26. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Enrique Valadez, 41, of 703 Jefferson St., Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at Meriden Street and Wisconsin Avenue at 6:40 p.m. May 26. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DUI, STOLEN VEHICLE

Helvin O. Garcia Vasquez, 18, of Rochelle, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle, driving while under the influence and no valid Illinois driver's license after a police investigation near the intersection of Meriden and Main streets at 2:56 a.m. May 27. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

FREE QUOTES!

POWER WASHING

- Siding & Brick Cleaning
- Clean & Seal Decks, Driveways, Sidewalks, Houses, Etc
- Commercial and Residential Surface Cleaning with Mobile Hot and Cold Treatments

T2 Enterprises / Tony Troyer
815.530.4464

DINING & entertainment guide

Main St. Station Bar & Grill

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

Specials!
Friday, May 31
Lemon Pepper Cod
Saturday, June 1
BBQ Ribs

Join us every Tuesday night for our Ribeye Special!!
Only \$17.95
Full menu also available

Stop by every Wednesday for our \$2.50 bottle special!

Visit our Website or Facebook for daily lunch & dinner specials.
www.mainstreetstationbar-grill.com

Don't miss an issue. Subscribe today.

MPD reminder: Always lock your vehicle

MENDOTA – Members of the Mendota Police Department would like to remind citizens of an important safety tip. Whether your vehicle is in your garage, driveway or parked on the street, always keep it locked.

Do not leave the keys in the ignition of your vehicle, even if you are only parking it for a short period of time. Do not leave purses, wallets or other valuables in your vehicle, as this attracts unwanted attention from a would-be thief.

Please assist the Mendota Police Department to help keep you and your valuables safe.

Bower's Corner Tap
Under New Management!

Month-long Grand Re-Opening Celebration beginning June 1st

Open at 2PM Monday - Friday
Open at 11AM Saturday & Sunday

LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON **FACEBOOK**

Daily Specials

Monday	Friday
\$1.50 Busch Light Cans	\$3.00 Fireball
Tuesday	Saturday & Sunday
\$3.00 Modelo & Corona	\$3.00 Bloody Marys
Wednesday	\$3.00 Irish Coffee
\$4.00 Bombs	\$3.00 Mimosas
Thursday	\$2.00 Domestic ALL Month
\$4.00 Tito's	

J&J Gaming Sit. Spin. WIN!
Must be 21 or over to game. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, crisis counseling, and referral services can be accessed by calling 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537).

CRAFTWORKS GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

Free Roof Inspections!

New Homes • Home Remodeling & Additions
New Buildings/Pole Buildings • Exterior Decks
Roofing & Siding • Cultured Stone • General Home Repair
- Fully Insured -

815.780.0259
Daniel Truckenbrod

NORTH AMERICA'S #1 Selling Walk-In Tub
Featuring our Free Shower Package

Back by Popular Demand!
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE!

Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing with Safe Step Walk-In Tub's **FREE Shower Package!**

- ✓ First walk-in tub available with a customizable shower
- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!

FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS 15% OFF
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY
Call Toll-Free 815-267-0149

safestep

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase.

Call Today for Your Free Shower Package
1-815-267-0149

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

EASE OF USE CERTIFIED
MADE IN TENNESSEE
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
LIFETIME LIMITED WARRANTY

CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13VH11096000

SPORTS

Change is scary, but for the NBA it's needed

These NBA Eastern and Western Conference playoff series couldn't be any better played.

Or at a better time.

Or in any better circumstance.

The elephant in the room who is sitting on your couch watching the games with you are LeBron James, Steph Curry, Kevin Durant, Chris Paul, and Brook Lopez. The generation of the past which is



Not the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance

now getting passed by.

Most lists don't include Chris Paul because he hasn't won a ring, but he's a vocal point of

every NBA broadcast come April and May because he's usually in the mix because of his ability to will his team to victories when they're not supposed to win or for epic collapses when his squads have more talent.

Lopez is never considered as a top NBA guy although he is one of the best defenders with the highest NBA IQs, which will keep him on teams until he can literally no longer walk or run. Plus, he is a role model or influence to a large crop of the younger, top centers in today's game.

He gets no respect. So, here's a little.

Back to my point, yesteryear's stars who have carried the league and are world-wide known names even to casual hoops fans or to those who don't care, are not on one of the last four teams left playing for an NBA Championship.

Which to me and to most fans, is a breathe of fresh air.

I'm sick of hearing millions and millions of LeBron story lines or hearing excuses of why his team didn't meet expectations or is he going to be on another team next season. Well, we're going to hear that anyway because LeBron doesn't sleep well at night if we're not talking about him.

Let's see the next crop of superstars. The LeBron successors who we're going to be talking about for the next 10 years.

Minnesota Timberwolves have Anthony Edwards, who people are unfortunately calling the next Michael Jordan, Jordan's son, or baby Mike. Not fair to him or any of the other players attention seeking media outlets have overshadowed or put illogical pressure on.

The T-Wolves are facing the Dallas Mavericks and Luka Doncic in the Western Conference Finals, who besides his constant complaining and begging for fouls to be called against his opponents is capturing the imaginations of young basketball enthusiasts every time he's on the court.

In Game 2 he hit a step-back 3-pointer with three seconds left on the fourth quarter clock to give the Mavs a 109-108 victory and a 2-0 series lead.

On the playground kids call out NBA players names when they're taking shots. It was (Larry) Bird in the 1980s, MJ in the 1990s, Kobe (Bryant) in the 2000s, Curry in the 2010s, and it's going to be Luca in the 2020s.

The Eastern Conference Finals has a set of faces ready to move up a notch in the Boston Celtic's Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, and the Indiana Pacers' Tyrese Haliburton. I give the Celtics two nominations to my list of people we want to see in conference finals and the NBA Finals other than Steph, LeBron, and KD because I feel they're on the same level and can carry their team or the league moving forward.

Haliburton may sit out a few games due to injury, but if he doesn't, he'll show what he can do whether it's shooting, assisting, leading, guarding, or even coaching if he chooses because the 24-year-old player can literally do it all.

None of the five guys – Edwards, Doncic, Brown, Tatum, or Haliburton – have won an NBA Championship. None of them have been considered the face of the NBA. None of them have been considered the best in their craft whether it's basketball as a whole or an intricate part such as shooting, passing, rebounding, and so on.

They've just been guys who are young, talented, and could maybe help their franchises win a few games.

Now they're in a spot to bring home the biggest trophy of them all. Minnesota and Indiana would be doing it for the first time, Dallas would be adding on to the foreign player legacy as Doncic would win a title after Dirk Nowitzki won in 2011 (against LeBron) for the Mavericks, and Boston would collect championship No. 18 tying them with the Los Angeles Lakers for the most titles in league history.

All are compelling story lines making for compelling games.

Each game of the series has been talked about on sports radio (of course, that's their job), at water coolers, on Edge of Your Seat Podcast (shameless plug for my endeavor, check it out on Spotify and Apple Podcasts), and at every school and gymnasium in the country. Maybe the world, but for sure, the world.

It's the right time for this to happen.

Yes, the word change is scary, but the words stagnant, same, and again...get boring.

We're tired of the same players. The same teams. The same arenas. The same fan bases. The same general managers and owners. The same radio and TV talk about what's going to happen with them.

Sure, I'd personally love the Bulls to be in this discussion, but we're some time and some huge moves away from that being the case. So Bulls enter and exit the chat in the same paragraph.

Change, new, next, youth, and excitement are the words surrounding the NBA this postseason.

I've got my popcorn, Reese's Pieces, bottled water, and for the late games, Monsters, ready for all of the games to see what happens and who steps forth as the leader of the next era of the NBA.

Top baseball players named in Little 10 for the 2024 season

EARLVILLE—The Little Ten Conference baseball coaches have selected the 2024 Little Ten All-Conference Baseball Team. There were 17 players selected to the team and all were unanimous selections.

• **Serena** (11-1) – Tanner Faivre (Sr...P/IF)—Three-Time Unanimous Selection; Carson Baker (Sr...P/SS)—Repeat Unanimous Selection; Hunter Staton (Sr...P/1B); Beau Raikes (Jr...P/3B)

• **Hinckley-Big Rock** (10-2) – Martin Ledbetter (Jr...P/1B/C)—Three-

Time Unanimous Selection; McKinley Shelton (Sr...OF); Skyler Janeski (So...SS/P); Jacob Orin (So...2B/C)

• **Newark** (7-5) – Landon Begovac (Jr...OF/C); Payton Wills (Jr...1B)

• **Somonauk** (6-6) – Noah Brandt (Jr...IF/OF); Aldo Resendez (Jr...P)

• **Earlville-Leland Coop** (4-7) – Trenton Fruit (Sr...OF); Aaden Browder (Fr...P)

• **Indian Creek** (3-8) – Jeffrey Probst (Sr...OF)—Repeat Unanimous Selection; Jakob McNally (Sr...OF)

• **Hiawatha** (0-12) – Aiden Cooper (So...3B)

S. Carlos runs time of 51.02 at state track meet

☐ MHS soph does not make finals

CHARLESTON – Mendota track team member Sebastian Carlos competed in the IHSA State Track & Field Championships held May 23-25 at Eastern Illinois University.

Carlos, a sophomore, ran in the 400-meter dash and was clocked in 51.02, which put him in 18th place in the preliminary round. Although his time was a personal best for him, it was not good enough to advance to the finals. The top nine times earn a berth in the finals.

"Sebastian ran a PR (personal record) in the State Meet and had very positive finish for himself and our team, finishing 18th out of 33 overall in preliminary heat times," said Mendota coach Keegan Hill. "We believe he can continue to improve in the future and are excited for the energy he has created at Mendota along with Mariyah Elam. Our young athletes are eager to grow with them."



Carlos



Mendota Quarterback Club golf fundraiser set for June 14

MENDOTA – The Mendota Quarterback Club will be sponsoring a fund-raising event Friday, June 14, at the Mendota Golf Club.

The public is invited to participate in the 23rd Annual Quarterback Club Golf Outing at the Mendota Golf Club. The cost is \$100 per person with steak dinner included. The 4-person scramble starts with sign-in and lunch at

11:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 1 p.m. with dinner to follow at 5:30 p.m. If you choose not to golf, the steak dinner is available for \$20 per person.

There will be course games on various holes such as closest to the pin, longest drive, longest putt, etc. It is sure to be a fun time for golfers of all skills.

Each year, the Quarterback Club donates thousands

of dollars to both the Mendota High School and Mendota Youth Football programs, and would appreciate your support. This event is entirely open to the public.

Entry forms are available online at The Mendota QB Club Facebook page: facebook.com/MendotaQBClub or the Mendota Golf Club. Come join in for a great time and to support your local Mendota Trojans.

Fishing tourney for kids planned in LaSalle

LaSALLE – A free Kids' Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 1 at I & M Canal Lock #14 in LaSalle. Registration is at 8 a.m. and fishing is from 9-11 a.m.

There will be two age groups for boys and girls: 4-12 years old and 13-15 years old. Participants should bring their own tackle – one pole and one hook. No artificial lures are allowed. Bait will be provided.

Prizes will be awarded and snacks and drinks will be provided.

The event is sponsored by the Better Fishing Association of Northern Illinois, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Peru Rescue Station.

For more information, call 815-223-2382, 815-488-2035 or go online at www.better-fishing-assoc.org.

Local IVCC athletes earn academic honors

OGLESBY – Fifty-four IVCC athletes were recognized for academic excellence in the Arrowhead Conference.

Each year the Arrowhead Athletic Conference recognizes student athletes for academic excellence. To qualify, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher and have passed at least 12 hours each semester of the academic year. The Arrowhead Conference comprises six community colleges in Northern Illinois.

Receiving Arrowhead Conference Academic Excellence honors were:

Alex Stremmlau, tennis; Alexis Kerley, soccer; Ava Moriarty, softball; Beau Ewers, baseball; Brady Ewers, baseball;

Brandon Novotney, baseball; Callee Bauer, softball/volleyball; Charlee Bourell, tennis; Christian Yepsen, cross country; Colin Hart, soccer; Conner Price, baseball; Connor Noramczyk, golf; Drake Stoudt, golf; Dylan Cartwright, golf;

Elizabeth Browder, softball; Ella Sibert, softball/volleyball; Emma Augustine, softball; Emma Garretson, volleyball; Emma Walker, tennis; Grace Johnson, soccer; Grant Plym, golf; Hailey Rakers, softball; Holly Shriber, softball; Isabella Lambert, soccer; Ivan Patricio, soccer; Jackson Olson, baseball; John Riva, baseball; Jonathan Cooper, golf; Justus Mason, baseball;

Katie Bates, softball/volleyball; Kendall Schmidt, baseball;

Kristy Hoang, cross country; Libby Boyles, softball/volleyball; Logan Brandner, tennis; Lyan Gonzalez, soccer; Maddy Klicker, softball; Maddy Pagric, softball; Marissa Vickers, tennis; Max Cook, baseball; Morgan Clements, soccer; Neely Hougas, softball/volleyball; Olivia Shetterly, volleyball; Roko Jurasovic, basketball; Koko Kegalj, basketball; Ryan Chamberlain, baseball; Ryne Strous, baseball; Sean Whitfield, golf; Taylor Wetsel, softball; Thomas Swartz, baseball; Tyler Marconi, soccer; Wade Menard, baseball; and Wesley Ruppert, basketball.



Free boating safety courses set at Illinois Waterway Visitor Center

OTTAWA – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, is offering free boating safety education classes at the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center located at 950 N. 27th Road in Ottawa, June 15, July 20, and Aug. 17. Each class runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is open to anyone 11 years of age or older. Completion of only one course is necessary for certification.

New boaters as well as seasoned individuals looking to brush up on safe boating knowledge, are encouraged to take the course. No on-the-water experience is offered during

the classroom-based course. Upon successful completion of the class and exam, participants will be issued an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Boat Safety Certification, which is honored in both Iowa and Illinois.

Pre-registration for the class is required and youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited and classes fill quickly. To register contact the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center at 815-667-4054. Visit <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Illinois-Waterway/Boater-Safety-Classes/> for more information.

Pistol Shrimp to recognize IVCC's 100th at special theme night

PERU – A theme night at the Illinois Valley Pistol Shrimp game Saturday, May 31, will be a chance to honor Illinois Valley Community College on its 100th birthday, raise money for the IVCC Foundation and enjoy the historic national pastime.

There is free admission to the game. Proceeds from a sale of VIP seating tickets benefit the IVCC Foundation, as do proceeds from a 50/50 raffle that night.

"It's a special night to honor IVCC's 100 Years of Excellence and enjoy baseball with the Pistol Shrimp," said Tracy Beattie, executive director of the IVCC Foundation.

The Pistol Shrimp face the Clinton (Iowa) Lumberkings that evening. Game starts at 7:05 p.m. at Schweickert Stadium, Plank Road, Peru. Eagles baseball fans have a chance to see IVCC's Johnny Riva in his first season with the Pistol Shrimp.

AUCTION ALERT!

AUCTION ALERT!

CONTIGUOUS FARMS SELLING ONE HOUR APART | VIRTUAL ONLINE

LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}



40 TAXABLE ACRES± • 1 TRACT

The Woodland Water Co farm is located 8 miles northwest of Wenona or 12 miles south of Peru, IL. The farm is further described as being located in Section 16, T31N-R1E, Hope Township, LaSalle County, Illinois.

Farmers & investors, don't miss this opportunity to purchase a Class A farm with the buyer receiving 100% of the 2024 cash rent at closing!

WOODLAND WATER CO

Representing Attorney: Perona, Peterlin & Associates
170 E Walnut St., Oglesby IL 61348 | (815) 883-4102
Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

Biglron  **SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS**
a Biglron company
(844) 847-2161 | www.SullivanAuctioneers.com

LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024 AT 11:00 AM^{CT}



40 ACRES± • 1 TRACT

The Kerry farm is located 8 miles northwest of Wenona, IL or 12 miles south of Peru, IL. The farm is further described as being located in Section 16, T31N-R1E, Hope Township, LaSalle County, Illinois.

Farmers & investors, take advantage of this opportunity to purchase a well-located farm with the buyer receiving 100% of the 2024 crop income!

NORMAN KERRY

Representing Attorney: Brave Law Center PC
120 S Main St., Eureka, IL 61530 | (309) 467-3711
Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

Biglron  **SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS**
a Biglron company
(844) 847-2161 | www.SullivanAuctioneers.com

VIRTUAL ONLINE

LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}



95.452 SURVEYED ACRES • 1 TRACT

The Mary Shay farm is located 3 miles south of Tonica IL, or 12 miles south of LaSalle-Peru, IL. The land is further described as being located in Section 11, T31N-R1E, Hope Township, LaSalle County, Illinois.

Farmers & investors, take advantage of this opportunity to purchase a high class A farm with a fall 2024 closing date.

MARY SHAY

Representing Attorney: Mike Gulo | M.G. Gulo & Associates, LTD.
123 South Monroe Street, Streator, Illinois 61364 | (815) 672-2472
Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

Biglron  **SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS**
a Biglron company
(844) 847-2161 | www.SullivanAuctioneers.com

AREA BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Advertise Your Business Here In The Area Business Spotlight 539-9396

SULLIVAN'S FOODS

- Bakery
- Deli
- Meats
- Liquor
- Produce
- Floral

1102 Meriden St., Mendota
815-539-9341
Open 6am-10pm
7 days a week

Buying a car just got easier. Find out how by calling...

ANNA ARTEAGA
NMLS #461075

Se habla español

Eureka Savings BANK

1300 13th Ave.
Mendota, IL 61342
Ph. 539-5656

Other Locations:
LaSalle Oglesby
Peru Wenona

www.eurekasavings.com

Cash & Carry \$10⁰⁰ Double It For \$17⁰⁰

Floralcrest FLOREST & GREENHOUSE

1207 22nd St.
(815) 539-9306

Member: Discover, MasterCard, VISA, American Express, Teleflora

1 FIRST STATE BANK

706 Washington St. and 1403 13th Ave., Mendota

Chris Holdemrid Senior VP Mortgage Lending NMLS#461073
Cory Biers Sr. Vice President NMLS#477892

815.539.3834
firststatebank.biz

Member FDIC

The Mendota Menzies

Auto Body Specialists
Weather Tech dealer
Window Tinting
Car/Truck/SUV Detailing
And many other truck accessories available!

Marten Portable Buildings

325 N. 25th Rd.
Rt. 251 S., Peru
224-1506

WASMER FUNERAL HOME
Celebration-Of-Life-Center



2112 W. Main St.
Mendota
815-539-8500

Bedding Specials!

Best Selection - Best Pricing!

MEYERS FURNITURE & FLOORING

HWY 251 S. • MENDOTA
815-539-6263

See Jackie Near for all your Insurance Needs!



Call (815) 539-5651

FIRST STATE INSURANCE

Across from First State Bank, Mendota

Nightengales Thrift Shop
708 Jefferson St. Mendota
Open 12-3:30
Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat

1st and 3rd Saturday - 1/2 Off

THRIFT STORE SAVINGS

GENERAC

JD BELCHER ELECTRIC
Generators are our only business!

GENERAC GENERATOR SALES, SERVICE, AND INSTALLATION

309-246-2102
1696 STATE ROUTE 17
LAGON, IL
WWW.JDGENERATORS.COM

STARVED ROCK WOOD PRODUCTS

Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinetry
Millwork
Staircases & Custom Projects

1605 Division St., Mendota

www.starvedrockwoodproducts.com
815-538-7797

TO SEE NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE, LOG ON TO WWW.MENDOTAREPORTER.COM!!

ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson
Q: When is "Yellowstone" coming back for its final season? I don't watch any of the spin-offs. I'm just waiting for the original show to return. -- *A.W.*

A: The wait is almost over for the second half of the final season of "Yellowstone," which last graced our screens in January 2023. The delay can mostly be attributed to the writers' and actors' strikes, but there was also a major dispute between the show's creator Taylor Sheridan and star Kevin Costner that most certainly was a factor. Fortunately, the Paramount Network has announced that production on the remainder of the season has begun and that you should expect to see those some time in November of this year.

There is a spin-off in the works that will continue to tell the Dutton family saga with current cast members Kelly Reilly and Cole Hauser and none other than Academy-Award-winning actor Matthew McConaughey ("Dallas Buyers Club"). The yet-to-be-named spin-off is expected to premiere on the Paramount channel in December and start streaming

on Paramount+ soon after. As for Costner, he knows who his audience is. He starred and directed the Oscar-winning film "Dances with Wolves" and has done the same for the upcoming two-part western film "Horizon: An American Saga," which recently earned a 7-minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival. ***

Q: Since Steve Carell has said he won't appear in the upcoming new version of "The Office," is he going to keep acting in movies instead? -- *J.S.*

A: Like many versatile and talented actors in Hollywood today, Steve Carell seems to enjoy acting in a mix of series and films. Unfortunately, his last series with Greg Daniels, "Space Force," just didn't gel with audiences, and it was canceled after two seasons. Now Daniels is creating a new version of his hit series "The Office" with an all-new cast. This leaves Carell available for more series work. First up, he's reteaming with his "Date Night" co-star Tina Fey in the upcoming Netflix series "The Four Seasons." He also just inked a deal to star in an upcoming HBO

comedy series created by Bill Lawrence ("Scrubs"), which is "set on a college campus, centering on an author's [presumably Carell's character] complicated relationship with his daughter."

Amy Gravitt, executive vice president of HBO & Max comedy programming, excitedly released the following statement: "The combination of Steve Carell and Bill Lawrence promises to be full of great laughs, warmth and charm. We're thrilled to be the home for this long overdue collaboration." ***

Q: Who is the actress playing Amy Winehouse in the new movie about her? Also, did she do her own singing, or did she lip-sync over Amy's vocals? -- *K.S.*

A: Marisa Abela ("Industry") stars in the new Amy Winehouse biopic "Back to Black," directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson ("Fifty Shades of Grey"), and yes, she did her own singing. The actress took singing lessons daily for four months in order to sound like the bluesy Brit. "Back to Black" was released in theaters on May 17 and will be available for streaming at a later date.

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo
HOLLYWOOD -- Are we ready for "The Death of Robin Hood"? Hugh Jackman stars as Robin Hood, who is "grappling with his past after a life of crime and murder."



Jackman
 Instead of the merry outlaw seen in previous films (notably with Errol Flynn), he's a "battleworn loner, gravely injured and in the hands of a mysterious woman [Jodie Comer], who offers him a chance at salvation." It will be similar to the 1976 Sean Connery/Audrey Hepburn film "Robin and Marian."

Jackman's "Deadpool & Wolverine," opposite Ryan Reynolds, opens on July 26, while Comer's "The Bikeriders," opposite Austin Butler, drops on June 21. ***

People magazine's 2021 "Sexiest Man Alive" Paul Rudd and Nick Jonas (who's sexy anytime) are starring in the musical comedy "Power Ballad." It tells the story of a wedding singer (Rudd) and a rockstar (Jonas), and the

song that comes between them. It's currently shooting in Dublin. ***

It must be "Fate" that brings together "Pretty in Pink's" Andrew McCarthy, Academy Award winner Faye Dunaway ("Network"), and "Reservoir Dogs" star Harvey Keitel for a suspenseful, supernatural romance. Dunaway's reputation for being difficult didn't deter director Franco Nero to cast her in "The Man Who Drew God," featuring Nero, Kevin Spacey and Robert Davi. Dunaway also has the HBO documentary "Faye" available soon. It recently premiered at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival. ***

Have they gone too far? An upcoming film titled "The Carpenter's Son" explores the rarely told story of the childhood of Jesus Christ. Director Lofty Nathan is basing this horror tale on the apocryphal Infancy Gospel of Thomas (dating back to the second century A.D.), which recounts the dark story of a family hiding out in Roman Egypt.

The son, known only as "The Boy," is "driven to

doubt by another mysterious child and rebels against his guardian [Nicolas Cage], revealing inherent powers and a fate beyond his comprehension." The Boy and his family become targets of horrors -- both natural and divine. Sounds like a rocky road ahead, and we don't mean ice cream. Cue the protesters! ***

Jennifer Lopez will deliver the "Kiss of the Spider Woman" to Diego Luna in the film adaption of the 1992 Kander and Ebb Broadway hit that originally starred Chita Rivera. The songwriting team was also known for musicals such as "Cabaret," "Chicago" and "New York, New York." Notably, "Dancing with the Stars" hooper Tony Dovolani, who finally won a mirror ball after 14 seasons dancing with Melissa Rycroft ("The Bachelor"), plays a mob boss.

Backstage at a Hollywood talk show, Chita once complained to me, "My nails are all broken from climbing that freaking web seven times a week!" Lopez will need to use her stand-in to nail it! (c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* In 1925, a war between Greece and Bulgaria started after a stray dog crossed their border.

* During the 1917 siege of Jerusalem, the British, in an effort to capture the city from an entrenched Ottoman garrison, airdropped cigarettes filled with large doses of opium in the hope their opponents would be too stoned to fight. It worked.

* Holland, Michigan, has 168 miles of tubing coiled underneath its streets that circulates hot water in order to melt any snow on the ground.

* China's Three Gorges Dam is so huge that it's slowed the rotation of Earth.

* Hard-rocker Ozzy Osbourne once fell asleep during a driving test and woke up to find a note on the seat that said, "You have failed." But give him credit for persistence: After 19 attempts, he finally managed to pass the test in 2009 at the age of 60, and then purchased a Ferrari.

* In Wisconsin, it's legal for kids of any age to drink alcohol in a bar as long as they are with their legal guardian.

* Dwayne Johnson's beard in the movie "Hercules" was made of yak testicle hair.

* The Aztecs regarded childbirth as a form of battle. Women who didn't survive it were thought to rise to one of the highest heavens, the same one as for male warriors who died in battle.

* In 1986 a Soviet pilot made a bet with his co-pilot that he could land his airplane blind. He curtained all the cockpit windows and crashed the plane into the landing strip, killing 70 out of his 87 passengers. ***

Thought for the Day: "Life is like skiing. The goal is not to get to the bottom of the hill. It's to have a bunch of good runs before the sun sets." -- Seth Godin

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Answers
 Solution time: 26 mins.
 King Crossword

Trivia Test

- TELEVISION: What is the name of the community college in the sitcom "Community"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which two countries in South America are landlocked?
- HISTORY: Where did the effective end of the Civil War take place?
- U.S. STATES: Which state comes first alphabetically?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is an affogato?
- MOVIES: Which movie features the character Inigo Montoya?
- ENTERTAINERS: What is singer/songwriter Taylor Swift's middle name?
- ANATOMY: What is the smallest organ in the human body?
- LITERATURE: Which

- fantasy novel (later made into an HBO series called "Game of Thrones") features a place called Winterfell?
10. GEOLOGY: What is the most malleable metal?
- Answers
- Greendale Community College.
 - Bolivia and Paraguay.
 - Appomattox Court House, Virginia.
 - Alabama.
 - Dessert of ice cream and coffee.
 - "The Princess Bride."
 - Alison.
 - Pineal gland.
 - "A Song of Ice and Fire."
 - Gold.
- (c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Couch Theater

"Gaga Chromatica Ball" (TV-14) -- Calling all fans of the Mother Monster herself! A new concert experience from pop icon Lady Gaga reaches streaming on May 25, for all the Monsters who weren't able to attend the Chromatica Ball tour back in 2022. Immerse yourself in the dark, edgy atmosphere of the Chromatica Ball with a stage inspired by brutalist architecture. Jam out to songs spanning her decades-long discography, like "Just Dance," "Bad Romance," "Shallow" and "Rain on Me." Filming for this TV special took place during the Los Angeles show at Dodger Stadium, and the special premieres on May 25. (Max)

"Geek Girl" (TV-PG) -- In her new series, actress Emily Carey goes from playing the tortured young queen Alicent in HBO's "House of the Dragon" to playing a socially awkward teenager named Harriet Manners. As a self-proclaimed "geek," Harriet has accepted a life of limitations until she suddenly

gets discovered by a model agency that is desperate for new, raw talent. Although transforming Harriet from a geek to a high-fashion model won't be the easiest transition, luckily, she has the help of fashion connoisseur Wilbur Evans (Emmanuel Imani) and a gorgeous supermodel named Nick Park (Liam Woodrum). The 10-episode series releases on May 30. (Netflix)

"The Boys in the Boat" (PG-13) -- George Clooney ("Ticket to Paradise") sat on the director's chair once again to bring an inspiring story about a rowing team full of underdogs to the big screen. Set in 1936, an underprivileged engineering student named Joe Rantz (Callum Turner) tries out for the junior varsity rowing team at the University of Washington after hearing that a spot on the team comes with jobs and boarding. Even though the junior varsity team is less experienced, these go-getters begin pulling off upset after upset, outrowing their own varsity team and other

college teams. Now full of momentum, their coach (Joel Edgerton) sets the team's sights on getting a gold medal at the 1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany. Premieres May 28. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Love Undercover" (TV-MA) -- This seven-episode reality series puts a spin on the traditional dating show format that instantly reminded me of the 2009 TV special "I Get That A Lot," where celebrities like Nick Jonas and Jessica Simpson would pretend to be regular working-class citizens. In this new show out now, five international soccer stars go undercover in the United States to look for love, with the notion that women will fall in love with them for who they are, instead of their successful careers. The soccer players include Jamie O'Hara and Lloyd Jones from the United Kingdom; Sebastian Fassi and Marco Fabian from Mexico; and Ryan Babel from the Netherlands. (Peacock)

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Annoyed state
- Suitable
- TV schedule abbr.
- Road reversal
- Cornfield noise
- "... the Walrus"
- Idaho's capital
- Minor complaint
- Vehicle's capacity
- Intends
- German pronoun
- "... - quit!"
- Unravels
- Second in command
- Fighting
- "Already?"
- Unparalleled
- Track horse
- Continental currency
- Nepal's neighbor
- D-Day vessel
- de-France
- Sole
- Litter container
- Without a sound
- Aromas
- Ornate vase
- Bit of physics
- Illuminated
- "A spider!"
- Summer on the Seine
- Very small
- Leg bone
- Pleasantly warm
- Make -- of (bungle)
- "Peter Pan" author
- Swiss money
- Hosp. hook-ups
- Corp. boss
- Summer cooler
- Spinach-eating sailor
- German sausage
- Granola grain
- Man of La Mancha
- Web address
- Fair hire, in ads
- Boosler of comedy
- Chef's hat
- Accustom
- Lose a starting contest
- Letter-shaped hardware
- Coagulate
- "Garfield" dog
- Cravat
- Ske-daddle
- CIA operative

DOWN

- Tavern
- Jurist Lance
- Savory brunch pies
- Celestial bear
- January, to Juana
- Find not guilty
- Painter
- Cezanne
- Prefix with night or light

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

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

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

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

Member **FDIC**

Brought to you each week by **FIRST STATE BANK**

Happy 21st Birthday Michelle!

We love you! Mom, Dad, Billie & Susie

↑

1 Column x 4"
 \$26 in Reporter Or Money Saver
 \$34 To Run In Both

→

2 Column x 2"
 \$26 in Reporter Or Money Saver
 \$34 To Run In Both

FUN ADS!
 Put A Little Fun In Someone's Life!

Bring In A Photo With A Poem, Verse Or Message--or just a verse or message (No extra charge for photo)

You can run any size ad \$6⁵⁰ per column inch for Reporter OR Money Saver \$8⁵⁰ per column inch in BOTH (See examples)

Call 815-539-9396 for more information

CONGRATULATIONS!
 on passing your State Exams
Carol Ann Smith, RN
 Love, Joey

WHO CAN DO IT?

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

AUTO DETAILING

HC Detailing

HAND WASH • FULL DETAIL
CERAMIC COATING



1204 6th Ave. Rt. 34 • Mendota, IL
(815) 252-9518 • (815) 539-9575

AUTO REPAIR

ARS AUTO REPAIR
815-538-2412

307 Plaza Dr. • 815-538-2412

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
SPECIALIZING IN: Auto Transmission & Computer Diagnostics





AUTO REPAIR

Dave Manion
ASE Master Certified Technician
815-615-8600

Dave Manion Auto Repair




4177 E 050th Road, Mendota, IL 61342

AUTO SALES

JP  

Hector Diaz
Sales & Leasing Consultant

JP Chevrolet Nissan - Chevrolet
3675 Frontage Rd.
Peru, IL 61354
815-223-7000 • Fax: 815-224-4288 • www.jpchevy.com



BATHTUB REFINISHING

PORCELAIN SPECIALISTS

PORCELAIN & FIBERGLASS REFINISHING AND REPAIR
TUB TILE, SINKS, SHOWER ENCLOSURES, FLOOR REPLACEMENT
KOHLER AUTHORIZED REPAIR

BILL CHANCE | 815-247-8686

A TUB ABOVE THE REST



CABINETS AND STAIRS

STARVED ROCK WOOD PRODUCTS

Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinetry • Millwork • Staircases & Custom Projects

1605 Division St., Mendota
www.starvedrockwoodproducts.com
815-538-7797



CARPENTRY

Mauch CARPENTRY
815 539 7867

- New Homes
- Remodeling
- Kitchens
- Baths
- Additions
- Garages
- Drywall
- Ceramic Tile

(815) 539-7867 Dial "KEY-STOP"
License #104005528



ELECTRIC

Mathesius Electric LLC
Greg Mathesius

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Residential

Authorized Generac Dealer and Services
GENERAC

815-884-9040
Earlville, Illinois



ELECTRIC SERVICES

GENERAC GENERATOR SALES, SERVICE, AND INSTALLATION

GENERAC

JD BELCHER ELECTRIC
Generators are our only business!

309-246-2102
1696 STATE ROUTE 17
LACON, IL
WWW.JDGENERATORS.COM




FARM SERVICES/PLOWING

Custom Hay Baling, Mowing, Raking Hay, Straw, Snow Plowing

SCHOENHOLZ FARMS
Call or E-mail Matt for Prices
815-739-1994 or
m.schoenholz81@gmail.com



FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Eureka Savings BANK

For all your home loan needs, see **Anna Arteaga**
NMLS #461075

1300 13th Ave. • Mendota, IL 61342
(815) 539-5656 • www.eurekasavings.com



FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

FIRST STATE BANK

Chris Holdenrid Sr. Vice President, Mortgage Lending NMLS#461073
Cory Biers Sr. Vice President NMLS#477892

706 Washington St. and 1403 13th Ave., Mendota
815.539.3834
firststatebank.biz

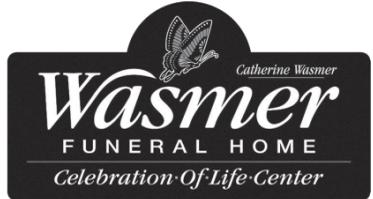




FUNERAL HOME

WASMER FUNERAL HOME
Celebration Of Life Center

2112 W. Main St.
Mendota
815-539-8500




GROCERY STORE

SULLIVANS FOODS

We're your full service grocery store!

1102 Meriden St., Mendota • 815-539-9341
Open 6am-10pm • 7 days a week



HEATING/COOLING • PLUMBING

GRASSER'S PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Heating/Cooling • Plumbing
We Sell & Service All Name Brand Appliances

815-882-2111
404 W Main St • McNabb
grassersplumbingheating.com




INSURANCE

FIRST STATE INSURANCE
Mendota • Earlville
815-539-5651




LEAKPROOF ROOFING

GUARANTEED LEAKPROOF ROOFING

NORTHERN ILLINOIS Seamless Roofing INC.

Industrial • Commercial • Residential
For low pitched flat roofs
Featuring Duro-Last®

705 Illinois Ave. • 815-539-5142
License #104005528
www.northernillinoisseamlessroofing.com



MOVERS

Meyers will move for you!
Quick, clean, courteous and careful...
Give us a call to move your household!

MEYERS BOY'S MOVING
HWY 251 S. • MENDOTA
815-539-6263



POST FRAME BUILDINGS

NLM

N L Morton Buildings, Ltd.
Mendota, IL 61342
815-539-9325
Jim Stremlau
Commercial- Ag- Residential
New Construction & Repair



REAL ESTATE

ERBES Realty

1922 Tower Rd, Sublette, IL
815-535-6295
Lori Erbes, GRI
Designated Managing Broker




RESALE SHOP

Nightengales Thrift Shop

708 Jefferson St., Mendota
Open 12-3:30
Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat
1st and 3rd
Saturday - 1/2 off



ROOFING

Craftworks Custom Homes
Local Remodeling & Home Repair

- Roofing
- Siding
- Decks
- Additions

Dan Truckenbrod
Call us for a free estimate for all your general contracting needs
815-780-0259 | Craftworkscustomhomes@yahoo.com



SENIOR LIVING

Stonecroft Village
A Retirement Community
Senior Living Redefined
1700 Burlington St.
Mendota, IL
815-538-5300



SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

STIHL Husqvarna

205 W. Main St. | Sublette, IL
815-849-5225
mainstreetrepair16@yahoo.com

SALES & SERVICE • Stihl Outdoor Power Equipment
• Husqvarna Mowers
• Dixon ZTR Parts



TRANSPORTATION

MSS Mendota Area Senior Services
Programs & Services:

- Transportation Services
- Caregiver Support & Services
- Options Counseling
- Lending Closet
- Senior Health Insurance Program
- Educational Opportunities (Computer Lab & Resource Center)
- Advocacy
- Information & Assistance
- Congregate Meal Site
- Senior Center

1901 Tom Merwin Drive, Mendota, IL
815-539-7700 • mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com



TREE SERVICE

ATS

INSURED AND BONDED FREE ESTIMATES

ALBERS TREE SERVICE
JAKE 815-303-3751
JORDAN 815-252-3521



Shop Local and **SAVE!**



Advertise Your Business Here!

Call For Info:
(815)539-9396

The Mendota Reporter




NIE FUN PAGE



Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

20		10	38
1	16		19
	3	17	25
26	27	29	

11	3	5
2	16	1
10	8	20

Solution

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1654: LOUIS XIV IS CROWNED KING OF FRANCE.
- 1905: NORWAY'S PARLIAMENT DISSOLVES ITS UNION WITH SWEDEN.
- 1946: THE UNITED KINGDOM'S BBC RETURNS TO BROADCASTING ITS TELEVISION SERVICE, WHICH HAS BEEN OFF AIR FOR SEVEN YEARS DUE TO WORLD WAR II.



THIS IS THE PRACTICE OF SPENDING TIME IN A FOREST OR IN NATURE TO REAP HEALTH BENEFITS.

ANSWER: FOREST BATHING

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

H E T E R G T A U D T O O S R O

Answer: The Great Outdoors



NATURE

the physical world, including plants, animals and the landscape

How they SAY that in...

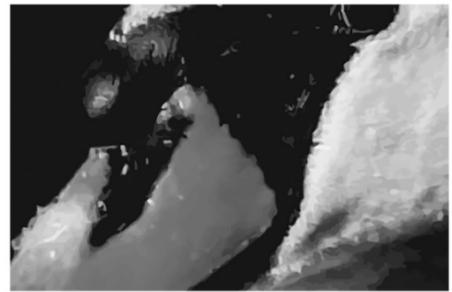
- ENGLISH:** Breeze
- SPANISH:** Brisa
- ITALIAN:** Brezza
- FRENCH:** Brise
- GERMAN:** Brise

Did you know?

WHEN ENJOYING CAMPING OR OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES THAT INVOLVE FIRE, IT IS VITAL TO MAKE SURE THAT THE FIRE IS COMPLETELY EXTINGUISHED BEFORE LEAVING THE SITE.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SWAN

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION SPONSORS

MAHONEY ENVIRONMENTAL
448 N 3973rd Rd Mendota 815-539-9925

FINANCIAL + plus CREDIT UNION
1905 13th Ave., Mendota 815-539-3444
Ottawa | Peru | Morris | Diamond
www.financialplus.org

NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION

Est 1848

MAZE LUMBER
Build it once. Build it right.
1100 Water Street, Peru, IL 61354
815-223-1742

The Newspapers In Education (NIE) program is designed as an educational tool to enhance our local students' understanding of the world around them. The Mendota Reporter wishes to recognize these 2023-2024 sponsors and their commitment to education!

FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK
Banking for Life
1205 Washington St. Mendota 815-539-6757

HCC, inc.
1501 First Ave., Mendota

The Mendota Reporter
703 Illinois Ave. Mendota, IL 61342 815-539-9396
www.mendotareporter.com

RELIGION

The key to fulfill your purpose in life!

God loves you and He has a good plan for your life. You are a wonderful creation made by Him and you have a unique purpose to fulfill in this world.

Ephesians 2:10 (AMP) says that as Christians, "For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus...for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He pre-arranged and made ready for us]."

It's so exciting to know we are each created with a purpose and God has a good life that He has prepared in advance for us to live. But it's important to understand that we have

an enemy, Satan, who wants to keep us from having the life Jesus died to give us.

Yes, Satan has a plan for us, too, and his plan is destruction and death. John 10:10 (ESV) says the enemy "comes only to steal and kill and destroy."

The good news is we have everything we need through Christ to overcome the enemy. We just have to know who we are in Christ, believe that we have His authority, and know how to release the power God has given us.

To do this, we have to rely on our faith in God. Romans 12:3 (ESV) says each person has a "measure of faith that God has assigned." This means God has given you enough faith to do His will, whatever it may be

and no matter what the enemy throws at you to stop you.

There are many challenges and difficult situations we have to face in life. You may have a child with special needs to care for, or maybe you're in a difficult marriage. You could be facing a devastating illness or have serious financial problems. Whatever your situation is, God has given you everything you need, through Christ, to keep you moving forward in His plan for your life.

We need to always remember that God is greater than our problems—nothing is too hard for Him and nothing catches Him by surprise. When we're going through hard times and the enemy is attacking us, we don't



need to ask, "What can I do?" The question is, "What can God do?" The Word says all things are possible with God, and greater is He who lives in me than he who is in the world (Matthew 19:26 and 1 John 4:4).

I want you to really get this in your heart today: In Christ, you have enough faith and the strength you need to do whatever you need to do in life! Get rid of "I can't" thinking and focus on the truth of God's Word, which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!" (Philippians 4:13 NKJV).

Prayer is a simple, powerful way to interrupt Satan's plan because we release our faith through prayer. First Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV) says, "Pray without ceasing." This basically means prayer can be as natural as breathing, and our first response in every situation. It's so amazing that we can talk to God all the time.

Now the enemy doesn't want us to pray, so he will do everything he can to discourage us. He wants us to think prayer is hard,

that we need to use eloquent speech and sound poetic, that we need to be careful what we ask God for so we don't overload Him with too many requests, or that we have to be in a certain place with a certain posture (on our knees, head bowed, eyes closed) for God to hear us. But it's actually simple to pray effectively.

James 5:16 (ESV) says, "...The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." God wants you to come to Him honestly, with a sincere heart, and just talk to Him as a friend. Be yourself and don't approach conversation with God as a religious activity. Humble yourself before Him and open your heart to Him. He loves you and wants you to walk in His will for your life victoriously.

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you are God's child and He is always with you. He is Almighty God, and if God is on your side, who can be against you?

In Christ, you have what you need today to live in victory. Put your faith in God constantly.

Pray, take God-inspired action, and fulfill your true purpose in life!

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

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

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

SPRING SAVINGS SPECTACULAR

Return this coupon by May 31, 2024
and receive \$10 OFF the regular subscription price!

ADD \$1 TO YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
 and we will match it and donate the proceeds to the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry.

12-Month Subscription

1 year.....\$59.00
 If you reside in Bureau, LaSalle or Lee counties.

\$10.00 Savings!

1 year.....\$79.00
 If you reside out of Bureau, LaSalle or Lee counties.

Add \$1 for Food Pantry donation...\$60.00 Add \$1 for Food Pantry donation...\$80.00
 (If you have previously subscribed using our Auto Pay method, your subscription will be transferred to our Manual Pay Plan.)

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*Coupon and payment must be received to qualify for special rate.

Return to: The Mendota Reporter, P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342.
 Reporter office located at 703 Illinois Ave. Phone 815-539-9396.

Want to search Illinois legal notices?

Subscribe now to have legal notices emailed to you based on YOUR custom search criteria!

PNI

PUBLIC NOTICE ILLINOIS

www.publicnoticeillinois.com

A public service provided by Illinois Newspapers & the Illinois Press Association

We know you're busy.
 We know you're on the road.
 We know you'll love our eEdition.

Now FREE to all current subscribers!

- Same great content
- Searchable, portable, convenient
- Back issues available
- Identical in format to paper edition—Flip each page with a single click!
- News when you want it—eEdition is available sooner than home delivery!

E-mail jgriffith@mendotareporter.com or call 815-539-9396 for your password today. You can also register online by visiting our website.

P.O. Box 300, 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342 • www.mendotareporter.com

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

June 2 - 9:30 a.m. Worship

ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace

jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

4401 State Route 251
(815) 538-3444

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

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

SUNDAY: Christian Education-10 a.m.
Worship - 11:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Midweek Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Then I heard a voice from heaven say,
"Write this: Blessed are the dead
who die in the Lord from now on."
"Yes," says the Spirit,
"they will rest from their labor,
for their deeds will follow them."
REVELATION 14:13

© 2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1003 5th St.
(815) 538-5603

Website: fpcmendota.com

Accessible

Pastor Laurie Walker

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School following

children's message

Fellowship 11 a.m.

Available on Facebook Live

Facebook page

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

May 30 - 10 a.m. Newsletter folding



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

Dave Manion Jim McDowell

Wayne Shuman

Please join us for . . .

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

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Church Builders 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.

Men's Ministry

Ladies & Mens Bible Study

Thursday 6 p.m.

Non-denominational

Please call for more information

COMPTON

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

398 Church Road, Compton

Pastor Jeffrey Schlesinger

(815) 539-6567

Wheelchair accessible

Website: www.ilccompton.org

E-mail: immanuellutheran

compton@live.com

"Living in God's Grace as a

Neighbor to the World"

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship at First

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: fbchurch20817@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
to worship and learn about
our risen Savior."

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.

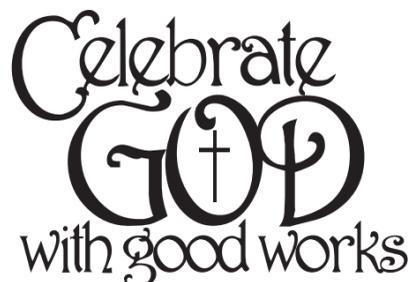
SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Acts (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. In 2 Chronicles 9:21, which was not among the things Solomon's ships brought to emphasize the luxuriousness of Israel? Ivory, Apes, Peacocks, Cedars
 3. From Proverbs 30, what will pluck out the eyes of anyone who scorns their parents? Demons, Ravens, Doves, Quails
 4. In 1 Timothy 6:10, who wrote, "For the love of money is the root of all evil"? Saint Jude, Isaiah, Moses, Paul
 5. From Matthew 8, what Roman official asked Jesus to heal his servant? Marshall, Governor, Centurion, Jailor
 6. Who was the father of Hosea? Uzzah, Beerli, Joash, Ahab
- ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Cedars, 3) Ravens, 4) Paul, 5) Centurion, 6) Beerli

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

If I can write one verse of truth today
Or give my fellow man a song to sing;
If I can push one needless cloud away
And help men live as children
of the King:

If I can lend someone a helping hand
Or warm a place where friendship
needs to be;

If I can build a bridge where
fences stand

And light a lamp that other men
might see;

If I can open doors of hope this day
By letting someone know that
others care;

If I can speak in words that seem
to say:

I know the heavy burdens that
you bear.

If I can guide a pilgrim on his way
Or pause to bid him stay for food
and rest;

If I can do these, Father, this I pray:
"O let me do them with my very best."

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, Ill.
Phone (815) 539-7276

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

Let GOD'S LOVE
Light Your Path

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

WASMER FUNERAL HOME
2112 W. Main St., Mendota, Ill.
Phone (815) 539-8500

ZIGGIE'S RESTAURANT
Rte. 34 East, Mendota, Ill.
Phone (815) 539-5060



Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



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

101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on April 30, 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 RK Midwest Vintage located at 15 N. 46th Road Mendota, IL 61342.
Dated: April 30, 2024. Amanda Reiersen & Kevin Kerekes Applicants.
No. 0509 (May 15, 22 and 29, 2024)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
)
) WILLIS D. VIETZ,
) Deceased.
)
) Case No.: 24 PR 89

CLAIMS NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of WILLIS D. VIETZ, of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on May 9, 2024 to WAYNE F. VIETZ, 639 N. 4050TH Rd., Mendota, IL 61342, and whose attorney is David M. Kaleel, 806 Jefferson Street, Mendota, Illinois 61342. Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Independent representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or if mailing or delivery of a Claim Notice from the Independent Executor is required, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before the above stated dates is barred. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/serviceproviders.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>. Copies of a claim e-filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been e-filed with the Clerk of Court. Dated this 9th day of May, 2024.

Circuit Clerk-LaSalle County Courthouse 119 W. Madison St. Ottawa, IL 61350 David M. Kaleel Attorney for Executor 806 Jefferson St Mendota, IL 61342 815-539-5616 kaleel5@frontier.com No. 0513 (May 15, 22 and 29, 2024)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS FIRST STATE BANK, Plaintiff, v. RENEE L. ECHOLS, WILLIAM F. ECHOLS, JR., CARRIE E. ECHOLS, KRENT, SALFISBERG & SWANSON HARGARD, P.C., UNKNOWN TENANTS OR OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIM-

ANTS, Defendants. No. 2024FC000052 RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite affidavit(s) for publication having been filed, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL DEFENDANTS IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED ACTION, that said suit has been commenced in the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court of LaSalle County, by the Plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

That Part of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 9, Township 34 North, Range 4, East of the Third Principal Meridian, Described As Follows: Beginning at the Northwest Corner of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of the said Section 9; Thence South 0 Degrees 00 Minutes East 151.69 feet on the West Line of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of the said Section 9 to the center of a public road, said Point being also the True Point of Beginning; thence South 0 Degrees 00 Minutes East 242.76 feet on the West Line of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of the said Section 9; thence North 61 Degrees 43 minutes East 364.20 feet to the center of a public road; thence North 53 Degrees 32 Minutes West 80.40 feet on the center of the said public road; thence North 78 Degrees 01 Minutes West 85.60 feet on the center of the said public road; thence North 88 Degrees 27 Minutes West 172.21 feet on the center of the said public road to the true Point Of Beginning; Situated in LaSalle county, Illinois. COMMONY KNOWN AS: 3491 E. 2153rd Road, Wedron, IL 61350 PERMANENT TAX NO. 14-09-225-000

And which said Mortgage was made by Whilliam F. Echols, Jr., a/k/a William F. Echols husband and Carrie E. Echols f/k/a Carrie Elizabeth Harrington, Wife to First State Bank, as Mortgagee on June 6, 2013, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of LaSalle County, Illinois on July 9, 2013 as Document Number: 2013-14786.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU, the said defendant(s), file your answer to the Complaint in this case or otherwise file your Appearance in the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, on or before June 28, 2024, a default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a decree entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. And for such other relief prayed; that summons was duly issued out of the said Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court against you as provided by law, and that the said suit is now pending. YOU ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE TIME IN WHICH THE SUBJECT REAL ESTATE MAY BE REDEEMED FROM FORECLOSURE, PURSUANT TO LAW, COMMENCES TO RUN WITH THE FIRST DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Court on May 3, 2024. /s/ Lincoln S. Hobson Greg Vaccaro, Clerk of

the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court LaSalle County O'Brien Law Offices, P.C. Michael A. O'Brien/6216625 124A South County Farm Road Wheaton, IL 60187 Ph: 630-871-9400 Email: service@obrien-lawoffices.com No. 0515 (May 22, 29 and June 5, 2024)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF Barbara A. Guilfoyle, Deceased Case No. 2024-PR-90

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Barbara A. Guilfoyle of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on May 9, 2024 to Michael S. Guilfoyle of 1712 Hillcrest Ct., Mendota, IL 61342, whose attorney is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before November 27, 2024. If a claim notice is mailed or delivered personally to a creditor of the decedent, the creditor's claim may be filed on or before the date stated in the notice, if later than the date shown above. Any claim not filed within the time allowed is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within ten days after it has been filed. No. 0516 (May 22, 29 and June 5, 2024)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2024-JA-54 TO: Jereme Flores, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern: Take notice that on the 8th day of May, 2024 a petition 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 Elliot Newell, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 3rd day of July, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, 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 petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment 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 you. 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 judgment entered. Dated May 23, 2024 Greg Vaccaro, Clerk No. 0518 (May 29, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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.

117 INSTRUCTION

Will tutor for Elementary Math & Reading this summer in the Polo area.. Call 815-440-6184. (ALL05292024)

203 HELP WANTED

CHANA - Elderly woman looking for a teen to help with flowers and yard work. No mowing. No certain days or times. Will provide transportation. Call 815-562-4880. (MS06032024)

301 ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickhams@hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (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, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

APARTMENTS FOR RENT: MENDOTA
1 & 2 Bedrooms, Appliances, A/C 779-375-8932 815-498-2262

203 HELP WANTED



GENE'S LAWN SERVICE
Is hiring Lawn Service personnel experience a plus but will train for a lead position. Lawn equipment maintenance a plus . Zereturn mower experience and lawn maintenance equipment. Salary based on experience Contact Ken Ricketts 815-690-4025 Email:gl892076@gmail.com

511 STORAGE UNITS

MENDOTA STORAGE UNITS
210 N 4099th Rd., Mendota, IL 61342
Available:
20X20 \$195 / 10X10 \$100
Call
ADAM 815-830-4422 Janko Realty
TRACY 815-791-4582 Advantage Property Mgmt
Reserve online at www.apm4rent.com

Buy! Buy! Sell! Sell!
BUY!
SELL!

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

2023 Chevy Equinox AWD

2023 Chevy Equinox AWD Premier, White, GM Certified, sunroof, leather interior, heated/cooled seats, & more!

\$30,900

CHEVROLET CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

- 6-Year/100,000-Mile Powertrain Limited Warranty
- 24/7 Roadside Assistance
- 172-Point Vehicle Inspection and Reconditioning Process
- 3-Day/150-Mile Customer Satisfaction Guarantee

- 2-Year/24,000-Mile Standard CPO Maintenance Plan
- 12-Month/12,000-Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty

2023 Chevy 1500, Crew Cab, LTZ Z71, 4x4, Sunroof, Blue.....\$51,900	2022 Chevy Equinox FWD LT, 45K Miles, Black.....\$22,900
2023 Chevy K-1500 Crew LT 4x4, Long Box, Diesel, 70K Miles, White.....\$39,900	2021 Chevy Colorado, Crew Cab, LT 4x4, One Owner, 65K Miles, Blue.....\$28,900
2023 Chevy Equinox AWD Premier, 27K Miles, White.....\$30,900	2020 Chevy Traverse AWD, LT 74K Miles, White.....\$24,900
2022 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab LTZ, One Owner, 41K Miles, Black.....\$46,900	2019 Chevy Tahoe Premier, 4x4, One Owner, 58K Miles, Brown.....\$40,900

QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2021 Chevy K-1500 Custom 4x4 4cyl Turbo, 90K Miles.....\$27,900	2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab, 4x4, LTZ, 6.2L, 89K Miles, Maroon.....\$31,900
2020 Chevy K-3500 Crew Cab LTZ, Diesel, 4x4, Z-71, Long Box, 89K Miles, Maroon.....\$52,900	2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab, LTZ, 4x4, 73K Miles, Silver.....\$28,900
2020 Chevy Tahoe, LT, 4x4, 88K Miles, Gray.....\$36,900	2017 Chevy Equinox, FWD, LT, 58K Miles, White.....\$15,900
2019 Chevy K-3500 Crew Cab, LTZ, 4x4, Z-71, Diesel, 107K Miles, Black.....\$44,900	2016 Chevy K-2500 Crew Cab LT, 4x4 Z71 White 105K Miles.....\$28,900
2019 Chevy K-2500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4x4, Z-71, Diesel, 77K Miles, Black.....\$41,900	2016 Chevy Equinox, FWD, LTZ, Silver.....\$14,900
2018 Chevy 2500 Double Cab, 4x4, Z71 LTZ, Gas, V-Plow, 33K Miles, Maroon.....\$45,900	2014 Chevy K-1500 Double Cab, LT, 4x4, Z-71, 68K Miles, White.....\$18,900

VAESSEN BROTHERS CHEVROLET, INC.
"Great Deals - Great Service Since 1926"

HIGHWAY 52 SUBLETTE, IL
www.vaessenbrothers.com
(815) 849-5232 1-800-227-5203

Ally Financing and GMF Financing or Leasing * Plus Tax, title and license. Rebates applied. Subject to credit approval.

FIND NEW ROADS **CHEVROLET**

We're Hiring
The Village of Paw Paw is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Maintenance Worker. This will be a part-time position averaging 20 hours per week. Applicant must have a valid driver's license with a CDL endorsement. Salary shall be commensurate with experience. Resumes accepted through **June 11, 2024**. Send resume to: clerk@pawpawil.org or mail to: **Board of Trustees Village of Paw Paw P. O. Box 426 Paw Paw, IL 61353**

Not sure why business is slow?
OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND...
is not just a saying in business.
Advertise today and let your business be in sight and in the minds of your customers.

Shop DINE Play & STAY

Stay Connected

FREE
Money Saver Local News Updates & So Much More

In Print & Online 815.539.9396 mendotareporter.com

9 Reasons to Shop Local

1

Shopping Local Creates Jobs:

The jobs created allow spending in the local economy and help create more jobs.

2

Local independent businesses invest more in our community:

They support local charities, schools and community events which financially impacts our community.

3

Local businesses sell a wide range of great products at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.

4

Shopping Local saves you money and time!

Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items more.

5

Shopping Local retains our community:

Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.

6

Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:

Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.

7

Shopping Local encourages community growth.

By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Mendota's diversity, charm and appeal; which in turn, attracts new community members.

8

Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.

Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Mendota. When shopping locally, you create funds for more city and county services through sales tax. In turn, these funds are invested in neighborhood services including police, fire and ambulance as well as park and library improvements.

9

Local shops value you more:

Local businesses survive by their reputation and repeat business, which means you get a higher standard of service.



COMMUNITY MATTERS

ACCURATE TITLE & LICENSE

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 6th St. • Mendota
815-539-9311

ASSISTED LIVING

Stoncroft Village
1700 Burlington St.
815-538-5300
stoncroftvillage.com

AUCTIONEERS

McConville Realty & Auctioneering
612 Main St.
815-539-5673

AUTO BODY REPAIR

Furar's Body Shop
306 Plaza Dr.
815-539-6075

AUTO REPAIR

ARS Auto Repair
307 Plaza Dr.
815-538-2412

LaMoille Auto Care Center and Towing
902 N. Main St., LaMoille
815-638-2733

Orzech Towing
Compton 815-343-8047
Sublette 815-849-5171

R&R Taller

4187 Rt. 251
815-538-4979

ATTORNEY

The Cantlin Law Firm
815-433-4712
www.cantlinlaw.com

AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

Mendota Ford
Rt. 251 S.
815-539-9314
www.mendotaford.com

Schimmer, Inc. Buick • Chevy
Rt. 251 S.
815-539-9343
www.schimmergm.com

Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet
505 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Sublette
815-849-5232
www.vaessenbrothers.com

CABINETRY AND STAIRS

Starved Rock Wood Products
815-538-7797
1605 Division Street • Mendota
starvedrockwoodproducts.com

CARPET & FLOORING

Meyers Furniture & Carpet
1901 S. 13th Ave.
815-539-6263

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce
800 Washington St.
815-539-6507

CONTRACTORS - GENERAL

Mauch Carpentry
705 Illinois Ave.
815-539-7867
License #104005528

DENTISTS

Krenz Dental, Ltd.
Jon Krenz, D.M.D.
704 Indiana Ave. • 815-538-5316

ELECTRICAL

Triple Service Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

Hilliker Electric, LLC
1417 Franklin Grove
815-456-7036
Emergency Number 815-441-8207

ELECTRICAL/CONTRACTING

Carriage House Electric
105 12th St.
815-538-5598

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Eureka Savings Bank
1300 13th Ave.
815-539-5656
Member FDIC

Financial Plus Credit Union
1905 13th Ave.
815-539-3444
Member NCUA-ESI

First State Bank
706 Washington St. • Main
1403 13th Ave. • Plaza
815-538-2265
firststatebank.biz
Member FDIC

First State Bank of Van Orin
200 N Main St., Van Orin
815-638-2111
Member FDIC

Malden Banking Center
302 N Main St.
815-643-2121
Member FDIC

NuMark Credit Union
Earlville • Paw Paw • Sublette
NUMARKCU.ORG
Member NCUA-ESI

FIREPLACES

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

FLORISTS

Floralcrest Florist & Greenhouse
1207 22nd St.
815-539-9306

FUNERAL HOMES

Wasmer Funeral Home
2112 W. Main St.
815-539-8500

FURNITURE

Meyers Furniture & Carpet & Mattress
1901 S. 13th Ave.
815-539-6263

GROCERY STORES

Sullivan's Foods
1102 Meriden St.
815-539-9341

HEALTH CARE CLINIC

Davis Family Health, LLC
1201 Meriden St.
815-538-1800

HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS

Correa Heating and Air Conditioning
815-910-9876

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

Triple Service Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

HOME HEALTH/HOSPICE

In-Home Care Connection Hospice Services
680 W. Peru St., Princeton
815-872-7447
www.ihccare.com

INSURANCE

First State Insurance
715 Washington St. • 815-539-5651

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 Sixth St. • 815-539-9311

JUNK REMOVAL

Highsmith Haul Away
815-993-8673
HighsmithHaulAway.com

KITCHEN & BATH

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

Someone's In the Kitchen
1619 N. Main St. • Princeton
815-879-0604
www.somekitchen.com

Starved Rock Wood Products
815-538-7799
1605 Division Street • Mendota
srwoodproducts.com

LIBRARY

Graves-Hume Public Library
1401 W. Main St.
815-538-5142
www.graveshume.org

MUSEUMS

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

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

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

OPTOMETRIST

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

PET GROOMING

Dirty Dawgs
1111 Main St.
815-538-2550

Mendota Pet Salon
2104 E. Main St.
815-878-3185

PIZZA

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

PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

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

Triple Service Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

POST FRAME BUILDERS

N.L. Morton Buildings, Ltd.
203 N. 4099th Road
815-539-9325
New construction & repair

REALTORS

Erbes Realty, LLC
1922 Tower Road • Sublette
815-535-6295 • Lorierbes@gmail.com

Homestead Realty
1316 Lakewood Plaza, #5
815-539-3811

McConville Realty & Auctioneering
612 Main St.
815-539-5673

Town & Country Realty
607 Sixth St.
(815) 539-6635

RESTAURANTS

Cindy's on 34
1300 Raymond Drive
815-539-9000

McDonald's in Mendota
2 locations
Stop in and see us today!!
NOW HIRING - EOE- Locally Owned and Operated by Paul and Mary Breznay

El Ray Del Taco Mexican Restaurant
701 Main St.
815-539-7100

SEAMLESS ROOFING

DuroLast Roofing
705 Illinois Ave.
815-539-5142
License #104005528

TAX PREPARATION

H&R Block
1313 Meriden St.
815-539-7610
hrblock.com

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 Sixth St.
815-539-9311

THRIFT STORES

Nightengales Thrift Shop
708 Jefferson St. • 815-539-6100
Supports Trinity Health Care Clinic • 815-910-0200

TRANSPORTATION

Mendota Area Senior Services
1901 Tom Merwin Drive
815-539-7700
mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com

TOWING

Gibson Towing
Leland and Sandwich
815-651-9436

Orzech Towing
Compton 815-343-8047
Sublette 815-849-5171

Ramer Automotive & Towing
Paul, Matt & Brendan Ramer
4266 E. 4th Road
815-539-5321

VAPE/SMOKE SHOP

Smooth Smokes and Vapor
1001 Main St.
815-539-3499

VETERINARIANS

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

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

WINDOWS & DECKING

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742



City of
Mendota

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

Eureka Savings BANK
MEMBER FDIC
NMLS#447018
www.eurekasavings.com

250 Marquette St., LaSalle, IL 61301 Ph. 223-0700
1300 13th Ave., Mendota, IL 61342 Ph. 539-5656
101 N. Columbia Ave., Oglesby, IL 61348 Ph. 883-3354
2959 Peoria St., Peru, IL 61354 Ph. 223-9400
105 West 1st South St., Wenona, IL 61377 Ph. 853-4333

FINANCIAL + plus CREDIT UNION

Membership Open to the Community

Mendota Branch
1905 13th Avenue | Mendota, IL 61342
815-539-3444



ESB

ESB