



After two weeks of transferring items from its former location on Main Street to its new home at 710 Sixth Ave., the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry was approved by the health inspector on June 18, opened June 19, and has planned a grand opening from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4. Helping set up the shelves are volunteers, left to right, Pastor Dave Jungnickel, Learl McDonald, Ray Smith, and Gretta Schaler-Bates. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

## Food Pantry open for business

Grand opening for new building planned August 4th

By BRANDON LaCHANCE  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Last June, letters were sent out to the community about helping the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry build a new building.

In under a year, the idea went from a piece of paper in the mail, to a blueprint, to a contract, to the health inspector approval on June 18, to an opening on June 19, to an official grand opening from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4 with a ribbon cutting at 2 p.m.

“It feels great to be in the new building. It’s surreal. In the morning, I turn the key in the door and I think, ‘Wow, here we are,’” said the food pantry’s executive director, Tracy Cooper. “I can’t even describe the feeling because it’s overwhelming. There was an enormous amount of work to get us in here. I had farmers bringing tractors to carry freezers and shelving through town.

“I had people who I didn’t expect to help, help. There was a gentleman who is

a member of the LaMoille Lions Club with me volunteer more than 40 hours that week. It was amazing to have all of the assistance we’ve had in this process.”

To say the construction went as planned would be trivial.

But to say there weren’t any issues would be a lie.

After a couple hiccups with solutions made quickly, the pantry was constructed and moved into quickly.

“We’ve had some very generous donations for this building. We’re going to acknowledge them on the donation tree, but I don’t think there is enough said about H&H Builders,” Cooper said. “Not only has Henry Grothen been an amazing builder, but he’s a very large supporter and donator to the food pantry. In products and items used to build the new pantry, H&H donated a value of \$90,000. He

See Pantry, Page A5

## Live from the tracks

Two replica train towers get cameras for online live-streaming

By BRANDON LaCHANCE  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – If you’ve noticed new posts and a fresh coat of paint on the two train towers in Mendota, you have good eyes or are observant.

Hopefully at the same 20/20 vision and complete focus a camera system is going to have from the towers, which sit in front of the Breaking the Prairie Museum (north tower) and alongside Setchell Insurance Agency (south tower).

“Our former president, Bill Greenwood, wanted to set up some cameras to have us live stream our tracks going through town because another company, Virtual Rail Fan, had started,” said Mendota Museum & Historical Society President Bryon Walters said. “Greenwood saw it and gave us funding, called the Technology Fund, to put up the cameras. We were never able to set them up the right way so they were sturdy enough. When trains came through, they would shake the posts and the cameras. We didn’t have a really good grasp of where to put them.

“When we met with Virtual Rail Fan, who has close to a million followers, you could only see so many channels for free. You had to be a subscriber to see all of them. They would also charge us \$5,000 a year. That is a lot of money for a small museum to put out. We put it on hold.

“When we met Tom Hogan, of Steel Highways,



Mendota Museum & Historical Society volunteers, left to right, Alan Russell, Ed Bock, and Jim Mathesius repair and update one of Mendota’s two train towers. The towers, which are replicas of original towers used to house levers for switching the train tracks, will now host cameras set up to live stream all happenings on the tracks for a free YouTube channel, Steel Highways. (Photo contributed)

who is successful and has a lot of highly viewed channels people can watch for free, we decided to go with him. We want to promote Mendota as a rail town. Railroading is important and contributes a lot of tax revenue to the city. It’s an important industry. We’re an Amtrak community and that’s pretty special.”

There will be one or two cameras on both towers to give the full effect on the Steel Highways YouTube channel.

Hogan has over 150,000 followers as a channel follower of his can see live train and rail action 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year from all over the

United States of America, free of charge.

“The idea behind it is to promote our town. There are a lot of rail fans, shut-ins, who want to look at trains and tracks from California to Pennsylvania and everything between,” Walters said. “They can sit at home and look at them on their computer. It’s high-definition cameras with great audio. The audio allows you to hear the train dispatchers talking about the trains coming in to town. There are a lot of great aspects to the footage. In Alaska, you’ll see moose

See Tracks, Page A5

## Who will wear the crown?

Sweet Corn Festival royalty will be revealed at Aug. 9 pageant

MENDOTA – A very short time remains before the 2024 Sweet Corn Festival Queen will be chosen to reign over the festivities of Mendota’s 77th Annual Sweet Corn Festival to be held Aug. 8-11.

Be sure to join Tim and Jan Phalen as they emcee the evening of suspense and entertainment. Choosing one queen and two attendants from the 14 beautiful contestants will be a very difficult choice for the judges. The judges will be busy most of the afternoon of the pageant with the candidates’ interviews at the Pageant Tea.

Singer-guitarist Andrew Bloomquist will provide pre-pageant entertainment beginning at 6:45 p.m., and then the pageant will get underway at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9 on the First State Bank stage on Washington Street in downtown Mendota. Bloomquist will return to

the stage while the judges are deciding who will wear the crown for 2024.

Here are three more contestants vying for the crown of 2024 Sweet Corn Festival Queen.

Madelyn Becker has been selected to represent the Mendota YMCA in this year’s pageant. She is the daughter of Pat and Kelly Becker. She is five feet, five inches tall and has brown hair and hazel eyes.

Becker graduated from Mendota High School in 2024. During her time at MHS, she participated in volleyball and softball. She was very active in many clubs and committees such as Interact Club (secretary), student council, National Honor Society (president), Spanish Honor Society (vice president) and Spanish Club. She was a class officer and was on the Prom and Homecoming committees.

Becker also competed on the math team, math contest, Academic Challenge and was recognized as an Illinois State Scholar and Academic All-Conference for softball and volleyball. She won awards that include, National Rural and Small Town, DAR, John Ourth, Seal of Biliteracy, MHS math award, MHS Spanish non-heritage and Three Rivers Conference first team 2024 outfielder.

This summer you will find Becker working at the Mendota YMCA and Mendota swimming pool. Her hobbies include shopping, hanging out with friends and family, staying active and babysitting. She enjoys helping out in her community. At the Mendota YMCA you can find Becker helping with various children’s programs. She loves helping to provide extra activities for the younger generation to do. At the swimming pool

she is a lifeguard, making sure patrons are safe and following the rules.

In the fall, Becker plans to attend the University of Iowa to get her doctorate in Pharmacy, hoping to get a job in a hospital helping individuals through the medication they take. She cannot wait to see what the future holds for her.

The Mendota Booster Club will be represented by Ryleigh Sondgeroth in this year’s pageant. She is the daughter of Matt and Amber Sondgeroth, and stands five feet, three inches tall with blonde hair and green eyes.

Sondgeroth graduated Mendota High School in May of 2024. She was very active in sports and clubs during her four years at MHS. She participated in volleyball, basketball and softball. She was the student council president,

See Pageant, Page A5



Three contestants competing for the title of Sweet Corn Festival Queen, left to right, are Ryleigh Sondgeroth, Grace Wasmer and Madelyn Becker. (Photo contributed)



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# LOCAL AND AREA

## 2024 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival sponsors



### OSF Saint Paul Medical Center

The hospital in Mendota is sponsoring the first ever Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Pickleball Tournament, which will be held at the Mendota Lake Sports Complex on the north side of the lake. There will be two divisions 18U and an open. To play, register through the YMCA on Rt. 251 southbound or email [mendota@ivymca.org](mailto:mendota@ivymca.org). Celebrating the partnership are, left to right, Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Board member Kelly Becker, MACC Board President Evan Wixom, OSF Vice President, Ancillary Services and Support Services Antonio Andere, OSF President Dawn Trompeter, MD, Chief Medical Officer Leonardo Lopez, OSF Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer Heather Bomstad, MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell, and MACC Board member Marion Quintana.



### West Side Family Dentistry

Dr. Keri Sundberg, green shirt, smiles with members of the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in anticipation of the 77th Annual Mendota Sweet Corn Festival. West Side is a major sponsor this year.



### Nightengales Thrift Shop

The 18th Annual Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Food Contest and the Jesse White Tumblers in the Sunday's parade are sponsored by the thrift shop and clinic. The grand prize winner of the contest will receive \$250 in Mendota gift certificates, which can be used for services or merchandise in over 50 Mendota businesses. Gift certificates worth \$50 will be awarded to the cooks receiving Queen's Choice, Grand Marshal's Choice, Most Creative, and Best Presentation. To celebrate the sponsorship Nightengales and the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce smiled under the shop's sign. In the photo are, left to right, MACC Board member Marion Quintana, Nightengale's Maria Valle, Karen Bailes, Carolyn Hartt, Dianna Robles, Nancy Champlin, MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell, MACC Board Brad Cox, Nightengale's Kim Abel, MACC's Kelly Becker, and Nightengale's Gary Buffington.

## Auditions open for "Misery" at Stage 212

LaSALLE — Director Joey Santos has announced auditions for Stage 212's Winter 2024 production, "Misery," William Goldman's riveting adaptation of Stephen King's classic novel, will be held Friday, Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 10 at noon at Creative Connections NFP, 136 Marquette St. in La Salle. Callbacks are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 11 at a time to be named later.

Misery follows successful romance novelist Paul Sheldon, who is rescued from a car crash by his "number one fan," Annie Wilkes, and wakes up captive in her secluded home. While Paul is convalescing, Annie reads his latest book

and becomes enraged when she discovers the author has killed off her favorite character. Annie forces Paul to write a new Misery novel, and he quickly realizes Annie has no intention of letting him go anywhere. The irate Annie has Paul writing as if his life depends on it, and it does.

Santos will be casting two men and one woman. Audition cuts are posted at [www.stage212.org](http://www.stage212.org). Cuts do not need to be memorized. Those auditioning must be 18 years old or older. Contact the director with any questions at [joeyb1988@icloud.com](mailto:joeyb1988@icloud.com). All are encouraged to audition, regardless of prior theatrical experience.

"Misery" will be presented Nov. 8-17.



### Plano Molding Company/ Pure Fishing

The tackle box manufacturing company is sponsoring the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Mini Pageant at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 10. Contestants must be 5 years old in the Mendota District. Pick up a registration form at the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Office, Graves-Hume Public Library, or the Mendota Swimming Pool. Staff of Plano Molding Company/Pure Fishing joined the chamber to honor the sponsorship.



### Country Kids Farm Market

Kelsey Michelini Brannan, fourth from the left, is proud to have Country Kids supply the corn for Sunday's free giveaway during the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival. She will also be downtown selling corn at a booth.



### 4M Graphix

Once again Maurine and Matt Marquis, third and fourth from the left, have designed Mendota Sweet Corn Festival T-shirts. The shirts are at the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Office. This year's shirt is a cotton/poly blend and is available in heather green. The five-color screen printed design features an ear of corn on a background symbolizing sky, sun, grass, and land. "It's a Mendota Thing" is the theme of this year's shirt. Youth sizes are \$15 and are available XS-YL and adult shirts are in S-5XL for \$20. Unisex tank tops are available in heather gray and range from S-2XL.

## "A Visit with Corrie ten Boom" comes to Stage 212 at 2 p.m. Aug. 18

LaSALLE — Stage 212 brings a unique cultural event to the Illinois Valley with "A Visit with Corrie ten Boom."

The show will feature impersonator Gayle Haas, who will portray Dutch watchmaker and Christian writer Cornelia Arnolda Johanna "Corrie" ten Boom. Corrie ten Boom was most known for her efforts in aiding the Jewish community during the Holocaust, and the show relates stories of her experiences during World War II.

The one-time performance will be held Sunday, Aug. 18 at 2 p.m. at the theater, 700 First St. in LaSalle. Tickets will be available to the general public for \$15 each beginning Aug. 1, and may be purchased by visiting the box office Monday 4-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon or by calling 815-224-3025 during those hours.

Tickets may also be purchased online by visiting [stage212.org](http://stage212.org).



### Advanced Drainage Systems

Staff of the pipe company ADS took a break to take a photo with members of the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce to celebrate sponsorship of Wild Style Design Company at the 77th Annual Mendota Sweet Corn Festival. Wild Style are professional face painters who create fun art downtown during the festival weekend.



### ADM Grain

The grain producer located on Rt. 34 eastbound, represented by ADM Regional Manager Jeff Mauck, fourth from the left, are joining forces with G&M Distributors to sponsor the band Judson Main and the Valley Katz during the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Beer Garden.



### The Valley Katz/Judson Main

The Valley Katz will perform at the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Beer Garden Stage from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10. The Katz cover rock greats such as Janis Joplin, Steppenwolf, No Doubt, Ozzy Osbourne, Blondie, White Stripes, Golden Earring, Tom Petty, Better Than Ezra, ZZ Top, Garbage, Cranberries, and more. Judson Main, below, comprised of David Anthony Marshall, Scott Fishman, and Randy Fini are going to rock the 77th Annual Mendota Sweet Corn Festival from 7:30 p.m.-midnight on Saturday at the Beer Garden Stage.



## OSF expands specialty clinics at Peru location

PERU — OSF HealthCare is pleased to announce that the OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute will soon add more specialty clinics for the convenience of the residents of the Illinois Valley.

As of July 22, the OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute - Peru has a new office at 920 West St., Ste. LL1 in medical office building B. This location will provide greater accessibility and convenience, ensuring residents can easily reach the services and providers they need. Drs. Montevicchi, Donenberg, Thompson, and Kawji, along with advanced

practice providers Traci Keyster, Lauren Sladek, and Dierdre Casagrande, will see patients at this new Peru office. The office will be open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Patients can contact the Peru location by calling (815) 221-1305.

These providers will also continue to see patients at the Ottawa office, 1050 East Norris Drive, Ste. 1B. For appointments in Ottawa, call (815) 434-0276.

The expansion into Peru underscores OSF HealthCare's commitment to bringing exceptional cardiovascular care closer to home for area residents.



# LOCAL AND AREA

## Snip, snip before school starts...for free

*Multiple stylists join for Free Back-to-School Haircuts*

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Four years ago, Expressions Salon owner Marion Quintana had an idea. The hair stylist decided to open her shop to kids going into kindergarten through fifth grade free haircuts before school started.

With only her and only one other haircut provider, they kept it small so they could handle all comers.

Each year the free service has grown including this year where there will be eighth professionals to provide a cool, fresh cut without a cost to students entering preschool through eighth grade.

The Free Back-to-School Haircuts are taking place from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3 at Expressions Salon, 709 Illinois Ave. in Mendota.

“It’s growing and the more we do it, the more kids are coming. Hopefully with the eight of us there isn’t a long wait for those who come for haircuts,” Quintana said. “I was pretty blessed to have the shop and the success that we have had. I decided to give back to the community. We were that family that by time we bought all of the shoes and school supplies, our haircuts were at the bottom of the priority list. We were lucky if we got a haircut.

“I thought why not help families with expenses and help kids go to school looking good and feeling good. They get to go to



**For the fourth consecutive year, Marion Quintana is opening Expressions Salon, 709 Illinois Ave. in Mendota, for Free Back-to-School Haircuts from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3. This time she has some friends to help hook up soon-to-be students with fresh cuts. In the photo, and who will be styling on August 3, are left to right, Expression’s Abbey Rodriguez, Maxie’s Salon’s Caitlyn Aguilar, Expression’s Jenny Colin, Joanna Silva, Maria Guzman, Blanca Nohemi, Jacquesi2.0 owner Jackie Fitzgerald, and Quintana. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)**

school with a fresh look. We have seen more and more kids every year. They’re coming from out of town. It’s nice to see it spreading to other towns and not just Mendota. It’s rewarding. We started a trend and hopefully it starts a trend.”

Quintana will be joined by her employees Jenny Colin, Abbey Rodriguez, Joanna Silva, Maria Guzman, and Blanca Nohemi, as well as Jackie Fitzgerald, owner of Jacquesi2.0 (903 Main St., Mendota), and Caitlyn Aguilar, who represents Maxie’s Salon (2104 Main St., Ste. E, Mendota).

If schedules do not conflict, barber Edward Bautista will have a chair during the event as well.

Fitzgerald is participating for the first time and is thankful for the opportunity to help the kids.

“I think it’s really im-

portant to give back to the community, but I also think it’s important for the community to see all of the local salons in the same town can collaborate and work together for a good cause,” Fitzgerald said. “We’re going to be swamped and I’m excited. Plus, I’m always excited to be surrounded by good talent.

“I did hear a lot of feedback that this was being offered to preschool-aged kids because they feel that age group gets left out.”

Aguiliar is in the same situation as Fitzgerald. It’s her first year.

And she is happy to help.

“I feel like it’s a really different idea. I love doing anything for kids, especially in Mendota,” Aguiliar said. “I feel there isn’t much going on around here, so something like this is huge for the Mendota area.”

## Prairie Arts Council presents “Bring Him Home: Opera Concert for the Arts”

PRINCETON – The Prairie Arts Council is thrilled to announce “Bring Him Home: Opera Concert for the Arts,” featuring Princeton’s own acclaimed tenor, Dane Suarez, and pianist, Nick Towns. The concert dates will take place on Saturday, Aug. 10 at 6 p.m. with a 5 p.m. gala at the Prairie Arts Center at 24 Park Ave E, Princeton, and Sunday, Aug. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Princeton High School Auditorium at 103 S Euclid Ave, Princeton.

Dane Suarez, a native of Princeton, has captivated audiences with his powerful and emotive performances.

“This fall I am making my professional International debut at Wexford Festival Opera in Wexford, Ireland as Don Ferolo Whiserandos in Charles Villiers Stanford’s satirical opera, The Critic, as well as presenting a recital. I will be taking the opportunity to present as many of these pieces from the recital at the concert in Princeton. The audience can expect a diverse range of music, from heartfelt arias, art songs, and musical theater, to more contemporary and unexpected pieces—certainly something for every musical taste. There may also be some guest appearances from some of my colleagues throughout my journey!”

Joining him is the talented pianist Nick Towns, whose mastery at the keyboard provides the perfect accompaniment to Suarez’s vocals.

“I am so excited to be collaborating with another Princeton native, Nick Towns. The pieces on the program will showcase his immense talent and we can’t wait to share that with the city that raised us.”

Together, they promise beautiful night of music to resonate with all attendees.

The “Bring Him Home” concert is not just an opportunity to experience a great performance; it’s a celebration of the arts within our community. The Prairie Arts Council has long been dedicated to nurturing local talent and fostering an appreciation for the arts. This event highlights the incredible impact our community has had in shaping artists who go on to achieve successful careers in the arts.

“Growing up in Princeton, I found my community in the arts. Through

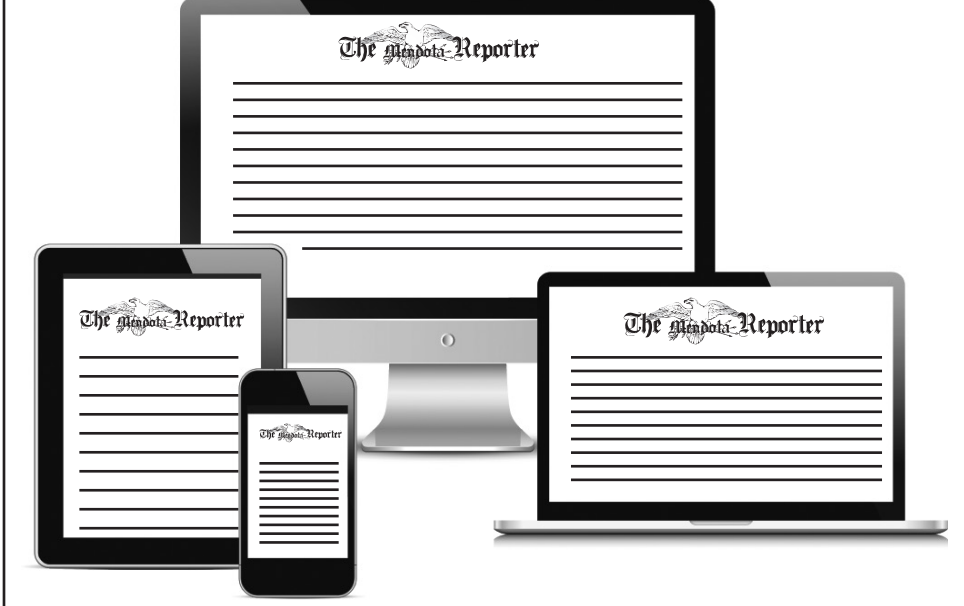
community theater productions for the Homestead Festival, children’s theater at Prairie Arts Center, PHS productions, and being a part of Festival 56 seasons, it became clear to me that being on stage was what made me feel alive. There is a gratifying power that vulnerability on stage gives you, connecting deeply with the audience and creating a shared emotional experience. Performing at the Prairie Arts Center and PHS Auditorium again feels like coming full circle again and sharing that powerful connection with the community that nurtured my passion from the beginning,” said Suarez.

“When opera fell into my path, it was unexpected, but upon reflection, I believe it was always there, subtly shaping my journey. My first role as Louis in the Homestead Festivals production of The King and I, and my second was as Amahl in Amahl and the Night Visitors (technically my first opera!) Operatic mezzo-soprano and former PHS choir director, Joy Schertz recognized my talent at a young age and was my first voice teacher. Despite my teenage defiance, Ms. Schertz worked tirelessly to steer me toward a career in music. David and Shelley Gorenz also kept opera in my life by taking me to my first opera (Rigoletto in Peoria) and to see Jerry Hadley perform at BVHS auditorium dedication. My late grandmother Mary McCauley, a dedicated music teacher and organist, had a profound influence on my musical journey. Her passion for music was contagious and her encouragement was a constant source of inspiration. All of these influences combined to ignite and nurture my love for opera and performing.”

By attending this concert, you will be supporting the Prairie Arts Council’s mission to continue offering valuable arts programs and events that enrich the lives of residents in Princeton and beyond. Your ticket purchase will directly contribute to sustaining the arts in the community, ensuring that it can continue to provide opportunities for emerging artists and cultural enrichment for all.

To purchase tickets, please email prairieartsprinceton@gmail.com or call 815-875-2631 X 1014.

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# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Janet A. Rusk

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Janet Alene (Brown) Rusk, 89, of Lawrence, Kan., passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 15, 2024. Janet was in the Pioneer Ridge Nursing Home in 2015 until present.

She was born on Nov. 23, 1934, in Strawberry Point, Iowa, to Roy W. and Inid (Rowell) Brown. She graduated from Strawberry Point High School in 1953.

Janet married George W. Rusk in November of 1953 and was married for 21 years. They resided in Plainville, Ill., and were members of the Plainville Methodist Church.

Janet then moved to Mendota in 1977 and worked in accounting at Conkey's Manufacturing for 13 years until the factory closed. After working for Karen Endress tax preparation, she moved to Lawrence Kan., in 1992 to care for her grandchildren.

She is survived by her three children, George (Alison) Rusk, Jr., of Tipp City, Ohio, Jay (Pam) Rusk of Lawrence, Kan., and Laura (Keith) Fassig of Earlville; five grandchildren, Rachel Rusk (Austin Schall) of Knoxville Tenn., Jamie (Troy) Shaw of Kansas City, Kan., Christina (Craig) Palmer of Tecumseh, Kan., William Fassig of Tonica and Elizabeth (Zachary) Kasper of Paw Paw; 11 great-grandchildren, Breckyn and Lincoln Shaw, Kayslee, Corley, and Alora Palmer, Charlotte Fassig, and Isabella, Jackson, Remington, and Kade Kasper and Landon Schmidt; and her nephew, Erik (Sue) Adney.

She is preceded in death by her parents, and sister Joyce Adney.

Janet attended Mendota Methodist Church. She had a wonderful faith in the Lord and passed that on to her children.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be given in memory of Janet to the Lawrence Humane Society or Mendota Gardening Club, c/o Steve Lauer, 1204 Monroe St., Mendota, IL 61342, or may be sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary, 120 W. 13th St., Lawrence, KS 66044.

For more information or to post a condolence go to warrenmcelwain.com.



## Susan M. Ennenbach

SUBLETTE — Susan Marie (Lef-felman) Ennenbach, 69, of Eureka, Mont., formerly of Sublette, passed into eternal life on July 18, 2024.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

Ennenbach was born Dec. 13, 1954, in Mendota, to Gerald and Sylvia (Becker) Leffelman. After graduating Amboy High School in 1972, Susan went to work at Wayside Press in Mendota. She loved her job and the people she worked with. There she met Jim Ennenbach, who she married in 1976. In 1984, they moved to Montana to start a new life.

After dabbling in covered wagon outings with their team of Clydesdale horses and working at a local Ranger station, they divorced in 1996. In 1997, Susan and her partner Ken Renaud opened The Antler Inn Restaurant, which they ran successfully until 2007.

After the restaurant was closed, Susan transformed that space into the Antler Inn Emporium selling handmade crafts and items from local artists. Susan was very talented and could take such mundane items such as a rock, tree branch, feather or scrap of cloth and turn it into something beautiful; items she would then sell at her gift shop.

Susan served on the Lincoln County Conservation District Bureau and also volunteered at the Eureka Historical Society.

She wore many hats in her short but productive life. She made many good friends in all her endeavors and will be greatly missed.

Montana was a blessing to Susan and she called it her "Heaven." She left us too soon, but she will always be remembered for her ever present positive attitude, kindness to everyone, and sharp wit.

She will be missed even more so by her family. Susan is survived by her mother, five brothers, and two sisters.

Susan spent her final days with her family enjoying her favorite view of the Montana mountains.



## Social Security

### What you can do if you have a Social Security or SSI overpayment

By Mike Weittl

PERU — An overpayment occurs when Social Security pays a person more money in Social Security benefits or SSI payments than should have been paid. The amount of the overpayment is the difference between the payment received and the amount that was due.

Social Security is required by law to adjust benefits or recover debts when an overpayment occurs. If you receive an overpayment notice, it will explain why you've been overpaid, the overpayment amount, your repayment options, and your appeal and waiver rights.

After receiving an overpayment notice, you can:

- Repay the overpayment in full or through a repayment plan by check, money order, credit card or by monthly reductions from your Social Security benefit. You may be able to make a full or partial repayment using Pay.gov or your bank's online bill pay option. We offer flexible repayment plans, including payments as low as \$10 per month.
- Appeal the overpayment if you don't agree that you've been overpaid, or you believe the amount is incorrect. You can request a non-medical reconsideration online or you can submit a completed SSA-561, Request for Reconsideration, to your local Social Security office.
- Request that we waive the overpayment if you believe you are not at fault for causing the overpayment

AND you cannot afford to pay the money back or it is unfair for some other reason. You can ask for a waiver by submitting a completed SSA-632, Request for Waiver of Overpayment Recovery, to your local office. If your overpayment is \$1,000 or less, we may be able to process your waiver request quickly by telephone. You can contact your local office or call us at 1-800-772-1213, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

- Request a different repayment amount if you are unable to meet your necessary living expenses due to the current repayment amount. If you are unable to repay the debt within 60 months\* due to the negotiated repayment amount, you will be asked to complete form SSA-634, Request for Change in Overpayment Recovery Rate. You can find the form at [www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-634.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-634.pdf).

(\*This is a recent policy change. Previous policy required the completion of the SSA-634 if the overpayment could not be repaid within 36 months.)

To learn more about overpayments and our process, visit our Understanding SSI Overpayments webpage at [www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-overpay-ussi.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-overpay-ussi.htm), read our Overpayments fact sheet at [www.ssa.gov/marketing/assets/materials/EN-05-10106.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/marketing/assets/materials/EN-05-10106.pdf), or watch our Overpayment video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxYYcjQkFvM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxYYcjQkFvM).

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

## DEATH NOTICES

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

## Mark L. Salander

DEXTER, Mo. — Mark Lawrence Salander, 72, of Dexter, Mo., passed quietly surrounded by family on July 15, 2024, after a short battle with cancer.

A family interment will be held at Restland Cemetery followed by a Celebration of Life at the Ophir Community Building in Triumph, on Saturday, Aug. 3 from 3-5:30 p.m.

Mark was born on Feb. 22, 1952, to Lawrence G. and Patsy E. (Bunton) Salander in Mendota. He grew up on a farm in rural Mendota attending Ophir Grade School, Mendota High School, and Illinois State University.

Mark is survived by his wife, Louise (Daye) (Roberts) Salander, as well as former spouse Karen (Masterson) Salander and their daughter, Kelly Salander. He is survived also by stepsons, Brandon Roberts and Andrew (Katy) Roberts and their children, Vivian, Mabel and Lenora; siblings, Douglas (June) Salander, Paul (Lisa) Salander, Patrice (Quy) Tran Lam, and James Salander; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents, Audrie L. (Worsley) and Earl J.R. Bunton and Blanche I. (Lincoln) and Charles E.M. Salander.

Mark worked as a chemist in Vernon, Texas, and Seattle, Wash. He enjoyed restoring Mercury Cougars, collecting and selling antiques and coins, exploring family genealogy, music, electronics, science fiction, and cartoons. He notably approached all his projects with extensive research and completed them with perfectionism. He especially was proud of his daughter, Kelly.

## Rep. Fritts' August tour making stops in the area

DIXON — State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) has officially announced his 2024 Summer Tour scheduled events for August.



The tour consists of traveling office hours and coffee & conversation events through Aug. 30. Coffee & conversation events will all be held at locally-owned coffee shops and restaurants.

The events scheduled for August include the following:

**Traveling Office Hours**

- Thursday, Aug. 15 at

the Earlville City Building, located at 210 Railroad Street in Earlville from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

- Thursday, Aug. 15 at Waterman Village Hall, located at 215 W. Adams St. in Waterman from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

- Thursday, Aug. 15 at the Shabbona Public Works Building, located at 206 Blackhawk St. in Shabbona from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

**Coffee & Conversation**

- Wednesday, Aug. 21 at Ziggy's Family Restaurant, located at 1212 First Ave. in Mendota from 8-10 a.m.

To view the full Summer Tour schedule, visit [RepFritts.com/Summer-Tour](http://RepFritts.com/Summer-Tour).

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**The Mendota Reporter**

Publication No. (USPS 339-100)  
Vol. 146, No. 31

A Charter Member of  
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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 \$69 per year in advance in LaSalle, Lee and Bureau counties and \$89 per year in advance in the United States outside those three counties.

Postmaster: Send address changes to  
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Mendota, IL 61342.  
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**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.

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Pantry

Continued from Page A1

also solicited for us and asked others to help. With H&H donations and the donations they helped us receive, it's a value around \$130,000."

Although the building is up, it isn't entirely paid for as the MAFP still owes \$100,000.

However, with those generous donations and planned fundraisers such as Fall Fest on Sept. 8 at the Moose Lodge, Cooper hopes to get the balance taken care of as fast as the building was constructed.

Fall Fest will include a car show, registration at 10 a.m., which will cost \$10 to enter and include a wristband and will award three trophies in the Executive Director's Choice (Cooper), Crowd's Choice, and Kids' Choice.

There will also be a silent auction, food trucks, and musical entertainment with the band Side Hustle. The auction and the band will be from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., while the food trucks will serve from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cooper hopes the event will help with funds, further celebrate the new building, and help overshadow other concerns the pantry, and pantries around the country, are experiencing.

"The need for food has increased roughly 20 percent. The problem now is I'm having trouble getting food," Cooper said. "Two of our suppliers have told me they're having trouble getting food. One of the things I can't get anywhere is cereal, which is big in the community with kids not being in school. We also do a kids' shelf during the summer, so we're having to

**"Not only are we seeing a higher demand from the community, but we see that we're having trouble getting food. It's not a great balance right now. This is the first time I've had an issue getting food."**

—Tracy Cooper, executive director

get extra supplies for that.

"Not only are we seeing a higher demand from the community, but we see that we're having trouble getting food. It's not a great balance right now. This is the first time I've had an issue getting food. I've been here five years and I've never had this problem. Even during COVID-19, we were getting large amounts of food. The current demand for food isn't at the high level it was during the pandemic, but it's close."

Cooper said she couldn't pinpoint why the demand in food has increased, but she said contributing factors can be bills raising, fuel price hikes, and Link allowances tightening.

The pantry is doing all it can to stock the shelves in the new building while welcoming everyone with open arms.

"All of the clients who have come into the building, love it. They're just as excited as we are, I think," Cooper said. "They were excited to see it and come in. I've had some clients come in, look around, and then tell me they'll be back to get their food later. They just wanted to see the building."

## Pageant

Continued from Page A1

was in Spanish Club and was a member of the Prom and Homecoming committees. She was recognized as an Illinois State Scholar, was in the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Academic Challenge.

This summer you will find Sondgeroth working at the Mendota swimming pool making sure kids are being safe and following the rules. Along with working, she loves spending time with family and friends, shopping, watching TV/movies and playing pickleball.

This fall, Sondgeroth will be attending St. Ambrose University to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing. Her long-term goal is to hopefully open a medical spa.

She believes that it is important to always ask how someone is doing and offer them a smile because you never know what someone is going through.

Grace Wasmer has been chosen to represent The Rotary Club in this year's pageant. She is the daughter of Alison and Steve Wasmer. She stands five feet, nine inches tall with brown hair and blue eyes.

Wasmer graduated from Mendota High School in

May of 2024 where she was active in many different sports and organizations. She participated in volleyball, basketball and track. She was also in student council (vice president), Interact Club (President), Spanish Club and on the Prom and Homecoming committees. Wasmer was in the Spanish National Honor Society and National Honor Society, math team, Academic Challenge, was an Illinois State Scholar and received the Seal of Biliteracy. She was named academic all-conference and participated in the Lions Club honors banquet.

In the fall, Wasmer will be attending Illinois Valley Community College to get an associate degree in accounting, and then transfer to the University of Illinois to finish out her degree.

This summer, you will find her working at the Mendota swimming pool where she is a lifeguard. She makes sure everyone stays safe, follows the rules and has fun. She will continue to take summer classes at IVCC, hang out with friends, stay active but also play video games and watch TV shows.

Wasmer believes that making people smile is one of the best ways to brighten their day.

## Special promotions available for Sweet Corn Festival carnival

MENDOTA—Windy City Amusements of St. Charles will be setting up on the midway again this year at Mendota's Annual Sweet Corn Festival.

They will be bringing 21 rides to the midway that should please children of all ages. For the little ones there is the "Balloon Race" and the "Dizzy Dragons," and for the older kids and adults, "Sky Rider" and "Freak Out" to name just a few. For the whole family is the "Big Wheel" a very large Ferris Wheel with gondola cars.

Not only will the carnival be bringing exciting rides to Mendota but is offering a host of special promotions. The popular Mega Pass will be offered again this year. The Mega Pass will let you ride every day of the festival, Aug. 8-11, as many rides as you want, as many times as you want. The cost of the Mega Pass is \$90 if purchased before noon on Wednesday, Aug. 7. Mega Passes can be purchased at the Mendota

Chamber office or at WindyCityAmusements.com. After the Aug. 9 deadline the price will be \$100 and will be available at the carnival ticket booth.

"You will be able to ride the entire Sweet Corn Festival from 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11, under \$25 per day," stated Sam Setchell, Mendota Chamber Director.

There will still be Regular Unlimited Ride Armbands available:

- Thursday, Aug. 8, 6-10 p.m., \$30
- Friday, Aug. 9 & Saturday, Aug. 10, 1-4 p.m., \$30
- Friday, Aug. 9 & Saturday, Aug. 10, 6-10 p.m., \$35
- Sunday, Aug. 11, 1-5 p.m., \$30

"We hope that everyone will take advantage of the Mega Pass and the 'Special Afternoon for Special Kids' promotions offered by Windy City Amusements here at the 77th Annual Sweet Corn Festival," added Setchell.

## Carpenter Media Group & News Media Corporation reach management agreement

ROCHELLE—Carpenter Media Group (CMG) and News Media Corporation (NMC) announced on July 25 plans for CMG to manage, and with an option to acquire, NMC.

The Mendota Reporter is owned by News Media Corporation and is now part of the management agreement with Carpenter Media Group.

Longtime NMC leaders J.J. Tompkins and Billy McMacken will assume leadership roles with CMG, and the transition will begin immediately.

News Media Corporation was founded in 1975 by John C. Tompkins. John began his career as a paperboy at The Hammond, Ind., Times, where his father was the publisher. Eager to learn, he continued to work his way through every department at The Times with Howard Publications. At the age of 21, Tompkins purchased his first newspaper, The Rochelle News-Leader, in rural Illinois.

Under John Tompkins' leadership, News Media grew to over 70 publications across 10 states. NMC serves communities of roughly 5,000-50,000 population in isolated rural trade centers, focusing mainly on weekly

**"We are thrilled about this partnership with Carpenter Media Group and its potential for the future success of our family's legacy and the communities we serve. As a company deeply rooted in people, we are confident that this partnership will uphold our values and lead us to a bright future."**

—J.J. Tompkins, News Media Corporation

newspapers. It has always been News Media's top priority to provide quality local journalism to the unique communities it serves. NMC currently has 25 publications located in Illinois, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska and Arizona.

"We have worked with JJ and his father, John, over the years. We have a long friendship and deep respect for the company they built and its exceptional team of community media professionals," said CMG Chairman Todd Carpenter. "We look forward to building on the foundations put down by John and others as we develop the products, people and communities served."

"This is a unique opportunity to partner with Todd Carpenter and CMG," JJ Tompkins said. "The Tompkins family has always deeply respected Todd and has a friendship spanning multiple generations and family companies. We have a unique history and friend-

ship, which began with my father many years ago, and will continue into the future and for the next phase of News Media Corporation.

"We are thrilled about this partnership with Carpenter Media Group and its potential for the future success of our family's legacy and the communities we serve. As a company deeply rooted in people, we are confident that this partnership will uphold our values and lead us to a bright future," Tompkins added.

CMG owns and manages over 200 community and metro media titles in the U.S. and Canada and is dedicated to preserving and building community journalism and marketing services to develop and improve each community served.

NMC and the Tompkins family was represented by John Cribb of Cribb, Cope & Potts. CCP is a leading merger and acquisition firm with offices in Montana, California and Arkansas.

## Tracks

Continued from Page A1

crossing the tracks. There have been meteorites filmed on the cameras. There have been a lot of neat things.

"In Mendota, the cameras are going to be positioned for people to see our steam locomotive and our track at the same time. That will promote tourism. People will see it and say, 'That will be one of my stops this summer. I'm going to go see Mendota.'"

The Mendota Museum is not being charged a yearly fee. The only costs were for some equipment and electrical work as Hogan and Steel Highways' income comes from advertisers and sponsors.

What once had an outdated purpose, the towers are being put to good use in entertainment and tourism purposes.

"The towers are replicas of original switch towers that operators worked in. The towers had levers they would pull and they would move the switches on all of the tracks," Walters said. "It was all manually done by switchmen. Today, all of that happens in a big super room in Fort Worth, Texas. They control all of the main switches, while the local crew in Mendota control the side switches.

"We built these two towers in early 2000. The posts were starting to rot on the south tower in front of Setchell's Insurance Agency. We took them all down and used local contractors to construct two new posts and Barkman Concrete is going to set the posts in the ground. While the tower was on the ground, we painted it, put on a new roof, and painted the bell.

"When we put it back up, it's going to serve a really cool purpose. It's going to go from an old-time, lever-pulling switch tower to a modern, digital tower that is going to broadcast live webcam footage of our track action across the world on YouTube."

The museum has been busy outside of the towers as well.

They recently purchased additional museum buildings on Washington Street, the former Pella Windows Store and Walter Bros. at 907 and 909 Washington Street, have also received new paint.

The upgraded 907 location served as a host to Vision Mendota from July 25-28.

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# OPINION



## The Mendota Reporter

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Brandon LaChance, News Reporter  
Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager  
Brent Hatch, Account Executive

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

## What are we doing in November?

If there is one aspect of life where an individual is either all in or doesn't want anything to do with it, it's politics.

Come the primaries or the general election in November, if you're not wearing a red shirt and have some item with an elephant on it or you're prancing around on a donkey with a blue saddle and blue horseshoes, than you're wearing a jersey of your favorite sports team and can relay the roster of each franchise in your favorite league faster than you can name the two presidential candidates standing on the debate podiums.

Not this time. Not in 2024.

How can anyone lock themselves in a closet or turn a naked eye toward the presidential circumstances or debacles we're witnessing?

The Republican candidate, former President Donald Trump, was convicted of 34 felony charges in March. He claims he is going to run for president again, we laugh and say "Yeah right," and...he was on the ballot. Then won the primary for the party.

The first president convicted of a felony, let alone 34, is then the first felon presidential candidate.

As soon as he was listed in the running, the critics, cartoonists, Facebook mafia, Saturday Night Live, and any other form of satire, comedy, drama, and all other genres of the arts or social media were rapidly firing at Trump.

Fast forward to the debates, the heat switched directions.

Trump sharpened his act from the last debates against President Joe Biden for the 2020 election by not coming off as a hot-headed tyrant and even made his lies seem less liable.

The Democratic president looked awful. Sounded even worse. Lost his train of thought, lost his voice, lost against his opponent, lost the trust and acknowledgment from the American public.

He was called old, sickly (wasn't believed when his campaign said he was actually sick), asked if he was suffering Dementia or Alzheimer's Disease, and was plainly told to vacate the Democratic seat in the election.

After a short time, maybe a week and a half, he did. But before he did, Trump was shot in the ear during an assassination attempt during a speech, which killed an innocent observer.

Trump stood up with the Secret Service surrounding him, pumped his fist, and chanted "Fight." Although in shock and terror, the audience shouted in a favorable reaction to what came off as a triumphant warrior who could lead the country through anything.

I wasn't watching live because I was working at a radio station, but as soon as I sat down at home and saw a video on X, I know (think) the election is a wrap... Trump is going to be president.

But, it's not official until it's official.

With President Biden stepping down, some thought Hillary Clinton was going to step out of the shadows and represent the Democrats. However, it doesn't work that way as Vice President Kamala Harris took over.

Harris gained the reigns of the presidential bid and the awkward speech on the mic as she is the new focus of memes with her crisscross dialogue in efforts to make herself sound intelligent or reinforce a thought. Instead she has become a joke. Seriously a joke. Google Kamala Harris joke or just Kamala Harris. You'll find plenty of mockery and the Republican sentiment, "She's dumb as a rock."

Obviously, she has done something right to be the 49th vice president of the United States of America. Oh, and the first ever female, which also makes her the highest-ranking female official in the country's history. I don't think anyone reaches this level without having the merit to do so.

Or do they? Not just her, but any of them?

We had one candidate, the current president, bow out because he seems too old for the role and couldn't translate a clear thought.

The Republican candidate is a felon that verbally attacks everyone or anything in his way, although he did help the U.S. economy while in office, and the new Democratic selection is being called dumb and speaks in riddles.

What are we supposed to do come November?

Are we supposed to flip a coin?

Play rock, paper, scissors?

Roll the dice?

Make a wish?


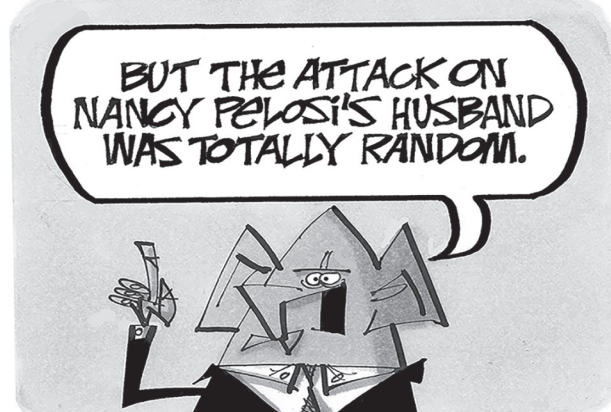
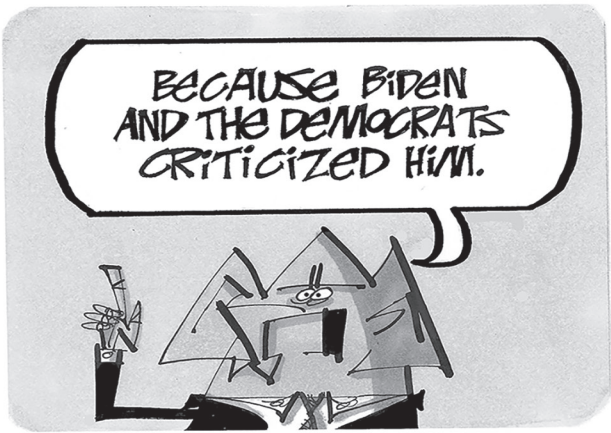
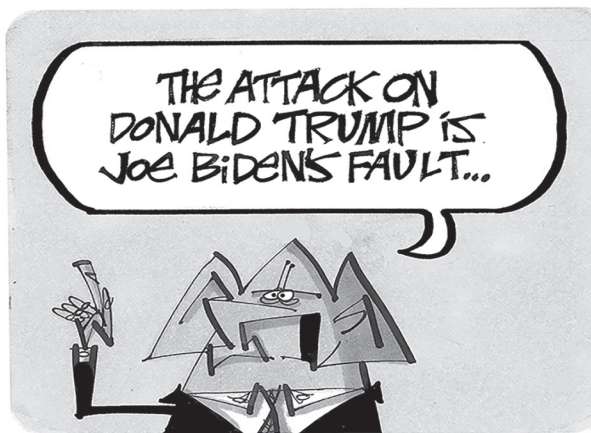
Can I make a wish before the election?

I wish we had competent options for an election to choose the leader of our country instead of candidates where we're forced to decide which is the least of the evils.



### Never the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance



## War news is hopeful in July 1898

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from July 29, 1998.)

By Jessica Nashold

In the summer of 1898, the Spanish American War was still raging. However, a turning point seemed to have been reached when the small town of Songo was placed in Cuban hands and General Demetrio Castillo installed as governor on a trial basis.

**This is the first home rule experiment on the Island of Cuba.**

It was predicted that if this experiment proved successful it would be given "a wider scope."

**The Cubans are on trial; let them prove themselves.**

\*\*\*

In Mendota, a branch of the Army & Navy League was hard at work to supply hospitals "at the front." Miss Josephine Jordan was in charge.

Miss Jordan suggested items that would be welcome: dried fruit, extract of beef, malted milk, condensed milk, oatmeal, towels, sheets for cots, handkerchiefs, night shirts, rubber sheeting and mosquito netting. Cash to purchase these items was also desired.

**Now let our people promptly respond by giving what they can.**

\*\*\*

On July 26, 1898, the Sixth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers had its first engagement, in Ponco, Puerto Rico, during which some were injured.

**Their reward was capitulation of the town of Ponce.**

On the same day, July 26, at three o'clock in the afternoon, the Spanish government "sued for peace." The French ambassador, M. Jules Comdon, presented a direct appeal from Spain to President McKinley.

\*\*\*

July 24, 1898, was declared the hottest day of the year. In the forenoon the thermometer registered 98 degrees and in the afternoon, 102-104 degrees.

**Many of the residents of this town "took to the woods."**

\*\*\*

As the council approached the task of

### Backtracks & Sidetracks

extending the sewer system it voted to have John F. Madden assist the city attorney in preparing the many documents needed. Attorney Madden agreed to assist in formulating petitions for condemnation of land, advertising for bids, letting of contracts and wording of an ordinance. He would also attend all meetings relating to the sewer project. His charge would be \$125. Madden had been involved with legal work for the original sewer and his offer was welcome.

**He is perfectly familiar with every detail and requirement of the work.**

\*\*\*

Mendota had been plagued with fatalities resulting from the proximity of railroad tracks to the coal chutes. The Reporter was happy to announce that the CB&Q was no longer running any trains over the track nearest the chutes.

**Instead, they are switched onto another track and then switched back after passing the chutes.**

\*\*\*

Figures released from the tax assessor's book showed that Mendota township had 2,872 acres of improved land valued at \$50 per acre; 1,194 improved lots averaging \$219.55 each; 1,245 unimproved lots at \$12.86. Also listed were 821 horses, 820 head of "meat cattle," 267 hogs, 199 sheep, 50 dogs. The book recorded 385 carriages and wagons, 91 pianos and 144 melodeons or organs. It was specified that there was no "unimproved land" in Mendota township.

\*\*\*

Burglars employed extreme measures when they chloroformed Mr. & Mrs. William Pearl before robbing them of money, a watch and a suit of clothes. Neighbors who missed seeing the Pearls the next morning were able to

rouse them, apparently none the worse for their prolonged unconsciousness.

\*\*\*

C.P. Gardner announced his candidacy for the office of state senator on the Republican ticket. Although Mendota Reporter editor Otto Kieselbach was a Democrat, he wrote: "Party bias does not preclude us from acknowledging the ability and qualifications which our townsman possesses."

**He is one of the most energetic and able of men of the younger generation in this county.**

Gardner won not only this election but two subsequent ones as well.

\*\*\*

The steamship Coptic arrived in Honolulu on July 13, 1898, with news of the annexation of Hawaii by the United States. The Rev. Daniel L. Gifford, a Mendotan, happened to be aboard on his way to his mission in Korea. In a letter home he said the news had been signaled ahead and the Coptic was greeted with fire whistles, whistles of foundries, mills and steamships as well as fireworks and the firing of 100 guns. He said everyone was delighted, because -

**Hereafter they will have a sure market untrammelled with high custom duties for their projects.**

\*\*\*

O.D.F. Conkey terminated his association with W.K. Jack in the coal business. He was succeeded by his son, H.D. Conkey. The new firm was Jack & Conkey.

\*\*\*

Mrs. John Kuhl bought out Schuster's restaurant under Reiter's harness shop on Jefferson Street. She pledged to conduct the business in "first class style." One menu -

**Spareribs, sauerkraut and potato dumplings for supper.**

\*\*\*

Ex-mayor Matthiessen of Peru, owner of the clockworks, had taken an unfortunate stand on "LaSalle school matters." However, when he indicated he might move the works elsewhere, "all kinds of resolutions were passed to retain the industry."

## Democrats lied about Biden and got caught

By Rich Lowry

They didn't soulfully consider President Joe Biden's marked decline and decide, for the good of him, his party and the country, that he had to step down.

They lied, and they got caught.

The Democratic Party line on Biden was that he had turned in an exceptionally effective State of the Union address. He might mess up a name here or there, but he had gotten better with age. He should be judged on his achievements, which rivaled those of LBJ. Anything suggesting he was in decline was a paranoid lie, or -- in a truly ridiculous neologism -- "a cheap fake."

Everything we saw with our own eyes was misleading. No, he hadn't wandered off at the G-7 summit. No, he hadn't frozen up at his Hollywood fundraiser. No, he wasn't having trouble walking and getting up the stairs of Air Force One. No, everything was fine.

No one formally enforced this party line, but everyone knew to follow it -- Democratic leaders, journalists and donors. The whispered conversations stayed whispered. Then, the debate happened, and the party line was inoperative.

There were attempts to revive it, but it was a little like being a Communist in the 1930s when Stalin wrenched the party into a totally new position. It didn't matter whether the new line had any connection to the prior line; it had to be followed.

So, Joe Scarborough of MSNBC, who months earlier had issued forth with table-thumping assurances that Joe Biden was at the absolute top of his game, suddenly thought he might have to step aside.

George Clooney, who co-hosted the aforementioned Hollywood fundraiser, wrote in The New York Times that at that event, Biden was a shadow of his self, and suddenly former Obama speechwriter Jon Favreau could say that everyone he talked to at the event was appalled by Biden's state.

The president can be forgiven for being disappointed and angry that everyone who had been covering for him switched overnight.

There's no honor among thieves, but shouldn't there be at least a little among political co-conspirators?

Biden showed monumentally poor judgment in deciding to run again last year. He almost certainly was in the grips of legitimate self-delusion, though. It's natural that an old person who is in decline is the last to realize or admit it, and his belief that, on paper, he was a stronger candidate than Kamala Harris wasn't crazy.

Biden's enablers were the truly cynical and dishonest ones, hoping that their fake narrative about Biden's continued vitality could see them through until November.

Their credibility should be shot as they make the switch-eroo to Harris.

The same Democratic establishment that gave you Joe Biden without offering Democratic voters a legitimate choice (serious primary challengers were warned off this year), now is giving you Kamala Harris without offering Democratic voters a legitimate choice.

The same party that lied about Joe Biden without compunction or remorse now wants you to credit everything it is going to tell us about the marvelous, heretofore unappreciated qualities of Kamala Harris.

The same vice president who insisted, as of roughly the day before yesterday, that Joe Biden was the very picture of energy and effectiveness now wants us to believe everything else she's going to say after he's been forced from the race by his feeble state.

The same people who thought Joe Biden was incapable of doing interviews and teleprompter speeches on the campaign trail will tell us he's perfectly capable of fulfilling his duties in the most trying job on the planet.

Finally, the same Democrats who were threatening Joe Biden with ignominy and exclusion if he stayed in the race a couple of more weeks now want us to buy their paeans to his great statesmanship.

In sum, the perpetrators of a shameful cover-up want us to move on as if nothing happened, when the stink of their rank deception should dog their candidate and their party the rest of this campaign.

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

## LaSalle County Board

Joanne McNally, 905 Meadowview, Mendota ..... 538-7591  
Gary Small, 821 E. US 52, Utica.....481-4566  
Ray Gatzka, 3490 E. First Road, Peru.....883-0500



# LOCAL AND AREA



Drivers can try to offset higher taxes and prices for gas by taking advantage of helpful apps and enrolling in rewards programs.

## Illinois drivers have ways to save as fuel taxes skyrocket

By JIM TALAMONTI  
The Center Square

SPRINGFIELD — High gas taxes make saving money more challenging for drivers in the Land of Lincoln.

Illinois consumers are taxed 47 cents per gallon since the state's motor fuel tax increased 3.5% on July 1. This is 147% more than drivers were taxed in 2017, when the tax was 19 cents per gallon.

The tax on diesel is now 54.5 cents per gallon.

According to WalletHub analyst Cassandra Happe,

gas taxes just add frustration for most citizens.

"A lot of people who are driving on a regular basis are doing it out of necessity," Happe said.

Happe said drivers can try to offset higher taxes and prices for gas by taking advantage of helpful apps.

"There's some great ones like GasBuddy, which can help you find the cheapest gas prices near you. You can also enroll in rewards programs," Happe said.

Happe added that many credit cards offer cash back or

discounts on gas purchases. Happe said she learned that there are cheaper days to fill up your gas tank.

"Typically, Mondays are a better day for filling up your gas tank. If you can maybe make it to Monday before filling up, that might save you a little bit there," Happe said.

Happe also said it is important to drive efficiently and take care of your vehicle.

"Make sure you keep your vehicle maintained and drive at a consistent speed to improve your fuel efficiency," Happe explained.

### Social Security

#### S.S. improves customer ranking

By Mike Weitl

PERU — We're committed to improving customer service by providing more access to our programs and services, and our efforts have paid off. We're proud to announce that Social Security's ranking on Forrester's 2023 Customer Experience Index increased by 3.3 points — the only agency on the list to make a significant gain.

We achieved this higher ranking by focusing on key initiatives in 2023, like:

- Implementing online scheduling for in-office enumeration appointments. Customers can now schedule appointments online for both original and replacement Social Security cards. This service is currently available in all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

- Conducting a targeted mail campaign to reach people who may be eligible for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs and Medicare Savings Programs with enrollment information. Please see our publication, Understanding the Extra Help with Your Medicare Prescription Drug Plan, at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10508.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10508.pdf).

- Employing strategies to help people facing barriers in accessing our programs and services, including people with: Limited income and resources; limited English proficiency (LEP); a risk of homelessness; mental and behavioral disabilities.

- Partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services to test new ways to make it easier for SSI applicants to access nutrition assistance programs. For more information, please see our press release at [www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/2022/#12-2022-2](http://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/2022/#12-2022-2).

Forrester's recognition of our customer service improvements reflects our commitment to making it easier for you to do business with us. We invite you to learn more at [www.forrester.com/press-newsroom/forrester-2023-us-federal-customer-experience-index/](http://www.forrester.com/press-newsroom/forrester-2023-us-federal-customer-experience-index/). Please share this news with those who may need it.

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

### 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](http://www.jankorealty.propertyware.com) or call **815-830-4422**.

03062023

## House For Sale

**214 16th Street, Mendota**

### 2 Story, 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom

Newly remodeled kitchen with laundry on 1st floor. Located on a large lot with oversized 2 car garage. Appliances Stay.

07152024

## Asking \$125,000.00

Call for Appointment - 815-539-5288

**203 Martin Street LaMoille**

**FOR SALE**

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**Located on a large lot near the school in the quiet town of LaMoille.**  
**203 Martin Street.**  
**Asking \$115,000.00**  
**Call for appointment - 815-228-1566**

06242024

## Community Calendar

### AUGUST 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 or 539-9673  
 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.



**AUG. 1**

**COMMUNITY BINGO**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 1 PM

Stonecroft Village, 1700 Burlington St., Mendota  
 For more info call (815) 538-5300  
 Hosted by area facilities with special prizes. Everyone welcome.

**AUGUST**

**SENIOR LUNCHESES**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 11:30 AM Mon - Fri  
 Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 Meal cost - \$4.00

Monthly menus are available on our website & facebook page. Lunches are from OSF St. Paul Medical Center. Must register 24 hours in advance.

**AUG. 1 & 15**

**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 or 539-9673

Hearing aid batteries available at M.A.S.S. to purchase. Bring in old batteries to recycle.

**AUG. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**

**POKENO**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 12 PM (Noon)  
 Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

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

**AUG. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**

**NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 1 PM  
 Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 Bring your needlework or crafts to work on or just come for the comradery.

**AUG. 2, 5, 8, 12, 15, 22, 26 & 29**

**EXERCISE CLASS**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 8 AM  
 Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 Exercise at your own pace with a video.

**AUG. 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26 & 30**

**BINGOCIZE**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 10 AM  
 Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 Anyone welcome.

**AUG. 2**

**COMMUNITY BINGO**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 1 PM  
 Stonecroft Village, 1700 Burlington St., Mendota  
 For more info call (815) 538-5300  
 Hosted by area facilities with special prizes. Everyone welcome.

**AUG. 5, 12, 19 & 26**

**TOPS CLUB**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 10 AM  
 Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 Anyone welcome.

**AUG. 5, 12, 19 & 26**

**DOMINOES**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 1 PM  
 Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 All are welcome to join in the fun.

**AUG. 6, 13, 20 & 27**

**Wii BOWLING**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 10:30 AM  
 Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 All welcome to come and enjoy the fun.

**AUG. 6, 13, 20 & 27**

**EUCHRE**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 12 PM (Noon)  
 Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 All are welcome!

**AUG. 7, 14, 21 & 28**

**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 or 539-9673  
 New class being offered. Barbie Crochet will be here to teach crochet from beginners to advanced. Bring your own crochet hooks and yarn.



**AUG. 9, 16, 23 & 30**

**BINGO**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 1 PM  
 Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 Open to anyone in the community.

**AUG. 13 & 27**

**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 or 539-9673  
 Free to anyone in the community.

**AUG. 16**

**BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**  
 Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
 6 PM - 7:30 PM  
 1401 W Main St, Mendota  
 For more info call (815) 538-5142

Snow Cones & Bounce Houses at the Library. We are sad to end the summer, but let's make a party out of it!

**AUG. 17**

**MASS COOKOUT AT SULLIVANS**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 11 AM - 2 PM  
 Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 Hamburger, hot dogs, brats, pork chop sandwiches, chips and a drink.

**AUG. 20**

**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.

**AUG. 20**

**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

We'll be reading and discussing: "The Turner House" by Angela Flournoy. Please stop in the library to pick up a book for discussion.

**AUG. 28**

**MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S. - "SUMMERTIME" 1955 STARRING KATHRYN HEPBURN**  
 Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library & M.A.S.S.  
 3 PM  
 1401 W Main St, Mendota  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 Snacks (popcorn and beverages) provided by M.A.S.S.

**AUG. 30**

**AUGUST POTLUCK**  
 Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
 12 PM  
 Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
 For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
 MASS will be serving sweet corn. A sign-up sheet will be available. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

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:

Schimmer GM  
 Scooter's  
 Serenity Creek Massage  
 Sew Quiltable

Shaw Local Radio  
 St. John's Lutheran Church  
 Starved Rock Country Community Foundation

Starved Rock Media  
 Starved Rock Technologies  
 Starved Rock Wood Products



# THE FORTUNE PHRASE

**IT'S EASY:** All you have to do is read every ad on this page carefully. When you come to a word that is obviously out of place in an ad, write it down so you'll remember it. After you have read all the ads, you should have a list of words that can be arranged to fill out the mystery phrase. Completely write the phrase out on a piece of paper, along with your name, address and phone number and mail it to: **THE MENDOTA REPORTER, P.O. BOX 300, MENDOTA, IL 61342** or drop it off at the **Mendota Reporter office at 703 Illinois Avenue.** Don't delay, though, because this week's answer must be received no later than 12:00 Noon on Monday, Aug. 5, 2024. Answer and name of winner will appear in Aug. 7th edition of The Mendota Reporter. In the event that more than one correct answer is received, we will have a drawing to determine the winner. The winner will be notified and will receive this week's give-away. All employees of The Mendota Reporter and their families are ineligible to participate.

**This Week's Prize:**  
**\$25**  
**Gift Card to**  
**El Zarape**  
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## This Week's Phrase Has 11 Words.

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 Tuesday: 8-12 & 1-4  
 \*with Dr. Kelly in office  
 Wednesday: 8:30-12 & 1-4  
 Thursday: 8:30-12 & 1-4  
 \*Dr. Kelly in office from 1-4  
 Friday: 8-12 & 1-4  
 \*\*with Dr. Kelly in office for provider appts.  
 Closed Sat./Sun.  
 Dr. Kelly is also in the Rochelle office (1212 Currency Ct.) on M, W and Th. Call 815-561-8500.

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 Friday: Grilled Chicken Quesadilla \$13

**Weekly Dinner Specials**  
 Monday & Wednesday: Margaritas \$5  
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**MAKE YOUR GARAGE SALE A SUCCESS**  
**Advertise your garage sale in The Money Saver and The Mendota Reporter! It's the easiest and most effective way to reach shoppers!**  
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**Call 815-539-9396 or stop in the office at 703 Illinois Ave.**

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**815.530.4464**

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 Open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. • 7 days a week



# TRI-COUNTY NEWS

## EPA Household Hazardous Waste collection events set

□ Oregon and Dixon are the closest sites

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois EPA Interim Director James Jennings is announcing 10 upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) one-day collection locations for the Fall of 2024. These collection events are co-sponsored by units of local government and provide residents the free opportunity to safely dispose of unused or leftover hazardous products commonly found in homes.

The Fall 2024 one-day collections are scheduled on Saturdays and require pre-registration.

Among the collection sites and dates are:

- Saturday, Oct. 12 – Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department, 909 Pines Road, Oregon. Contact [solidwaste@ogle-countyil.gov](mailto:solidwaste@ogle-countyil.gov) or call 815-732-4020.

- Saturday Oct. 26 – Sauk Valley Community College, 173 IL-2 N, Dixon. Contact State Rep. Brad Fritts at [rep-frittsstaff@ilhousegop.org](mailto:rep-frittsstaff@ilhousegop.org).

“Illinois EPA is pleased to once again offer one-day Household Hazardous Waste collection events, providing residents with the opportunity to properly dispose of unused and unwanted household chemicals and other hazardous products from their homes,” said Interim Director Jennings. “I would also like to extend a special thanks to our local partners for helping to make these events possible.”

One-day collections are open to all Illinois residents and operate from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the day of the event. Pre-registration is required for all Fall 2024 collection events. Residents participating are encouraged to bring chemical cleaners, oil-based paints, thinners, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, kerosene, weed killers, insecticides, and pesticides, and similar hazardous household products. Fluorescent and other high-intensity discharge lamps may also be brought to the collections. ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED include latex paint, explosives, propane tanks, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, agricultural chemicals, and business wastes. A complete



list of wastes that are and are not accepted is available online at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/acceptable-wastes.html>.

For safe transport of HHW, residents are asked to:

- Pack HHW items in a disposable box to avoid spilling during transport.

- Keep like chemicals together and separate unlike chemicals.

- Secure lids and make sure containers are not leaking.

- Place box(es) of HHW in the empty trunk or storage compartment of your vehicle, away from passengers during transport.

- Remain in vehicle at collection site. On-site personnel will remove the HHW from your vehicle.

For questions concerning the Illinois EPA's one-day or long-term collections, please contact the Illinois EPA Materials Management Unit at 217-524-3300. The HHW collection schedule is also available on the Illinois EPA website at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/collections.html>. Illinois EPA HHW collections continue to be contactless for the safety of participants and workers. Collection events are funded through the Illinois EPA's Solid Waste Fund.



Scott Olsson presents Joyce Bettner of the Paw Paw Garden Club the poker run proceeds of \$360. (Photos contributed)



Winners of the various prizes are drawn after the Paw Paw Poker Run.

## Paw Paw Poker Run nets proceeds for garden club

PAW PAW—It was a beautiful day for neighbors to gather. Thirty-six people participated in the Second Annual Paw Paw Community Poker Run. Using feet, motor bikes, bicycles, golf carts, lawnmowers, and one-wheelers, they traversed the five-station course, from the village's eastern boundary to the baseball field, hoping to collect five favorable cards.

Erv Safranek, Paw Paw's lucky centenarian, ended up with the best mix of

cards. He won half the pot, \$180, which he promptly donated back to the Paw Paw Garden Club. The Garden Club received \$180 from the day's festivities, for a total of \$360.

Other winners were: second best hand - Silia Valdez \$75 gift card from Flanagan State Bank; third place - Sam Michaels \$50 gift card from Flanagan State Bank.

With adept and nimble hands, Malia and Lyanna alternated picking the num-

bered chips for the drawing.

\$25 gift cards donated by Flanagan State Bank and NuMark Credit Union were won by Becci Hamer, David Hamer, Eleanor Resch, Barbara Zeman, Judy DeSpain, and Jeff Guevarra. Camping drink tumblers were won by Barb McCord and Trish Sellers.

Despite loud competition at the start from out-of-town motorcyclists conducting their own Poker Run to various villages, a good time was had by all.

## Christian music concert scheduled for Aug. 4 in Ottawa

OTTAWA – The band “Heirborn” is a worship band based out of the Sauk Valley area. The musicians in the band are all worship leaders at different churches in the area but have been playing together for about four years now performing concerts and special events thruout the Northern Illinois area.

The group will perform at Washington Square Park in downtown Ottawa on Sunday, Aug. 4 at 6 p.m. The event is free and sponsored by The Special Events Committee of Ottawa. Bring



a lawn chair and your picnic supper if you wish.

Part of the joy of the “HeirBorn” group is that the band consists of all couples. It includes Tony and Melissa Summers as well as Tim and Melissa Malloy, Drew

and Robin Piper and Greg and Deb Adams, Steve and Stephanie Scott and Robert and Linette Chamberlain. The band performs a wide variety of Christian music from rhythm and blues to Southern gospel to modern

worship and praise and even originals. They have numerous instruments including a harp. With six of the best vocalists in Northern Illinois performing in the group an evening with “Heirborn” is one you will not soon forget.

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07152024



# THE BACK PAGE

## CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone for the gifts and cards I received for my retirement celebration. I thank family and friends that attended the event. Also, thanks to my niece, Melissa, for helping me to put on this event. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening. It was so much fun to see everyone.

George Bauer

## GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

**GARAGE SALE**  
206 Ninth St.,  
Mendota  
Thursday, Aug. 1  
4-8 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 2  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
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Everything 50% off.  
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**MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE**  
408 15th St.,  
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Friday, Aug. 2  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 3  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Household items,  
décor, bookbags,  
purses, TV, furniture,  
new/gently used clothes,  
shoes, hutch, 2 matching  
curio cabinets, car seats,  
booster seat, kids' toys,  
books, puzzles, Legos,  
family games,  
Hot Wheels collection,  
Funko Pop collection,  
PlayStation accessories  
and much more.

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## POLICE BLOTTER

### DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Shawntae G. Jordan, 28, of Peru, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and Welland Road at 11:50 p.m., July 25. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### WARRANT ARREST

Genia M. Nickel, 49, of 603 Ninth Ave., Mendota, was arrested at 7:15 p.m. July 26 on a Putnam County warrant for failure to appear/fraud. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

### NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Gary L. Winner, 73, of 802 Meadowview Drive, Mendota, was charged with driving with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at Burlington Street and 13th Avenue at 1:17 p.m. July 28. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Berenna L. Donovan, 26, of 807 Second St., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Second Street and Ninth Avenue at 5:56 p.m. July 28. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Tayler S. Lewis, 33, of Bloomington, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Sixth Avenue and 10th Street at 12:58 a.m. July 29. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

## City Ordinance - Prohibited Parking

MENDOTA – The City of Mendota reminds citizens that Chapter 41.49 of the Mendota Municipal Code in regard to Prohibited Parking reads as follows:

- Parking is prohibited along both sides of First Avenue for the entire length of the avenue.
- Parking is prohibited on the east side of Sixth Avenue from Second Street to Fifth Street.
- Parking is prohibited on the east side of Main Street from Sixth Street to Washington Street.
- Parking is prohibited on the south side of Washington Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to Iowa Street.
- Parking is prohibited on both sides (north and south) of Washington Street from Iowa Street to U.S. Route 251.

## City Ordinance - Signs

MENDOTA – The city of Mendota reminds you that it is unlawful under city ordinance 42.34 to hang, lean, or place any advertising materials on any street lamp, post, telephone or electric light pole within the city limits of Mendota. This includes garage sale notices.

This statute was designed to keep our neighborhoods clean and free of trash and debris. The city of Mendota officials ask for your cooperation in this matter.


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## Fortune Phrase winner claims Sullivan's Foods \$25 gift card

MENDOTA – Week Three of The Mendota Reporter Fortune Phrase game is in the books and we have a winner. Of all the correct entries, the one submitted by Carolyn Caldwell of Utica was drawn. She wins a \$25 gift card from Sullivan's Foods in Mendota.

The correct phrase was: Try To Keep Cool In The Sizzling Summer Heat.

The words were hidden in the following ads: Try – Davis Family Health; To – T2 Enterprises/Tony Troyer; Keep – The Mendota Reporter (garage sales); Cool – ARS Auto Repair; In – Falcon's Landscape and Lawncare; The – Mendota Farmers Market; Sizzling – Sullivan's Foods; Summer – El Torito Mexican Grill; Heat – Mendota Chamber of Commerce (Sweet Corn Festival).

Check out this week's Money Saver and Reporter for Week Four of the Fortune Phrase game.

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# Mendota's 77th Annual SWEET CORN FESTIVAL



## Thursday, Aug. 8

3-5 p.m. – A sensory friendly afternoon. The Carnival Midway will be open for a private armband for anyone with special needs and their immediate family. Registration required.

5-7 p.m. – The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

6 p.m. – Carnival Midway opens to general public. Food & merchandise booths open.

7 p.m. – Silverstone Junction performing on First State Bank stage.

## Friday, Aug. 9

All day – Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry.

10:30 a.m. – Food & merchandise booths open.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Good Vibz DJ performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

1 p.m. – Carnival Midway opens. Discount armbands from noon-4 p.m.

2-6 p.m. – The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

6:45 p.m. – Pre-pageant entertainment by Andrew Bloomquist on First State Bank stage.

7:30 p.m. – Sweet Corn Festival Queen Pageant on First State Bank stage.

7:30 p.m. – Beer garden opens featuring Festival del Elote.

## Saturday, Aug. 10

All day – Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. – Crafters Market Place & Flea Market. Lots of vendors in two locations. Veteran's Park on U.S. 34 in downtown Mendota and the Elks Club parking lot on Indiana Ave. & Jefferson St. just 1/2 block north of Veteran's Park.

9 a.m. – Pickleball Tournament at Lake Mendota courts.

10 a.m. – Mini Royalty Pageant on First State Bank stage. Young girls and boys competing to wear the crown of Mini King and Mini Queen.

10:30 a.m. – Food & merchandise booths open.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Nicodemus performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – Steve Cerqua acoustic guitar performance on First State Bank stage.

Noon-2 p.m. – Lica Lorraine balloon artistry at intersection of Washington St. & Eighth Ave.

Noon-3 p.m. – Free face painting near corner of Washington St. & Indiana Ave.

Noon/2 p.m./4 p.m. – Mr. Steve performance includes music, magic, balloons and comedy at corner of Illinois Ave. & Jefferson St.

1 p.m. – Carnival Midway opens.

2 p.m. – Sweet Corn Festival Food Contest at Mendota Elks Lodge.

2-4 p.m. – Good Vibz DJ performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

3-5 p.m. – Mid Lyfe Krysus performing on the First State Bank stage.

3:30-6:30 p.m. – Valley Katz performing in beer garden.

5-7 p.m. – Good Vibz DJ performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

7:30 p.m. – Beer garden opens featuring Judson Main.

## Sunday, Aug. 11

All day – Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. – Crafters Market Place & Flea Market. Lots of vendors in two locations. Veteran's Park on U.S. 34 in downtown Mendota and the Elks Club parking lot on Indiana Ave. & Jefferson St. just 1/2 block north of Veteran's Park.

10:30 a.m. – Food & merchandise booths open.

Noon – The Jesse White Tumblers high-flying performance in front of Mendota Elks Lodge.

Noon-2 p.m. – The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

Noon-2 p.m. – Lica Lorraine balloon artistry at intersection of Washington St. & Eighth Ave.

1 p.m. – Carnival Midway opens.

1 p.m. – Sweet Corn Festival Grand Parade, featuring floats, bands, antique & classic vehicles, Shriners and more.

2 p.m. – Free sweet corn served at intersection of Illinois Ave. & Jefferson St.

2-4 p.m. – The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

3:30 p.m. – The South Shore Drill Team performing in front of Mendota Elks Lodge.



**The schedule of events for the 77th annual Sweet Corn Festival is brought to you by the following sponsors:**

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# SPORTS

## ‘It’s time to come home’

□ Mendota native Rey Arteaga new Northbrook basketball coach, teacher

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Rey Arteaga is a Mendota native. Check his school transcripts. He attended Holy Cross from kindergarten through fifth grade, Northbrook sixth-eighth, and graduated from Mendota High School in 2011.

After graduation, although his family and friends were here, Arteaga had to check out life elsewhere for a bit as he attended Northern Illinois University, graduated in 2018, and worked for Dimmick Community Consolidated School District #175 for the last six years as a Spanish and math teacher, a basketball coach, and as an athletic director for the last two years.

Now, he’s returning to his roots.

“A lot of people get scared when it comes to starting something new or making a change from something they’re familiar with,” Arteaga said. “I think coming from Mendota, I’m comfortable with Mendota. I think that’s everyone from Mendota is, or anyone from a small town. It’s more of a positive opportunity rather than something to worry about.”

“When the principal (Paula Daley) called me to offer me the position and I said yes, her words were, ‘It’s time to come home.’ I’m happy, I feel wanted at Northbrook, and I’m ready to go.”

Arteaga, who is an assistant coach with the MHS

boys’ soccer program, was hired as Northbrook’s sixth-grade math teacher on March 21. He also accepted an offer to coach the eighth-grade boys’ basketball team on June 5, which was made official at the Mendota School District Unit #289 meeting on June 20.



**Arteaga** Northbrook,” Arteaga said. “At the time, it was more for ESL (English second language) and bilingual support instead of being a full-fledge teacher. Throughout the years, people would tell me when a teaching job opened in Mendota.

“I have always been in favor of teaching where you coach. Although I’m coaching soccer at the high school, I’ve only taught middle school students. I really like to teach that age group and sixth grade math, Algebra 1, is my favorite math. I had Mrs. Gross when I went to school at Northbrook. People are telling me I have to make her proud.”

Arteaga is also a member of the Illinois Valley Community College Foundation Board of Directors as he was voted in on June 26 and went to his first meeting on July 22.

To continue his own education, Arteaga is working on his second master’s degree to be a life coach.

“When I graduated from Northern, I had quite a few job offers and one of them was

## First practices scheduled for MHS fall sports

MENDOTA – Mendota High School encourages all students to get involved in fall athletics. Sports physicals are required for all athletes before they are allowed to practice. A freshman 9th-grade physical counts as a sports physical for incoming freshman students.

The first practices and times are as follows:

- Football – Monday, Aug. 12, 3:30-6:30 p.m., MHS practice field
- Boys’ Soccer – Monday, Aug. 12, 3:30-5 p.m.,

- MHS practice field
- Volleyball – Monday, Aug. 12, 3:30-5:30 p.m., MHS gymnasium
- Girls’ Tennis – Monday, Aug. 12, 3:45-5 p.m., MHS Tennis Courts
- Cross Country – Monday, Aug. 12, 3:30-5:15

- p.m., Room 110 (dressed to run)
- Golf – Monday, Aug. 12, 3:30-5 p.m., Mendota Golf Club
- Fall Cheerleading – Tuesday, Aug. 13, 3:30-5:30 p.m., MHS Cafeteria



## Mendota Golf Club wins Illinois Valley team trophy

Mendota had plenty to cheer about after the second and final day of the Illinois Valley Men’s Golf Championship. After Day 1 of the annual two-day tournament was played at Deer Park Golf Club on Saturday, July 27 in Oglesby, the Mendota Golf Club hosted Day 2 on Sunday, July 28. Not only did it host, but the club won the team trophy with a score of 355 to defeat Spring Creek Golf Course, Deer Park, Edgewood Park Golf Club, Senica’s Oak Ridge Golf Club, Pine Hills Golf Club, and Eastwood Golf Course. “We added the team element to the tournament five years ago to encourage more players from the area to play and in turn, continue to grow the tournament,” said IVMGC co-director Patrick Goy, who runs the event with Mason Kimberley. “The turnout was great again this year with 168 players. Things also went very smooth both days. We got very lucky with the weather on Sunday as the forecast didn’t look great at all, but the rain stayed away, and we were able to pull off another great tournament.” The Mendota Golf Club had many members in the tournament including, left to right, Goy, Taylor Joyce (won B Flight), Michael Reppin, Beau Fancher (won C Flight), Tony Milus, Chad Hochstatter (third place B Flight), Spark Larkin (won Senior Division), and Pat Kerchner. Pine Hills’ Baley Lehr won the Championship Flight and Jacob Armstrong, also of Pine Hills, won the A Flight. (Photo contributed)

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

**Q:** I just saw the movie “Twisters” and was happy to see one of my favorite actresses, Maura Tierney, again. The last thing I saw her in was “The Good Wife,” but it was only a few episodes. What else has she done? -- *W.T.*

**A:** Maura Tierney has been acting mainly on television for over three decades, but is probably best known for her roles on the sitcom “NewsRadio” and another show you might have heard of -- “ER.” She went on to act in some independent films and TV shows before landing another starring role in Showtime’s “The Affair” with Dominic West (“The Crown”).

She followed that with a short stint on another Showtimes series “Your Honor,” starring Bryan Cranston (“Breaking Bad”), before landing another role on Showtime in “American Rust,” opposite Jeff Daniels (“A Man in Full”). But it only lasted two seasons.

Tierney can be seen in the current summer blockbuster movie “Twisters,” but she’ll be returning to our television screens in a big way this fall as a detective on “Law

& Order.” This marks her return to NBC on Thursday nights since playing Dr. Abby Lockhart on “ER.”

The original “Law & Order” returned to NBC after an 11-year hiatus in 2022. There have already been cast changes in just two seasons, with the departures of Sam Waterston, Camryn Manheim and Jeffrey Donovan. The length of Tierney’s contract is unknown, but she’ll bring a loyal fanbase with her regardless.

**Q:** Did Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie ever officially divorce? If not, how long has it been going on? -- *E.S.*

**A:** Even though the A-list couple split in 2016, they’re still battling it out in court over their businesses. However, a judge did declare them legally single, but the business and custody issues are still being fought out in court. Pitt is suing Jolie for \$67 million after she sold her shares of their French winery. Jolie also protested a judge’s decision to grant Pitt 50/50 custody.

Pitt’s relationship with his children might be beyond repair. Daughter Shiloh filed a petition to legally drop her father’s surname when she

turned 18, and two other daughters, Zahara and Vivienne, both dropped his name informally.

**Q:** Did they use any CGI for the cat in the new “A Quiet Place” prequel? It looked real, but I’d be amazed if they didn’t use any special effects. -- *K.T.*

**A:** For the motion picture “A Quiet Place: Day One,” director Michael Sarnoski wanted the emotional support cat Frodo to “feel like a real character.” Instead of generating one with CGI special effects, the movie cast two real felines to play the role of Lupita Nyong’o’s service animal. The cats’ real names are Nico and Schnitzel and reportedly got along well offset (no cat fights!). They received about 12 weeks of training in various wet and dry situations before filming. Nico and Schnitzel did such a great job, but it’s too bad there’s not a special category at the Oscars for four-legged actors.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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## Hollywood

**HOLLYWOOD --** We have two tragic tales this week! Armie Hammer’s breakthrough film “The Social Network” came in 2010, which he followed up with Clint Eastwood’s “J. Edgar” (2011). Eleven films later, he hit it big opposite Timothée Chalamet in “Call Me by Your Name.” His last film was 2022’s “Death on the Nile,” then everything came crashing down.

Hammer was accused with sexual abuse, and cancel culture destroyed everything. His wife took their two children to the Cayman Islands, forcing him to follow them. He supported himself there by selling timeshare vacation packages to survive. Still, in 2023, his wife filed for divorce, and Hammer confessed that he’s “broke but happier than ever.”

He explained, “The good place only comes from walking through hell. It was a brutal experience. Someone might look at me and go, ‘Yeah, but financially you are in a very different position than you’ve ever been in your entire life.’” The worst part is that after three years, his life was snatched away because of sexual abuse charges ... yet no charges were ever

filed. The Los Angeles District Attorney dropped all charges due to “insufficient evidence.”

Another life destroyed by the court of public opinion! Today Hammer is now sober after entering rehab to battle his addictions to drugs, sex and alcohol. “Therapy’s been a life changer,” he admitted. “I experienced an ego death, a career death, a financial death.”

The second tragedy is the loss of exercise guru Richard Simmons, who passed away on July 13, at 76, due to natural causes. In 1979, as the West Coast editor of Soap Opera Digest, I was sent to a little exercise warehouse called Ruffage in Beverly Hills, California, to interview an exercise instructor. This instructor was giving actual classes on “General Hospital,” which became so popular that they kept increasing his appearances. The result of his popularity evolved into “The Richard Simmons Show,” which ran



Simmons

from 1980-84 and earned him multiple Emmy Awards. His video series “Sweatin’ to the Oldies” became immensely popular and made him very rich. He became a huge fitness star!

Then, in 2014, it all ended when he disappeared from the spotlight. In 2016, speculations claimed that he was being held hostage by his housekeeper, but Simmons gave an audio interview to “The Today Show” denying those rumors. In March 2017, the L.A. Police Department visited his home to conduct a welfare check and stated that Simmons was perfectly fine. We’ll never know what made him shun his success and become a recluse. He recently resurfaced with objections to Pauly Shore playing him in an upcoming film. Shore says he reached out to Simmons, but that they constantly played phone tag.

Early on, I was with agent Beverly Hecht when Simmons begged her to handle him. She told him, “They’re not casting ‘Peter Pan,’ Richard,” to which he replied, “Too bad! I can fly without fairy dust!”

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## Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

\* In some Inuit (Eskimo) languages, a noun can have over 1,000 forms.

\* Oxford University once had rules forbidding students from bringing bows and arrows to class.

\* King Mithridates VI of Pontus took small doses of poison throughout his life to develop a resistance in case an attempt was made to kill him. He built up such a strong immunity that when he attempted suicide to escape capture by the Romans, the poison had no effect and he had to order a slave to dispatch him with a sword.

\* Isaac Asimov’s first bestseller was his 262nd published book.

\* The record for spinning a basketball on a toothbrush is 1 minute and 8.15 seconds. (No, we never thought of spinning a basketball on a toothbrush, either.)

\* Velociraptor noises in the film “Jurassic Park” were made by mating tortoises.

\* In 1984, a Chihuahua named Percy was seemingly killed by a car while accompanying his owner, Christine, on a visit to her parents. Christine’s father buried the dog in his garden, but a terrier named Mick, who belonged to her parents, dug up the grave, dragged Percy to the house, and licked him until a faint heartbeat could be detected. While Percy recovered, it’s worth noting that the two dogs had always hated each other, and continued to do so after Percy’s rescue!

\* Historically, on Father’s Day, more collect calls were made than on any other day of the year.

\* China has more people who have learned English than the United States.

\* In ancient Egypt, slaves were murdered to accompany their deceased owners to the afterlife.

\*\*\*  
Thought for the Day: “I remind myself every morning: Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So if I’m going to learn, I must do it by listening.” -- Larry King

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Solution time: 23 mins.  
Answers  
King Crossword

## Trivia Test

1. TELEVISION: What was SpongeBob SquarePants’ original name when the story was pitched?
2. MOVIES: Which famous horror film was set at Crystal Lake, New Jersey?
3. LANGUAGE: In Great Britain, what are stabilisers?
4. MUSIC: Which band had a hit with the 1961 “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”?
5. GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states have a border with Mexico?
6. MATH: How many sides does a hectagon have?
7. INVENTIONS: In what year were flat-screen TVs first sold?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of cheese is used in a ca-

- prese salad?
9. U.S. STATES: Which state’s nickname is “The Land of Enchantment”?
  10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of dog is Scooby-Doo in the animated cartoons?
- Answers
1. SpongeBoy.
  2. “Friday the 13th.”
  3. Training wheels.
  4. The Tokens.
  5. Four: California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.
  6. 100.
  7. 1997.
  8. Fresh mozzarella.
  9. New Mexico.
  10. A Great Dane.
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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Swear
- 5 Understood
- 8 Six-pack units
- 12 Slightly
- 13 French assent
- 14 October birthstone
- 15 Sultry Horne
- 16 Annoying
- 18 Michelangelo works
- 20 Pumped (up)
- 21 Medit. nation
- 22 “— Blue?”
- 23 Cook in the oven
- 26 Sun spot
- 30 Take courses?
- 31 Pie — mode
- 32 Felon’s flight
- 33 Fake ally
- 36 Cavorts
- 38 Mel of baseball
- 39 UFO crew
- 40 Top floor
- 43 Cargo
- 47 First-termers
- 49 Contribute one
- 50 Staffer
- 51 Brit. record label
- 52 Actress
- 53 Colonial flag maker
- 54 “Norma —”

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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53					54			55		

### DOWN

- 1 Baby elephant
- 2 Cab alternative
- 3 Trig function
- 4 Equilibrium
- 5 Really dig
- 6 Belonging to us
- 7 Dead heat
- 8 Universal
- 9 Per person
- 10 Handle
- 11 Santa’s ride
- 12 Docile
- 13 Chicago winter hrs.
- 14 Altar in the sky
- 15 Ump
- 16 Rowing need
- 17 Packed away
- 18 Aviate
- 19 Carrier to Amsterdam
- 20 Napkin’s place
- 21 Ambulance initials
- 22 Invoice fig.
- 23 Loud sounds
- 24 Engrave
- 25 GPS suggestion
- 26 Egyptian deity
- 27 Golfer Els
- 28 Miles away
- 29 Half a sextet
- 30 Turner and Danson
- 31 Disaster aid org.
- 32 Get overemotional
- 33 Prefix with pad or port
- 34 Snare
- 35 Mal de —

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Birthday  
Michelle!



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Billie & Susie

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Money Saver  
\$34 To Run In Both

2 Column x 2”  
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Or Money Saver  
\$34 To  
Run In Both

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more information

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





# RELIGION

## Living by faith in the face of fear

Do you ever wonder what your life would look like if fear didn't exist? For example, what if you had the confidence to pursue every passion God gave you? Just imagine for a moment what that would look like. Well, God gives us a special gift called faith so we can do amazing things for Him. And I want to encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and exercise that gift full time.

Faith gives us so much potential because it motivates us to move forward in the plans God has for us. But fear is a feeling Satan uses to keep our focus inward. It makes us feel anxious, causes us to dread the future, and it can keep us from saying and doing things

that would reveal more of God's love to the world.

We need to learn to interrupt fear at its onset—before it begins to settle in our spirit. The choice is to either let Satan stop us in our tracks or to go forward in faith, believing God is in control.

The good news is, when we're struggling with fear, we can turn to God's Word for an inspiring, encouraging reality check. Romans 8:31 (AMPC) says, "... If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?]" And Psalm 27:1 (AMPC) says, "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation—whom shall I fear or dread? The Lord is the Refuge and Stronghold of my

life—of whom shall I be afraid?"

These scriptures are basically saying that if we believe God's Word, then we have already won the battle we're facing.

Jesus tells us in Mark 11:22 that we are to have faith in God constantly. God doesn't want you to be fearful at any time. He wants you to be bold, confident, courageous, and full of faith every day of your life—not just until you have a problem or until someone mistreats you. There's no until. And no one can stop God from answering a prayer that lines up with His Word and His will for our life.

Throughout the course of a lifetime, we spend a lot of time waiting. And that is often the case with prayer. We can spend years praying for something to happen. And during that time, Satan will do everything he can to discourage us. He will try to convince us that God doesn't love us, that God's promises are for more worthy people, or that we didn't really hear from God in the first place. But if we will choose to trust God continually, we can keep moving forward in His plans for us.

The truth is, even if you don't see the fulfillment of every dream or desire of your heart here on earth, God will be pleased as you continue to believe in His perfect



plan. And in the meantime, your faith will fill you with hope, joy, and peace.

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

Now if you knew me years ago, you would know that I wasn't always bubbling up with hope. In fact, I was in agony whenever God made me wait for anything, so I would always try to make things happen on my own. And it eventually wore me out! I remember lying on the floor, sobbing, saying, "God, I've tried everything and nothing's working. I just give up!" At that moment, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said: Really, Joyce? You mean, you're going to let Me take it from here?

You see, when we're ready to let go, God is

right there to fight our battles. We just need to learn to trust Him... and that comes through experience, as we take each new step of faith.

Today, instead of trying to pray my problems away, I've learned to pray for things like strength and courage, and for the power to endure whatever comes with a good temper. With God's help, I can choose faith every time I'm confronted with feelings of fear or intimidation.

Philippians 1:2 (AMPC) says, "And do not [for a moment] be frightened or intimidated in anything by your opponents and adversaries, for such [constancy and fearlessness] will be a clear sign (proof and seal) to them of [their impending] destruction, but [a sure token and evidence] of your deliverance and salvation, and that from God."

With God's help, we can remain stable in the face of fear, putting one foot in front of the other... walking by faith full time.

Imagine again what it would be like to pursue your God-given passions in life. Don't let fear stop you! Keep seeking God. Stir yourself up with scriptures on faith. And boldly say, "God is bigger. He's working on my behalf, and I trust Him constantly."

\*\*\*

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

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

# Where are the AUCTIONS?

## See Page A10!

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In collaboration with local businesses, the **COMMUNITY MATTERS** campaign encourages residents to shop locally & support the Mendota area economy.

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Ann L. Brand, Deceased  
Case No. 2024-PR-110  
CLAIM NOTICE  
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Ann L. Brand of Triumph, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on July 10, 2024 to Harold Brand Jr. of 111 S. 1st Street, Malta, IL 60150 and Leora Williams of 705 W. 9th Street, Sterling, IL 61081 as Independent Co-Executors, whose Attorneys of record are Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342.

Claims against the estate may be e-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, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. If the claim notice is personally mailed or delivered to a creditor of the above estate, the claim must be filed in the above entitled cause within 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later. Any claims not filed within the above periods are barred.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider.

Visit <https://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <https://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 758, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claims not filed on or before 6 months from the first publication of this notice are barred. No. 0713 (July 24, 31 and Aug. 7, 2024)

**NOTICE**  
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION  
No: 2024-JD-58  
TO: Amber Herrera, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 17th day of July, 2024 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Evan F. Boswell, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on

the 13th day of August, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a. m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Dated July 25, 2024  
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk  
No. 0715  
(July 31, 2024)

**NOTICE**  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Full Day School Improvement Day

Notice is hereby given by the Board of Education of the Mendota Elementary School District #289 in the County of LaSalle, State of Illinois, that a public hearing of said school district will be held on the Full Day School Improvement Day Waiver. Mendota Elementary School District #289 is applying for a waiver of the school code (Section 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05). This waiver is to enable the district to have a Full Day School Improvement Day on October 11, 2024. A public hearing, as required by law, addressing this issue will be held August 13, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the District #289 Education Center at 1806 Guiles Ave, Mendota, IL 61342.

No. 0716  
(July 31, 2024)

**NOTICE**  
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION  
No: 2024-JA-67

TO: Andrew Miller, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 23rd day of July, 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 Baby Boy Miller, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 25th day of September, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, 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 July 26, 2024  
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk  
No. 0717  
(July 31, 2024)

**NOTICE**  
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION  
No: 2024-JA-67

TO: Kathryn Meyer, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 23rd day of July, 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 Baby Boy Miller, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 25th day of September, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, 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 July 26, 2024  
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk  
No. 0718  
(July 31, 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.

## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

## 113 FINANCIAL

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

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive

advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

## 203 HELP WANTED

U of IL Extension is seeking an Office Support Assistant for Ogle County, pay is \$18.92/hr. For more information, call 815-732-2191. EEO Employer. (08052024MS)

## 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 dickharms@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

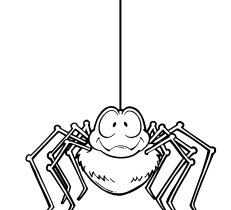
## 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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.

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## 203 HELP WANTED

We're Hiring

ASSISTANT MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR

Mendota High School is accepting applications for a full time Assistant Maintenance Director. Regionally competitive salary and benefits.  
Day shift is 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Applicants may submit either a MHS employment application with references, or a letter of interest, resume, and references. Apply to Mr. Andy Knowlton, Maintenance Director, MHS, 2300 W. Main St., Mendota, IL, 61342 or email [aknowlton@mendotahs.org](mailto:aknowlton@mendotahs.org).  
Position is open immediately.

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**2019 Chevy Blazer Premier**

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