

State-Bound!



Members of the Mendota Trojan soccer team acknowledge their fans as team member David Casas holds the Mendota Super-Sectional trophy up high after the Trojans defeated Aurora Central Catholic, 2-0, on Nov. 2 at the MHS field. The win catapulted the Trojans into the IHSA Class 1A State Soccer Tournament in Hoffman Estates where they will face Normal University High at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7. (Reporter photo)

Tom Merwin Gold Star Employee Award



Mendota YMCA Assistant Branch Manager Omar Espinoza, center, was awarded the 2024 Tom Merwin Gold Star Employee Award at the 2024 Mendota Award Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner & Awards Night Nov. 1 at the Mendota Elks Lodge. Left to right, are the YMCA's Moises Carlos, MACC Past Chair of the Board Marion Quintana, Espinoza, MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell, and YMCA Branch Manager Stephen Donnell. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

YMCA's Espinoza strives to be positive influence in community

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – When Omar Espinoza left his hometown of Mendota when he was 13 to go to Houston, he didn't know if he would ever be back.

It only took five years to return as he came back for his senior year at Mendota High School before graduating in 2016.

Since then, the current YMCA Assistant Branch Manager has had the opportunity to work at a place he likes, perform duties he is enthusiastic about, and assist the community in many ways.

For not only taking on, but thriving, in his role, Espinoza was named the 2024 Tom Merwin Gold Star Employee Award winner at the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner & Awards Night on Nov. 1

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Horace Hume Outstanding Service Award

When needed in the community, Basil answers the call

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA—Brian Basil grew up watching his family be involved in the Mendota community.

It only made sense for him to follow in their footsteps.

For his continuous dedication to the City of Mendota and the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, Basil was named the 2024 Horace Hume Outstanding Service Award Winner at the MACC Annual Dinner & Award Night on Nov. 1 at the Mendota Elks Lodge.

"It means a lot to me. If you look at the past winners and what they've done, it's nice to be in their company," said Basil. "Growing up, I hung out with my grandpa a lot and he was the president of the Sportsman's Club for a while at the lake. He was the one that got the caboose (between the Mendota Civic Center and Subway) here."

"You learn as you grow up, you try to give back to your city and make it a better place."

Basil, a 1993 Mendota High School graduate, has owned and operated Basil Construction since 1997 and has been at Starved Rock Wood Products in the maintenance department for the last year.

When he is not at work working, he is putting in hours for the chamber and community.

Basil helped build the information booth and assists



Mendota native Brian Basil, holding plaque, was named the 2024 Horace Hume Outstanding Service Award winner at the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner & Awards Night on Nov. 1 at Mendota Elks Lodge. He received the award for doing a little bit of everything for the chamber and the community. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

in the beer garden stage construction during the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival every year. He also plays a part in the annual Christmas Walk by bringing Santa Claus' trailer downtown.

"Whether it's the Mendota Chamber, the Mendota Lions Club, the Mendota Elks Lodge, pretty much every organization, Brian Basil has had a hand in something," MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell said. "There are a lot of things he has done behind the scenes that nobody knows he had a hand in. Being able to call him, he doesn't even

City Council takes action for street improvements

❑ Taxes are projected to decrease in Mendota

By KIP CHEEK
Staff writer

MENDOTA - The Mendota City Council took action for the improvement of streets and heard a preliminary report on the city's tax levy at its Nov. 4 regular meeting.

Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick presented an Illinois Department of Transportation Supplemental Resolution to use Rebuild Illinois funds in the amount of \$150,000 for the improvement of a small stretch of 11 streets/alleys in Mendota. The council voted to adopt the resolution.

Streets scheduled for improvement next spring include Meadowview Drive from Burlington Street to Jefferson Street (0.14 miles); Jefferson Street from Meadowview Drive to 14th Avenue (0.08 miles); 14th Avenue from Burlington Street to Washington Street (0.22 miles); Wisconsin Avenue from Chicago Street to Monroe Street (0.16 miles); 12th Street from Illinois Avenue to Guiles Avenue (0.08 miles); Lincoln Avenue from Fourth Avenue to 14th Street (0.06 miles); Ninth Avenue from First Street to Third Street (0.18 miles); Second Street from Eighth Avenue to Ninth Avenue (0.07 miles); Third Street from Second Street to Third Street (0.08 miles); the alley between Pennsylvania Avenue and Indiana Avenue from Washington Street to Jefferson Street (0.06 miles); and the west end of Lake Drive (0.02 miles).

In other action from Fitzpatrick, the council approved the bid of Vissering Construction Company of Streator in the amount of \$6,867,000 for the wastewater treatment plant headworks project. Work on the project will take 14-16 months to complete. There were five bids submitted with Vissering's bid approximately 12 percent lower than the engineer's estimate.

Alderman John Holland reported that the Mendota Historic Restoration & Preservation Commission

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"It means a lot to me. If you look at the past winners and what they've done, it's nice to be in their company."

— Brian Basil

want the recognition, he just knows how important this community is and he wants to help in any way he can."

For the Mendota Lions Club, he was part of the Strouss Park basketball court revamping and has put up basketball hoops at parks throughout the city.

Speaking of city, whenever Mendota Streets Department Director and Mendota Parks and Recreation Director Nick Stremlau needs Basil's hand, the lifelong Mendotan obliges.

Basil has also served on the MACC Board of Directors and the MACC Executive Board, where he was a former vice president.

Local Marines invited to 249th birthday celebration Nov. 9th at VFW

MENDOTA—Local Marines and their guest are invited to help celebrate the 249th birthday of the Marine Corps on Saturday, Nov. 9 at the Mendota VFW Post 4079. Doors open at 1600 hours for drinks, snacks and conversation. Pizza will be served at approximately 1830 hours and a cake-cutting ceremony will follow.

The uniform of the day is civies and Marine Corps apparel. Remember to bring your Challenge Coin. Semper fi.

SEE SHOPPE LOCAL DIRECTORY AT WWW.MENDOTAREPORTER.COM

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LOCAL AND AREA



Sweet Corn Festival Volunteer of the Year Award

Taylor Olsen, left, a Mendota resident who works at Black Bros., was named the volunteer award winner at the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner & Awards Night on Friday, Nov. 1 at the Mendota Elks Lodge. Olsen is a past chamber president who has been involved for many years. “When he left the board, he’s continued to help out with the festival’s beer garden set up and tear down, answers the phone, and lends a hand whenever he can,” said MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell. With Olsen in the photo is former MACC Board Past Chairman Evan Wixom. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

Beautification Award

Scooter’s Coffee won the 2024 Beautification award founded in 1999 to recognize businesses you help shape Mendota. The new establishment on Rt. 251 serves coffee, tea, other drinks, and healthy food in a modern designed building with a wraparound drive through. “We were all sad when the old Mendota Community Hospital building was torn down and it was just a blank, vacant lot for years. To see not only a new business, but one with a unique presentation, that attracts travelers passing through town on Rt. 251,” said Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Sam Setchell said. The award was accepted by co-owner Mary Vankeulen (other co-owner is brother Butch Vankeulen) and general manager Ted Landgraf at the chamber’s year-end dinner on Friday, Nov. 1 at the Mendota Elks Lodge. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

Special cuts for special people

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Jackie Fitzgerald, owner and stylist at Jacquesi2.0 Salon in Mendota, always agrees to make customers look good.

Especially on big days. When she was contacted by a friend and fellow community advocate, she agreed to off free haircuts for veterans from 4-6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11 at Jacquesi2.0, located at 903 Main St. in Mendota.

Dr. Ann Neumann, also know as Dr. Ann Fox, is the optometrist at All About Eyes in Peru,” Fitzgerald said. “She reached out to me and wanted to collaborate something for our veterans to honor them. They sacrificed so much. So, to honor their service for our country, why not offer some free haircuts.

“This definitely pulls at my heart strings because I do have a lot of family that are veterans including a couple of cousins

and my grandfather. With having family members who served in the Army, to be able to do this for our community and the surrounding communities, it’s an honor.”

The free haircuts are going to be on a walk-in basis and Fitzgerald vowed to not turn anyone away.

With Fitzgerald’s positive and heartwarming attitude toward the idea, the eye specialist knew she had the right idea to celebrate Veterans Day.

“I always try to look for different ways to give back to the community,” said Dr. Neumann, whose father and two grandfathers are veterans. “I was looking for something to show veterans appreciation and gratitude because I think it’s most deserving to recognize them on Veterans Day. I thought maybe we could find someone who would be able to provide them with some haircuts.

“Jackie is wonderful and happily obliged.”



Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

We were very lucky to have four wonderful young women come to Blackstone this past week. They are FFA members at Mendota High School and they presented each of our classes with a lesson. They read a story about the life cycle of a pumpkin, made and ate pumpkin pie in a bag and talked about what they do in FFA. Leah, Jessica, Hanna and Maren did a great job educating our kindergarten and first graders. We appreciate the opportunity to have this lesson with the MHS FFA group.

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We celebrated Red Ribbon Week at Blackstone Oct. 28-Nov. 1. Blackstone School, like many other schools that week, worked on spreading the message that we live a better life without the use of drugs. This message is essential to the health of our students and to the quality of life in our community. We had themes for each day and had dress up days to go with each one. We had great participation from students and staff.

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Thanks to all of our families that ordered Blackstone spirit wear this year. All items were delivered this past week. Thank you to 4M Graphix for handling our spiritwear orders.

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We had a great time celebrating Halloween at Blackstone on Oct. 31. Students were able to wear their costumes to school that morning. There were some very creative costumes. The students participated in various organized games and activities prepared by the room parents. The students rotated around to different classrooms and the gym for the fun activities. The students then enjoyed a snack back in their own classrooms. Thank you to the staff and room parents for organizing and running the Halloween activities and also to the parents who donated things for the party. We appreciate your support and the students had a great time!

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The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Myles Wheeler, Camila Sandoval, Emmanuel Esparza, Aria Darling, Eleanor Myers, Aaron Hernandez, Aliyah Sester and Evalynn Kordick. The winners were Noah Moreno, Blaire Hansen, Sophia Moore and Jaxton Becerra. Congratulations to all of you!

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We had a few more classes earn their goal for Paw Pride certificates. Congratulations to the students in Mrs. Tolley, Mrs. Lamps, Mrs. Wixom, Mrs. O’Sadnick and Mrs. Wilhelm’s classes. They have earned the reward assembly for great behavior!

The Mendota Historical Society



2024 Veterans Day Open House

We welcome all veterans to come share their stories. Please stop by and thank our veterans for their service and help us to honor those who have served.

When: Sunday, November 10th

Time: 1-3pm

Where: The Hume-Carnegie Museum, 901 Washington St. in Mendota

11062024

The 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients:
Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Community Action Network, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.



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- **ONLINE:** Go to <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org> and click on **PURCHASE CASH CALENDAR.**
- **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:
In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest and Hub City Senior Center
In Oregon at: Merlin's
In Dixon at: Shining Star
- **BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail your cash calendar to you!

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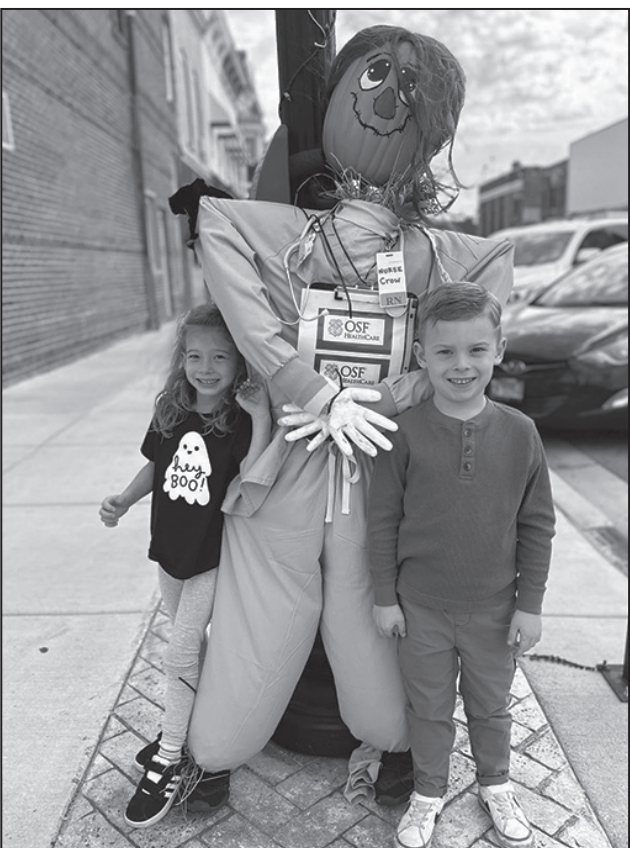
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LOCAL AND AREA



Mendota's first Scarecrow Stroll winners

The first ever Scarecrow Stroll added something different and special on the downtown streets of Mendota. Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Mini Queen Maeve Schmidt and Mini King Landon Fancher were the Royalty Pick judges as they voted for OSF Saint Paul Medical Center. The Public Choice was Expressions Salon, and Most Creative was The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce. Other participants were City of Mendota, Cub Scouts Pack #4108, First State Bank, Mendota Police Department, Purpose Nutrition, Reimagine Mendota, and Starved Rock Wood Products. (Photo contributed)

Come design a Christmas tree

MENDOTA—Help Graves-Hume Public Library create art for the Youth Services Department at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11 by designing a Christmas tree for all to see. Supplies will be provided. All ages are welcome. Children 6 and under must have an adult present. Registration is required. Library programs are open to all. No library card required. Call 815-538-5142 to register.

Want to eat healthy during the holiday season?

OGLESBY – The holidays are around the corner! Will the Elf on the Shelf be sneaking extra calories into your holiday treats? Don't worry, this program is here to help you make healthier choices without sacrificing the fun and festive flavors. Join Susan Glassman, nutrition and wellness educator from Illinois Extension, and learn simple ingredient swaps, healthy eating tips, and creative gift-giving ideas while savoring and sharing your favorite holiday foods.

During the session, have fun making an easy holiday recipe to taste, and discover the power of skillpower and willpower to help you stay on track. Take home valuable information, recipes, and practical ideas to enjoy delicious holiday bites while maintaining a healthy balance.

Holiday Bites will be offered at the following locations:

- Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6-7 p.m., Oglesby Public Library, 111 S. Woodland Ave., Oglesby. Register at go.illinois.edu/ogholiday
 - Thursday, Nov. 21, 10-10:45 a.m., Putnam County Community Center, First Street, Standard. Register at go.illinois.edu/ptoliday
 - Thursday, Nov. 21, 5-6 p.m., Princeton Public Library, 698 E St., Princeton. Register at go.illinois.edu/prholiday
 - Friday, Nov. 22, Noon-12:45 p.m., Mendota Senior Center, 1901 Tom Merwin Drive, Mendota. Register at go.illinois.edu/mdholiday
 - Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2:30-3 p.m., Bureau County Senior Center, 16 W. Marion St., Princeton. Register at go.illinois.edu/bcholiday
 - Tuesday, Dec. 3, 6-7 p.m., Reddick Public Library, 1010 Canal St., Ottawa. Register at go.illinois.edu/ottholiday
- You may also call 815-224-0894 to

register. If you need an accommodation to participate, please contact Susan Glassman at susang@illinois.edu or 815-224-0894. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

Extension offices are located in Princeton, Ottawa, Henry, and in Oglesby on the IVCC campus. The Mission of University of Illinois Extension is to provide practical education you can trust to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Visit our website at <https://extension.illinois.edu/blmp>. If you have questions or need more information, please call University of Illinois Extension- Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Unit Office at 815-224-0894.

OSF welcomes new provider

OTTAWA — OSF HealthCare welcomes Katie Marshall, APRN, to its obstetrics and gynecology team, bringing enhanced women's health and midwifery services to Ottawa and the surrounding areas.

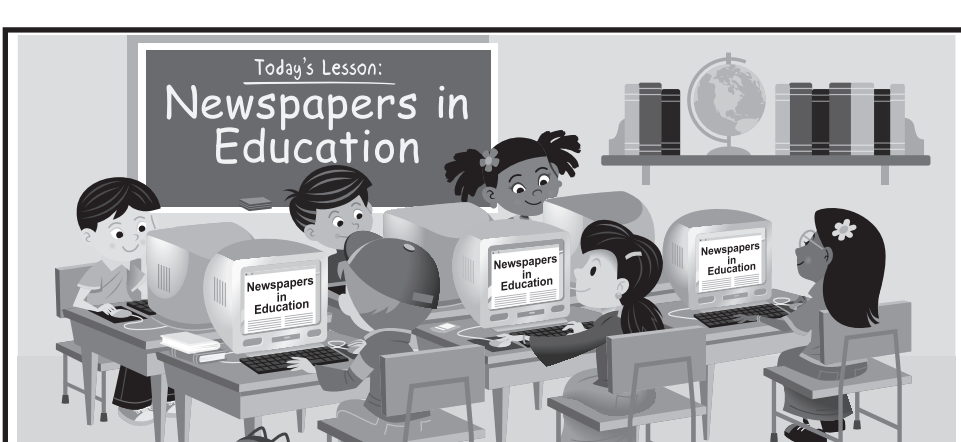
Marshall, APRN, will provide care at OSF Medical Group – Obstetrics and Gynecology in Ottawa and Peru. With a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Cincinnati and board certification from the American Midwifery Certification Board, Marshall offers expert care in obstetrics, gynecology, and midwifery, ensuring high-quality, personalized services for patients.

To schedule an appointment with Marshall, APRN, or any member of the OSF obstetrics and gynecology team, patients can call (815) 431-0435.



Roberts Armory WWII Museum opens its doors

Roberts Armory WWII Museum in Rochelle will be open to the public in honor of Veterans' Day on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 1-4 p.m. The Higgins Boat will be open for viewing, weather permitting. The next opening will be Memorial Day 2025. To get to the museum, follow the signs on the Army truck at Route 251 & Intermodal Drive (approximately 3 miles). Many World War II artifacts are on display including tanks, trucks, cannons and Rochelle News-Leader newspapers from 1945 presenting photographs of Rochelle residents who served during World War II. More information is available on the Rochelle website at: <https://www.enjoyrochelle.com/online-directory/what-to-do/history-attractions/robert-s-armory.html>. There is no admission charge.



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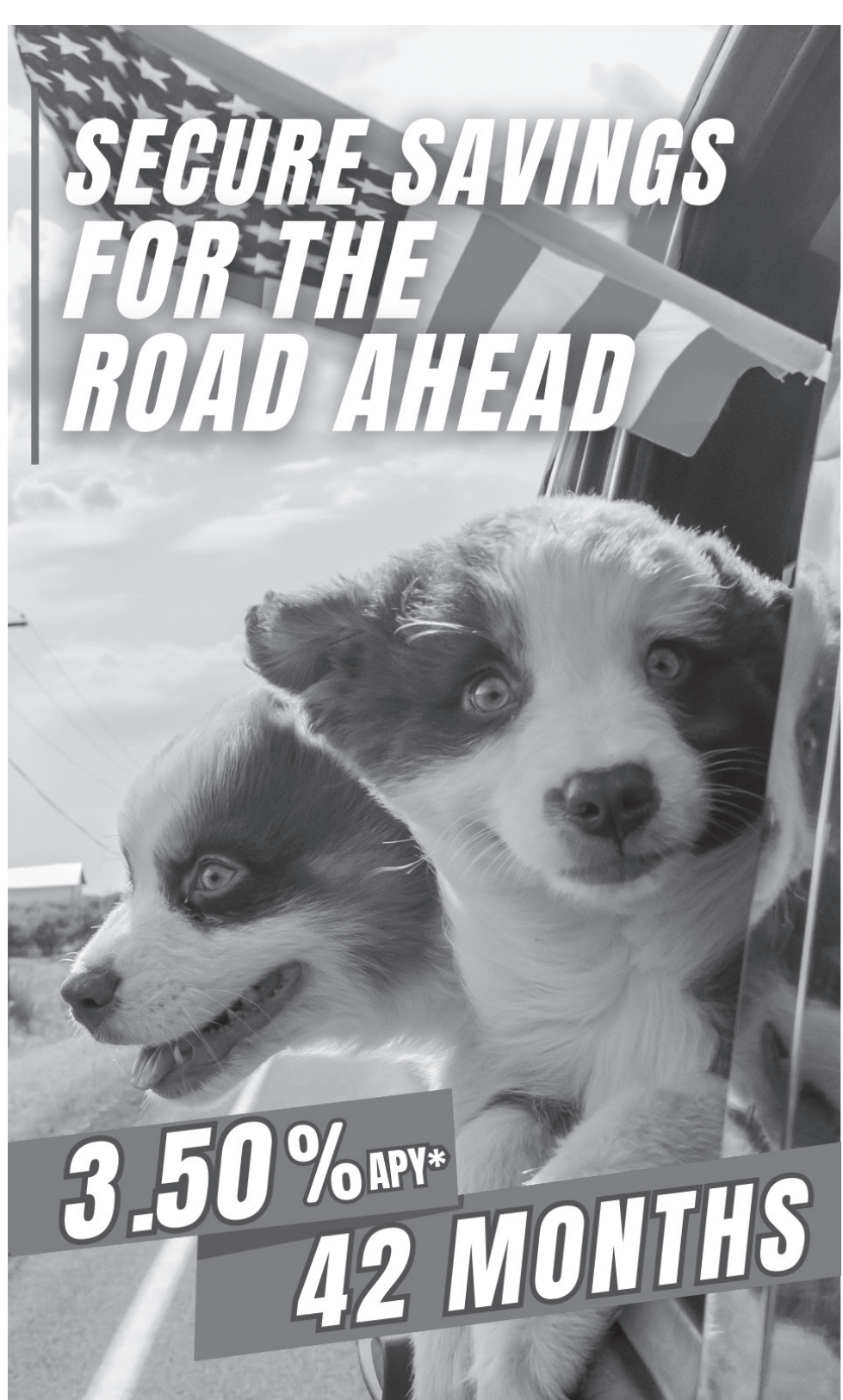
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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Kirby Boner

TAMPA, Fla. — Kirby Boner, 71, of Tampa, Fla., passed away on Oct. 15, 2024. Kirby was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, coworker, and friend to many. His smile and sense of humor will live on in the memories of all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Kirby's celebration of life will be held from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Nov. 9, at Blount & Curry Funeral Home in Carrollwood, located at 3207 W. Bearss Ave., Tampa, Fla., 33618.

Kirby was born on Sept. 19, 1953, to Nellie Ray Boner (Bennett) and Earle Richard Boner in Lincoln, Ill. His first home was a small apartment in Rantoul, where his father was stationed at Chanute Air Force Base during the Korean War. Kirby grew up in LeRoy and later Mendota, where his parents pursued careers in public education.

He is survived by his wife, Suzanne; children, Patrick and Mitchell (Jacqueline Quintrall); brother-in-law, Michael Conrad; grandchildren, Annabel, Emma, Benjamin, Andrew, and Wyatt; and nephews, Matthew, Kyle, and Kirby.

Kirby is preceded in death by his mother and father; his sister, Kelly; and his brother, Martin.

Kirby graduated from Mendota High School in 1971 and went on to study Political Science at Illinois Valley Community College, earning his A.A. in 1973. He graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Illinois State University in 1975. Kirby soon began his first job teaching English and History at Wyand and Putnam County high schools. In 1981, he was hired by Wright Line to sell office furniture in central Illinois. Less than a year later, he moved with his family to Rockledge, Fla., to continue a successful 36-year career in office furniture sales. He eventually became a manager for Marvel and Southeastern Regional Manager for Indiana Furniture, where he finally served as their training manager.

Kirby met his wife, Suzanne Mortonson, in Mendota in 1960. She was the love of his life from an early age. As childhood playmates, Kirby and Suzanne spent time playing baseball and riding their bicycles together. Over the years, Suzanne babysat his siblings, taught his younger brother how to swim, and became his best friend. Kirby and Suzanne began dating in 1971 and were married on Aug. 1, 1975. Their first son, Patrick, was born in Princeton in 1979. Three years later, they welcomed their second son, Mitchell, into the world. Kirby often traveled for work but made time in the summer for memorable family vacations to destinations such as the Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde National Park, and Washington, DC. He also spent several summer holidays with his family in Chicago following the conclusion of the annual trade show, NeoCon, every June. Later in life, he became a regular patron and employee of Tampa Bay Downs.

Kirby was an avid reader and lifelong baseball fan. He read everything he could find about World War II, a subject that fascinated him from childhood. As a member of the high school debate team, he competed at state and national tournaments under the leadership of his coach, Stephen Warren, whose military experience in the Pacific Theater inspired Kirby's lifelong interest in the Battle of Iwo Jima. Kirby also delighted in the novels of Larry McMurtry and Patrick O'Brian. As a child, he idolized Mickey Mantle and always rooted for the Yankees. Ever loyal to the Bronx Bombers after moving to Florida, he saw his favorite team play the Tampa Bay Rays nearly every season. When the Yankees were in town, you might have caught Kirby and Suzanne in the stands cheering for different teams. The two were faithful fans of the Florida Gators men's basketball team, cheering them on to two national championships.

The family kindly requests that flowers not be purchased. Instead, donations can be made in his honor to the Wounded Warrior Project or the V Foundation.



Michael A. Bernardin

WEST BROOKLYN — Michael Allan Bernardin, 74, passed away on Oct. 30, 2024, after fighting a two-year battle with Multiple Myeloma.

Visitation was on Sunday Nov. 3, 2024, from 2-6 p.m. at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Funeral services were on Monday Nov. 4, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy for Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery in West Brooklyn.

Michael was born on May 13, 1950, in Rochelle, and lived his entire childhood in Amboy. He graduated in the class of 1968 from Amboy High School. On Sept. 5, 1992, Mike married Mary Margaret Furuseth, and they became a blended family of five daughters: Amy Bernardin (John) Smith, Lisa Bernardin (Ryan) Zorn, Laura Bernardin, Micki Joslin (Mike) Blevins, and Marcy Joslin (Dan) Brown.

Mike is survived by his wife; his daughters; and nine grandchildren, Justin (Sarah) Smith, Matthew Smith, AJ Smith, Nathan, Jacob and Emma Zorn, Luke and Lexi Brown, and Ashton Blevins; and his sister, Jean (Don) Kreiser.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Sue Bernardin; his sister, Marie Boyer; and his parents-in-law, Dean and Margaret Furuseth.

Mike had many interests in his life but two of the things he loved most, besides life on the farm, were music and cars. He would sit in the music room for hours listening to all types of music. He would make custom CDs for friends and always had the stereo blaring in his shop when he worked on his second great passion, his antique cars. He was the proud owner of a 1934 Ford that he rebuilt three times and his 1928 Ford that was purchased years later. Of course, he tore that apart and rebuilt it too, but that was just Mike.

In the summer, he would hit at least one car show a week. He could be found Wednesday nights at his favorite spot, Smokin Coops, where they became like family to Mike. Trophies meant nothing to him. He just loved seeing all his friends and talking cars.

Mike worked for 28 years at Northwestern Steel and Wire before deciding to run for Highway Commissioner of Viola Township. After winning the election in 2005, Mike faithfully served the community for over 19 years, sometimes working 24 hours straight to clear the snow because "it just needed to be done."

In lieu of flowers, please make your donation to Unity Hospice or The Hub City Senior Center.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.



Clifford L. Schmidt

Janet L. Schmidt

MENDOTA — Clifford Leo Schmidt, 91, and Janet Lea Schmidt, 91, both of Mendota, passed away within three days of each other. Cliff passed away Friday, Nov. 1 and Janet passed away Sunday, Nov. 3, both in Mendota.

Visitation for both Cliff and Janet Schmidt will be held from 4-8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, at the Horner-Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota. There will be a Knights of Columbus service at 8 p.m. following the visitation at the funeral home. Funeral mass for both Cliff and Janet will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 3888 First Road, Mendota. Following the funeral mass, they will be laid to rest, side by side, at the Restland Cemetery in Mendota.

Cliff married Janet Brunner on Oct. 4, 1952, at the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Peterstown (Mendota). After all the years of marriage, building a life full of family and hard work on the farm they will be laid to rest on the same day in the very same church they were married in just over 72 years ago. Cliff was born on the farm in Peterstown on Oct. 17, 1933, the son of Leo and Louisa (Schneider) Schmidt and Janet was born in Mendota on Dec. 7, 1932, the daughter of Karl and Estella (Liddick) Brunner.

Cliff and Janet's life was abundant with love from their large family they created. They together are survived by three daughters, Debra (Rick) McQuin of Rector, Ark., Connie (Pete) Krzmarzick of Plover, Wis., and Donna (Dave) Carr of Havana; seven grandchildren, Amanda (Eric) Patrick, Donald (Kelly) Krzmarzick, Edward (Alexandria) Krzmarzick, Susan (Alexander) Johansson, Duane (Amanda) Carr, Daren (Julie) Carr, and Dennis (Denise) Carr; 18 great grandchildren, Mabrey and Connor Patrick, Alivia, Alyssa, Finley, and Gavin Krzmarzick, Xavier, Violet, and Remi Johansson, Cassidy, KayLynn, Andy, Katie, Lucas, Madisyn, Braden, Brooklyn, and Camden Carr.

Cliff is preceded in death by four brothers, Donald, Paul, Harold and Frank Schmidt; four sisters, Mary Henkel, Rita Laugal, Josephine Romanelli and Flora Marie Bohm. Janet is preceded in death by three brothers, Robert, Harry, and Gene Brunner. Cliff and Janet are also both preceded in death by two grandsons, Joseph McQuin and Robert Krzmarzick.

Pallbearers will be Duane Carr, Daren Carr, Dennis Carr, Donald Krzmarzick, Edward Krzmarzick, and Connor Patrick.

Memorials can be made in their honor to Mendota Area Senior Services (M.A.S.S.) or Holy Cross School. Visit www.horner-merritt.com.



OSF HealthCare hosting blood drives in Mendota, Peru

MENDOTA — OSF HealthCare will host two community blood drives in November with ImpactLife. OSF Saint Paul Medical Center will host a blood drive on Friday, Nov. 15, from noon to 5 p.m. in conference room C. On Wednesday, Nov. 20, the ImpactLife Donor Bus will be located in the OSF Medical Group parking lot at 1650 Midtown Road, Peru, from 11 a.m. — 3 p.m.

ImpactLife is the only provider of blood and blood components to OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center, OSF HealthCare Saint Paul


Medical Center, OSF HealthCare Saint Clare Medical Center, OSF Center for Health in Streator and OSF Saint Elizabeth - Peru. To schedule an appointment for donation, call (800) 747-5401 or schedule online at www.bloodcenter.org or via the Blood Center's mobile app.

Blood donations are often used to help treat patients with cancer, victims of trauma and patients undergoing major surgeries. All persons ages 17 and up (or 16, with a signed parental permission form) who weigh at least 110 lbs. and are in general good health meet the basic eli-

gibility requirements for blood donation. For more information, call ImpactLife at (800) 747-5401, visit www.bloodcenter.org, or download the IMPACT mobile app at www.bloodcenter.org/app.

ImpactLife is a not-for-profit community organization providing blood services to 120 hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin, including 12 of 15 OSF HealthCare facilities. For more information, see www.bloodcenter.org and find them @ [impactlifeblood](https://www.facebook.com/impactlifeblood) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Snapchat.


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LOCAL AND AREA

Council

Continued from Page A1

recommended the council approve a facade grant for work at 701 Jefferson St. The council agreed to awarding the grant in the amount of \$7,000.

Holland gave preliminary figures for the 2024 payable 2025 tax levy. He said the estimated levy for 2025 is \$2,275,450, which is an increase of more than \$108,000 from last year. However, Holland said because of an increase in the equalized assessed valuation as it pertains to the city of Mendota, the property tax rate for homeowners would actually decrease. He estimated that a home valued at \$100,000 would see about a \$33 decrease in taxes and a home valued at \$150,000 would see about a \$49 decrease in taxes.

The council will formally act on the tax levy at its Dec. 16 meeting.

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

Gold Star

Continued from Page A1

at the Mendota Elks Lodge.

“I didn’t think I would get the award. I try my best at work to keep a positive attitude and share it with others,” Espinoza said. “I’m a reserved person and don’t like to be the center of attention. I don’t really put a spotlight on what I’m doing. Being at the Mendota YMCA, all of my work is open to the public. I take a lot of photos and help train YMCA members.

“I enjoy my work. I like that I’m able to do a lot of things that I enjoy whether it’s fixing things, taking photos, or helping people. I get to do a little bit of everything where I’m at right now. “I like working with all types of people. I try my best to help anyone who needs my help.”

Before taking the job at YMCA in 2022, Espinoza competed in video game tournaments, mostly Battlefield and Fortnite.

He said he never had a virtual ranking, but he was heavily involved and invested in gaming in tournaments with monetary reward.

Many in the community are happy he has evolved into a needed and respected member of the Mendota community, including Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Sam Setchell.

“Whether it’s for the Mendota YMCA or not, he’s always helping us with chamber events,” Setchell said. “He’s definitely the type of employee you’d want working at your business. He’s always trying to stay busy. If you ask him to do something, he’s going to do it.

“He does it with a smile and you can tell he’s passionate about what he does, especially with working so many programs with the youth in our community.”

Espinoza thanked the people who nominated him for the Tom Merwin Gold Star Award and for realizing he’s trying to do something positive in the community.

City of Mendota is awarded a grant through Powering the Holidays program

❑ Funds are to be used for the purchase of LED Christmas lights

MENDOTA – The festive season is fast approaching, bringing with it opportunities for communities to come together and spread cheer. To support local holiday light displays across northern Illinois, ComEd and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus announced grants of up to \$2,500 each for 24 northern Illinois communities through the annual ComEd Powering the Holidays Program.

The city of Mendota is among the recipients for its “A Mendota Christmas” event on Saturday, Dec. 7. The Mendota Christmas event will include free horse-drawn carriage rides, hot chocolate, Santa rides on a fire truck, a book giveaway and free crafts for children. Funds will be used to purchase high-quality, energy-efficient LED lights for the large Christmas Tree in Veteran’s Park and lights for a tree decorating contest.

“Holiday light displays have a unique way of bringing people together and creating shared moments of wonder

and joy,” said Melissa Washington, Senior Vice President of Customer Operations and Strategic Initiatives at ComEd. “Through our partnership with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, we’re proud to help create experiences that are not only visually remarkable but that also create deep, meaningful connections between our neighbors.”

Since 2021, the Powering the Holidays grant program has celebrated the unique character of local communities by supporting holiday events that promote cultural exchange and foster inclusivity. With the latest 2024 grant recipients, ComEd has now provided a total of \$172,000 in funding to 70 communities and organizations for holiday light displays since the program’s launch.

“We’re excited to continue our partnership with ComEd through the Powering the Holidays Program,” said Neil James, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. “It’s

always inspiring to see the creativity and diversity of the light displays that these grants help bring to life year after year. These events do more than brighten our communities; they create opportunities for people to come together and share an appreciation for the rich cultural traditions that make our communities unique.”

Communities will use these grants to power holiday light events taking place between Nov. 1, 2024, and Feb. 13, 2025. Municipalities, townships, counties, and other local government entities within ComEd’s service territory were eligible to apply for funding.

Powering the Holidays is part of ComEd’s ongoing commitment to supporting holiday light events across Chicagoland including popular holiday attractions at Lincoln Park Zoo, Brookfield Zoo, The Morton Arboretum and Chicago Botanic Garden. To learn more about Powering the Holidays, visit the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus website.

Veterans Day program set for Nov. 11 in Mendota

MENDOTA – The Mendota Veterans Day program will be held Monday, Nov. 11, at Veterans Park, downtown Mendota. The program starts promptly at 11 a.m.

The Mendota VFW Post 4079 Veterans Memorial Squad, its Auxiliary and Mendota American Legion Post 540 will participate in the program.

Everyone is welcome to this service, the purpose of which is to honor and remember all Veterans, both alive and deceased for their commitment and contribution to our present way of life, and the benefits of liberty and freedom on both domestic and foreign soil.

The program schedule is as follows:

- Introductions: Bill Hunt, Past Commander, U.S. Navy Veteran
- Presentation of Colors: Mendota VFW Post 4079 Veterans Memorial Squad and Mendota American Legion Post 540
- National Anthem: Mendota High School Band, Director Paula Baker
- Pledge of Allegiance: Audience
- Invocation: Jason Donahue, VFW Post 4079 Commander
- Veterans Day Address: Ella Lewis, Mendota High School
- Firing of Volley: Mendota VFW Post 4079 Veterans Memorial Squad
- Taps: Mendota VFW Post 4079 Veterans Memorial Squad
- Benediction: Jason Donahue, VFW Post 4079 Commander

By RHIANNON BRANCH
FarmWeek

AMBOY – As corn and soybeans disappear from Illinois fields, so are worries about storage space for crops.

“There was a lot of old-crop corn out there and that continued to move right up until harvest,” John Boeker, southern region manager for Total Grain Marketing, told FarmWeek.

Farther north in Eureka, Grainland Farmers Cooperative CEO Terry Bline said elevator workers were also able to get old-crop inventories down before combines started up.

“Farmers reluctantly sold some of the crop even though they weren’t excited about the prices,” he told FarmWeek. “And we offered more price-later programs on some soybeans just to get those moved.”

While many elevators had adequate space as harvest kicked off, harvest brought unique aspects that caused a few logistical challenges.

Bline said fieldwork in his areas has been constant with no rain delays, and that scenario applies to most of the state.

“The harvest has been unusual in the sense that we basically did all the soybean harvest before we did any corn,” he said. “There was a three- or four-day period where the corn receipts were pretty intense.”

He said typically the Eureka location has a balance of corn and soybeans coming in at the same time.

“Soybean yields were so good, we ended up putting some soybeans in the corn space that we didn’t plan on because it was the most pressing need at the time,” Bline said. “So, we’ve been assessing our corn space needs and we’re just taking it day by day.”

Bline said overall the cooperative is good on space, but some locations are tighter than others and while putting corn on the ground is an option, he is hopeful they will be able to avoid that this season.

Bryan Rader, merchandising manager for FS Grain, said they, too, were anticipating a big crop and their U.S. Route 30 location near Amboy began piling corn in a bunker last week.

“That was built to use in a bigger yielding year or a



Crews move grain onto a temporary pile at the FS grain elevator near Amboy. (Photo by Catrina Rawson of FarmWeek)

fast-paced environment,” he said. “That’s just a temporary space pile that won’t stay on the ground very long.”

He said FS Grain has not had to find emergency storage for grain yet this year. And with an estimated 30% of harvest left to get through in the area, he said they should be able to avoid that at their 18 locations in northern Illinois.

Boeker, who oversees elevators in Louisville, Watson, Sandoval, Greenville, Hookdale and Mulberry Grove, said workers in those locations saw most of the soybeans come in first. “Which

was kind of a blessing,” he said. “It’s almost easier to handle one commodity at a time.”

He said soybean yields came in a bit lower than expected earlier in the season, which alleviated some of their space concerns, and the late start to planting in his region should also ease the pressure.

“A lot of corn was planted after the 20th of May to the 10th of June here, so some people dropped acres and didn’t plant as much corn,” he said.

Boeker said the weather allowed both crops to dry nat-

urally, which makes elevator logistics a bit easier, too.

“My expectation two months ago was that we were going to see a lot of wet corn, but because of the unusually dry fall we have had to dry very little of either crop,” he said.

Boeker said there is carry in the market right now so elevators and farmers alike are thinking outside of the box and finding places to store grain.

“When a farmer can get rewarded 20 or 30 cents for holding corn off the market for one or two months, they’re going to figure out a way to do that,” Boeker said. “They’re finding other locations or making other arrangements just to pick up that carry in the market.”

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

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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.

Living A Life That Matters

There are pros and cons to every profession. One side of the list is usually longer, but for this journalist, for almost 20 years, the pros have a longer listing. And one of the top pros is because I get to meet and talk to some amazing, interesting, hilarious, sincere, intelligent, wonderful people. The adjectives describing people I talk to really covers everyone word you could find. We're all different right?

Recently I had the amazing opportunity to talk to Ben Lesser.



Never the Last Chance
By Brandon LaChance

I have never turned off the recorder, ended the Zoom call, and ordered a subject's book (Living A Life That Matters at <https://www.zachorfoundation.org/product/living-life-matters-paperback/>) in succession before in my career. Until I spoke with Lesser.

"A bunch of miracles happened for me to be able to survive. I can't believe it myself. If you read my book, I write about at least a dozen miracles that happened. There were plenty of life-threatening situations, and I survived them," Lesser said. "I don't know how. I went into Auschwitz Concentration Camp when I was 15 ½ years old. I told them I was 18, I was healthy, and I could work. They asked me if I could run 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) and I said yes. They sent me to the left.

"I had no idea I was giving them the right answers that kept me from being sent to the right. The doctor asked me would I rather go by truck or would I run. If I would have said by truck, they would have sent me to the gas chambers, to the right.

"Had they known my age, I would have been sent to the gas chambers. My little brother and my little sister went straight to the gas chambers."

Lesser, who turned 96 on Oct. 18, was 10 years old when the Nazi holocaust began. After avoiding captivity for 5 ½ years, he was finally caught and sent to the camp we all shudder when we hear spoken, Auschwitz.

"When we arrived at Auschwitz, I had my little brother and sister next to me. I was holding their hands," said Lesser, who along with one sister (there were five siblings) are the only members of their family to survive the holocaust. "The camp announced, women and children to the left, and men to the right. I decided to go with my uncle, with the men. If this was a labor camp, thought if I went with the men and worked, I would get better food. If I would have went with my sister and brother, I would have been killed.

"I went through hell, hiding and running from one ghetto to another until they finally caught me and took me to camp. I ran away from Poland into Hungary, which was still a free country in 1941. A year later, the Nazis came in and sent us to Auschwitz. I went through two Holocausts, the Polish Holocaust and the Hungarian Holocaust. Very few survivors went through what I went through."

Through his years telling his story, he still hasn't met anyone who went through two holocausts.

When World War II ended in May 1945, Lesser was 16 ½-years old and weighed 40 pounds.

"On the second day after liberation, I passed out and went into a coma for 2 ½ months. I woke up in a monastery in Bulgaria," Lesser said. "I opened my eyes and I saw a bunch on nuns. They started to scream to the other nuns to come in when they saw me open my eyes. It was a celebration.

"No one believed I was alive. I didn't believe it myself."

Lesser stayed in Germany for two years before leaving for the United States of America in 1947. He lived in Los Angeles where he delivered packages for UPS for 25 years before going into business for himself as an LA realtor. He owned two offices and employed 78 agents.

Once Jimmy Carter became president and home mortgage interest rates going up to 22 percent caused residents to not purchase homes and forced realtors out of business, Lesser moved to Las Vegas and has been there for 30 years.

He married Jean in 1950 and they had a "wonderful, qualm-free" marriage for 72 years when she passed away in 2022. They have two daughters, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

"For many years, I didn't tell my story to my family, my kids. I didn't want them to grow up feeling that they were different than the American kids," Lesser said. "I wanted them to go to public schools and mingle with other nationalities.

"When my grandson's fifth grade teacher found out I was a holocaust survivor, they asked if I would tell my story to the class. That's when I decided it was time to talk. I had grandchildren already. When I went into the fifth-grade class, my hands were shaking. I couldn't open the door. I thought, 'What am I going to tell fifth graders? Are they going to have nightmares?' I didn't know what to do.

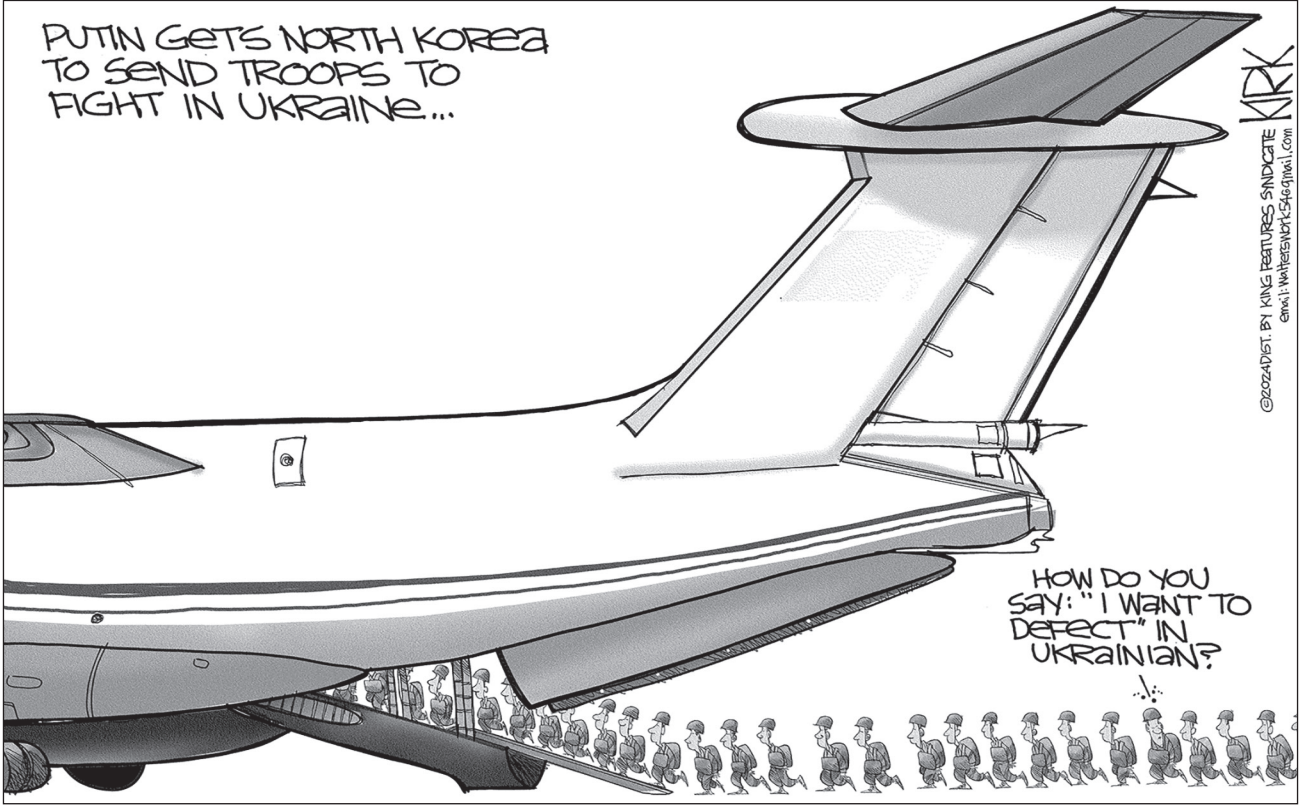
"They gave me from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. to speak. I spoke until noon. The school bell rang and none of the students budged. They were glued to their chairs. Finally, the teacher chased them out. Instead of going to lunch, they surrounded me in the hallway to ask questions."

Through the fifth-grade students he realized the world has to know his story and he couldn't be quiet anymore.

Lesser first wrote a memoir. He didn't like the fact he didn't tell his entire story in the way he wanted, so he followed with Living A Life That Matters, published in 2012.

Every time he tells his story, he says he remembers something he may not have said last time. But there are a few parts he makes sure he tells every time.

"I never wanted to die. I always had the feeling, 'I will survive this.' I did everything the way they wanted me to do it. I thought, 'If I do everything right, I'll survive.' That's what I did through the death train and the death marches," Lesser said. "One thing I've learned is you have to be the best you can be in your profession. You can't take short cuts. Be the best at whatever you do. And I thanked God. That's how I've lived my life."



Roosevelt landslide without Mendota - 1936

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column, reprinted from Nov. 6, 1996.)
By Jessica Nashold

In the 1936 presidential race, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Democrat, had completed one term and was a candidate for re-election. His Republican opponent was Alfred M. Landon of Kansas. Norman Thomas, Socialist, was also on the ballot. Although Roosevelt won by a landslide, he was not Mendota's choice. In Mendota, the count was Landon 1541, Roosevelt 1092. But nationwide, Roosevelt had 523 electoral votes while Landon had only eight. The Reporter conceded that the people of the United States had spoken "in no unmistakable terms.

They have said they approve what the administration has stood for.

In Mendota, things were looking up for Delbert Dewhart, driver of the Mendota fire truck. His salary had been cut when the banks closed and he was receiving an annual stipend of \$855. In November 1936, this was increased to \$960 per year, which worked out to \$80 per month.

Along with that he has house rent, heat, light, gas for cooking and water, as he resides in the city building.

About 8:30 in the evening on Nov. 7, 1936, a Burlington freight train struck a truck loaded with merchandise, which had stalled on the tracks at the Sixth Street crossing. The man on duty in the switch tower had tried to flag the freight down without success. The driver jumped clear.

Although the truck did not overturn, it was carried 75 feet along the tracks. Wrecking equipment from Joe King's garage and from Texaco could not dislodge it. A switch engine had to pull it away. The wreckers then hauled the truck to King's garage.

Merchandise of all kinds was strewn along the track - hardware, candy, face cream, copper coils, whiskey.

Bystanders not able to continue across the tracks picked up some of the spilled goods. Carl Heagy was then called to move "what was left" to the

Backtracks & Sidetracks

King garage in his truck. The contents had been valued at \$20,000 and was covered by insurance as was the truck.

On a Thursday evening in late October 1936, members of the LaSalle County Medical Society met for food and fellowship at the new St. John's Lutheran parish hall. On the same evening, members of the Presbyterian Men's Club gathered in the church social area for oyster stew.

A late-comer to the oyster supper removed his coat and hat and was soon served. The Men's Club members could not identify their guest and he was increasingly mystified by topics of conversation at the table - largely crops and business.

Then it was discovered the guest was an Ottawa physician on his way to the medical meeting at St. John's. He had stopped at the wrong church. He thanked his hosts warmly and continued a block north to join his fellow physicians.

During the 1936 season, the MHS lightweight football team scored an important 12-0 win over the Rochelle Lights. It came after 24 straight losses by the MHS lightweights. The touchdown that gave Mendota its first six points was the first to be scored by MHS lightweights since Don Faber had scored at Sterling in 1933.

Credit went to Allen McClenthen, a senior from Compton.

It was remarkable because he had never seen a football game before coming to MHS this fall.

Howard Hickok, nephew of the celebrated Wild Bill Hickok, received a telegram from Cecil B. Demise. Hickok had attempted to persuade DeMille to correct certain errors of fact in "The Plainsman" before it was broadcast on the Lux Radio Theatre.

But the radio program had gone so far that it was impossible to change it.

Hickok appreciated receiving the telegram even though his request did not achieve the desired result.

An ordinance passed combining the city water and sewer departments. This would make it possible for the city to use water department revenues to pay for a new sewer disposal plant. The estimated cost was \$56,000.

Mendota is fortunate to have a water department earning enough to assist with other improvements.

At a 1936 Junior Woman's Club dance at the Elks, entertainment included a medley of songs on piano by Marguerite Meisel and Catherine Zapf, vocal solos by Harold Wendt and Joan Ellingen, and tap dancing by Hope Hotchkiss, Barbara Jean Heininger and Mary Ellen Holliston.

To prevent Halloween pranks, Mayor Jacob Spanier assigned plain clothes police to patrol on foot and others to drive around in cars.

Mayor Spanier personally went out and patrolled until after one o'clock.

There were no major Halloween pranks in 1936.

The former St. Mary's Catholic Church was sold at auction on Nov. 14, 1936. It was stipulated that the building must be removed or dismantled.

The large quantity of good lumber will make it worthwhile for the purchaser.

The Reporter sponsored a contest for rural schools. The prize was a merry-go-round for the playground of the winning school.

Thirty-four rural schools, names of teachers and standings in the contest were published on Nov. 12, 1936. The contest involved collecting from relatives and friends votes they had earned by purchases from 22 Mendota merchants.

It will be a fine activity for the boys and girls and they will have a lot of shyness set aside when this contest is finished.

The contest closed Dec. 19, 1936.

LETTERS

Apply to be an election judge

Dear Editor:

Regarding the letter to the editor published in the Oct. 23 Mendota Reporter written by Justin Bend of Mendota regarding discussions of non-citizens voting in our elections have arisen, and Justin's description of our registering to vote process in Illinois, I would like to add that when a person comes to the polling place on election day to cast their vote in-person in LaSalle County, Illinois, they must also sign an affidavit that they are a U.S. citizen, when they apply for a ballot.

Most are already registered voters. Each person's name and address is verified on the LaSalle County electronic voter registration data base, which also reports if a ballot has been requested and if returned to the county, and his/her name and address are printed out and affixed on the ballot application. The voter is then asked to review the application for accuracy and to sign that all information on it is accurate.

The printed ballot appli-

cation includes the statement that the voter signing the ballot application form is a United States citizen, and his/her signature on the application is a legal affidavit that the voter's name, address and citizenship is accurate. This application is initialed by three different judges representing both political parties if possible, depending on the number of judges available for that precinct. Then the voter is issued a ballot to vote and deposits it into the vote tabulator, which must agree with the number of votes counted after the poll closes.

Other states may not follow the same procedure regarding proof of citizenship to register, or to vote early, or to obtain an in-person ballot, and different equipment and procedures may be used in other Illinois counties.

I have served as an election judge in LaSalle County for the past eight years. I join Justin Bend in urging people to become involved and to apply to be an election judge.

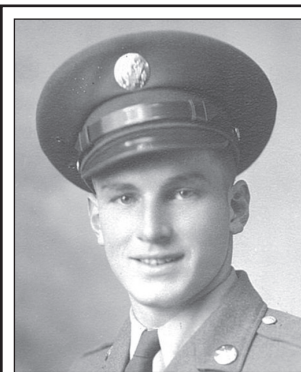
**Ruth Dunlap,
Mendota**

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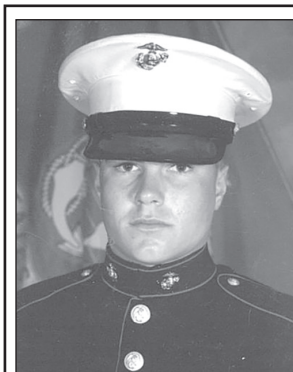
The Mendota Reporter welcomes letters to the editor on public issues of local interest. Letters must be signed for publication; authors' names will not be withheld. Include your address and telephone number. The number will not be published but may be used to verify authenticity. Unsigned, anonymous letters are never published. Keep your letter as concise as possible. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for length and to withhold letters that do not meet The Reporter's standards of taste and ethics. The Reporter reserves the right to accept or reject letters to the editor endorsing candidates for public office. The deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for Wednesday's issue. Send letters to: The Mendota Reporter, 703 Illinois Ave., P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342.



Clifford W. Aughenbaugh
U.S. Army, Sergeant
Dates of Service: World War II
Tours of Duty: Italy



Douglas K. Aughenbaugh
U.S. Army, Specialist E5
Dates of Service: 1967-1969
Tours of Duty: Tacoma, Wash.



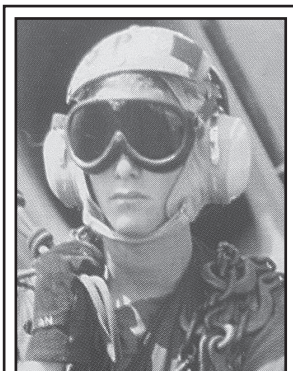
Mark Aughenbaugh
U.S. Marines
Dates of Service: 1992-1996



Edward Srnensky
U.S. Army, T/5
Dates of Service: World War II, 1942-1946
Tours of Duty: New Guinea, So. Philippines, Luzon Campaigns



Theron S. Stanford
U.S. Navy, Aerographer's Mate
Dates of Service: Active
Training at Norfolk, Va.



Trenton L. Stanford Sr.
Navy Airman
Training at Orlando, Fla.
Dates of Service: 1991-93
Tours of Duty: Desert Storm, Southern Watch (Saudi), Restore Hope (Somalia)
Worked on flight deck.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- What could make Al Pacino shoot five films back-to-back at 84 years old? In 2011, he learned that his accountant stole \$50 million of his money for a Ponzi scheme, leaving Pacino with \$0. The 1993 Best Actor Oscar winner (for "Scent of a Woman") realized that he'd have to work to cover his losses. Pacino offered, "The big paydays that I was used to just weren't coming around anymore."



Pacino

He continued, "Jack and Jill" was the first film I made after I lost my money. To be honest, I did it because I didn't have anything else. Adam Sandler wanted me, and they paid me a lot for it. ... I love Adam; he was wonderful to work with and has become a dear friend."

Pacino started doing commercial ads, sold one of his two houses, and hit the college talk circuit (which he used to do for free) and paid seminars. He details a lot of this in his recently released memoir "Sonny Boy."

His upcoming films are "Modi, Three Days on the

Wing of Madness," directed by Johnny Depp; "In the Hand of Dante" with Oscar Isaac, Jason Momoa, Gerard Butler, Gal Gadot and John Malkovich; "LearRex" opposite Jessica Chastain, Ariana DeBose, Rachel Brosnahan, Chris Messina and Danny Huston; the horror film "The Ritual," with Dan Stevens, Ashley Greene and Patricia Heaton; and "Easy's Waltz," starring Shania Twain and Vince Vaughn.

Prolific horror novelist Stephen King has Osgood Perkins (son of "Psycho" star Anthony Perkins) bringing his book "The Monkey" to big screens on February 21, 2025. Perkins recently directed Nicolas Cage in "Longlegs" (a \$10-million cost with \$109-million grosses).

"The Monkey" stars Theo James ("The White Lotus") playing twin brothers who find their father's old toy monkey in the attic and start to see a series of gruesome deaths happen all around them. Itco-stars Elijah Wood, Colin O'Brien, and "Schitt's Creek's" Sarah Levy.

In addition, James is soon to be seen in the crime thriller "Fuze," with Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Sam Worthington.

The Dolby Theater, home of the Oscars award ceremony, has a new landlord: Jebb Hollywood Entertainment. The investment group also owns the TCL Chinese Theater, whose forecourt is famed for the footprints of legendary Hollywood superstars (a huge Hollywood tourist attraction), as well as the Yamashiro Restaurant. They evicted Dolby for a mere \$50 million!

Hugh Jackman is teaming up with Kate Hudson for the musical-drama "Song Sung Blue" as two down-to-earth musicians who form a Neil Diamond tribute band. Michael Imperioli ("The Sopranos"), Fisher Stevens and Jim Belushi co-star.

Hudson's recent screen appearance was in the comedy-horror film "Shell," with Elisabeth Moss. Meanwhile, Jackman's "Deadpool & Wolverine" grossed \$1.337 billion. Small wonder that he and Ryan Reynolds head the list to host the upcoming Oscars on March 2, 2025. If they accidentally slip into off-color language like they did in the film, the Oscars could slip into a Song-Sung-Blue-It!

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By Dana Jackson

Q: Now that "The Great" is no longer running, what series or movie will Elle Fanning do next? Also, did she ever win an Emmy for "The Great"? She should have! -- **K.W.**

A: Elle Fanning has been nominated for an Emmy and three Golden Globes for her portrayal of Catherine the Great in the Hulu series "The Great," but she never won. The series was critically acclaimed but canceled after three seasons, and she's since moved on to other projects.

Next up for Fanning is the Bob Dylan biopic "A Complete Unknown," opposite Timothée Chalamet. (Perhaps an Oscar is in her future?) She'll also star as the titular character in the upcoming Apple TV+ series "Margo's Got Money Troubles," which is based on the novel of the same name by Rufi Thorpe. The all-star cast includes Michelle Pfeiffer ("The First Lady"), Nicole Kidman ("Bombshell") and Nick Offerman ("The Last of Us").

Pfeiffer's husband, David E. Kelley, is the showrunner. Kelley last worked with Kidman in the HBO series

Celebrity Extra

"Big Little Lies." He's best known for "L.A. Law," "Ally McBeal" and "The Practice," which were all huge hits on network television. He's most recently created shows for streaming services -- some hits, some not -- but "The Lincoln Lawyer" and "Presumed Innocent" were strong showings for Netflix and Apple, respectively.

Q: I've been watching the Bruce Springsteen documentary on Hulu, but I could have sworn there was also a movie coming out with an actor playing him. Am I remembering correctly? -- **D.D.**

A: You didn't dream it; it's true. A motion picture about Springsteen's life while recording his iconic acoustic album "Nebraska" in the early 1980s is currently in production. None other than Emmy-Award-winning actor Jeremy Allen White ("The Bear") will portray him and says that he would even like to try singing for the film, as opposed to being dubbed over.

Titled "Deliver Me from Nowhere," the movie is based on the recent book of the same name by author Warren Zanes

and will be directed by Scott Cooper ("Crazy Heart"). The film will also star two other actors who are no strangers to awards ceremonies: Jeremy Strong ("Succession") and Paul Walter Hauser ("Black Bird").

Q: Is Johnny Depp going to do any more "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies, or is his career pretty much over since his trial with Amber Heard? -- **L.L.**

A: Even though Depp won his defamation trial in the United States against his ex-wife Amber Heard ("Aquaman") and has done some independent films, he hasn't quite made a comeback as a movie star. It's doubtful that there will be another "Pirates" movie with Depp in the starring role, but he's still planning to inch his way back onto our movie screens.

He's recently been cast in his fourth film opposite Penelope Cruz, titled "Day Drinker." The two previously appeared in the movies "Blow," "Pirates on the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," and most recently "Murder on the Orient Express." It'll be his first big studio project since his career went south.

Couch Theater

"Alien: Romulus" (R) -- This sci-fi horror film marks the ninth overall film in the "Alien" franchise, pulling in about \$350.8 million at the box office to add to the franchise's overall grosses. This film adds Cailee Spaeny ("Civil War"), Isabela Merced ("Madame Web"), and Archie Renaux ("Morbis") into the "Alien" mix. Set between the events of "Alien" (1979) and "Aliens" (1986), "Romulus" centers around six space colonists who embark on a quick, 30-minute expedition to gather equipment that can help them escape to the planet Yvaga. Once they arrive at the space station, however, they realize it's inhabited by deadly xenomorphs. So, pick your poison: a face-hugging alien or a chest-bursting one? (Amazon Prime Video)

"MaXXXine" (R) -- The third installment in the A24 slasher film series "X" directed by Ti West is out now, starring scream queen Mia Goth ("Emma"). Set in 1985 Los Angeles, Goth reprises her role as wild card Maxine Minx, who finally lands a role in a feature film after having starred in

adult films her entire life. But while she's being lured into the glitz and glamor of the Hollywood Hills, the notorious Night Stalker is on the loose, murdering people left and right. Luckily, with the treacherous past Maxine has, the Night Stalker is the last person on her mind when fame is nipping at her fingertips. Elizabeth Debicki ("The Crown"), Lily Collins ("Emily in Paris"), Halsey ("Sing 2"), and Kevin Bacon ("Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F") co-star. (Max)

"The Apprentice" (R) -- It's a miracle that there haven't been more biopics about Donald Trump in development, given the amount of material the former president provides us with daily. Described to be his "origin story," this drama starring Sebastian Stan ("A Different Man") as Trump follows his career in New York as a real estate businessman during the 1970s and 1980s. Jeremy Strong ("Succession") plays Trump's close confidant, Roy Cohn, whose influence and transactional relationship with Trump is closely studied during the film. Trump himself described the film

as "a cheap, defamatory, and politically disgusting hatchet job" and called everyone involved "human scum." Hmm, sounds like it could be worth a watch! Check it out for yourself now. (Apple TV+)

"The Substance" (R) -- Demi Moore has made a bit of a comeback with the success of this disturbing horror film, co-starring Margaret Qualley ("Kinds of Kindness") and Dennis Quaid ("Reagan"). On the eve of her 50th birthday, Elisabeth Sparkle (Moore) gets fired from her aerobics TV show due to her "advanced age." Subsequently, Elisabeth sees an ad for The Substance, a black-market serum that creates a "younger, more beautiful" version of the person who injects it. Thinking she found the answer to her problems, Elisabeth uses the younger version of herself, named Sue (Qualley), to garner fame, celebrity, and everything she desires. But what happens to dear Elisabeth when Sue starts to get a mind of her own? Find out now. (MUBI)

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• Trivia Test •

1. MOVIES: What was the name of the tournament in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What was the name of the train service that started in 1883 between Paris and Constantinople (Istanbul)?
3. LITERATURE: Who did the pigs represent in the allegorical novel "Animal Farm"?
4. ART: Which European city houses the Reina Sofia museum?
5. TELEVISION: What is the product that Don Draper makes an ad for in the final episode of "Mad Men"?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of unicorns called?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which presidential retreat is officially named the "Naval Sup-

- port Facility Thurmont"?
 8. MUSIC: Which composer is featured in the film "Immortal Beloved"?
 9. HISTORY: The Great Wall of China was mostly built by which dynasty?
 10. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of fruit is also known as the Chinese gooseberry?
- Answers
1. The Triwizard Tournament.
 2. The Orient Express.
 3. The ruling class.
 4. Madrid, Spain.
 5. Coke.
 6. A blessing.
 7. Camp David, Maryland.
 8. Ludwig van Beethoven.
 9. Ming Dynasty.
 10. Kiwi.
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Story lines
- 5 Entanglement
- 8 Victor's cry
- 12 Barking mammal
- 13 Artist Yoko
- 14 Scrapped mission
- 15 Hawaiian city
- 16 Tic-tac-toe win
- 17 Corrida bull
- 18 Surround
- 20 Edge
- 22 Standard
- 23 Fiddle stick
- 24 Umps
- 27 Revolt
- 32 -- Baba
- 33 To and --
- 34 Modern, in Bonn
- 35 They can hold their heads high
- 38 Aussie greeting
- 39 Takeoff stat
- 40 Comic Philips
- 42 On the job
- 45 Destroys
- 49 Hoodlum
- 50 Privy
- 52 Small combo
- 53 Oklahoma tribe
- 54 GI entertainers
- 55 Full house, e.g.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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42	43			44	45		46	47	48	
49				50	51		52			
53				54			55			
56				57			58			

- 56 Pantheon members
 - 57 Club --
 - 58 Early birds?
 - 10 Folklore monster
 - 11 Queen dowager of Jordan
 - 19 "Boheme"
 - 21 Kimono closer
 - 24 Tatter
 - 25 Yalie
 - 26 Kindling
 - 28 Opposite of "post-"
 - 29 Guitar-making material
 - 30 PBS supporter
 - 31 Chap
 - 36 Makes amends
 - 37 New Deal pres.
 - 38 "Faust" dramatist
 - 41 "Deeds"
 - 43 Dorothy's dog
 - 44 Heidi of "Project Runway"
 - 46 Rocky outcrop
 - 47 Monarch
 - 48 Freshens lawns
 - 51 Sugar suffix
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* The term "lawn mullet" means having a neatly manicured front yard and an unmowed mess in the back.

* Weird Al Yankovic wrote his parody song "The Saga Begins" before "Star Wars: Episode I" was released. Lucasfilm denied his request to see the film early, so he relied on internet spoilers for plot details.

* The human stomach can dissolve razor blades.

* In 1987, Steve Rothstein paid \$250,000 for a lifetime unlimited first class American Airlines ticket. He even hopped on planes to get a sandwich or to go to a baseball game in other cities. It cost American Airlines around \$21 million, and they ended his contract in 2008.

* In Italy, it's considered bad luck to lay bread upside down -- either on a table or in a basket.

* Thanksgiving Eve is the biggest drinking and pizza night of the year.

* When the Italian writer Umberto Eco visited Paris for the first time, he only walked down streets surviving from the Middle Ages. He was studying medieval history at the University of Turin at the time and was obsessed with the era.

* In an emergency, coconut water can be used for blood plasma, due to its high levels of sodium and low levels of potassium.

* There are beaches in the Maldives that glow in the dark.

* When pencils went into mass production in the 1890s, the finest available graphite to fill them came from China. Pencil manufacturers wanted everyone to know that they used only the best Chinese graphite, so they painted their pencils yellow, the traditional Chinese color of royalty.

Thought for the Day: "Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul." -- Samuel Ullman

S	S	G	E	Q	E	M	S	D	O	Q
N	D	H	O	S	N	S	O	T	O	
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		O	W	E	O	I	D	E		
Y	A	D	G	A	F	F	A	V	G	I
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N	O	N	I	W	E	B	S	A	R	C

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

RealNews



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RealEvents

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TRACT II-Farmette: 4.65 Acres Section 15 Manlius
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Patricia A. Donahue

ROCKFORD – Patricia Ann Donahue, 80, of Rockford, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024, at her home surrounded by her family.

Visitation was from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, at the Horner-Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota. The funeral Mass was at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Mendota with Father Greg Nelson officiating. Private interment was at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Mendota.

Pat was born July 14, 1944, in Mendota, the daughter of L.M. "Mike" and Alice (Guilfoyle) Donahue.

Pat is survived by her sister, Cathy Donahue of Mendota; three sisters-in-law, Sandee, Ellen, and Jan Donahue; and five nieces and one nephew.

In addition to her parents, Pat is preceded in death by three brothers, Mick, Jerry, and Joe Donahue.

Pat attended Holy Cross Grade School in Mendota and graduated from Mendota Township High School in 1962. Later in life, she attended Rock Valley College before transferring to Cardinal Stritch University where she graduated in 1995. Pat worked 40 years at Rockford Products Corporation. She was a manager in transportation and shipping. She volunteered for many years with OSF Hospice, crocheting blankets for hospice patients. She was an avid reader and an avid investor in the stock market. She enjoyed spending time with family, especially her nieces and nephew, whom she supported whole heartedly.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Pat's memory may be directed to Mercyhealth Hospice in Rockford or the Rockford Public Library. Please visit www.horner-merritt.com to sign the online guest book.



Ronald E. Lilja

MENDOTA – Ronald Edwin Lilja, 82, of Mendota, passed away on Oct. 30, 2024, in Wausau, Wis.

A public memorial visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 8, at the Horner-Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota. A memorial service will take place at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 398 Church Road, Compton. Burial of cremated body will follow at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Mendota.

He was born on Jan. 15, 1942, in Caribou Township, Minn., the son of Nels and Olive (Oaks) Lilja. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Rita Goubeaux, whom he married on June 30, 1962, in Mendota.

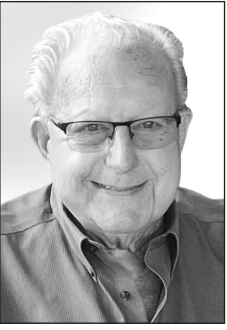
His memory will be carried on by his loving wife, Rita of Mendota; three children, Becky (Kevin) McPheeters of Mendota, David (Susan) Lilja of Paw Paw and Debbie (Eugene) Bodmer of Mendota; eight grandchildren: Ashley (Eric) Pawlowski of Mendota, Brandon Smith of Nashville, Tenn., Erica Ince of Mendota, Jessica (Patrick) Hagerty of Yorkville, Zachary Lilja of Mendota, Emily (Grant) Bowne of Mendota, Grant Bodmer of LaSalle and Alysa (Jacob) Guerrero of Mendota; nine great-grandchildren, Camden, Brooks and Everly Pawlowski, Lettie Ince, Jack and James Hagerty, Charlie Bowne, Joseph and Theodore Guerrero.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nels and Olive Lilja; his daughter, Christy Lilja on Aug. 3, 2019; five siblings, Marge Desch, Esther Underberg, Theodore Lilja, Larrie Lilja and Lettie Larter.

Ron was a hardworking man, dedicated to his craft as a contractor in tiling and excavating. He ran his own business, Lilja Tiling & Excavating, since 1972. He was a lifelong member of the Moose Lodge #714 in Mendota, member and past officer of the Elks Lodge #1212 in Mendota and also past Wyoming Township board member.

Pallbearers will be John Robeson, Mike Thompson, Galen Brownderville, Tod Schlesinger, Bradley Iversen, RJ Anderson, Skip Raisor, Lauren Warkins, Joe Evans, Scott Klinger, Bill Simmons and Jim Craig.

Memorials in Ron's memory can be made to the CSL Foundation. Visit www.horner-merritt.com for online guest-book and video tribute.



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.

See the latest obituaries at mendotareporter.com

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Sublette projects take step further with engineer

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

SUBLETTE – The agenda and conversation during Village of Sublette meetings have featured reoccurring projects over the last year.

Before the Monday, Oct. 14 meeting, a committee meeting took place with an engineer from Willett Hofmann & Associates.

"There was a committee meeting with the engineer about more projects in Sublette that need to be done," Sublette President John Stenzel said. "We've had a preliminary budget for engineering and design, and we added to it because we expanded the scope. We're at the point where we need to expand again because more stuff has been added."

"He showed us some maps with designs he has worked on. We went over the maps for the drainage, water, and street projects on Richmond, Virginia, and Reeve Street, and we went over motor fuel tax project for 2025 and the sidewalk replacement plan. The consensus was to put another \$20,000 into the design budget."

Sublette is also in the process of setting up a meeting with the Illinois Department of Transportation about the tile running under US Highway 52.

The paperwork for a

\$30,000 IEPA Grant for water service line inventory has been accepted and received. The board hopes to hear by the end of November of whether or not the grant will complete in the same fashion as the paperwork.

Sublette received three bids for the three-year maintenance contract the board has advertised since the existing deal with Rick's Lawn & Property Maintenance expires Tuesday, Nov. 12. Rick's did not want to renew the contract.

A motion was made to go with Turf Tamers, LLC in West Brooklyn for \$38,450 per year for three years. The motion was seconded, but voted against, 4-2.

After discussion and Stenzel stating the board could either rebid or someone could make a motion for a different sealed bit, an alderman made a motion to accept Nick's Lawn Care's bid of \$55,000 per year. It was seconded and the vote was 3-4 with two nays and one abstaining, which means Nick's Lawn Care will get the Sublette maintenance contract.

Christmas in the Village will take place Sunday, Dec. 1 (time TBD).

The filing period for the April 2025 election is Nov. 12-18 for five positions on the Sublette board: president, clerk, and three trustees.

Welding registration sessions set for IVCC spring classes

OGLESBY – IVCC's Welding Department is hosting three welding registration sessions for spring classes on Nov. 12, Dec. 11, and Jan. 7. All sessions start at 4:40 p.m. on the Main Campus.

• The first session will be held on Nov. 12 in CTC-123 to register for Spring courses that start Jan. 9, 2025.

• The second session will be Dec. 11, in Building H, Room 101, to register for Spring courses that start Jan. 9, 2025, or March 17, 2025.

• The last session will be Jan. 7, 2025, in CTC-123 to register for Spring courses that start Jan. 9 or March 17.

All new welding students must register through a registration session. Sign up for a session by contacting the East Campus Administrative Assistant, Patricia Glade, at (815) 224-0265 or emailing welding@ivcc.edu. Anyone unable to make these dates should contact Patricia.

The two information sessions in CTC-123 are

located just down the hall from the Admissions Department, so prospective students can register and enroll all at once.

No previous welding experience is necessary, and instructors work to find the best fit for students at whatever stage they enter the program. Students receive individualized instruction in small classes and use state-of-the-art welding equipment and a large lab and fabrication area.

Flexible class schedules make it convenient for students with all types of commitments to attend. Welding graduates are welcomed into the local workforce, where industries range from vehicle manufacturing and fabricated metal product manufacturing to machine shops, agriculture, construction, and mining.

For more information on the program, contact Theresa Molln at 815-224-0630 or by email Theresa_Molln@ivcc.edu or visit www.ivcc.edu/welding.

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SOCIAL NEWS

DAR members make goodie bags for Veterans

LaSALLE – The Fort du Rocher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met Oct. 12 at the LaSalle County Veteran's Home. Regent Donna Jungnickel presided.

Amanda Simpson reported the paperwork for the DAR Good Citizenship Awards had been distributed to the schools. Information on Wreaths Across America will soon be going out. Information about the wreaths can be viewed at WreathsacrossAmerica.org.

Native American minute was about Michaela Goade, a member of the Haeda & Tingot tribes of Alaska. She was the first Native American to win the Caldecott Medal of Honor for her illustrations in We Are the Water.

Members learned the deciding approval for the women's right to vote amendment was passed in Tennessee. The deciding vote was given by Harry T. Burn whose mother encouraged him to vote yes. The American Spirit report was also on women's suffrage. Members were reminded to take advantage of this privilege and vote in November.

The Patriot minutes told of Pvt. Andrew Ferguson, a free black who fought at Brandywine, King's Mountain and Cowpens. His father had been captured by the British who tried to impress him into service for the king. He was beaten and after escaping joined the Continental Army. Franklin was severely wounded at the Battle of Guilford Court House. Later,

he fought at the Siege of the Ninety-Six and at the Battle of Eutaw Springs. He served for five years and six months.

After the meeting, members put together goodie bags for residents of the Veterans Home as part of their annual service project.

The next meeting will be Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota. The program will include a memorial service. The Fort du Rocher web page may be viewed at <http://www.fortdurocherchaptersdar.com>. Any woman over 18 years of age whose lineage traces back to a Revolutionary War patriot, who wishes to learn more about Daughters of the American Revolution is invited to attend the next meeting or go online to www.dar.org.



Carolyn Schultz, Ann Goy, Vonnie Schaefer, Jan Koch, Alice Giberson and Sharon Presse of the Fort du Rocher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution assemble veterans' goodie bags. (Photo contributed)



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SPORTS



The Mendota boys’ soccer team captured its first super-sectional championship thus earning the first-ever trip to the state tournament by defeating Aurora Central Catholic, 2-0, in the Mendota Super-Sectional on Nov. 2. Celebrating the victory, front row, left to right, are David Casas, Johan Cortez, Cesar Casas, Mateo Goy, Gianni Figueroa, Mauricio Salinas, Kevin Herrera, Cameron Escatel and Daniel Garcia. Middle row, Cole Kleckner, Aaden Castle, Mauricio Martinez, Samuel Matura, Gael Garcia, Ramiro Palacios and Cameron Kelly. Back row, manager Kaley Siemer, manager Crystal Garcia, manager Ariana Sanchez, assistant coach Rey Arteaga, Omar Nanez, Luis Ramirez, Angel Orozco, Aaron Venegas, Alex Beetz, Abel Nanez, Isaac Diaz, Sebastian Carlos, Hugo Falcon and head coach Nick Myers. (Reporter photo)

Trojans make history!

❑ Mendota headed to state soccer tournament after 2-0 super-sectional win

MENDOTA - What better place to secure your first-ever berth in the state soccer tournament than at home sweet home.

That was the scenario presented to the Mendota boys’ soccer team – win against Aurora Central Catholic on the Trojans’ home turf to punch a ticket to the IHSA Class 1A Boys’ State Soccer Tournament. And that’s exactly what they did with a thrilling 2-0 triumph over the Chargers in front of a raucous crowd on Nov. 2 at the MHS field.

With six straight appearances in the sectional tournament and one in the super-sectional, Mendota has been knocking on the door of a state tournament bid for over half a decade. Finally, the Trojans were able to break that door down and have made the Final Four. Mendota will take a 24-2-1 record into its state semifinal round game against Normal University High (23-5-1) on Thursday, Nov. 7 at Hoffman Estates High School. The first kick is set for 7:15 p.m. The other semifinal contest will pit Columbia against Chicago Cristo Rey Jesuit for a 5:30 p.m. start.

“We’ve finally been able to achieve making the state tournament and it’s great,” said Mendota coach Nick Myers. “It’s like the big monkey’s off our back.

“We’ve been close the last four or five years making multiple sectional tournaments and we just never could get over the hump. There was just something about this group from the beginning of the year and we had great vibes all season. I felt like this was the group that was finally going to do it.”

As has been the case throughout the post season,

IHSA Class 1A State Soccer Tournament (Hoffman Estates High School) Thursday, Nov. 7
Game 1 – Columbia vs. Chicago (Cristo Rey Jesuit) – 5:30 p.m.
Game 2 – Normal (University) vs. Mendota – 7:15 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 8
Game 3 – Loser 1 vs. Loser 2 – noon (3 rd place)
Saturday, Nov. 9
Game 4 – Winner 1 vs. Winner 2 – 2:30 p.m. (championship)

Mendota and its opponent have had almost a feeling out process for about the first 20 minutes of the game and the super-sectional battle with ACC was no different. The Trojans had the first real chance to score with over 18 minutes gone in the game when the ACC goalie came away from the net and Mendota trickled the ball toward the goal, but a Charger defender was able to knock it away just inches before the ball crossed the line.

Two minutes later, the Trojans were back near the ACC goal, and after several headers by each team, the ball bounced to Mendota’s Cesar Casas who drilled it past Charger goalkeeper Elias Perez for a 1-0 Trojan lead.

Neither team was able to find the net the rest of the half and the squads headed to the locker room with a 1-0 Mendota lead.

There was a flurry of action in the second half, with several shots on goal by both teams. ACC had its best opportunity of the game to get on the board just over a minute into the second half. A Charger shot went high toward Mendota goalie Mateo Goy, who managed to get a hand on the ball at the last second and deflect it over the top of the goalpost.

After a tripping call on the Chargers gave Mendota

a free kick at the 27-minute mark, Johan Cortez’s offering from 30 yards out was smothered by the ACC goalie.

Mendota had three more chances over the next 11 minutes, but shots by Cortez, Sebastian Carlos and Cesar Casas were denied by the Charger defense and the Trojans clung to a 1-0 lead.

After ACC’s scoring opportunity to start the second half, it was quiet until the 14:09 mark when Goy made the save of the game. A Charger player had a clear shot at the goal but Goy dove to his right and directed the ball away to preserve Mendota’s one-goal advantage.

“Mateo came up huge for us today,” said Myers. “We have a lot of games during the regular season where he may not even have to touch the ball, but I always tell everybody, when he is called upon, he gets it done.

“He made an incredible play to keep that ball out and I think our guys fed off of that. From my viewpoint it looked like it was going in, but again, a great save by Mateo and I think that catapulted our group to finish the game.”

Each team exchanged scoring chances under the eight-minute mark with a Carlos kick sailing over the top of the goalpost and a



Mendota’s Johan Cortez battles for the ball with Omar Flores of Aurora Central Catholic in the Mendota Super-Sectional on Nov. 2. (Reporter photo)

Charger attempt landing in the arms of Goy with 6:53 left.

Then, 50 seconds later, the Trojans were able to get an all-important insurance goal when Isaac Diaz found enough room in a crowd around the ACC goal to boot one into the net to make it 2-0.

“I thought we could get one or two more goals in the first half, and then I didn’t anticipate it was going to take us that long to score in the second half, but when you get this late in the season in soccer, you kind of expect close games down to the very end,” added Myers.

“These guys were fighting hard until the very end to hold the lead and it was a relief to get that second goal. They wanted it badly and it’s an awesome feeling.”

Mendota’s state tour-

namment opponent, Normal U-High is coming off of a second-place finish in the 2023 state finals, losing 2-0 to Winnetka North Shore Country Day in the championship game. The Pioneers were beaten by Peoria Christian, 1-0, just a few weeks before this year’s post season began, while the Trojans defeated Peoria Christian twice this season, the second time in the sectional championship.

“U-High was second in state last year and from everything I’ve been told they still have a really solid squad this year,” noted Myers. “They’ve beaten some really good teams, so it’s going to be a battle on Thursday.”

This is the first time a Mendota High School team has made it to the state tournament level since the 2003 Trojan baseball team.

“We’ve been close the last four or five years making multiple sectional tournaments and we just never could get over the hump. There was just something about this group from the beginning of the year and we had great vibes all season. I felt like this was the group that was finally going to do it.”

– Coach Nick Myers

Late goal lifts MHS to sectional title

❑ C. Casas breaks tie with 56 seconds left to down Peoria Christian, 2-1

CHILLICOTHE - It was of no secret that the sectional soccer battle between Mendota and Peoria Christian would come down to the wire.

That notion was correct, as the Trojans scored a late goal to break a tie and go on to claim a 2-1 triumph over the Chargers in the championship game of the Chillicothe IVC Class 1A Boys’ Sectional Soccer Tournament on Oct. 30. It was the second sectional championship in MHS soccer history, the first coming in 2021.

Mendota scored the game’s first goal when Sebastian Carlos took a pass from Isaac Diaz and got a shot past the Peoria Christian goalkeeper with eight minutes left in the first half. The Trojans carried that one-goal lead to intermission.

The scored remained the same through the first 30 minutes of the second half when the Chargers managed to knot the score on a goal by Nico Edwards.

Then with 56 seconds left in regulation, Johan Cortez was able to feed the ball to Cesar Casas on the wing and he maneuvered his way around two Peoria Christian defenders and somehow from the side of the goal managed to send the ball past the Charger keeper for the game-winner.

“I thought our guys responded well to Peoria Christian’s goal and did not let it bring us down and let them get a second goal,” said Mendota coach Nick Myers. “Our guys continued to fight and made a great play to score the deciding goal with 56 seconds left.”

Myers said the first half went as expected, with Peoria Christian coming out with some extra motivation after having lost a 4-2 contest to the Trojans two weeks earlier.

“I thought our guys did a great job of handling the pressure in the first 10-15 minutes of the game,” Myers noted. “We had a few attacks that led to great goal-scoring opportunities, but PC’s keeper made great saves.

“The second-half momentum seemed to be turning on us as Peoria came out with even more pressure. We gave them way too many corner kicks and set pieces near our goal, but our defense held strong for 30 minutes shutting them out until they got one with 10 minutes left.”



Mendota’s Danny Garcia (No. 23) tries to keep the ball away from Aurora Central Catholic’s Landen Diedrich in an attempt to get a pass off to teammate Cesar Casas in the Mendota Super-Sectional. (Reporter photo)

SPORTS



Mendota's Isaac Diaz and Aurora Central Catholic's Christopher Incandela, left, and Brayen Angeles wait for a header ball to come down during the Mendota Super-Sectional on Nov. 2 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)



Mendota's Sebastian Carlos dribbles the ball past Aurora Central Catholic's Diego Leon during the Mendota Super-Sectional. (Reporter photo)



Mendota's Isaac Diaz sends a header ball toward the Aurora Central Catholic goal during the Mendota Super-Sectional. (Reporter photo)



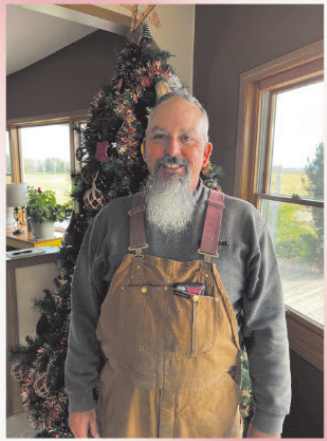
Cameron Escatel of Mendota tries to keep the ball away from Aurora Central Catholic's Diego Leon in Mendota Super-Sectional action. (Reporter photo)

It is with great pleasure and admiration that we announce the **7th Annual COMFORT A HERO Program**. As a third generation owner in a company based on trust and community, it is our honor to once again team up with Rheem Manufacturing and Starved Rock Media to giveaway a complete home comfort system with installation to a deserving active military person or veteran. With costs on the rise and the unpredictability of this winter's weather, this is our family's way of giving back and saying thank you to the unselfish sacrifices these men and women have made by defending our country.

To nominate a Hero, please complete the Comfort a Hero nomination form on StarvedRock.media or TripleServiceInc.com
Entries will be accepted November 1-12th and the winner will be announced Monday November 25th.



After a visit to the nominee's homes, last year's winner was James Joslin of Earlville. He started his VA mental health journey and began to heal himself from the inside out. His wife Deb stated "I couldn't be prouder of him for putting aside the unfortunate stigma that is associated with pursuing and receiving mental help. Because of that stigma, there are many people, especially veterans, who do not get the help they need and deserve." Jim and Deb very much support a company called Til Valhalla and all they stand for and believe in. They are bringing awareness to the general population regarding PTSD and the struggles of 22 veterans a day that are unable to fight their demons. My hope is that Jim can show others that it IS possible to fight the fight even after 30+ years of trying to bury them. There is hope and as scary as it is, he has been able to learn HIS new normal.



2023 Recipient
James Joslin, Earlville

Jim served in the United States Army and is an advocate for PTSD and Veteran Mental Health. Jim works at Silver Springs State Park, and served our country in the Army in both Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Thank you Deb for nominating your husband sharing his story with us. Jim, Thank you for your dedication and service. 🇺🇸

Past Hero Winners

- 2022- AARON WILLIAMS, U.S. Marines
- 2021- MATTHEW CURTIS BROWN, U.S. Marines
- 2020- HERSCHEL TOLLEY, U.S. Air Force
- 2019- MICHAEL MCFARLAND, U.S. Marines
- 2018- ALEX KASZYNSKI, U.S. Army

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Mendota's Kelson has cross country season end at sectional

ROCK ISLAND – Mendota High School senior Anthony Kelson had his season and cross country career come to a close in the Rock Island Alleman Class 1A Sectional on Nov. 2. Kelson finished in 29th place overall with a time of 17:02. "Impressively, Anthony came within 3-4 seconds of the last state qualifier," said Mendota coach Kevin Wohrley. "With the setbacks he faced in the last six weeks, advancement to state was just not to be this season. His effort to return to form the last couple weeks was impressive, and I couldn't be prouder of him and his grit."

Nicolai Martino of Winnebago took the top place in the three-mile race with a time of 15:16, followed by Andrew Kurien of Rockford Christian (15:20) and Tim Starwalt of Byron (15:37).

The top six boys' team moving on to the state meet include sectional champion Rockford Christian with 52 points, Winnebago (77), Kewanee Wethersfield (155), Princeville (160), Rockford Lutheran (178) and Byron (180).

The girls' race was won by Emily Downing of Cambridge in a time of 17:46. Alyssa Higgins of Knoxville was second in 17:57 and Dusti Smith of Stark County was third in 18:26.

Advancing girls' teams were Winnebago (66), Byron (133), Stark County (144), Sherrard (147), Cambridge (154) and Seneca (175).

SPORTS

BOWLING

Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Oct. 23 – 1. O'Donnell Excavating 21-11; 2. Mendota Monument 20-12; 3. Black Brothers 18.5-13.5; 4. First State Bank 18-14; 5. Maybe Next Week 11.5-20.5; Novak Farms 7-25 High team game (scratch) – O'Donnell Excavating 1022, Mendota Monument 994, First State Bank 973 High team game (hdcp) – O'Donnell Excavating 1211, Novak Farms 1190, First State Bank 1175 High team series (scratch) – Mendota Monument 2859, O'Donnell Excavating 2800, First State Bank 2633 High team series (hdcp) – Black Brothers 3404, Mendota Monument 3375, O'Donnell Excavating 3367 High individual game (scratch) – Joe Dimmig 253, Drake O'Donnell 236, Luke Ross 236 High individual game (hdcp) – Joel Bejster 277, Joe Dimmig 272, Kasen Novak 266 High individual series (scratch) – Joe Dimmig 674, Luke Ross 672, Nate Bradford 664 High individual series (hdcp) – Joe Dimmig 731, Zachary Lilja 731, Nate Bradford 721

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Oct. 28 – 1. Split Happens 29-11; 2. Leagal Beagles 26-14; 3. CM

Farm 22-18; 4. Ramer Inc. 19-21; 5. Bad Kats 16-24; 6. The Struggle is Real 8-32 High team game (scratch) – Leagal Beagles 749, Split Happens 730, Ramer Inc. 722 High team game (hdcp) – Leagal Beagles 1042, The Struggle is Real 1012, Ramer Inc. 976 High team series (scratch) – Leagal Beagles 2159, Ramer Inc. 2103, Split Happens 2083 High team series (hdcp) – Leagal Beagles 3038, CM Farm 2907, Ramer Inc. 2865 Men's high game (scratch) – Mike Smith 256, Matt Ramer 232, Ed Roulston 210 Men's high game (hdcp) – Mike Smith 300, Ed Roulston 293, Aaron Holocker 269 Men's high series (scratch) – Matt Ramer 666, Mike Smith 664, Brendan Ramer 576 Men's high series (hdcp) – Ed Roulston 804, Mike Smith 796, Brendan Ramer 783 Women's high game (scratch) – Sarah Westphal 222, Emily Thomas 214, Gail Sessler 194 Women's high game (hdcp) – Sarah Westphal 313, Audrey Holocker 277, Emily Thomas 261 Women's high series (scratch) – Emily Thomas 600, Gail Sessler 503, Hannah Westphal 500 Women's high series (hdcp) – Sarah Westphal 765, Kim Smith 744, Emily Thomas 741



Northbrook Eighth Grade Night

The Northbrook Middle School eighth grade girls' basketball team celebrated Eighth Grade Night with a 37-21 victory over Plano on Oct. 29. Front row, left to right, are Lilli Bucio, Bella Bute, Aliya Delao, Laurali Thompson, Hayden Cedillo and Averie Hazelwood. Back row, coach Dalton Jilderda, Mallory Beck, Lexie Saylor, Kaitlyn Giberson and Nevaeh Munoz. (Photo contributed)

Northbrook boys' basketball

(6th Grade) Oct. 28 @ Wallace "A" game Northbrook 28, Wallace 19 Scoring: Collin Kleckner 10 points, Cruz Arteaga 6

points, Grayson Goodlow 6 points "B" game Wallace 32, Northbrook 19 Scoring: Antonio Arteaga 9 points, Xavier Hiatt 8 points, Aiden Allen 2 points

OGLESBY – The Illinois Valley Community college cross Country team is hosting an all-new fall race for high school and junior high school-aged runners of all abilities. Runners will face a cross-country-style course on IVCC's Oglesby campus. The race will be on Saturday, Nov. 16, beginning near the IVCC track on the south side of campus near the disc golf course. Race day registration/

check-in begins at 9 a.m. with the junior high race starting at 10 a.m. and the high school race at 10:45 a.m. The junior high race will be 2 miles, and the high school race will be 5 kilometers. The cost to run is \$20 per runner. All participants will receive a race T-shirt. The top male and female finisher in each race will receive an additional award.

Download the registration form from https://www.ivcceagles.com/community-outreach/IVCC_Eagle_Run_2024_Entry_Form_Flyer.pdf on the IVCC Athletics website and return the completed form to Matt Baker, IVCC Cross Country, 815 N. Orlando Smith Road, Oglesby, IL 61348. Checks should be made payable to IVCC. For additional information, contact Baker at matthew_baker@ivcc.edu.

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Monday, November 11, 2024

**The Mendota Veterans Day program will be held
Monday, November 11, 2024 in Veterans Park,
downtown Mendota.**

Program starts promptly at 11 a.m.

**The Mendota VFW Post 4079 Veterans Memorial Squad,
its Auxiliary and Mendota American Legion Post 540
will participate in the program.**

**Everyone is welcome to this service, the purpose of which is to
honor and remember all Veterans, both alive and deceased for
their commitment and contribution to our present way of life,
and the benefits of liberty and freedom on both domestic
and foreign soil.**

**The Mendota VFW Post 4079 Veterans Memorial Squad, its Auxiliary and Mendota
American Legion Post 540 will participate in the program.**

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The Veterans Day program schedule is as follows:

- Introductions: Bill Hunt, Past Commander, U.S. Navy Veteran
- Presentation of Colors: Mendota VFW Post 4079 Veterans Memorial Squad and Mendota American Legion Post 540
- National Anthem: Mendota High School Band, Director Paula Baker
- Pledge of Allegiance: Audience
- Invocation: Jason Donahue, VFW Post 4079 Commander
- Veterans Day Address: Ella Lewis, Mendota High School
- Firing of Volley: Mendota VFW Post 4079 Veterans Memorial Squad
- Taps: Mendota VFW Post 4079 Veterans Memorial Squad
- Benediction: Jason Donahue, VFW Post 4079 Commander

Everyone is welcome to the service, the purpose of which is to honor and remember all veterans, both alive and deceased, for their commitment and contribution to our present way of life, and the benefits of liberty and freedom on both domestic and foreign soil.

*** IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, SERVICES WILL BE CANCELED.

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VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11

Countless Thanks to
Our Veterans

RELIGION

Keep it simple

Do you ever feel like life is just a little bit complicated? Or maybe like it's a whole lot complicated? Jesus didn't die so we could live complicated, frustrated, miserable lives. He died for us so we could have and enjoy our lives (John 10:10).

Maybe you're like me and you have a busy schedule. I love what God has called me to do, but when life becomes especially busy, it gets harder to manage everything and enjoy life the way I should.

However, I've determined that I'm not going to be frustrated or aggravated all the

time...or allow my life to go by in a blur. And I've decided that I'm not going to just be "busy." Instead, I want to be fruitful. So, I learned to think of my life in a new way, starting with the words "simplicity" and "simple."

Simplicity means "single, consisting of one thing, unmingled." The Bible tells us, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8 KJV). So, we don't want to be double minded. Instead, we want to be single minded, because being double minded will complicate your life.

You have to make your mind up to do something and go for it.

Similarly, the word simple means "sincere, with no duplicity, no hidden agenda, but having a pure heart, not complex or complicated."

I believe the best way we can simplify our lives is by starting our day talking to God through prayer. The Bible says that the "...effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16 NKJV). We don't need to sound eloquent when we pray or try to impress God in any way. He simply wants you to talk to Him like you would a friend. If you don't speak in Elizabethan English during the day, you don't need to when you go to pray!

It's great to start your morning having this special time with God, and I highly recommend it. But I think it's even more important to pray your way through the day. The only way we're going to keep life simple and be fruitful is to lean on God and talk to Him all through the day, asking for His help and involving Him in everything that you do.



There's a wonderful scripture passage in Proverbs that says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV). One of the best ways to stay connected with God is to acknowledge Him in everything that you do.

God's plan for man is simple, and the plan of salvation is simple. There's nothing complicated about God, and He doesn't want us to be complicated. He actually says that you will not inherit the kingdom if you don't come as a little child (Mark 10:15), that is to say, we need to come to Him simply.

When life feels out of control, all we want to do is change it, but we can't always do that. In fact, I think too often we spin our wheels trying to

do something about a problem that we can't change. However, the next time you feel overwhelmed, I want to challenge you to change the way you think about the problem and have a different attitude toward it. Instead, make a decision to put your problem in God's hands and trust Him to take care of it.

So, when things become complicated, I encourage you to look for ways to simplify your life. That's the privilege for a believer. You can approach Him with simple, child-like faith (Matthew 18:2-4). Regardless of your situation, you can put your trust in God, keep life simple, and not let your circumstances steal your peace. Because if you don't let them bother you, then they will have no authority over you.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-

part teaching resource Simple Prayer...Simple Life. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org

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

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

Where are the AUCTIONS?

See Page A10!



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101
LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY - IN PROBATE
NO. 2024 PR 171
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN HIGGINS, DECEASED.

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of John Higgins. Letters of Office as Independent Co-Executors were issued to Kathryn Higgins, 2379 N. 30th Road, Marseilles, IL 61341, Robert Higgins, 187 W. Armstrong St, PO Box 624, Seneca, IL 61360, and David Higgins, 260 East Union St, Seneca, IL 61360 whose Attorney is Donald F. Black, Black & Black Lawyers, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 West Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. 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. KATHRYN HIGGINS ROBERT HIGGINS DAVID HIGGINS CO-EXECUTORS DONALD F. BLACK & BLACK 201 LIBERTY STREET SUITE 211 P.O. BOX 148 MORRIS, IL 60450 815-942-0594 NO. 1010 (Oct. 23, 30 and Nov. 6, 2024)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2023-JA-42

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

Take notice that on the 24th day of October, 2024, a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Easton McCarthy, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 4th day of December, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the 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 Oct. 24, 2024
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 1013
(Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13, 2024)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2024-JA-62

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

Take notice that on the 25th day of October, 2024, a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by David A. Greer, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Josie Englert, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 12th day of March, 2025, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the 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: October 25, 2024
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 1014
(Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13, 2024)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2022-JA-01

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

Take notice that on the 25th day of October, 2024, a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by David A. Greer, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Kevin Bruce Miller, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 18th day of December, 2024, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority

ty 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: October 25, 2024
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 1015
(Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13, 2024)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2024-JD-104

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

Take notice that on the 29th day of October, 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 Kailynn R. Dierks, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 3rd day of December, 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 judgement entered.

Dated: October 29, 2024
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 1101
(Nov. 6, 2024)

NOTICE

Any candidate wishing to file a petition for the following Mendota Township Offices: Supervisor, Clerk, Road Commissioner, Assessor or Trustees may do so at the Mendota Township Offices located at 602 S Main St, Mendota Illinois. November 12, 2024 9:00am until 12:00pm November 13, 2024 9:00am until 12:00pm November 18, 2024 9:00am until 5:00pm Mendota Township Clerk Linda Corrigan No. 1102 (Nov. 6, 2024)

NOTICE

Pursuant to (Section 9-15 of the Property Tax Code) Illinois Revised Statutes, the 2025 township assessors meeting shall be held for the purpose of instructing said assessors in a manner as shall establish uniformity in the action of assess-

sors and their deputy assessors. Such public meeting shall be at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at the LaSalle County EMA Building 711 E. Etna Road Ottawa, IL. No. 1103 (November 6, 2024)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2024-JD-109

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

Take notice that on the 4th day of November, 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 Aubrey N. Martinson, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 3rd day of December, 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 judgement entered.

Dated November 4, 2024
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 1104
(Nov. 6, 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.

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

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405
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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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The final cost of any renovation project will depend on a host of variables unique to each home, including the square footage of the room being remodeled and the materials homeowners choose.

Kitchen and bath remodels are the costliest in a home

Homeowners with an eye on home improvement projects should know that kitchens and bathrooms tend to be the most costly rooms to renovate. An affiliate of the National Kitchen and Bath Association told Architectural Digest in 2023 that kitchens and bathrooms require the most labor-intensive renovations, which contributes significantly to the high

costs of such projects. Labor is indeed a significant cost when renovating a home, as the Construction Labor Market Analyzer indicates labor cost percentages in construction are between 20 and 40 percent of the total budget of a given project. The final cost of any renovation project will depend on a host of variables unique to each home, including the

square footage of the room being remodeled and the materials homeowners choose. However, homeowners looking for less costly renovations may want to consider revamping their dining rooms and closets, each of which are projects that can make a difference and tend to require a less significant financial commitment than projects like kitchen and bath remodels.

Tips to save when inflation is high

Consumers likely need no reminder that inflation has taken a notable toll on their finances in recent years. The cost of products and services has seemingly skyrocketed in recent years, leaving consumers with little recourse other than to scale back and find ways to save.

The online financial resource Investopedia notes that the inflation rate is the percentage change in the price of products and services from one year to the next. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates the inflation rate reached 8 percent in 2022, or four times the 2 percent rate of inflation the Federal Reserve aims to maintain through its various monetary policies. Though the U.S. Inflation Calculator indicates the inflation rate cooled to 2.5 percent by the end of summer 2024, that may not comfort consumers who are still confronting high prices on various items, including housing.

Indeed, inflation continues to affect people from all walks of life. However, consumers can consider various strategies to save even when inflation is keeping costs up.

- Use rewards to your advantage. Consumers now have an array of ways to pay for products and services at their disposal. Conventional wisdom has long suggested credit cards should be used only in emergencies,



but consumers who are confident they can pay off balances in full each month can consider using rewards-based credit cards to their advantage. Such cards return a certain percentage of each purchase (typically around 1 to 2 percent) to consumers, and they can be used to purchase everyday items like groceries and gas. Of course, this only benefits consumers if they pay off their balances in full each month. If not, the interest charges on credit cards will almost certainly exceed the 1 to 2 percent cash back consumers earn.

- Open a high-yield savings account. The days of earning significant interest on savings accounts may seem like a distant memory, but high-yield savings accounts are still available at many financial institutions. Consumers intent on building their savings in the face of a higher cost of living can look into high-yield savings account

options at their own bank or another financial institution. High-yield savings accounts typically mandate account holders maintain a minimum balance that is considerably higher than the minimum balances on accounts with lower interest rates, so this might not be an option for everyone. But consumers who have already squirreled away a significant sum in their savings accounts may be able to grow their money, and thus overcome inflation rates, by transferring the balance to a high-yield savings account.

- Examine your spending. Perhaps the simplest way to save when inflation is high is to periodically assess your spending habits and make tweaks designed to save money. Such assessments can include everything from identifying ways to save at the grocery store to determining if entertainment subscriptions are worth the investment. Many consumers have lamented the high cost of groceries since 2022, and it's possible a membership to a wholesale retailer can help reduce expenditures on various items, including paper products, that tend to be expensive at more traditional grocery stores.

Data indicates inflation has cooled considerably in 2024. But the cost of many items remains high, forcing consumers to rely on various ways to save money.

3 ways to find a financial planner you can work with

No matter where professionals may be in their careers, retirees may note that retirement will arrive more quickly than expected. That notion applies as much to young professionals just starting their careers as it does to seasoned workers for whom retirement is just over the horizon.

That retirement can quickly creep up on professionals underscores the significance of planning for those days when workers will no longer be drawing a paycheck. Going it alone when planning for retirement can be a risky endeavor, not to mention an unnecessary one. Financial planners can help anyone get on the road to retirement. Professionals can keep these three tips in mind as they look for a financial planner to help meet their retirement goals.

1. Recognize why you need a planner.

Financial planning firms provide a range of services, and individuals should identify what they're hoping a planner can do for them prior to their search. Some individuals may be looking for advice to get out of debt so they can focus more on retirement, while others may not have any debt and instead want investment advice so they can begin to grow their wealth. Each person is unique, so individuals must identify what makes them unique and then seek a planner whose experience and specialty aligns with their needs.

2. Prepare for the process.

Hiring a financial planner should be seen as a series of job interviews in which the prospective client is the interviewer and the planner is the person trying to land a job.

When seeking a financial planner, prepare a list of questions covering everything from compensation structure to the advisor's personal approach to planning to his or her existing client profile. Answers to these



questions and others can give investors a detailed picture of a financial professional. The more information investors gather about a financial planner, the more likely they are to find one they will be comfortable working with.

3. Inquire about fiduciary status.

According to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, a fiduciary is an investment advisor who is obligated to choose investment products that are in the best interest of the client regardless of the impact on the fiduciary or his or her firm. That can provide investors some added peace of mind when hiring individuals who will be handling their money. However, it's still important that individuals who hire a fiduciary pay attention to their investments. Fiduciaries are not immune to unethical conduct, and some may still make mistakes when choosing investments. It's important that investors acknowledge that even the most well-meaning fiduciary can choose investments that don't work out. There's always risk involved with investing, but working with a fiduciary can help investors feel better about taking on such risk.

Financial planners can be invaluable as individuals seek ways to secure their financial futures. Prospective investors should be patient and diligent as they begin the process of finding a financial planner they can work with.

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