

# Holiday cheer is here!

❑ ‘A Mendota Christmas’ to include lots of holiday-themed activities

MENDOTA – The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting “A Mendota Christmas” on Saturday, Dec. 7. This is a holiday celebration inviting everyone to come out and enjoy an afternoon of holiday cheer and begin their Christmas shopping. Mendota shops will be decorated and ready for Christmas, featuring gifts for everyone on your list.

A tree-lighting is set for 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 at Veterans Park.

Then on Saturday, Dec. 7, Mendota will really ring in the holidays with an array of events in the downtown Mendota area.

- The Grinch will be having donuts with the kids in the Elks basement from 10-11 a.m.
- Santa will arrive at 11 a.m. and stay until 2 p.m. Visit with Santa on Illinois Avenue.
- Free hot chocolate and hot dogs will be provided by the Mendota Lions Club from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Northbrook cheerleaders will perform at 11:30 a.m.
- Northbrook Grade School Choir will be performing at 12:30 p.m.
- Taco Guzman’s is selling food from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Free horse drawn carriage rides, will be available from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., departing from the corner of Jefferson Street and Indiana Avenue.
- Also from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., children of all ages are invited to “Touch a Truck.” Children can come and explore vehicles from police cars, fire trucks and tractors.
- There will be crafts for kids to make and take



**Santa Claus, along with this year’s Mendota Sweet Corn Festival mini-king Landon Fancher and mini-queen Maevae Schmidt are anxious for the arrival of Saturday, Dec. 7 when “A Mendota Christmas” is held in downtown Mendota. Lots of holiday-related activities will take place during the day, including the return of Santa Claus to hear Christmas wishes from all of the children. (Reporter photo)**

on Illinois Avenue from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Parents are encouraged to bring a camera and take holiday photos of the children at various events.

Admission to all events is free, but the Chamber will be

collecting freewill donations to benefit the Mendota Operation Elf Action program, which provides Christmas gifts to children ages 1 -13 whose families need assistance this holiday season.

Chamber Ambassadors

will be on hand at the Information Booth for the kids to pick up their Nutcracker to complete for a chance to win a Nintendo 2Ds with Mario

See Holiday, Page A5

## District 280 Board hears about ‘24 tax levy, state report card

❑ Two MHS football coaches step down

MENDOTA– The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education heard a preliminary report on the 2024 tax levy and handled personnel items at its Nov. 8 regular meeting.

Superintendent Denise Aughenbaugh gave figures on the tax levy. The total EAV (equalized assessed valuation) estimates for the three counties in the district have increased. The figure is \$12.1 million in Bureau County, \$239.6 million in LaSalle County and \$62.5 million in Lee County. The estimated EAV total is \$314,396,212, which is up about 7.48%. The 2023 extension was \$5.9 million and the requested levy for 2024 is \$6.4 million. The increase is estimated to be 7.77% and will require a Truth in Taxation hearing. The requested rate for MHS District 280 has decreased by approximately 5 cents down to \$2.05.

The board set the Truth in Taxation hearing for 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16 in the MHS Board room.

The board gave consideration and approved the 2025 health insurance renewal. The Blue Cross Blue Shield medical rate increased by 4.3%, while there was no change for dental coverage.

The board reviewed and approved the amended calendar for 2024-25. The board declared Nov. 8 as a not in attendance day for the boys’ soccer team playing in the state tournament. The board approved May 27, 2025, as the final day of school.

The board had previously established Saturday, May 17 as graduation for the Class of 2025 and agreed that the start time will be 3 p.m.

### ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT

In the Athletic Committee report, the board accepted the resignation of Keegan Hill as head varsity football coach, Brock Zinke as assistant varsity football coach, Anna Weber as football cheerleading coach and Laura Schwingel as sophomore volleyball coach.

The board hired Gary Barrera as freshman girls’ basketball coach, and appointed Maddie Holdiman as a volunteer girls’ basketball coach and Kye Denault and Brent Montavon as volunteer wrestling coaches.

### PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Joe Masini gave a presentation on the 2024 Illinois School Report Card. The graduation rate is 84%, student mobility is 9%, chronic absenteeism is 20% (state average 26.3%), average district class size is 18 with student-to-teacher ratio at 16:1, enrollment is 473, low income is 54.5%, student attendance is 93.7% and ninth grade on track is 94.7%.

See Dist. 280, Page A5

## USDA grant to benefit learning opportunities for IVCC, 10 area high schools

❑ Mendota and LaMoille high schools among those that will aid in technology

OGLESBY – U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development representatives toured one of Illinois Valley Community College’s emerging distance learning classrooms on Oct. 25, and Illinois State Director Pam Monetti presented a recognition of the \$899,855 grant that will launch exciting opportunities for area high school students.

As part of a \$1 million-plus project shared by IVCC and 10 high schools, the College will be a hub to deliver course instruction and mental health support across the miles to high schools. After seeing one of the distance learning classrooms outfitted with

cameras, microphones and monitors, the representatives joined IVCC President Dr. Tracy Morris for a campus tour.

The grant allowed the purchase of technology so the College and partner high schools can set up dedicated virtual learning classrooms to share dual credit courses, which allows high school students to earn college credit while never having to leave their high school building in a new and innovative environment.

The College will also be able to expand course opportunities while eliminating or reducing travel time for College instructors to the high schools.

“This grant opportunity is unique in that it not only provides technology for our campus, but for 10 participating high schools so that we can increase access to dual credit,” Dr. Morris said. “This is especially critical for smaller districts and for districts with a distance for students to travel. I am so excited for the ways this will transform dual credit in these participating schools.”

The schools include Mendota, Regional Office of Education Safe School, Ottawa Township, Hall, Putnam County, Henry-Senachwine, La Salle-Peru, Marquette Academy, Serena and La Moille.

The technology is easy to

use, has high quality cameras that improve the experience and will facilitate new options for course delivery, Dr. Morris added.

The grant will also create a unique opportunity by broadening access to mental health care for students in rural communities that have not had easy access to care. With the new technology, students will connect to those mental health professionals and resources through a private huddle room on the College campus.

“Students need access to education and mental health services more than ever,”

See Grant, Page A5



**Illinois State Director Pam Monetti, right, presents a recognition of the \$899,855 U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant to IVCC President Dr. Tracy Morris. The grant allowed the purchase of technology for distance learning classrooms that will launch exciting opportunities for area high school students. (Photo contributed)**



Index	
Local News .....	Pages A2,A3,A5,A7,A8
Obituaries .....	Page A4
Opinion .....	Page A6
The Back Page .....	Page A10
Sports .....	Pages B1,B2
Entertainment .....	Page B3
Christmas Coloring Contest .....	Page B4
NIE Fun Page .....	Page B5
Church Page .....	Page B7
Classifieds/Legals .....	Page B8





# LOCAL AND AREA

## Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Congratulations to the students in Mrs. Lindenmeyer, Mrs. Quintana, Mrs. Kramer and Mrs. Klein's classes for reaching their trimester goal with Paw Pride certificates. That now means that all of our classes reached the trimester goal. All of our students will be invited to attend the Traveling World of Reptiles assembly on Nov. 26.

The students nominated for the principal award this past week were Azariyah Durbin, Aylani Wallace, Nolan Crotty, Briellen Scott, Serenity Moss, Pablo Mendez-Santana, Zoey Hensley and Elsa Shoultz. The winners were Yolanie Ramirez, Adan Carbajal, Odin Clark and Jeffrey O'Brien. Congratulations to all of you!

Picture retakes were held on Nov 19 with Inter-State Studios. Pictures should

be delivered to the school before winter break if anyone ordered.

Thank you to all of our families that participated in the fall Club Choice fundraiser. We just had the pick up of products this past week. The money raised at Blackstone will be used to support a fun science assembly for our students. We appreciate the continued support to provide these opportunities for our students!

Don't forget there is no school Wednesday, Nov. 27-Friday, Nov. 29. Happy Thanksgiving!

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the Blackstone Winter Program. It will be held on Monday, Dec. 16 at Mendota High School in the auditorium. More detailed information will be shared soon with families.

## Gapinski joins state 4-H staff as creative cultural arts specialist

PRINCETON – Danielle Gapinski has transitioned from her role as a 4-H Educator to join the Illinois 4-H State team as the Creative and Cultural Arts Specialist. In this new role, Gapinski will bring a wealth of experience in education, creativity, and community engagement where she will lead initiatives designed to enrich young people's lives through the arts.

With a background in graphic design and dance direction and seven years of Extension experience, Gapinski has developed innovative programs that inspire curiosity, creativity, and cultural understanding. This new position will allow her to harness that expertise on a larger scale, creating a platform for youth to explore and express themselves through various creative mediums.

"I am incredibly excited to enter into this new capacity," said Gapinski. "The arts have the unique power to unite people and inspire a sense of belonging and self-expression. I look forward to helping young people discover their voices, spark interest in new areas, and develop skills

that will serve them throughout their lives."

In addition to creating arts-based programs, Gapinski will work closely with local and regional partners to promote creative and cultural experiences, ensuring 4-H participants have meaningful, hands-on opportunities to engage and create art. This collaborative approach will support 4-H's mission to empower young people to reach their full potential.

For more information on 4-H and how to get involved visit <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/> or contact Danielle at [des85@illinois.edu](mailto:des85@illinois.edu) or 217-300-7263.

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## The Journey of the Lost Reindeer on RT. 34 finds its way to the Graves-Hume Library

When Mendota resident Shirley Prescott wrote "The Journey of the Lost Reindeer on RT. 34" during COVID-19, she wasn't sure if she wanted to have it published or not. After family and friends encouragement sparked some courage and curiosity, she decided it was time to get her book on the press. "When you get older, sometimes you just have to step out of the box," Prescott said. "Now, it's coming into fruition. I don't want to say, 'I should have done this' or 'I should have done that.' I'm glad I have the opportunity to share my book with the library and its patrons." Prescott donated a copy of "The Journey of the Lost Reindeer on RT. 34" to the Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota and now she is going to read it to anyone who wants to hear the holiday tale at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9 at the library. Prescott also has book readings scheduled in Sandwich, Yorkville, and Utica. She suggests to purchase the book on Amazon (\$12.99) just to make sure you have a copy if you'd like it signed. She will have a limited supply. Also on Dec. 9 during the book read-ing and signing, Steve McLain, a performer from Yorkville, is going to share his music, including a song about Prescott's story. Graves-Humes Children Librarian Carolynn Ohlendorf has also prepared a craft to complete with attendees. (Reporter by Brandon LaChance)

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

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients:

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- **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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Clip and mail this form along with \$23 (\$20 per calendar plus \$3 per calendar postage) to:  
Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068







# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Mary C. Schlesinger

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Mary Catherine (Hendrick) Schlesinger, 85, proud long-time resident of East Lansing, Mich., passed away in the loving arms of her daughter Sandra on Nov. 12, 2024, at Bickford Memory Care of Midland, Mich.

Per her wishes, cremation has taken place, and a Celebration of Life will be held in or around May 2025.

Mary was born May 15, 1939, in Mendota, the eldest daughter of Charles F. Hendrick and Nina A. (Wicks) Hendrick.

Mary will be lovingly remembered by her children, daughter Sandra (Curt Putzig), with grandchildren Scot, Bret, and Katie; son Randell, with grandchildren Heather, James, Tom, and AJ; and son Scot, with grandchildren Tyller and Owen, along with former husband Elwood (Ruth) Schlesinger and her many cousins, nieces, and nephews. She is joined in rest by her parents and sister.

She had one sister, Margaret (Allen) Dowd of Kalamazoo, Mich., who predeceased her.

Mary graduated from Mendota High school in 1957 and the University of Iowa in 1961 with degrees in Political Science and Education. Mary served as Class President and also worked in the Religion Department while at Iowa. In November 1959, she was honored to have met and hosted Martin Luther King, Jr. during a visit to campus where he delivered a speech on the future of race relations in our country. Following graduation, Mary embarked on a teaching career in math and English at the middle school level in Peoria, before starting a family.

For Mary, every day was the perfect day, every visit the perfect visit, and every gift the perfect gift - and her legacy is one of unwavering warmth and kindness. Whether enjoying gardening or walks, MSU Spartan games, or spending time up north at her cottage near Charlevoix, Mary was a delightful conversation looking to happen. Family time was a priority and Mary loved being with her kids and grandkids, baking, making desserts and canning fruits, or watching sports together while laughing over the family humor of the day. Outside the home she tirelessly volunteered her free time supporting church events, cancer prevention and other non-profit fundraisers, athletics and education. Mary was especially proud to have helped form youth recreational soccer in East Lansing and surrounding areas, while also coaching.

Teaching math was her core passion and vocation. Whether with her kids, grandkids, students during the day or the many she tutored after school, she put her all into each one over her lifetime. Her caring style brought a comfortable space for learning and inspired confidence. After raising a family, she was most happy and fulfilled in her teaching career for over 20 years in the East Lansing community, at the middle and high school levels.

In lieu of flowers, those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the Izzo Legacy Fund (izzolegacy.org) or Trinity Lutheran Church in Midland, Mich. (tlcmidland.org).

Mary's loss is deeply felt by her family and the community who knew and loved her as she touched so many in countless and meaningful ways. Her memory will continue to live on as a blessing, inspiring kindness, enthusiasm, resilience, and generosity in those whose lives she touched.

Smith-Miner Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Schlesinger family. To share a special memory please visit [www.smithminer.com](http://www.smithminer.com).



## Kenneth A. Miller

LaMOILLE — Kenneth A. Miller, 88, of LaMoille, formerly of Mendota, passed away Nov. 19, 2024, with his loving family by his side.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial visitation was held on Monday, Nov. 25 from 10-11 a.m. at Wasmer Funeral Home with a Celebration of Life service officiated by Pastor Doug Kirkpatrick. Burial of ashes immediately followed at Restland Memorial Gardens. Mendota VFW Post #4079 conducted full Military Honors.

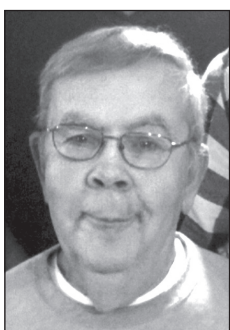
Ken was born on Dec. 18, 1935, in Mendota, to John W. and Stella May (Baker) Miller. He attended and graduated Amboy High School. Ken served in the United States Army. On Feb. 8, 1959, he married Judith Boyer in Amboy.

He will be forever missed by his sons, David (Lori) Miller of Highland, Ark., Michael Miller of Dixon, Andrew (Penny) Miller of LaMoille; 10 grandchildren, Marc, Jeremy, Brian, Brandon, Mitchell, Rachael, Sasha, Martin, Kaden, Cora; several great-grandchildren; brother, Allen Miller of Peru; and sister, Marilyn Lynch of Springfield.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Judi, on March 27, 2007.

Ken spent 27 years working for Trekker Chemical, until his retirement. He was a member of the Mendota Moose Lodge #714 and Mendota Elks Lodge #1212. Ken was a Chicago Cubs fan and loved everything Pink Panther. He had a wonderful sense of humor, continuing to joke until the end.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Condolences may be left at [wasmerfuneralhome.com](http://wasmerfuneralhome.com).



## Mike Lauer

MENDOTA — Mike Lauer, 90, of Mendota, passed away peacefully at his home on Nov. 21, 2024, with his loving family by his side.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26 at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Mass of Christian burial will be at 11 a.m. with Rev. Greg Nelson officiating. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Mike was born Donald M. Lauer on Nov. 21, 1934, in Amboy to Ralph and Bernice (Glaser) Lauer. Due to too many Dons, he was Mike from early grade school on. He graduated Amboy High School in 1951 and proudly served in the United States Army. On Feb. 1, 1964, he married the love of his life, Joan Sondgeroth at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Earlville.

Mike will be forever missed by his loving wife, Joan of Mendota; sons Daniel (Liz) Lauer of Greenwood, Ind., and Marty (Peggy) Lauer of Rockford; daughter Ann Lauer of Mendota, three grandchildren, Jaden Becsenesco, Allie Lauer, Abbie Lauer; brother, Pal Lauer of West Brooklyn, and sister, Lynn (Jerry) O'Sadnick of Mendota.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Marian DeCastris and Rita Fischbach; and brother, Ray Lauer.

Mike was an Ironworker for Union #386 then #444 in Joliet his entire career, retiring in 1994. Mike was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. He loved fishing and hunting, and had made the trek to Hayward, Wis., to fish with a dear friend for 65 years. He and Joan loved to travel. They drove to 48 of the 50 states and explored Europe.

Memorials may be directed to Mendota Area Senior Services-M.A.S.S. or the donor's choice. Condolences may be left at [wasmerfuneralhome.com](http://wasmerfuneralhome.com)



## Mendota Elks memorial service set December 1

MENDOTA — Relatives and friends of departed members of the Mendota Elks Lodge #1212 who have passed since the 2023 memorial service are invited to attend the traditional memorial service in their honor on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. in the Elks lodge room. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Departed members since last year's memorial service are: Gerald D. Klatt (life member), Robert A. Powers (life member), Keith Collings, John W. McKenzie, David Haupt, Edward W. Erbes (life member), Rolin E. Smith, Steve McPheeters, Delbert L. Bonnell (life member), Larry M. Christin, John J. Gehant (life member), Robert E. Cromwell (life member), Frederick E. Mende (life member), Thomas G. Truckenbrod (life member), John F. McConville (life member), Kenneth H. Saylor and Ronald E. Lilja.

## Sublette plans "Christmas in the Village" for Dec. 1

SUBLETTE — The village of Sublette will hold its annual "Christmas in the Village" on Sunday, Dec. 1.

The festivities begin at 3 p.m. and will include lighting the community Christmas tree, the arrival of Santa Claus and a lighted Christmas parade. There will also be a crafters and vendors show.

The village's shops, stores and restaurants will be open for the event. There will be music, free refreshments and a drawing for prizes.

A shuttle will be available to take visitors to the various locations.

Everyone is invited to Sublette to welcome in the Christmas season.

**Parade Entries Invited**

Area residents are urged to decorate an entry for the lighted parade to be held during the "Christmas in the Village." The entries may be cars, trucks, 4-wheelers, golf carts, tractors or anything that is lit up for Christmas. There is no entry fee — just show up and help stage a great parade.

**Small Business Saturday**

Small Business Saturday is Nov. 30. The Sublette Business Association suggests you shop the small businesses in Sublette. The shops and stores are all typical small businesses and they have a lot to offer. You may find some hidden surprises in the village of Sublette.

The Small Business Saturday is an annual event created to encourage customers to shop locally in person at small stores.

It has been said, "If you can't find it in Sublette, you don't need it very badly."

### DEATH NOTICES

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

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Where is it... in Mendota?

Can you identify this photo?

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

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Train on top of Triple Service Mural  
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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Holiday

Continued from Page A1

Brothers 2 donated by Liam’s Market Place and Pizzas by Marchelloni. Mendota Gift Certificates will also be available and you can pick up a free “shop local sticker” to help complete your card. The booth will be located on Illinois Avenue.

Shoppers are reminded that Mendota’s Shop Local Promotion kicked off Nov. 21 and will continue through Dec. 21 at participating businesses. During this time, shoppers will receive a sticker for every \$10 they spend in a participating merchant’s business. Customers can place the stickers on cards, obtained at the participating business or at the Chamber office. When your cards are full and contain at least 5 participating businesses, you can turn them in to the Chamber office for a chance to win valuable prizes. Don’t forget to pick up your free sticker at the “A Mendota Christmas” on Dec. 7.

Mendota Shop Local promotion will be 12 days of giving and will start on Dec. 9 with prizes given away every day until Dec. 21, with the Grand Prize being announced on Dec. 20. All cards will be put back in for the grand prize drawing, so you are encouraged to complete your cards early. Shoppers can turn in as many cards as they wish by the deadline. In conjunction with “A Mendota Christmas,” shoppers will receive “double stickers” for every \$10 they spend on that special day.

The Mendota area will benefit from the Powering the Holidays Program. 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 recently announced grants of up to \$2,500 each for 24 northern Illinois communities through the annual ComEd Powering the Holidays Program.

## Dist. 280

Continued from Page A1

Masini reported that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission recognized MHS for attaining a financial aid application completion rate above 75% for the class of 2024, which puts the school in Silver Status.

The SAR and DAR recipients from the class of 2024 are Anthony Kelson and Makenzie Bean.

Seven seniors attained Illinois State Scholar recognition. They include Shelby Bentley, Lily Bokus, Quin Holland, Anthony Kelson, Samuel Matura, Korinne Miars and Kaley Siemer.

### CLOSED SESSION

Following closed session, the board accepted the retirement notice of Kim Tyler as bus driver.

The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board of Education will be Monday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.

## Grant

Continued from Page A1

said Monetti. “I am thrilled to see IVCC become a recipient of a Rural Development Distance Learning and Telehealth investment to better serve rural students across several school districts. It is imperative we ensure rural areas have ready access to mental health resources and education opportunities and this is one more way Rural Development is doing that.”

The \$60 million federal grant program helps rural communities use advanced telecommunications technology to connect to each other and the world.

## Educators from Holland experience American college system at IVCC

OGLESBY – Four Dutch educators returned to their homes recently after an activity-filled two weeks exploring Illinois Valley Community College where they sampled local flavor that embraced birthday celebrations and Halloween treats.

Wilbert Smeets, Manon van de Rijdt, Karin van Zelst and Maud Slutter were part of a professional exchange program, and instructor Amanda Cook Fesperman (who hosted Smeets and van de Rijdt), program coordinator Tina Hardy (van Zelst) and instructor Jill Urban-Bollis (Slutter) will visit the Netherlands next spring.

The quartet observed classes and met with department coordinators and administrators on campus and visited local sites throughout the area -- and along the way realized much about what the two countries and educational systems have in common and what makes each unique.

Hardy and van Zelst exchanged favorite cooking recipes and put their heads together over the ways they support students in their professional roles. Smeets and Cook Fesperman delighted in sharing insider history jokes.

As he watched a sociology professor’s jokes fall flat on the student audience, Smeets recalled his own teaching days. “Nobody laughed. I can relate to that!” the history-teacher-turned-administratorsaid.

As Slutter tapped into her phone for translations during one lecture, she noticed she was the only one holding a phone. In a Dutch classroom, students would be glued to them.

Van de Rijdt and Smeets, whipped up a delicacy for a campus bake sale, mastering metric measurement conversions to conform with American instructions, and van de Rijdt mixed a spice blend from scratch to make it taste like home.

The visitors agreed Amer-

ica is a land of bigness – big houses, big stores, big portions, wide streets. “My house could fit three times in Tina’s,” van Zelst figured. On a visit to Costco, Slutter was awed by the selection. “Toilet paper was everywhere!”

The visitors sampled a variety of American foods. “You fry everything here – pickles, chicken,” said Slutter, adding quickly, “I’m not complaining, because I eat everything!”

Slutter turned 29 during her visit, and the milestone was celebrated often, which made for special memories. “We celebrated so many times I must already be 31 or 32!” she said.

The visitors couldn’t miss the sprouting election signs and Halloween decorations that competed for space in neighborhoods. Neither are widely on display in Holland. Smeets noted that Holland outpaces the United States with more than 40 political parties.

Another contrast: The Dutch bicycle to nearby work and to run errands, while Americans think nothing of traveling hours to a destination.

The visitors found Americans more outgoing than the reserved Dutch. Being welcomed everywhere they went “is like a warm bath,” Smeets said.

Except for Smeets and van Zelst, who work in the same school district, the four Dutch visitors were strangers when the trip began but quickly became friends. Van de Rijdt’s destination and arrangements were changed at the last minute, and she enjoyed being together with her countrymen.

Their schools have enrollment ranging from a few hundred students to several thousand, and Dutch colleges strongly emphasize vocational training and preparation.

Van de Rijdt particularly appreciated IVCC’s ESL classes and services like



Four Dutch educators recently spent two weeks at Illinois Valley Community College as part of a professional exchange program, observing classes, meeting with personnel and students, and sampling life in the Illinois Valley. The hosts and their visitors are, from left: instructor Jill Urban-Bollis and Maud Slutter, program coordinator Tina Hardy and Karin van Zelst, and instructor Amanda Cook Fesperman (IVCC shirt second from right) between Manon van de Rijdt and Wilbert Smeets. (Photo contributed)

Project Success and the campus food pantry because she works in a school dedicated to the education of international refugees. She noted her school has more aides per student. “We put money in helping hands rather than materials, which are a bit outdated.”

Like Hardy, who coordinates the Center for Accessibility and Neurodiversity, van Zelst supports students with accommodations but also works to reduce student absenteeism. “I like Tina’s style, how her office feels like a living room. People can pop in and out and ask her something.”

Slutter was intrigued by the study buddy concept and hopes to adopt the same idea within her school. She trains students who will work in day care centers and classrooms and was well paired with her host, Urban-Bollis, who teaches educational psychology.

Urban-Bollis enjoys both traveling and hosting ex-

change students. She hopes her experiences “excite my students to travel and meet new people and have new experiences,” she said. “Sometimes we get into

circles and forget what is outside of them.”

The exchange program is conducted through the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs.



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# OPINION



**The Mendota Reporter**

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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.

## Occupational licensing reform can empower Illinoisans

By **JOSH BANDOCH**  
*Illinois Policy Institute*

Illinois is in trouble. For years, our state has been saddled with one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation – currently sitting at 5.3% or the second worst in the nation. While joblessness affects everyone, it disproportionately harms minorities and the poor – those who need opportunities the most.

Rather than improving this, the state has made it worse.

Illinoisans often feel trapped, with little room to climb the economic ladder. According to a report from the Archbridge Institute, Illinois ranks dead last in the Midwest for social mobility, and 40th in the nation. If we’re serious about creating opportunities for more of our neighbors, it’s time we tackle one of the key drivers behind this stagnation: our outdated and excessive occupational licensing laws.

Occupational licensing is when the government requires a license to work in a certain field. In some professions, like medicine, this makes sense. We all want doctors and nurses who meet a high standard of care. But Illinois goes too far, demanding licenses for jobs like barbers, community association management and even cemetery customer service.

In fact, nearly 25% of Illinois’ workforce – about 1.6 million people – need a government-issued permission slip to work. Another 5%, or 326,000 Illinoisans, must get certified just to do their jobs. These barriers not only limit job opportunities but also hurt workers’ wallets by imposing costly and time-consuming educational requirements.

This burden falls hardest on minority communities. Research from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis shows that occupational licensing disproportionately impacts Asian, Black, American Indian, and Latino workers, making them less likely to hold licenses than their white counterparts. This leads to fewer opportunities for communities already struggling with systemic disadvantages.

In Illinois, we license 41 low-income professions. This costs workers an average of 234 days of lost wages while they complete mandatory training. For example, while it’s already expensive to attend cosmetology school in the U.S., the average tuition is even higher in Illinois at \$17,658. These are real barriers that keep people from earning a living.

The economic damage doesn’t stop there. Licensing laws in Illinois have resulted in approximately 135,000 lost jobs and cost the state over \$15 billion in misallocated resources. This excessive regulation makes it harder for people to switch jobs, move across state lines, or simply pursue new opportunities. All of this happens without any evidence that these licenses improve job performance or public safety.

Thankfully, there’s momentum for reform. In 2024, the Illinois legislature passed bills that reduced licensing burdens for military families, aspiring nurses, dentists, pharmacy clerks, and counselors. These reforms are a step in the right direction, but we can and must do more.

In a recent report, I outlined a five-part plan to reform occupational licensing and open doors for all Illinoisans:

**Sunset Review Process:** We need an effective process to regularly review existing licensing laws to make sure they aren’t more burdensome than necessary. Illinois has had a law for this on the books since 1979, but it’s been largely ignored. The Governor’s Office of Management and Budget needs to conduct more rigorous reviews.

**Eliminate Unnecessary Licenses:** Illinois should remove licenses for professions that are practiced safely in at least 10 other states without regulation. For example, Illinois is one of just 17 states that licenses hair braiding and one of only 12 that licenses locksmiths. This is unnecessary red tape.

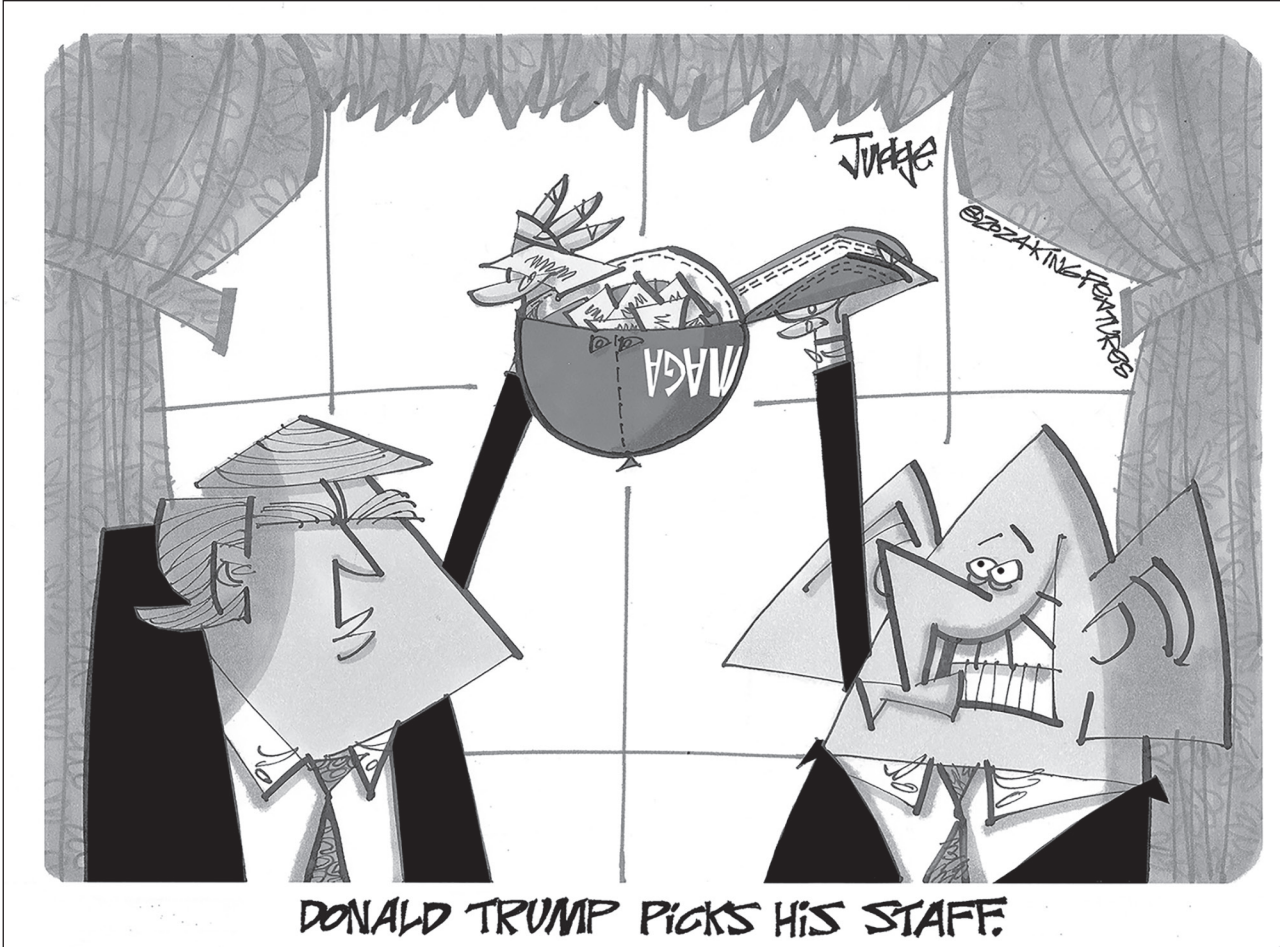
**Expand Apprenticeships:** Illinois should allow people to earn a license through apprenticeships instead of costly, for-profit schools. We also need to expand secondary school apprenticeship programs for fields like cosmetology, so students can earn their licenses while still in school.

**Online Learning:** We should allow online self-paced education options for people who can’t take months or years of work to attend training programs. This would help working adults gain the skills they need to advance their careers.

**Universal Licensing Recognition:** Illinois should recognize licenses issued in other states. This would remove a huge barrier for people moving into Illinois, allowing them to start working immediately if they’re already licensed elsewhere. Twenty-six states have adopted some form of this reform, and Illinois should follow suit.

The recent reforms show that Illinois is ready to make a change, but we must keep the momentum going. By implementing these additional reforms, we can break down barriers and create real opportunities for all Illinoisans. It’s time to unlock the potential in our workforce and give people the freedom to pursue their dreams without unnecessary government interference.

*(Josh Bandoch is head of policy at the Illinois Policy Institute.)*



## Mendota jail fails inspection - 1972

*(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks and Sidetracks column, reprinted from Nov. 26, 1997)*  
**By Jessica Nashold**

On Nov. 11, 1972, 25 years ago, the Mendota jail failed to pass a Department of Corrections inspection. Some of the deficiencies listed were lack of a shower, no mattresses on beds and improper security equipment. An earlier assessment, in May, had been harsh - **This facility is so far below minimum standards that it must not be used for detention of human beings.**

Now, in November, there had been insufficient improvement.

Police Chief Art Dalton said Mendota had “less than one prisoner per month.” And when there was a prisoner, he was rarely kept more than 24 hours.

An architect from Peoria, Leslie Kenyon, was consulted and asked to make recommendations. He felt the city should make all the changes indicated by the inspector except for “a few debatable items” that he thought could get changed on a trip to Springfield in the near future.

He recommended installation of a \$4,700 stainless steel toilet “virtually foolproof” if prisoners attempted to clog it. Showers and increased security would bring the total up to \$10,900. Kenyon estimated an additional \$6,000 would be required for other changes in the jail and police station.

Mayor Louis Koopersmith considered event \$10,000 a ridiculous price. Alderman William Long wondered how much state or federal money could be found. He added - **The day is coming when we are going to have to have a new municipal building.**

The architect promised to check on possible matching funds while in Springfield.

\*\*\*

A meeting was called in the First State Bank community room to discuss beautification projects for Mendota on an organized basis. Bob Birkey, Chamber of Commerce president,

**Backtracks & Sidetracks**

chaired the meeting. Richard Leiser, secretary-manager of the Chamber, said the whole community would have to become involved. Mike O’Connor, Reporter editor, was named publicity chairman. Mrs. Gerald Seifert assumed overall management of the beautification movement.

\*\*\*

Bishop Edward O’Rourke of the Peoria diocese announced arrangements for an interparish ministry between Holy Cross in Mendota and Sts. Peter and Paul in Peterstown. At Holy Cross, Rev. Paul Hettinger was pastor, assisted by Rev. Dale J. Fennell. At Sts. Peter and Paul, the Rev. Fennell was pastor, assisted by Rev. Hettinger.

\*\*\*

The Church of the Nazarene, formerly located in the old Methodist church on Sixth Avenue, moved to its new building at 1209 Sixth St., purchased from the Mendota Bible Church congregation.

\*\*\*

The Girls’ Physical Education Department at MHS had three instructors - Mrs. Miller, Miss Bannister and Mrs. Bergren. The girls has access to new gymnastics equipment, shared with the boys. During the first semester they had done rhythmical and physical fitness exercises and played games of volleyball. As yet they had not competed with other schools in basketball, volleyball or gymnastics.

**It is a goal for the department to work for.**

\*\*\*

To encourage more shopping in Mendota, parking meters were free of charge from Thanksgiving until Jan. 2, 1973. However, during the first week of free meters, it was observed that merchants and clerks, expected to benefit from free parking for customers, were using the

free spaces themselves “to save steps.”

**If you’re an employer or an employee, please move your auto from metered parking spaces - now and forever.**

\*\*\*

A microfilm fund was established to preserve contents of all the old Mendota newspapers. Launched by The Mendota Reporter and Mendota Rotary, the fund also received a \$100 donation from Women of the Moose, bringing the total to \$480 by the last week of November 1972. The microfilms contained back issues of The Mendota Press, Mendota Observer, Mendota Chronicle, Mendota News, Mendota Sun, Mendota Bulletin, Mendota Sun-Bulletin as well as of The Mendota Reporter. Librarian Connie Faber said the total needed was \$614 and it was anticipated the microfilm would be at the library ready to be used by Jan. 1, 1973.

\*\*\*

The First State Bank and LaSalle News Tribune sponsored a Shopper’s Lounge to be operating during the December 1-23 shopping season. Restroom facilities and coffee would be available. Furnishings for the lounge would be provided by Wayside Furniture.

\*\*\*

Driver, Simmons & Associates of Rochelle were authorized to begin preliminary plans for improvements at the Mendota sewer plant, estimated to cost \$554,000. Tom Driver, spokesman for the consulting firm, said the city would probably have to rely on general obligation or revenue bonds for funding.

**I can’t promise you that you’ll get a dime from the federal government.**

\*\*\*

The Reporter’s 1959 Pontiac station wagon was advertised for sale. It had towed the prize-winning float in the Sweet Corn Festival parade.

**You may pry it loose from us for \$75 or best offer.**

A free demonstration ride was offered.

**It runs - honest!**

## Trans moralism is killing the Democrats

**By Rich Lowry**

“How dare you say that” isn’t a persuasive political argument.

Yet the side that has believed it can bully its way to victory on cultural issues by policing the debate in its favor continues to act as if it is one, even after getting soundly beaten in the election.

The Left’s game has been to insist that everyone adopt its tendentious vocabulary, to call opponents bigots and to use moral blackmail -- and the threat of punishment -- to keep any left-of-center doubters in line.

This model, which has been quite successful over the years, has a flaw, though. If a given cause is exotic and unpopular enough, and if it becomes subject to a political debate where the broader public can weigh in, the attempt to define common sense as a thought crime is doomed to fail.

This is what happened on trans issues in the election. Donald Trump’s “she’s for they/them” attack ad was the most effective and consequential political spot of this century.

How is the Left taking it? By clinging to the old rules.

In an exchange on CNN that’s gotten attention, the Republican strategist Shermichael Singleton said a lot of families don’t think that boys should play girls’ sports, eliciting an outraged reaction from progressive panelist Jay Michaelson.

Interrupting, Michaelson said heatedly that he wasn’t going to listen to such “transphobia” and maintained with great vehemence that it is “a slur” to describe “trans girls” as “boys.”

Notably, the anchor Abby Phillip --the moderator on what is supposed to be a straight-down-the-line news network -- intervened, not to say that Singleton was free to use whatever term he thinks is most appropriate, but to rebuke him and ask him “to try to talk about this in a way that is respectful.”

The Left’s attitude on this issue is not, “You may disagree, but I believe trans girls are indeed girls,” but rather, “They are girls and you have absolutely no moral right to say or think otherwise.”

It adds a spirit of hectoring intolerance to the underlying

absurdity of the position on the merits -- making it all even more off-putting.

The problem is that progressives consider whatever new boutique obsession they’ve come up with at any given moment to be the great moral issue of our time, indeed always to be the moral equivalent of the fight for civil rights.

So, someone who doesn’t want to see boys competing in girls’ sports, and simply rejects the fashionable terminology, is viewed as a modern-day Bull Connor.

This means no compromise is acceptable, even on the most pragmatic political grounds.

The longtime chairman of the Texas Democratic Party, Gilberto Hinojosa, just got defenestrated, at least in part for daring to say the obvious on the trans issues.

“You can support transgender rights up and down all the categories where the issue comes up, or you can understand that there’s certain things that we just go too far on, that a big bulk of our population does not support,” he said in an election postmortem.

He’d have been better off saying that the party should in the future call for the official end of the gender binary, by violence if necessary.

After getting slammed by his own side, Hinojosa groveled: “I extend my sincerest apologies to those I hurt with my comments today.” And now he’s gone anyway.

A top aide to Democratic representative Seth Moulton resigned after the congressman had the temerity to say that he doesn’t want his daughters “getting run over on a playing field by a male or formerly male athlete, but as a Democrat, I’m supposed to be afraid to say that.”

Well, he’s supposed to be afraid for a reason. He, too, was fiercely denounced by left-wing groups.

The Left’s moralistic browbeating may succeed in reinforcing the trans-orthodoxy among its own. As we learned on Nov. 5, though, the rest of the country won’t play by these poisonously stupid and illiberal rules.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*  
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# LOCAL AND AREA

Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra celebrates 75th anniversary season with “The Sparkle of the Season” Concert



OTTAWA – The Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra (IVSO) proudly continues its Diamond Anniversary celebration with a spectacular holiday performance, The Sparkle of the Season, on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. at the Ottawa High School Auditorium. This milestone 75th season event promises to delight audiences with timeless holiday classics and vibrant musical performances under the masterful direction of IVSO’s esteemed conductor, Dr. Daniel Sommerville.

Joining the IVSO for this festive concert are the Illinois Valley Community College Collegiate Choir and the Ottawa High School choirs, who will perform Shaw and Bennett’s The



Dr. Daniel Sommerville



Jenilyn Roether

Many Moods of Christmas and selections from Handel’s Messiah, featuring soprano Jenilyn Roether. The concert will also showcase Michael W. Smith’s powerful Glory Overture and additional selections by the guest choirs.

The event will begin with a special welcome address by Daniel Thomas, Illinois Deputy Director of Tourism, making this a truly memorable occasion.

**Post-Concert Celebration at Tangled Roots Brewing Company**

To continue the celebration, a post-concert event will be held at Tangled Roots Brewing Company in downtown Ottawa. As part of a unique partnership, Tangled Roots has crafted a special lager, Maestro, infused with a hint of blood orange, to commemorate the IVSO’s 75th Anniversary. Guests can also purchase commemorative IVSO 75th Anniversary beer steins at the concert, creating

the perfect keepsake from this historic season.

“Celebrating 75 years of music and community is a truly remarkable achievement,” said Rich Crum, IVSO Board Vice-President. “This season is not just a milestone for the orchestra, but for the Illinois Valley as a whole. We are thrilled to share this celebration with our audience, and the partnership with Tangled Roots Brewing Company is a perfect way to bring the community together.”

**Ticket Information**

Tickets for The Sparkle of the Season are on sale now. Don’t miss this wonderful way to usher in the holiday season while celebrating the IVSO’s extraordinary legacy. For tickets and more information, visit [www.ivso.org](http://www.ivso.org).

Celebrate the joy of the holidays and 75 years of symphonic excellence with the Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra – a tradition of music, community, and inspiration.

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Community Calendar

### DECEMBER 2024

**OCT. 1, 2024 - SEPT. 30, 2025**  
**ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE FUNDRAISER**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Our goal for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$1000. Please help us reach our goal. Drop off cans at the northeast back door of the Civic Center.

**DEC. 2024**  
**BEGINNING CROCHET CLASS**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
**TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED**  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

**DEC. 2024**  
**MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S.**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library & M.A.S.S.  
**NO MOVIE IN DECEMBER**  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

**DEC. 2024**  
**NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
**WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY**  
Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

**DEC. 2024**  
**WAFFLE WEDNESDAY**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
**TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED**  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

**DEC. 2024**  
**SENIOR LUNCHESES**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
11:30 AM  
Monday - Friday  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Meal Cost - \$4.00  
Monthly menus are available on our website & Facebook page. Lunches are from OSF St. Paul Medical Center. Must register 24 hours in advance.

**ONGOING - DEC. 7, 2024**  
**MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
**Please call for an appointment.**

**DEC 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 20, 23 & 30**  
**EXERCISE CLASS**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
8 AM  
Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Exercise at your own pace with an exercise video.

**DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30**  
**TOPS CLUB**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
10 AM  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Anyone welcome.

**DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30**  
**DOMINOES**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
All are welcome to join in the fun.

**DEC. 3**  
**CREATE ART AT THE LIBRARY**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
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For more info call (815) 538-5142  
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ADULT crafters ONLY. Create a one-of-a-kind Light Bulb Christmas Tree!

**DEC. 3, 10, 17 & 31**  
**Wii BOWLING**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
10:30 AM  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700  
All welcome to come and enjoy the fun!

**DEC. 3, 10, 17 & 31**  
**EUCHRE**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
12 PM (Noon)  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
All are welcome!

**DEC. 4**  
**SHAKE, RATTLE & READ: "COOKIES"**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

11AM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142  
Ages: Birth - 2 years olds (siblings welcome). Join us for books, play, and fun.

**DEC. 4**  
**SMALL FRIES: "COOKIES"**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
4 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142  
Ages: 3 yrs to 1st Grade. Join us for books and crafting with friends.

**DEC. 5**  
**LEGO CLUB**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
4 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142  
Ages: 1st-8th Grades. We have the LEGOS, you bring your designs!

**DEC. 5, 12 & 19**  
**POKENO**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
12 PM (Noon)  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
This game is a combination of Bingo & Poker. Pennies are used, so bring your penny jar. Call M.A.S.S. for more information @815-539-7700

**DEC. 5 & 19**  
**HEARING SCREENINGS**  
Sponsored by Civic Center & M.A.S.S.  
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Hearing aid batteries available at M.A.S.S. to purchase. Bring in old batteries to recycle.

**DEC. 6**  
**BAKED POTATO BAR**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
11 AM - 1 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Fundraiser for MASS. LARGE baked potato with your choice of toppings. Eat-in or carry-out. Pre-orders will be accepted  
\$7 Tickets at the door  
Includes potato with toppings, dessert, and drink for eat-in only.

**DEC. 6, 13, 20 & 27**  
**BINGO**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

**DEC. 7**  
**A MENDOTA CHRISTMAS**  
Sponsored by The Mendota Chamber of Commerce  
11AM-2 PM

**DEC. 9**  
**MENDOTA AUTHOR EVENT: SHIRLEY PRESCOTT**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
6 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142  
Ages: All ages. Author signing, book signing, craft, and more!

**DEC. 10 & 31**  
**BLOOD PRESSURE / BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
11 AM - 12 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Free to anyone in the community.

**DEC. 12**  
**SHAKE, RATTLE & READ: "COOKIES" (REPEAT OF DEC. 4 PROGRAM)**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
6 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142  
Ages: Birth - 2 years olds (siblings welcome). Join us for books, play, and fun.

**DEC. 13**  
**COMMUNITY BINGO**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Anyone 18 and older welcome to join the fun!

**DEC. 13, 20 & 27**  
**BINGOCIZE**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
10 AM  
Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Open to anyone in the community.

**DEC. 17**  
**3RD TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
Choose  
1 PM OR 6 PM  
FREE  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142  
We'll be reading and discussing "The Rosie Project" by Graeme Simsion. Please pick up a copy of the book at the Library. New members are always welcomed!

**DEC. 17**  
**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATION**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Join us for Birthday Cake and Coffee

**DEC. 17**  
**DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVENING POTLUCK**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
5:30 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Meat will be provided. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Christmas entertainment and Santa Claus!!

**DEC. 18**  
**SHAKE, RATTLE & READ**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
11AM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142  
Ages: Birth - 2 years olds (siblings welcome). Join us for books, play, and fun.

**DEC. 18**  
**CHAPTER CREW: "ELF ACADEMY: TROUBLE IN TOYLAND" BY ALLAN KATZ**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
4 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142  
FREE  
Ages: 1st and older. Introduction into chapter books with play and movement incorporated!

**DEC. 19**  
**CHRISTMAS AT THE LIBRARY**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
6 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142  
Ages: All ages. It's a truly special time of year! Celebrate with us as we read a book, craft, and enjoy festive snacks. It's the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit!

**DEC. 21**  
**MRS. SANTA COOKIE SALE**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
8 AM - 12 PM  
Financial Plus - RT. 251 Mendota  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Come and get your Christmas goodies.

**DEC. 27**  
**GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE BLOODMOBILE @ LIBRARY**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
10 AM - 1 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142  
FREE  
Register online at [https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/134652](https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/134652)

**DEC. 30**  
**TWEENS**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
4 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142  
Ages: 5th - 8th Grades.  
Come try some unique foods from different countries at the library.



**More local events found at [mendotachamber.com](http://mendotachamber.com)**

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

- ADM Grain Company
- Advanced Drainage Systems
- Allure of Mendota
- American Machine Inc.
- Antcare Veterinary Clinic
- Antojitos Gonzalez
- Anytime Fitness of Mendota
- ARS Auto Repair Services
- Ashlee Kittelson Photography
- August Hill Winery

## Heritage Corridor Destinations receives \$150,000 International tourism grant

JOLIET—Heritage Corridor Destinations has received a \$150,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), through its International Tourism Grant Program.

"Illinois is truly in the Middle of Everything, and our tourism industry is thriving like never before," said Governor JB Pritzker. "Thanks to the International Tourism Grant Program, 11 local tourism and convention bureaus will showcase the best of Illinois to global audiences, attract international



visitors, and drive growth to local economies statewide."

The International Tourism Grant Program will increase international travel to Illinois through marketing efforts directed to identified target markets that include Mexico, Canada, German-speaking countries of Germany,

visitors, and drive growth to local economies statewide."

The International Tourism Grant Program will increase international travel to Illinois through marketing efforts directed to identified target markets that include Mexico, Canada, German-speaking countries of Germany,

Austria and Switzerland, U.K./Ireland, France, India, Italy, Australia, and New Zealand.

The top five markets for visitation to Illinois in 2023 include Canada, Mexico, India, the U.K. and Germany.

• Canada emerged as the leading market for international visitation, with an impressive increase from 425,000 to 627,000 visitors, representing a substantial 48% growth.

• Overseas visitors (defined as visitors not from Canada and Mexico) also showed significant growth, surging from 963,000 visitors in 2022 to 1,347,000 in 2023, marking a 40% increase.

• India demonstrated substantial growth in visitors to Illinois, with an increase of 55% from 2019 to 2023.

• Mexico contributed to the upward trend, with visitation numbers climbing from 164,000 to 183,000, reflecting a notable 12% rise.

Illinois welcomed 2.16 million international visitors in 2023, reflecting a substantial 39% increase from the previous year, according to data provided by Tourism Economics. This surge in international visitation showcases Illinois as an increasingly sought-after global destination. Additionally, international visitors injected nearly \$2.7 billion into Illinois' economy in 2023, representing a 47% increase in spending compared to the previous year.

### About Heritage Corridor Destinations

Heritage Corridor is a destination of six Illinois counties (Will, Grundy, Livingston, LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam) southwest of Chicago including the first hundred miles of Route 66, I&M Canal towns and Starved Rock Country. Experience heritage with a modern twist in dining, culture, vintage shopping and outdoor activities for visitors to explore whether it be a daytrip or weekend visit. Cruise through the first hundred miles of Route 66 where a visitor can enjoy more than a taste of the Mother Road and mid-century Americana style. Stroll through the I&M Canal towns and experience the amenities of this cultural, natural, and economic resource with a combination of industrial grit and up-cycled architecture that leaves a visitor inspired about the past and future. Starved Rock Country, one of the Midwest's original vacation destinations, invites visitors to unplug and experience the charm and beauty of the area waterfalls, canyons and the Illinois River valley. Visiting the Heritage Corridor is time well spent; the essence of midwestern hospitality, outdoor rejuvenation, and vintage flair with a modern twist.

Visit [HCDestinations.com](http://HCDestinations.com) and [TheFirstHundredMiles.com](http://TheFirstHundredMiles.com) for more information.



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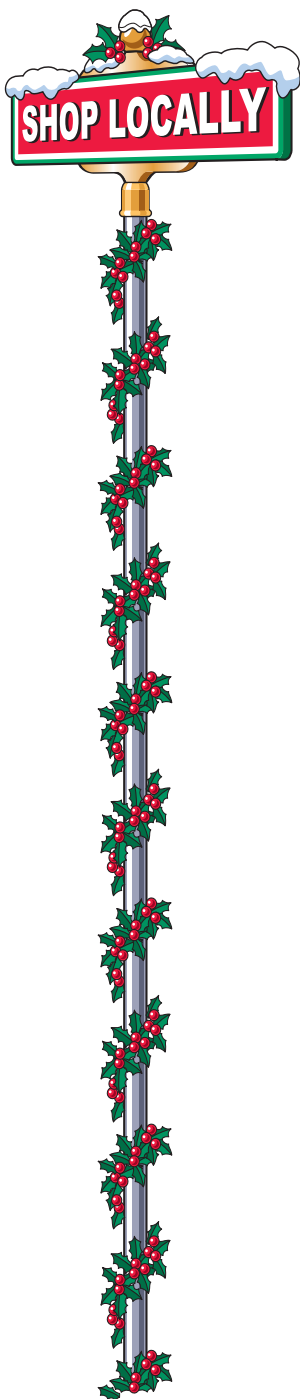
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## Looking for a truly "Mendota" gift?



### Mendota Area Chamber Gift Certificates!

Mendota Shops offer a large and varied array of gift giving ideas for everyone on your Christmas List. **Puzzled?** Wondering what to get those hard to buy for relatives, friends and fellow employees? How about Mendota Area Chamber Gift Certificates! They can be made for any denomination and they are always the right size and color! The Certificates may be purchased at the Chamber office.

Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce  
Gift Certificate  
No Expiration Date

Date, Dec. 1, 2024  
\$25.00

Mrs. Jane Doe  
Twenty Five and 00/100.....Dollars  
Presented by The Johnson Family

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



### AVAILABLE STARTING NOVEMBER 18TH

PICK A NAME OFF THE TREE!

"Christmas Elves" with names and ages of needy children will be available starting Nov. 18th, at Eureka Savings Bank, First State Bank, Financial Plus Credit Union, Midland States Bank, and First State Bank Plaza North.

After shopping for that special child, the unwrapped gift may be taken to Eureka Savings Bank by 4 p.m., on Friday, Dec. 6. You may call ahead or go through the drive-up to let them know you are dropping off a gift. Financial support is also being accept-ed and may be dropped off at the Chamber office in December. For more information, call the Mendota Chamber of Commerce at 815-539-6507.





# THE BACK PAGE

## CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Judy Rapp would like to thank everyone for the cards, plants and donations to IVAR, one of Judy's favorite charities. A big thank you to Mendota EMS, the staff at Allure and OSF Saint Paul ICU. The staff was great and will always remember your kindness. My family, my great-grandsons and daughter-in-law. My grandchildren and bonus grandsons and great-grandchildren. We miss her so much and we have wonderful memories forever. God bless.  
**Chuck Rapp & family**

## POLICE BLOTTER

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
Jayden E. Gordon, 20, of Harmon, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Main and Meriden streets at 6:42 p.m. Nov. 19. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**ILLEGAL SALE OF ALCOHOL**  
The Mendota Police Department and the Illinois State Police conducted a joint investigation on Nov. 19 into the illegal sale of alcohol to underage persons. At the conclusion of the investigation, four persons from various establishments were issued citations. The individuals cited were Emily B. Cook, 43, of 1007 Washington St., Mendota (Uncle Joe's Gaming); Caitlin M. Dissell, 35, of Utica (Rosati's Pizza); Hari K. Arepally, 29, of Macomb (Marathon Gas Station); and Eliza E. Gambrell, 19, of 1601 Illinois Ave., Mendota (CVS Pharmacy).

**TWO TRAFFIC OFFENSES**  
Aaron Sanchez Jimenez, 42, of 111 S. 13th Ave., Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license and reckless driving after a traffic stop at East Fourth Road and North 3973rd Road near Snyder's Grove at 5:45 p.m. Nov. 20. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
Kristne A. Burton, 59, of 508 11th Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and East Fourth Road at 8:43 p.m. Nov. 22. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**Dumpster policy**  
MENDOTA – All dumpsters needing to be placed on Mendota city streets are required to be cleared with Nick Stremlau of the streets, parks and public property departments. Call 815-539-7287 for approval before placing dumpsters on city streets.

## Winter Weather ordinances

MENDOTA – During winter weather conditions, the Mendota Police Department reminds residents to obey the following ordinances:

- Ordinance 41.38 – Parking After Snowfall  
It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any public street in the city at any time after a snowfall of two inches or more has occurred, unless the snow has ceased and has been plowed off or otherwise removed from the street.  
Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or association found violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$25 for each violation of this ordinance and may be subject to towing said vehicle away. The cost of said towing shall be the obligation and expense of those violating this Section.
- Ordinance 6.21 – Depositing Snow in Streets  
No person within the city shall remove any snow from his private property or from offstreet parking lots or right of way parking into any of the city streets or alleys. This Section does not apply to removal of snow from sidewalks. This Section is specifically directed to, but not limited to gasoline stations, medical and dental clinics, or any other business or corporation which has private parking on the property or in those areas where the berm of the city has been dedicated or given over for parking facilities.  
The above ordinances are in place to assist the city of Mendota with snow removal from the city streets.



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## Stage 212 holding Christmas event

LaSALLE – Stage 212 will be hosting a very special entertainment event Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m., when Her Majesty's Radio Theatre presents Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol: The Ghosts of Christmas."

Her Majesty's Radio Theatre comes to audiences "directly" from The City of London, in the year 1959, complete with surprising sound effects, audience participation, and most of all... laughter! Host Nigel Bexter-Ellis (Dave Roden) and guest star, Wilfred Belbram (Jeff Sudakov) bring the seasonal classic "A Christmas Carol" to life before your eyes and ears! The two quick-witted actors swiftly, joyfully, and hilariously play over 30 different characters, all while making their own live-action sound effects using the ingenious theatrical machines of Edward S. Koizumi. "A Christmas Carol: The Ghosts of Christmas." will provide thrills, laughter, and Christmas cheer for the whole family!

Tickets for Her Majesty's Radio Theatre presents "A Christmas Carol: The Ghosts of Christmas." are \$17 each, and may be purchased online by visiting stage212.org or by calling the box office at 815-224-3025 and leaving a message.

*Arteaga*

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**The Mendota Reporter**

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**Return to: The Mendota Reporter, P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342.**  
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VFW  
Ziggie's Family Restaurant

November 18th is the kick off day for the Mendota Chamber's 2024 12 days of Giving Christmas Shop Local Promotion.

For every \$10 spent in a participating business, you will receive one sticker. In order to qualify for the 12 Days of Giving prizes, you must turn in a full card and each card must have stickers from at least FIVE OF THE PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES.

Double Stickers will be handed out during the Mendota Christmas event on Saturday, Dec. 7th. Be sure to stop by the Mendota Chamber information booth downtown during the event for a special Mendota Chamber Shop Local Sticker.

Bring in your full cards to the Mendota Chamber Office at 800 Washington St. before Dec. 13th. You may also drop off your full card in the city's drop box on Illinois Avenue.

The 12 Days of Giving drawings will begin on Dec. 9th and be held every day, except Sundays, through Dec. 23rd. There will be 1 winner each day. The daily prizes will include merchandise and gift cards from our participating businesses.

On Dec. 23rd, the Chamber will draw for the grand prize. All daily winners will be added back into the Dec. 23rd drawing. The Grand Prize will include merchandise and gift cards from our participating businesses.



SPORTS

R.I.P. to a legendary person, not just a basketball player

As a journalist, I'm always searching for a story to write in The Mendota Reporter and The Amboy News, or a person to talk to for Edge of Your Seat Podcast.

When I saw Bob Love, former Chicago Bulls small forward (1968-76) was going to be at the Peru Mall for the Illinois Valley Sports Card and Collectible Show on Saturday, Nov.



Not the Last Chance  
By Brandon LaChance

16, I immediately called the contact number on the flier to see if I could arrange a chat with Love. With an agreement to promote the show, I was granted a five-minute sit down with the former Bull during the show. Of course, I was pumped.

With the success of local fall sports teams, especially the Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio football team and the Mendota boys' soccer team, I waited to publish the story until the Nov. 13 editions of both the Reporter and the News. The story was written, photos were edited, the pages were designed, the papers were sent to press.

In a rough estimate, I'd say it was 30 minutes later, but it could have been 28.7 minutes, I received a text from the card show organizer, Dave Marvin, saying Bob Love may not make the show because he wasn't feeling well.

We evolved into a conversation talking about the show and statements of how we hoped Love was OK were definitely involved. He said he'd let me know if Love wasn't going to be there.

Time stamped in the text convo, I received a text seven minutes later saying it was confirmed, Love wasn't coming because of health issues.

I was bummed because I wouldn't get the opportunity to talk to a guy who I made sure I played as in NBA2K (on PlayStation, of course) every year as a key contributor to my amazing MyTeam rosters. I was also bummed for Marvin because he was excited to have Love come to his sold-out show as all of the tables available at the Peru Mall were booked by vendors.

At 8:04 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18, I was heartbroken for Love, his family, the Chicago Bulls family, and anyone else who had been blessed with the chance to know Bob Love as Marvin sent me a message...Bob Love died.

My initial reaction was, 'What?' Marvin answered, 'I knew he was in the hospital, but I didn't know it was that bad.'

"Butterbean," a nickname Love picked up as a kid because he loved the treat, passed away at 81 after a long fight with cancer.

Unfortunately, we're all going to pass away at some point, someday, no matter who we are or what we do. But in this case, it doesn't seem fair.

I'm not saying it as a journalist who won't be able to speak to him, I'm saying it as a human being who respects and admires amazing human beings who had a purpose or overcame a setback. Love was that guy.

Born on Dec. 8, 1942, in Louisiana, Love had a severe stuttering issue, which caused him to seldomly speak, his stepfather was abusive, which caused him to flee to his grandmother's house when he was eight, and he didn't meet his biological dad until he was 33.

In his 40s, in the 1980s, he finally met with a speech therapist who helped him surpass his speaking disability. In a true fighter mentality, Love then became a motivational speaker talking in front of thousands of teenagers, many times a year, as the director of community affairs for the Chicago Bulls.

Love, a three-time NBA All-Star who averaged 17.6 points (42.9 shooting percentage from the field and 80.5 from the free throw line), 5.9 rebounds, and 1.4 assists per game over 789 games in his 11-year career, earned awards and honors such as having his No. 10 jersey retired by the Bulls, being inducted into five halls of fame (Louisiana Sports, NAIA, Basketball Coaches, Illinois, and Helms), and there is a historical marker in his honor in Baton Rouge.

Although any recognition is amazing, something in me tells me Love was just as proud or even more proud of receiving the Individual Achievement Award from the National Council for Communicative Disorders and the NBA Oscar Robertson Leadership Award.

If you have talent and athletic ability, sports come easy to some.

What made Love extraordinary went far beyond his gifts on the basketball court. It was his ability to overcome misfortune, use it to help motivate others, and make everyone around him better.

Those are the sports stars, legends, we should view as role models.

Rest in peace, Bob Love, hopefully we'll meet at another time and place.

Lady Trojans post 1-3 record in Princeton Thanksgiving Tourney

MHS gets win over Low Point-W.

PRINCETON—The Mendota Lady Trojans started the 2024-25 season with one win in four games in the Princeton Thanksgiving Tournament.

Mendota opened up on a winning note with a 56-13 thrashing of Low Point-Washburn on Nov. 18.

The Lady Trojans led 14-7 after the first quarter, but then turned up the heat in the second period and outscored Low Point, 21-2, to take a 35-9 advantage to halftime. Mendota added 18 second-half points, while the Wildcats had just four points over the final two frames, including none in the fourth.

"Our energy on defense was awesome and it was a great confidence builder to start the year," said Mendota coach John Hansen.

Crystal Garcia and Laylie Denault led the point production for Mendota with 11 apiece, while Ella Coss added eight markers. Garcia and Cassie Gonzalez topped the team with seven and six rebounds. The Lady Trojans collected an amazing 33 steals with Garcia and Ella Martin swiping seven apiece and Ava Eddy getting six.

Mendota dropped its second-round match-up to Midland, 65-38, on Nov. 19.

The Timberwolves doubled the score on Mendota at halftime, 28-14, and then kept building their lead in the second half, outscoring the Lady Trojans, 37-24.

"We started the game with four straight steals and four straight missed layups," not-

ed Hansen. "We played really well, but just shot poorly around the paint."

Eddy fired in three three-pointers on her way to a 17-point night for Mendota. Denault and Gonzalez chipped in with nine and eight tallies, respectively. Gonzalez led with eight caroms and Eddy had nine steals.

Putnam County handed Mendota a 47-38 setback in the third round on Nov. 21.

The Lady Trojans fell behind 23-11 at the break and remained around the 10-point deficit mark throughout the remainder of the contest.

"We got beat getting back on the press, which we know can't happen," said Hansen. "Offensively, we were just too hesitant against their two-three defense."

Eddy pumped in 13 points and Martin provided 10 tallies to pace Mendota's offense. Martin topped the rebounding chart with five and Eddy came up with four steals.

Mendota closed out the tournament with a 53-28 loss to Chillicothe IVC on Nov. 22.

After trailing by just four (12-8) at the conclusion of the opening stanza, the Lady Trojans were staring up at a 30-15 deficit heading to the locker room. A two-point third quarter by Mendota compared to 13 by IVC allowed the Lady Ghosts to open up a 43-17 cushion with just one quarter left to play.

MENDOTA 56, LOW POINT-W. 13

Mendota (56)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	2	1-2	5	5
Garcia	5	1-2	7	11
Reddin	1	0-0	1	3
Knaff	2	0-0	3	5
Coss	4	0-0	3	8
Martin	3	0-0	4	7
Denault	5	0-2	3	11
Gonzalez	3	0-0	6	6
Totals	25	2-6	32	56

MIDLAND 65, MENDOTA 38

Mendota (38)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	7	0-0	3	17
Garcia	0	0-2	2	0
Reddin	1	0-0	0	2
Knaff	1	0-0	2	2
Coss	0	0-0	1	0
Martin	0	0-0	3	0
Denault	3	2-3	4	9
Gonzalez	2	4-9	8	8
Totals	14	6-14	23	38

Low Point-Washburn (13)

	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Steffin	2	0-0	1	6
Shawback	0	0-2	0	0
Toliver	0	0-0	2	0
Ulrich	1	1-1	0	3
Conley	0	0-0	1	0
Liable	2	0-0	0	4
Totals	5	1-3	4	13

Midland (65)

	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Pyles	9	1-2	NA	22
Rosa	1	0-0	NA	2
Lindstrom	1	0-0	NA	2
Stickel	2	0-0	NA	4
Franks	3	1-2	NA	8
McGlasson	12	3-5	NA	27
Totals	28	6-9	NA	65

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Mendota	14	35	42	56
Low Point-W.	7	9	13	13
Three-point goals: Mendota - Reddin 1, Knaff 1, Martin 1, Denault 1; Low Point-Washburn - Steffin 2				

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Mendota	4	11	20	38
Midland	14	28	46	65
Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 3, Denault 1; Midland - Pyles 3, Franks 1				

PUTNAM CO. 47, MENDOTA 38

Mendota (38)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	4	2-3	3	13
Garcia	0	0-0	1	0
Knaff	0	0-2	0	0
Coss	2	3-3	2	7
Martin	3	2-5	5	10
Denault	2	1-4	4	5
Gonzalez	1	1-3	1	3
Totals	12	9-20	16	38

IVC 53, MENDOTA 28

Mendota (28)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	2	0-0	4	7
Garcia	3	1-4	7	4
Reddin	2	0-0	2	4
Knaff	2	0-0	5	6
Coss	1	0-0	2	2
Martin	0	0-0	2	0
Denault	1	0-0	4	2
Gonzalez	1	1-2	5	3
Totals	12	2-6	31	28

Putnam County (47)

	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Leatherman	2	2-4	NA	8
Spratt	10	2-3	NA	22
Parcher	1	0-2	NA	2
Coleman	0	0-4	NA	0
Villagomez	4	0-0	NA	9
Sarver	1	0-2	NA	2
Hill	2	0-0	NA	4
Totals	20	4-15	NA	47

Chillicothe IVC (53)

	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Netton	2	0-0	0	4
Gibala	1	0-0	2	2
Polk	1	0-0	2	2
Davis	1	0-0	0	2
Gillette	7	0-0	1	16
Miller	5	1-2	1	11
Foster	3	0-0	2	6
Phelps	3	4-5	0	10
Totals	23	5-7	8	53

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Mendota	4	11	20	38
Putnam County	10	23	31	47
Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 3, Martin 2; Putnam County - Leatherman 2, Villagomez 1				

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Mendota	8	15	17	28
Chillicothe IVC	12	30	43	53
Three-point goals: Mendota - Knaff 2; IVC - Gillette 2				

"This was easily the best team we played," stated Hansen. "We actually came out with awesome energy and shocked them a little, but ultimately their physicality was too much for us."

Garcia had seven points and seven rebounds to pace the squad, while Kennedy

Knaff dropped in six points and Eddy came away with five steals.

(Final standings: 1st Midland; 2nd Princeton; 3rd Hall; 4th Chillicothe IVC; 5th Putnam County; 6th Mendota; 7th Stark County; 8th Henry; 9th Low Point-Washburn)

First Eagles Run race draws dozens of young athletes

OGLESBY – Dozens of local high school and middle school students turned out for the inaugural IVCC Eagles Run races on Nov. 16 at Illinois Valley Community College.

Hosted by the IVCC Cross Country program, the event included a middle school two-mile race and a high school 5KM race.

The top two male and female finishers in each race were awarded special IVCC gifts. Recognized runners in the 5KM were Connor Medina of Marseilles, Anthony Kelson of Mendota, Addyson Miller of Marseilles, and Hannah Schumacher of Toluca. In the two-mile race, Kole Caldwell Wesley of Toluca, Dane Hawkins of Ottawa, Lumen Setchell of Mendota, and Bethany Kasperski of Oglesby brought home special prizes.

Top sponsors for the event were Eakas Corp. and Peru Federal Savings Bank.

Results are listed below in order of finish:

Boys' 5 KM-- Connor Medina; Anthony Kelson; Callum Wright; Grant Smithmeyer; Brady Fort; John Ricci; Landon Hebel; Nathan Aye; Daniel Fisher; Drew McGinnis; Joey Hamer; Vincent Zuber, and Jason Curran.

Girls' 5 KM -- Addyson Miller; Hannah Schumacher; Haley Solan; Sophia Woods; Riley Thrush; Phoebe Shetlerly; Grace Newman, and Torgun Hovey.

Boys' 2-Mile -- Kole Caldwell Wesley; Dane Hawkins; Colter O'Brien, and Adyn Pickey.

Girls' 2-Mile -- Lumen Setchell; Bethany Kasperski; Audrey Riewaldt; Shane O'Brien, and Isabella Marie Garcia.



Eagles Run two-mile winners, left to right, are Dane Hawkins, Kole C. Wesley, Lumen Setchell and Bethany Kasperski.



Eagles Run 5K winners, left to right, are Hannah Schumacher, Addyson Miller, Connor Medina and Anthony Kelson.

Mendota High School bowling

Nov. 19 @ Oregon (varsity boys)

Oregon 3563, Mendota 3305

Mendota scores: Paxton Bauer 178, 173, 136 – 487; Caeleb Ensor 189, 170, 229 – 588; Josh Sondgeroth 132, 163, 135 – 430; Alex Holland

259, 234, 214 – 707; Kooper Novak 147, 194, 205 – 546; BJ Bresley 162, 187, 198 – 547 (junior varsity boys)

Oregon 2646, Mendota 2158

Mendota scores: Wyatt Sondgeroth 135, 151, 143 – 429; Jack Gillespie 147,

138, 136 – 421; Corbin Doll 148, 115, 131 – 394; Cole Nosalik 103, 78, 124 – 305; Caiden Holiday 109, 95, 100 – 304; blind 120, 111, 74 – 305

Nov. 20 vs. LaSalle-Peru Mendota 3544, L-P 3368

Mendota scores: BJ Bresley 191, 192, 212 – 595; Kooper Novak 193, 203, 256 – 652; Paxton Bauer 213, 191, 206 – 610; Alex Holland – 267, 223, 231 – 721; Caeleb Ensor 183, 174, 165 – 522; Josh Sondgeroth 151, 149, 144 – 444

Two MHS football coaches resign from their positions

MENDOTA – Mendota High School is in search of a head football coach after Keegan Hill's resignation was accepted by the District 280 Board of Education at its Nov. 18 meeting.

Hill just concluded his seventh season as the sideline boss for the Trojan varsity squad. He began his tenure in 2018 and compiled 10 wins and 47 losses over his seven years.

The Trojans' best season under Hill came in 2021 when they finished the regular season with a 5-4 record and qualified for the Class 3A playoffs. Mendota lost its first-round playoff game to Pecatonica-Durand, 44-0.

Brock Zinke also resigned from the football coaching



Keegan Hill

staff. He served as defensive coordinator under Hill and was a coach in the Mendota football program for 13 years.



# SPORTS

## Northbrook boys' basketball

**(6th Grade)**  
**Nov. 18 @ Sandwich**  
"A" game  
Northbrook 34, Sandwich 33  
Scoring: Cruz Arteaga 12 points, Julien Arteaga 8 points  
"B" game  
Northbrook 28, Sandwich 14  
Scoring: Colton Mikulik 7 points, Xavier Hiatt 7 points, Brayden Thiele 6 points

**Nov. 19 @ Bureau Valley**  
"A" game  
Northbrook 37, Bureau Valley 22  
Scoring: Cruz Arteaga 20 points, Julien Arteaga 6 points  
"B" game  
Bureau Valley 11, Northbrook 9  
Scoring: Brayden Thiele 4 points, Colton Mikulik 2 points, Cam Milus 2 points

## BOWLING

**Wednesday Night Men's League**  
Standings as of Nov. 13 –  
1. Mendota Monument 26-18;  
2. O'Donnell Excavating 26-18;  
3. First State Bank 26-18;  
4. Black Brothers 24.5-19.5;  
5. Maybe Next Week 20.5-23.5;  
6. Novak Farms 9-35  
High team game (scratch) – Mendota Monument 1073, O'Donnell Excavating 1017, Black Brothers 980  
High team game (scratch) – Mendota Monument 1254, Black Brothers 1240, O'Donnell Excavating 1208  
High team series (scratch) – Mendota Monument 2956, O'Donnell Excavating 2868, Black Brothers 2635  
High team series (hdcp) – Mendota Monument 3499, O'Donnell Excavating 3441, Black Brothers 3415  
High individual game (scratch) – Nate Bradford 279, Joe Dimmig 265, Luke Ross 256  
High individual game (hdcp) – Charlie Gordon 294, Nate Bradford 291, Skip Stachlewitz & Joe Dimmig 286  
High individual series (scratch) – Nate Bradford 685, Kirk Ross 663, Charlie Gordon 654  
High individual series (hdcp) – Charlie Gordon 831, Kirk Ross 798, Tyler Schmitt 723  
**Monday Night Mixed League**  
Standings as of Nov. 18 –  
1. Split Happens 42-13;

2. Leagal Beagles 35-20; 3. CM Farm 30-25; 4. Bad Kats 21-34; 5. Ramer Inc. 20-35; 6. The Struggle is Real 17-38  
High team game (scratch) – Split Happens 765, Leagal Beagles 747, Ramer Inc. 696  
High team game (hdcp) – Leagal Beagles 1031, Bad Kats 997, The Struggle is Real 9990  
High team series (scratch) – Split Happens 2241, Leagal Beagles 2020, Ramer Inc. 1939  
High team series (hdcp) – Bad Kats 2951, Split Happens 2910, Leagal Beagles 2872  
Men's high game (scratch) – Mike Smith 244, Charlie Betz 229, Raul Diaz Jr. 225  
Men's high game (hdcp) – Raul Diaz Jr. 292, Charlie Betz 289, Mike Smith 283  
Men's high series (scratch) – Mike Smith 665, Matt Ramer 633, Raul Diaz Jr. 604  
Men's high series (hdcp) – Raul Diaz Jr. 805, Mike Smith 782, Ron Westphal 725  
Women's high game (scratch) – Emily Thomas 236, Gail Sessler 227, Hannah Westphal 195  
Women's high game (hdcp) – Connie Yost 286, Gail Sessler 280, Emily Thomas 278  
Women's high series (scratch) – Gail Sessler 640, Emily Thomas 596, Jessica Robinson 518  
Women's high series (hdcp) – Gail Sessler 799, Connie Yost 759, Hannah Westphal 737

## 4 Trojans earn football all-conference honors

MENDOTA—Four Mendota football players earned Three Rivers Conference Mississippi Division all-conference honors for the 2024 season.

Senior Braiden Freeman was selected to the first team as an end, while junior Joe Stewart made the second team as an end and junior Wyatt Ossman made the second team as a linebacker. Sophomore Cam Wasmer was selected to the honorable mention squad as a defensive back.

**FIRST TEAM**

**(Offense)**  
Center – Rhett Pearson, Jr., Princeton Guard – Landyn Angelo, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville; Anthony Vujanov, Sr., Princeton  
Tackle – \*Brody Dodd, Jr., Monmouth-Roseville; \*Cade Odell, Sr., Princeton  
End – Braiden Freeman, Sr., Mendota; Ben Taylor, Sr., Kewanee; \*Noah LaPorte, Sr., Princeton  
Running Back – \*Payton Thompson, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville; \*Alex Duarte, Sr., Kewanee; \*Casey Etheridge, Jr., Princeton  
Quarterback – \*Carter Brown, Jr., Sherrard  
FLEX – \*Ace Christiansen, Sr., Princeton

**(Defense)**  
Linebacker – \*Nick Huston, Jr., Monmouth-Roseville; Tyler Johnston, Sr., Kewanee; \*Leo Gandarilla, Sr., Kewanee; \*Cade Odell, Sr., Princeton  
Linebacker – Andrew Way, Jr., Monmouth-Roseville; Dame Thioubou, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville; \*Alex Duarte, Sr., Kewanee; Arthur Burden, Sr., Princeton; Ian Morris, Sr., Princeton; Common Green, Jr., Princeton  
Defensive Back – \*Andy Myers, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville; Ace Christiansen, Sr., Princeton; \*Noah LaPorte, Sr., Princeton; Carter Brown, Jr., Sherrard  
(Specialty)  
Punter – \*Jordan Reinhardt, Sr., Princeton  
Kicker – \*Ian Morris, Sr., Princeton  
Return Specialist – \*Payton Thompson, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville  
(\* Indicates unanimous)

**SECOND TEAM**

**(Offense)**  
Center – Junior Avendano, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville  
Guard – Lucas Eiler, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville; Ian Morris, Sr., Princeton; Tyler Johnston, Sr., Kewanee  
Tackle – Jackson Thomas, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville; Cameron Spradling, Sr., Hall  
End – Joe Stewart, Jr., Mendota; Brady Schlitz, Sr., Kewanee; Arthur Burden, Sr., Princeton  
Running Back – Nick Huston, Jr., Monmouth-Roseville; Aiden Redcliff, Jr., Hall; Ace LaFollette, Fr., Kewanee  
Quarterback – Andy Myers, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville  
FLEX – Garrett Woodward, Sr., Sherrard

**(Defense)**  
Linebacker – Ivan Godina, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville; Landyn Angelo, Jr., Monmouth-Roseville; Rhett Pearson, Jr., Princeton; Owen Hartman, Jr., Princeton  
Linebacker – Wyatt Ossman, Jr., Mendota; Jack Jablonski, Sr., Hall; Aiden Redcliff, Jr., Hall; Grady Steele, Sr., Sherrard  
Defensive Back – Payton Thompson, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville; Braiden Curran, Jr., Hall; Ben Taylor, Sr., Kewanee; Dontaveon Thomas, Sr., Kewanee

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**(Offense)**  
Center – Brayden Conley, Sr., Kewanee  
Guard – Grady Steele, Sr., Sherrard  
Tackle – Owen Hartman, Jr., Princeton; Kaanan Griffin, So., Kewanee  
Quarterback – Colson Welgat, Sr., Kewanee; William Lott, Sr., Princeton  
FLEX – Braden Curran, Jr., Hall

**(Defense)**  
Linebacker – Brayden Conley, Sr., Kewanee; Airies Simmons, Jr., Kewanee  
Linebacker – Casey Etheridge, Jr., Princeton; Garrett Woodward, Sr., Sherrard  
Defensive Back – Cam Wasmer, So., Mendota; Dylan Glynn, Jr., Hall; Davontae Jordan, Sr., Kewanee; William Lott, Sr., Princeton; Gavin Lanham, Jr., Princeton

(Final standings: Monmouth-Roseville 5-0, Princeton 4-1, Kewanee 3-2, Sherrard 2-3, Hall 1-4, Mendota 0-5)

## Second firearm deer season is Dec. 5-8

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has set dates for the deer archery season, and also the youth, firearm and muzzleloader-only deer hunting and late winter deer seasons in the state.

The deer archery season opened on Oct. 1 and will continue through Jan. 19, 2025. Archery season will be closed during the firearm seasons.

The second firearm deer season is Dec. 5, 6, 7, 8.

The muzzleloader-only deer season is Dec. 13, 14, 15. Hunters may also use a muzzleloader permit with a muzzleloading rifle during the second firearm season, Dec. 5, 6, 7, 8.

The later winter deer hunting season dates are Dec. 26-29 and Jan. 17-19, 2025. Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

The bag limit is one deer per legally authorized either-sex, antlered-only or antlerless-only permit. All either-sex permits and antlered-only permits are subject to the following restriction: No hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than two antlered deer during a year, including the Youth, Archery, Muzzleloader and Firearm seasons. For purposes of this bag limit, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates fall within the same 12-month period that begins July 1. A hunter in possession of an either-sex permit after having harvested two antlered deer during a year may only use the permit to harvest an antlerless deer. Subject to this restriction, an either-sex permit holder is allowed to take a deer with or without antlers and an antlered-only permit holder is allowed to take only a deer having at least one antler of a length of three or more inches. An antlerless only permit holder is allowed to take only a deer without antlers or a deer having antlers less than three inches long.

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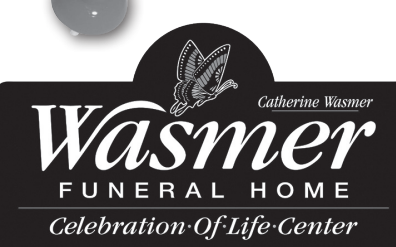
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

**Q:** I watched the boxing match with Jake Paul and Mike Tyson. I didn't know that Jake and Logan Paul were two different people. Did they both start out on YouTube? -- **D.E.**



J. Paul

**A:** Yes, Jake and Logan Paul are two blonde brothers who grew up in Ohio and became social media stars. They can be hard to tell apart. Logan started up his YouTube channel 11 years ago and grew it to more than 23 million subscribers. He's also a professional wrestler for the WWE and the owner of an extremely successful beverage company, Prime. Like his brother, Jake, he's also headlined boxing events, including an exhibition match against Floyd Mayweather Jr. in 2021.

Logan's younger brother by two years, Jake, recently beat Mike Tyson in a boxing match on Netflix. Many feel it was staged, but both Paul and Tyson came out winners monetarily when they each took home a seven-figure payday.

Jake originally was a child actor on the Disney Channel series "Bizaardvark," then became a YouTube star like his brother. In the years before facing Tyson, Jake won boxing matches against several MMA fighters, but lost to British pro boxer Tommy Fury.

\*\*\*

**Q:** What is the new "Bridget Jones" project coming up on Peacock? Is it a TV series? -- **S.G.**

**A:** "Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy" is a film based on the fourth book in the series by author Helen Fielding. Renée Zellweger returns as the hilarious and relatable heroine, Bridget, who is newly widowed with two young children. The film also stars Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Sally Phillips and Isla Fisher.

Look for the movie in theaters and on Peacock just in time for Valentine's Day, with a release date of Feb. 14, 2025.

\*\*\*

**Q:** Who is the actress with the long brown hair featured in the commercials for the new Bob Dylan movie? She looks very familiar. Also, does Timothée Chalamet do his own

singing in the movie? -- **K.E.**

**A:** You're probably thinking of Monica Barbaro, who is best recognized as Lt. Natasha "Phoenix" Trace in "Top Gun: Maverick." She also co-starred in the Netflix series "FUBAR" opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger and, prior to that, the ABC series "Splitting Up Together" and Lifetime's "Unreal." In "A Complete Unknown," Barbaro plays folk singer and political activist Joan Baez, who was instrumental in the success of Bob Dylan early in his career.

You could also be thinking of Elle Fanning, who sports reddish-brown tresses in "A Complete Unknown." She plays a character named Sylvie, who is loosely based on Dylan's girlfriend at the time, Suze Rotolo.

"A Complete Unknown" is directed by the same person who directed the Johnny Cash biopic "Walk the Line." Both of those stars did their own singing and learned to play instruments for their roles. Timothée Chalamet can definitely sing, as witnessed in the motion-picture musical "Wonka," and he's said to have done his own vocals in the Dylan film.

By Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD** -- "Spider-Man 4" in 2026, but before then, he'll co-star with Austin Butler in "American Speed." The film's about two reckless race-driving brothers who are involved in drug smuggling, tax evasion and money laundering.

Holland's also cast in director Christopher Nolan's upcoming untitled film, opposite Matt Damon. Meanwhile, on Sept. 5, Butler started shooting Darren Aronofsky's crime thriller "Caught Stealing," co-starring Zoë Kravitz, Regina King, Matt Smith and Liev Schreiber.

\*\*\*

Then there are the dueling Brando films! The first will star Academy Award nominee Matt Dillon ("Crash"), who'll play Marlon Brando during 1972's "Last Tango in Paris." The film, based on Vanessa Schneider's book "My Cousin Maria Schneider: A Memoir," is about Maria Schneider, who was at the center of the scandal and controversy

## Hollywood

surrounding a certain sexual scene involving butter. The book details the trauma she suffered because of it and how it shaped the rest of her life. She knew nothing about the sex scene until moments before it was to be shot. She died of cancer in 2011 at 58.

The second Brando film stars Billy Zane (of "The Phantom" and "Titanic"), a ringer for Brando. Titled "Waltzing with Brando," it will be based on the book "Waltzing with Brando: Planning a Paradise in Tahiti." It co-stars Jon Heder, Richard Dreyfuss and Tia Carrere.

\*\*\*

George Clooney made his mark in eight episodes of "E/R" and the TV series "The Facts of Life" in 1985. He went on to receive eight Oscar nominations (winning two) and four Golden Globes. Now he's taking on Broadway in a stage version of his 2005 hit film "Goodnight, and Good Luck," written by his longtime producing partner Grant Heslov.

The story follows Edward R. Murrow as he exposes Senator Joseph McCarthy's

anti-communist witch hunt. The original film cost \$7 million while grossing \$54.6 million. The show opens on April 3, 2025, at the Winter Garden Theatre, which just ran the musical "Back to the Future." How appropriate!

\*\*\*

Tom Cruise is developing a sequel to "Top Gun: Maverick," as well as "Days of Thunder" (1990). Despite suddenly moving from Paramount Pictures to Warner Bros. this year, his plans would necessitate returning to Paramount to produce and star in these two films, since they own the rights to them.

While it's no big surprise he wants to make the sequel to "Maverick" (which made \$1.496 billion), "Days of Thunder" cost \$60 million to make and only grossed \$157 million. Maybe Cruise wants to recapture happier times with Nicole Kidman when they made their first film together. It's not likely Kidman would return for a sequel, so it may be difficult for him to recapture his days of thunder!

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## Couch Theater

"Saturday Night" (R) -- Director Jason Reitman ("Ghostbusters: Afterlife") takes on this biographical-drama film that centers around the premiere night of NBC's "Saturday Night Live," which would later be famously known as "Saturday Night Live." The film's ensemble cast is hefty, full of names like Willem Dafoe, Finn Wolfhard, Dylan O'Brien, and Kaia Gerber, but Gabriel LaBelle leads the film as none other than the creator of "SNL" himself, Lorne Michaels. Viewers get to watch as Michaels nervously attempts to rally his dysfunctional cast together for the pilot, while merciless executives wait in the wings and expect the show to flop majorly. Out now to rent.

"Outer Banks: Season 4, Part 2" (TV-MA) -- The second part of the latest season of "Outer Banks" is out now, completing the fourth season

since the show's inception in 2020. During the first half of the season, our favorite group of Pogues managed to spend all of the earnings they spent three seasons trying to locate, while simultaneously diving headfirst into a new treasure hunt. JJ received some seriously shocking news, and Rafe, of course, is still up to no good trying to get his hands on some money. What awaits in the second half of the season will leave you on the edge of your seat, as the Pogues try to track the mysterious Blue Crown all the way to Morocco. This time, though, one of our dear Pogues won't be returning. (Netflix)

"Megalopolis" (R) -- The latest film from legendary Francis Ford Coppola ("The Godfather" trilogy) has quite a lore behind its creation. While Coppola originally conceptualized the idea for the film in 1977, the film spent decades in de-

velopment hell and was only brought out of it when Coppola was able to put \$120 million of his own money toward the film. He also shot the film in an experimental style with lots of last-minute add-ins that cost him several of his crew members, including the art department and visual effects team. In the film, Adam Driver ("Ferrari") portrays Cesar Catilina, a genius architect in the futuristic city of New Rome who can stop time. However, Cesar has made many enemies throughout his time in New Rome, including new mayor Franklyn Cicero (Giancarlo Esposito). So, when a romantic connection ensues between Cesar and the mayor's daughter, Cesar's enemies triple, and his vision for the future of New Rome hangs in the balance. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

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## Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

\* As part of David Hasselhoff's divorce settlement, he kept possession of the nickname "Hoff" and the catchphrase "Don't Hassle the Hoff."

\* The fuller your refrigerator, the more energy-efficient it is.

\* Dr. Seuss coined the word "nerd." The term originated in the 1950 book "If I Ran the Zoo." The sentence goes: "And then, just to show them, I'll sail to Ka-Troo. And bring back an IT-KUTCH, a PREEP and a PROO, a NERKLE, NERD, and a SEERSUCKER, too!"

\* Nobel Prize winner Niels Bohr was given a perpetual supply of beer piped into his house.

\* Between 1848 and 1850, the population of San Francisco grew from 900 to 35,000 people thanks to the Gold Rush.

\* During his World War II service, LBJ was due to fly in the observation seat of the B-26 bomber Wabash Cannonball. However, he was replaced when he had to go to the toilet before takeoff. The Wabash Cannonball was shot down during that flight over New Guinea with no survivors.

\* A Chinese millionaire sold canned air to people on the streets to raise awareness of air pollution and then donated the money to charity.

\* Newborn babies can only see in black and white for a few months.

\* Seventy percent of the dirt on your clothes is invisible.

\* In "The Empire Strikes Back," an extra can be seen running with what appears to be an ice cream maker. The character became legendary among fans, and was eventually given a name (Willow Hood) and a backstory.

\* Some scientists believe that dogs can tell when you're coming home by how much of your scent is left in the house.

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## Trivia Test

1. GEOGRAPHY: In which country would you find the Angkor Wat temple?
2. SCIENCE: Which vitamin aids in blood clotting?
3. MUSIC: Which pop music icon has a Pantone color named after him?
4. TELEVISION: Which 1990s TV comedy series features the theme song "Cleveland Rocks"?
5. U.S. STATES: Which state is last alphabetically?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is an adult female turkey called?
7. MOVIES: Which popular 1994 movie features a character named Red?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which company's advertising slogan is

- "Like a Good Neighbor"?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How long is the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade route?
  10. ANATOMY: What are beta cells?
- Answers
1. Cambodia.
  2. Vitamin K.
  3. Prince ("Love Symbol #2," a purple shade).
  4. "The Drew Carey Show."
  5. Wyoming.
  6. A hen.
  7. "The Shawshank Redemption."
  8. State Farm.
  9. 2.5 miles.
  10. Specialized cells in the pancreas that produce insulin.
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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Newt
- 4 Former Delta rival
- 7 Very dry
- 11 Bjorn of tennis fame
- 13 Documentarian Burns
- 14 Portrayal
- 15 Afrikaner
- 16 Fire sign?
- 17 Pinnacle
- 18 Lieu
- 20 Trumpet
- 22 Actress Vardalos
- 24 Trite
- 28 Basking venue
- 32 Skiing spot
- 33 Twistable treat
- 34 TV's Danson
- 36 Autobahn auto
- 37 Open-mouthed
- 39 Swiss cheese
- 41 Wards off
- 43 Resort
- 44 Pleasing
- 46 Batter's dry spell
- 50 Spiced tea
- 53 Vitamin stat
- 55 Bangkok cuisine
- 56 Hayloft site
- 57 Whatever

### DOWN

- 1 Recedes
- 2 Shoe insert
- 3 Shade provider
- 4 -- -la-la
- 5 Desire
- 6 Sneeze sound
- 7 Basis for repeat purchases
- 8 Sinbad's bird
- 9 City on the Danube
- 10 Golf peg
- 12 Banner at a new store
- 19 Conk out
- 21 "Kidnapped" monogram
- 23 Play part
- 25 Aspiration
- 26 Mimic
- 27 Prefix with conference
- 28 Fly high
- 29 Incite
- 30 Tide type
- 31 Small barrel
- 35 Hosp. workers
- 38 Football's Manning
- 40 Boom times
- 42 Discard
- 45 -- St. Vincent
- 47 "Nopel"
- 48 Algeria's neighbor
- 49 Artist
- 50 "CSI" ailer
- 51 Solo in space
- 52 Altar constellation
- 54 Novelist Rand

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

- ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
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Love, Joey





# Santa's Christmas COLORING CONTEST

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

All children 10 years old & younger are invited to color the Christmas scene shown here & submit to The Mendota Reporter for a chance to win fabulous prizes.

Entries must be received at our office, 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota. Entries must be received by Dec. 12, 2024.

Winners will be notified.

Prizes awarded for:

1st Place

2nd Place

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Must be 10 or younger to enter.



Thanks to these fine sponsors for making this  
Coloring Contest possible. Happy Holidays!

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THE COMMUNITY



# NIE FUN PAGE



## Math Blocks

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

2	14		24
	5		22
6		15	22
18	20	30	

15	1	6
7	5	10
8	14	2

Solution

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1492:** After exploring Cuba for gold, Christopher Columbus lands on an island he names Hispaniola.

**1790:** The U.S. Congress moves from New York City to Philadelphia.

**2006:** NASA reveals photos that suggest liquid water is present on Mars.

## Fun FACT:

This popular party decoration was created in 1824 by Michael Faraday during experiments with various gases.

Answer: Balloon

## Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.  
**HRTWO A RYATP**

Answer: Throw a party

## NEW WORD

### BASH

a party or social event

## How they say that in...

- English:** Surprise
- Spanish:** Sorprender
- Italian:** Sorprendere
- French:** Surprendre
- German:** Jmdn eiskalt erwischen

## Did You Know?

In 1796, Amelia Simmons invented the cupcake and also wrote the first published American cookbook. Cupcakes have been a staple of many celebrations ever since.



## Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

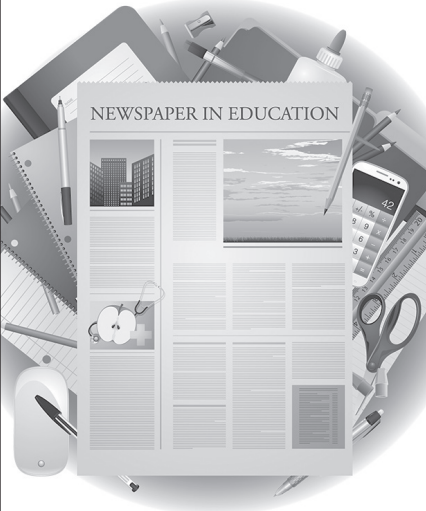
Answer: Pinata

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Emmanuel, God with us

God has a beautiful plan for your life. And He wants to lead you each step of the way. That is why one of the names of God, Emmanuel, means “God with us.”

God wants to be intimately involved in our lives. He wants us to know His voice and follow Him.

In fact, He wanted to be with us so strongly that He sent His Son, a part of Himself, to physically walk the earth. That baby in

the manger was God, and He is still with us today. He’s our hope for change.

When I think about the person I am today, I am amazed how God has changed me—and I’m so grateful for the ways He allows me to help others now. There were times when I came very close to giving up along the way. But God was faithful to be with me, help me, and keep me going on those days.

I know that apart



from Him, I can do nothing. However, in Him, I have everything I need to live the abundant life He gives me in Christ. It is the same for you. You can all have the strength and confidence to keep going because of what Jesus has done for you...because God is with you every day. God really cares about you...a lot.

Have you noticed that when God speaks to your heart, He only has caring and encouraging things to say? He never asks us, “Why aren’t you more like this person?” or, “When are you ever going to amount to something?” That’s because in Christ, God sees you as perfect.

Many people don’t realize God sees them that way. In fact, if you have ever been hurt or rejected, you may have thought that

God is mad at you and doesn’t really listen to your prayers.

But that is not true. The fact that God sent Jesus is proof of that. Jesus came, He lived, He died, and He rose again so we can have a real relationship with our Father God. He did it all for you.

In Christ, you are His own special child. God decided to adopt you because it gave Him joy, like it says in Ephesians 1:5 (NLT), “God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.”

You can’t earn or buy His love. It is simply a gift He wants you to receive because you are so dear to Him—you are His child! Romans 8:38 (NLT) tells us,

“...Nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love.”

I encourage you to be bold enough to believe that God let Jesus come to earth and go through everything He went through just for you—because you’re that precious and valuable to Him! Take a step of faith and believe that God loves you intimately, He has a great plan for your life, and His promises are true.

\*\*\*

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-part teaching resource Who Is God? You can also contact us to receive our free

magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org)

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

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Fr. Jeff Windy, Parochial Vicar  
Ray Fischer, Jose Lopez,  
and Hector Diaz, Deacons

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M - 6 p.m., Tu - 8 a.m., W - 8:10 a.m.,  
Th - 8 a.m., F - 7 a.m.

#### Weekend Mass

Sat - 8 a.m. (1st Saturday only), 4 p.m.; Sun -  
6:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon (Spanish)

#### Confession

#### STS. PETER AND PAUL, PETERSTOWN

Weekend Mass  
Sun - 9 a.m.  
Confession

#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

100 E. Sixth St.  
(815) 538-5587

#### Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

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

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



#### ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.  
Pastor Jeff Brace

jbrace8459@gmail.com  
Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United  
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

TUESDAY - Prayer group 7 p.m.



#### If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

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

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#### Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

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

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Worship - 11:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY:  
Midweek Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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Sunday school  
Worship

WEDNESDAY  
Prayer Service

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Brian Kelly, Pastor  
www.mendotabiblechurch.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
Sunday School  
Worship  
Evening Service

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#### Pastor Elise Rothfusz

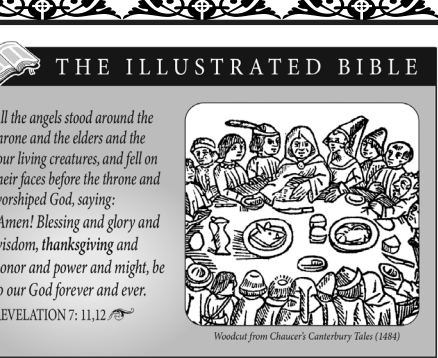
E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Website:  
www.stjohnsmendota.org

#### Schedule:

9 a.m. Sunday Worship in person  
and online via YouTube  
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NOTE: Please contact your  
individual church regarding  
online services or for other  
church-related information.



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#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Website: fpcmendota.com  
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Pastor Laurie Walker  
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School following  
children's message

Fellowship 11 a.m.  
Available on Facebook Live

Facebook page  
www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

Nov. 27 - 10 a.m. Newsletter folding  
Nov. 28-29 - Office closed

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might have the supremacy." Col. 1:18

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Wayne Shuman

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Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

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8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship at First

Nov. 27 - 6 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve  
worship with soup supper at Immanuel

Dec. 1 - "Hanging of the Greens" at  
Immanuel; chili supper following

Online "devotional service" videos continue  
every Sunday at  
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SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

#### BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Which book of the Bible (KJV) mentions the word "thanksgiving" the most times at eight? Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah
  2. In 2 Timothy 3:1 - 2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? Adulterers, Sun worshipers, Renegades, Unthankful people
  3. From Psalms 106:1: "O give thanks unto the Lord; for his \_\_\_\_\_ endureth for ever." Love, Good, Mercy, Spirit
  4. From 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God." Power, Will, Gratitude, Travail
  5. From Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ...? Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant
  6. Where was Jonah when he prayed with the voice of thanksgiving? Fish's belly, Aboard ship, In the wilderness, Mountaintop
- ANSWERS: 1) Psalms, 2) Unthankful people, 3) Mercy, 4) Will, 5) At your own will, 6) Fish's belly

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



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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**  
**No: 2014-JA-33**

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

Take notice that on the 3rd day of November, 2016 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Ryan J. Cantlin, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Seth M. Duttlinger, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 210 at Ottawa on the 5th day of February, 2025, at the hour of 1:30 p.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 each of you, and an order or judgment entered. Dated November 22, 2024  
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk  
No. 1107  
(Nov. 20, 27 and Dec. 4, 2024)

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**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**  
**No: 2014-JA-33**

TO: Stephanie Parks, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 3rd day of November, 2016 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Ryan J. Cantlin, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Seth M. Duttlinger, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 210 at Ottawa on the 5th day of February, 2025, at the hour of 1:30 p.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.

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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.

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