

# Open house marks growth, continued success at 142-year-old Black Bros.

❑ Mendota company celebrates completion of Roll Manufacturing Building

MENDOTA — It was an open house full of familiar faces and fun Nov. 21 as Black Bros. Co. welcomed nearly 300 attendees to celebrate the completion of its new Roll Manufacturing Building. The 18,200 square-foot addition has been in operation for over a month at the venerable company’s headquarters in Mendota.

“We received many positive comments from business leaders, family, and friends — not only about the new building, but also the complex roll coaters and laminating systems we design and manufacture,” said Matt Carroll, CEO and fifth-generation decedent of the founding Black family. “The new Roll Manufacturing Building, the event’s centerpiece, provides better workflow, some new tools, better lighting and an overall safe, comfortable workplace for our team members.”

Plant Manager Mike DeLong agrees the building comes with obvious efficiencies over its predecessor built in 1907, but also mentioned no large-scale project comes and goes without an obstacle or two.

“We are very pleased with the new building, and the transition has been smooth so far,” DeLong said. “The biggest hurdle we have to overcome is the exhaust system for the rubber grinders and stripper lathe. Because the new building is so (air) tight, we need to figure a way to filter the air well enough to return it back into the build-



**Black Bros. Co. welcomed nearly 300 attendees to celebrate the completion of its new Roll Manufacturing Building. The 18,200 square-foot addition has been in operation for over a month at the venerable company’s headquarters in Mendota. (Photo contributed)**

ing and not lose as much heat. I’m sure there will be a few more things to tweak as we get farther down the road.”

While the open house aimed to showcase the new space — where Black Bros. handles the complete process of steel-roll manufacturing and rubber vulcanization — it also included tours of the entire facility, select machine demonstrations, and a generous smattering of hor d’oeuvres and beverages. Of course, no business’s special occasion would be complete without games, contests, and swag. Black Bros. had plenty.

“It was fun to see our team members giving their families tours to show the pride they take in their jobs and work areas,” said President and COO Jeff Simonton. “It certainly takes a team of

dedicated and highly-skilled people to manufacture the excellent products Black Bros. is known for.”

With all the already-stated advantages provided by the new Roll Manufacturing Building, the best may be yet to come. Setup on a recently purchased, custom Kingston Lathe is still being finalized and once complete will bring even greater efficiency to the company’s rubber grinding. With a max-load capacity of 11,000 pounds and capable of holding rolls up to 197” long and 20.5” in diameter, the lathe was also built and programmed to match the exact applications of Black Bros. customers.

“All our other lathes are limited,” DeLong said, “either by the size of the roll they can handle or the number of

threads per inch it can do. The new lathe can accommodate any roll we have every made and is equipped with a Servo drive, so we can achieve any thread specs we want just by entering the parameters on the touch screen.”

Black Bros. has a worldwide reputation for providing premier roll coating and laminating equipment to a wide array of industries. Legendary for having workhorse durability, Black Bros. machines and machine systems offer customized solutions for unique applications on a one-by-one basis. Much more than an elite American manufacturer, Black Bros. also boasts start-to-finish engineering services, unparalleled customer support and parts availability, as well as superior project guidance and laboratory testing.

## City Council hears report on FY24 audit

❑ Burn pit to close on December 6th

**By KIP CHEEK**  
*Staff writer*

MENDOTA - The Mendota City Council heard an audit report and learned several services offered by the city will be shutting down for the season at its Dec. 2 regular council meeting.

It was reported that the General Fund budget had revenues of \$8.4 million and expenditures of \$7.6 million. A few funds went over budget, including the Water Fund, which showed a \$455,000 deficit, but there was nothing alarming to report.

Several suggestions were given. One was to generate a balance sheet report from the software to receive a snapshot of all cash positions in one report.

Also, since the city has received several grants and is hoping to receive more in the future, it was advised to develop grant expenditure tracking to keep better track of where the grant funds are being distributed.

After no further discussion, the council voted to place the FY24 audit on file.

Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick announced that the city’s leaf vacuum program has concluded for the season. Also, he said the burn pit incinerator will close for the year on Friday, Dec. 6.

City project director Annie Short announced that the city is seeking a building inspector.

### PETITIONS FILED FOR APRIL ELECTION

Petitions were filed in November for mayor, city clerk, city treasurer and alderman for the April 1, 2025, consolidated election.

Filing for mayor were incumbent David Boelk and challenger Shallen Gross. Incumbent Emily McConville was the lone person to file for city clerk, as was current treasurer Rob Letterly.

First Ward alderman, incumbent Jim Fitzpatrick, will seek re-election and will be challenged by Joel Perez. There will also be a race in the Fourth Ward after filings by incumbent Vicki Johnson and challenger Matt Ramer.

Incumbent aldermen Leo Hochstatter in the Second Ward and Kyle Kim in the Third Ward will run unopposed.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, Dec. 16 at 5:30 p.m.



## Holiday events set Dec. 6 & 7 in Mendota

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 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.

## LaSalle County EMA encourages residents to prepare for winter

OTTAWA – As winter weather has arrived, LaSalle County EMA has launched a campaign to promote awareness and encourage residents to prepare for the upcoming winter season. With the potential for snow, ice, and freezing temperatures, the county’s Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is urging residents to take proactive steps to stay safe and informed throughout the winter months.

“Winter weather can catch us off guard if we aren’t ready,” said Fred Moore, Director of LaSalle County Emergency Management. “From power outages to hazardous road conditions, the impact can be severe. We want every resident to be prepared, and we’re here to provide them with the information and resources they need to stay safe this winter.”



Prepare now with these essential tips:

- Build or Update Emergency Kits Every home and vehicle should have a winter emergency kit stocked with necessary supplies. Recommended items include extra blankets, flashlights, batteries, a first-aid kit, bottled water, and non-perishable foods. Vehicle kits should also include an ice scraper,

jumper cables, and sand or cat litter to help gain traction on ice.

• Winterize Your Home To avoid costly damage and stay warm, residents should take steps to protect their homes from cold weather. Winterizing includes checking insulation, sealing windows and

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

We announced our November KIND KIDS at the end of the month. One student from each classroom is chosen for extraordinary kindness shown to others throughout the month. The winners this month were Atlas Bugiye, Amelia Rosales, Paisley Nagy, Adan Carbajal, Luca Eich, Carter Shirley, Amaia Cholicco Esqueda, Elianna Pre, Noelia Chica Ramirez, Hadley Kaufman, Kaitlyn Castaneda and Evalynn Kordick. Congratulations to these kind students!

The kindergarten and first grade classrooms at Blackstone can earn Paw Pride certificates for great behavior shown throughout the school. Each trimester, we set a goal and if the class reaches the goal, they earn the reward for that trimester. Before Thanksgiving break, all of our students enjoyed the first trimester reward. We had “The Traveling World of Reptiles” come to Blackstone from Chicago for an assembly. We learned about different reptiles such as a blue iguana, alligator, tortoise, lizards and everyone’s favorite, the python! The students also had the opportunity to interact with the animals. Thank you to our families who supported our fall Club Choice fundraiser which helped us to pay for this great learning opportunity for our students!

The principal award winners for the month of November were celebrated at a pizza lunch on Nov. 26. The students invited to the lunch were Noah Moreno, Blaire Hansen, Paisley Nagy, Jieanna Porter, Rubi Baltazar, Noah Perez, Yolanie Ramirez, Adan Carbajal, Jaxton Becerra, Sophia Moore, Victoria Lechuga, William Colin, Henry Myers, Demi Minton, Odin Clark and Jeffrey O’Brien. A picture of the winners is in this week’s Mendota Reporter.

The cold weather is here and I’d like to remind parents to make sure their children are dressed for the outside weather. A note recently went home explaining the temperature rules the district uses to determine if we go outside in the morning and at recess.

The December calendars are out and one thing we want to make sure parents and our community know is that the Blackstone Winter Program will be held on Monday, Dec. 16. Kindergarten will perform at 5:30 and first grade at 7:00. The programs will be held in the auditorium at Mendota High School. More detailed information will soon go home with all students.

## Queen of Hearts raffle a hit for Stage 212

LaSALLE – Stage 212’s first Queen of Hearts raffle was a great success. Grand Prize Winner Shirley Duttlinger donated her winnings back into Stage 212’s Auditorium Renovation fund. The theater group is excited to announce they will be starting a new Queen of Hearts Board immediately, with the jackpot starting at \$1,000.

The Queen of Hearts drawing takes place every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Atrium of the Westclox Building, next to Fire on Fifth, 300 Fifth St., Peru. One ticket is drawn from the

tickets purchased that week. If the Queen of Hearts is not revealed, the jackpot rolls over for the next week’s drawing. Winners are announced/posted on Facebook, on Stage 212’s website, in The Atrium and at Stage 212.

The ticket holder who selects the Queen of Hearts is the Grand Prize Winner. If the Grand Prize Winner is present at the time of the drawing, they will receive 100% of the jackpot. If the Grand Prize Winner is not present, they will receive 50% of the jackpot. The “Jackpot” is defined as

70% of the total ticket sales accumulated at the time of the last drawing.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 with no limit on the number of tickets purchased. They are sold at Stage 212, 700 First St., LaSalle, during events, and at Fire on Fifth during regular business hours.

All players must be 18 years of age or older to participate. All proceeds from this raffle benefit Stage 212’s Auditorium Renovation Fund. Stage 212, Inc. is a 501c3 charitable organization. For more information and complete rules, visit stage212.org.

## Rep. Fritts honors Ziggie’s Family Restaurant

MENDOTA – For his October 2024 local business highlight, State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Ziggie’s Family Restaurant in Mendota. Rep. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owners with a certificate of appreciation for their contributions to the community.

“This month, I chose to honor Ziggie’s Family Restaurant because of their hard work and dedication to helping others,” said Rep. Fritts. “Ziggie’s is a staple in our community, and they do so much to give back.”

Ziggie’s Family Restaurant is a third-generation family-owned business, first founded in 1972 by Ziggie. It was bought by his nephew Musa Zendeli in 1984 and passed down to his son, and current owner Benny and his wife Vjolca in 2015.



State Rep. Brad Fritts, right, presents a certificate to Vjolca and Benny Zendeli of Ziggie’s Family Restaurant in Mendota for his October business highlight. (Photo contributed)

Rep. Fritts continued, “It is no easy task to run a small, family-owned restaurant, especially during hard times like the COVID-19 pandemic. I commend Benny and Vjolca for their commitment to Ziggie’s and for their continued contributions to our com-

munity. Whether it’s working alongside the local chamber of commerce, supporting Boy and Girl Scout troops, or even providing meals to the Mendota Fire Department during the Mendota fires, Ziggie’s truly uplifts our community.”

Ziggie’s Family

Restaurant is located at 1212 First Ave., Mendota. For more information, visit their website at ZiggiesRestaurant.com.

To nominate a local business in District 74 for a future highlight, visit RepFritts.com and select Local Business Highlight Submission Form under Resources.

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

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

**Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Community Action Network, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.**



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

**YES! Send me my 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendar!**  
(Please Print)

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

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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

NUMBER OF CALENDARS: \_\_\_\_\_

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**

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# LOCAL AND AREA



**Elks Award**  
Dessa Komitas, a senior at Mendota High School, has been chosen the September Elks Teen of the Month. Komitas was selected by the Elks panel from many nominees from several area high schools.

## Kishwaukee to offer six Fast-Track programs in Spring 2025

MALTA – Kishwaukee College will offer six Fast-Track training programs during the Spring 2025 semester. Kish Fast-Track programs provide students with the expertise needed to meet local workforce demands. The programs range from 8-15 weeks, allowing students to immediately start a career or build upon skills with additional training. Spring 2025 classes are available online, in-person and in hybrid formats. Participants will need internet access to participate in programs with an online component. Some programs include an externship/clinical. The Fast-Track training programs offered in Spring

2025 are:  
• Appliance Repair Technician: Jan. 23-April 16 (In-Person)  
Appliance repair technicians are skilled professionals trained to assist clients with household appliance installation, troubleshooting and repairs. In-person instruction is from 5:30-9 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays at Kishwaukee College.  
• Dental Assistant: Jan. 13-April 18 (Online Lecture/In-Person Practice)  
Dental assistants are health care professionals who work closely with dentists and dental hygienists to provide quality preventive and corrective dental

care and administrative support in dental offices. In-person practice will be from 6-9 pm on four Tuesdays in a local dental office.  
• Pharmacy Technician: Jan. 13-April 25 (Online)  
Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists with dispensing prescription medication while performing various other duties in a pharmacy setting. Online instruction is delivered in an asynchronous format. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding is available to those who qualify.  
• Real Estate Broker Pre-License: Jan. 13-March 6 (Online)  
Real estate brokers per-

form many duties in real estate transactions, including marketing homes, establishing escrow accounts, and working to ensure transactions are fair and legal. Online instruction is from 6-9 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.  
• Sterile Processing Technician: Jan. 13-April 18 (Online)  
Sterile processing technicians support patient services in a health care facility. Technicians help decontaminate, clean, process, assemble, sterilize, store and distribute medical devices and supplies needed in patient care, especially during surgery. Online instruction is delivered in an

asynchronous format.  
• Veterinary Assistant: Jan. 13-June 6 (Online Lecture/In-Person Practice)  
Veterinary assistants are trained to assist veterinarians and veterinary technicians with animal medical procedures. Online lectures are from 7-10 pm on Tuesdays, and in-person labs are from 5:30-8:30 pm on Thursdays at Ashton Animal Clinic in Ashton. A clinical experience will be offered from May 12 to June 6 in a local animal hospital.  
Spring 2025 registration is open. Learn more or register for Kishwaukee College Fast-Track programs at kish.edu/fasttrack.

## Stage 212 opens auditions for spring 2025 production “The Miracle Worker”

LaSALLE – Director Ellen Marincic has announced auditions for Stage 212’s spring 2025 production, “The Miracle Worker,” William Gibson’s powerful and poignant Tony Award-winning drama exploring the volatile relationship between Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan. Marincic will be casting 11 people of various ages in a variety of lead and supporting roles. Auditions for Anne Sullivan and Helen Keller will be held Friday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m. Auditions for all other roles will be held Sunday, Dec. 15 at 1 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. All auditions will be held at

Stage 212, 700 First St. in LaSalle. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. No preparation is needed, and familiarity with the script is not required. All participants will register in person on the audition date they attend, and should have their personal information ready plus a list of potential conflicts during the rehearsal period (January-April). All are encouraged to audition, regardless of prior theatrical experience. Contact the director at 815-326-3707 with questions or visit [www.stage212.org](http://www.stage212.org) for more information. “The Miracle Worker” will be presented April 4–13.

## OSF HealthCare’s Abigail Eckles recognized with DAISY Award

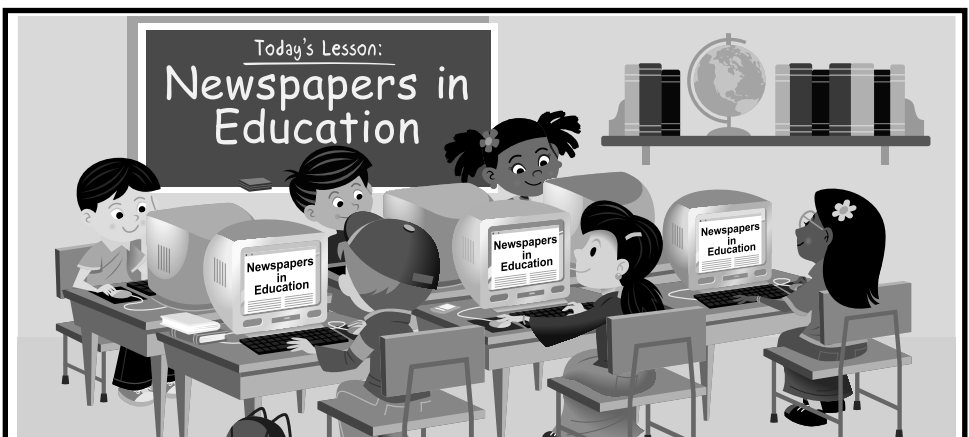
OTTAWA – As a partner in the international DAISY award program that recognizes the extraordinary clinical skill and compassionate care of nurses, OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center recently presented its DAISY award to Abigail Eckles, RN. Eckles joined OSF HealthCare almost a year ago and cares for patients in the medical/surgical unit at OSF Saint Elizabeth. Residing in Earlville, Eckles’s commitment to providing compassionate and high-quality care has now been acknowledged through the DAISY award. Heather Bomstad, vice president and chief nursing officer for OSF Saint Elizabeth, expressed gratitude for the daily contributions of compassionate RNs and emphasized that the DAISY award is a meaningful way to acknowledge the dedication of individuals like Abi Eckles.



Eckles’s nomination included, “Abi was so kind and compassionate with my father during his hospice hospital admission. She made him feel human at a time when he could not verbally communicate and ensured his needs were met with professionalism and compassion. Her great bedside manner brought

comfort to our family, and her dedication made the end-of-life process as smooth as possible.” The DAISY award program can be found in over 2,000 healthcare facilities in all 50 states and 14 other countries. OSF HealthCare encourages patients, family members, and fellow staff to recog-

nize caregivers who have provided exceptional care and service by nominating them for an award to honor their dedication. For more information about the DAISY and Sunflower awards or to submit a nomination, visit: <https://www.osfhealthcarefoundation.org/gratefulpatient/>.



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# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Darlene M. Meisel

MENDOTA — Darlene M. Meisel, 99, of Mendota, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024, at Stonecroft Village in Mendota.

Public visitation will be 9-11 a.m., Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, at Horner-Merritt Funeral Home Mendota. A funeral service will follow the visitation at 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

She was born April 1, 1925, to Ray and Gladys (Ansteth) Rod in a country home west of Earlville. Her parents later moved to a farm northeast of Meriden. She married Harold Meisel on July 6, 1946, at St. John's Parsonage in Mendota.

Darlene is survived by her three children, Janet (Rick) Close of Dalzell, Kevin (Joann) Meisel of Mendota and Darryl (Sandy) Meisel of Ottawa; seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; one sister, Mary Jane Bradford of Oklahoma.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband Harold on Aug. 12, 2023; three sisters, Charlotte Coates, Virginia Piller and Marjorie Anderson; one stillborn brother, Donald; one foster brother, Jonny-Norbert Horstman.

She graduated from Four Mile Grove Grade School and Mendota High School in 1943. She then helped her parents on the farm until her work carrier began as a clerk in the National Tea grocery followed by working on the piecing line at the Elgin watch factory, both in Mendota. She also worked as a babysitter for two family friends.

Darlene was baptized and confirmed Lutheran. Their home was the Meisel family farm in Dimmick Township. She continued with her farming ability with her husband. She touched many lives of children as a school bus driver for Dimmick School and Mendota school district for 27 years. She also transported special education students for several years for both districts. At Dimmick she volunteered for several duties, was PTA President, room mother and worked with the 4-H Club. Also as a life member at IVCH, she was President of the Auxiliary and then manager/purchasing agent for the Gift Shop for 15 years. Darlene served on St. John's Lutheran Church Alter Guild and taught Sunday School and Bible School.

After 48 years on the farm she and her family moved to Mendota. They became members and volunteered for Mendota Area Senior Services, Mendota Museum Historical Society, St. John's Lutheran Church. With her husband's help they helped fold and delivered the church bulletins to shut-ins of the church for 10 years. She was a life member of Mendota Community Hospital and delivered Meals on Wheels for 17 years. Harold and Darlene were nominated by MASS and accepted into The Gallery of Ageless Achievers in 2000.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in her honor to MASS or St. John's Lutheran Church of Mendota. Visit [www.horner-merritt.com](http://www.horner-merritt.com) for online guestbook.



## Laurie D. Hoffman

MENDOTA — Laurie Dawn Hoffman, 66, of Mendota, passed away Nov. 22, 2024, at Allure of Mendota.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 at Victory Baptist Church in Mendota. Cremation care has been provided by Horner-Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota.

Laurie was born April 16, 1958, in Elgin, to Henry and Betty (Redden) Hoffman.

She is survived by her parents; five children, Brandon Larson of Rockford, Trey Bratcher of Mendota, Stephanie Larson of Vernon Hills, Christina Williamson of Washington, Ill., and Taylor (Kyle Madsen) Bratcher of Spring Valley; two brothers, Joseph Hoffman of LaSalle and Paul (Lorraine) Hoffman of Vacaville, Calif.; one sister, Angela (Darron) Pitts of Compton; and nine grandchildren.

Laurie graduated from Sycamore High School with the class of 1976. Later in life she attended on-line Phoenix University and Walden University earning a master's degree. Movies were her passion along with garage sales and auctions.

Memorials may be directed to the family to assist in arrangements. Visit [www.horner-merritt.com](http://www.horner-merritt.com) to view online guest book.



## Christine M. Mini

CLERMONT, Fla. — Christine M. Mini, 77, formerly of Sublette, died Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, in Clermont, Fla.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2024, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Sublette. Rev. Randy Fronek officiated. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery in Sublette. Visitation was Friday, Nov. 29, with scripture service at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Mini was born Nov. 9, 1947, in Chicago, the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Kaczorowski) Nowinski. Mini married John J. "Jack" Mini on May 27, 1972, at St. Mary of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Chicago.

Christine is survived by two sons, Christopher Mini of Clermont, Fla., and Gregory Mini of Chicago; one granddaughter, Kaylee Mini; two sisters, Kathy Supinski and Mary Comiso; and three brothers, Ted Nowinski, Peter Nowinski, and Joe Nowinski.

He preceded her in death by her husband on April 5, 2023. She was also preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Frank and Johnny Nowinski; and one sister, Margie Mini.

She had worked for the Art Espe Insurance Agency (State Farm) prior to retirement. Christine was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Sublette.

Condolences can be left at [www.thejonesfh.com](http://www.thejonesfh.com).



## Grants help IVCC students jumpstart healthcare careers

OGLESBY — Three state grant programs are making it possible for local students to jumpstart healthcare careers, get a head start in college and head toward new and better jobs in the workforce.

"These grants are a lifeline for students across the state, providing opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach," said Illinois Valley Community College President Dr. Tracy Morris.

One of those programs, the Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce (PATH), creates, supports and expands opportunities for students in nursing and other healthcare fields by providing tuition reimbursement, tutoring services and cost assistance for lab equipment and licensure fees.

Funding assistance was critical to students like Blair Hermann, who completed Illinois Valley Community College's nursing program in 2024. After multiple college starts and interruptions and starting a family, she decided to pursue a new career in nursing. Having earned her degree, she is working in the medical-surgical unit at OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa.

Looking back on the program, Hermann said, "Every clinical experience I had in the nursing program reassured me that I made the right career choice and that I truly love what I will be doing."

Most recently, a total of 97 IVCC students were awarded tuition assistance totaling \$37,000 and another 69 aspiring nurses have applied for Spring PATH funding amounting to \$34,500.

Of the 27,600 students who enrolled in Illinois community college healthcare programs through the PATH grant, nearly half were first-generation college students. At IVCC, 378 graduates obtained licenses and/or secured employment in healthcare careers, including: Certified Physical Therapy Aide, Certified Nursing Assistant, EKG Technician, EMT-B, LPN, Medical Assisting, Medical Billing and

Coding, Paramedic, Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy, RN and Sterile Processing Technician.

The PATH program also resulted in relationships with more than 1,000 employers across the state and the launch of newly developed or expanded college healthcare programs.

Another grant makes college courses accessible to students who might otherwise not be able to afford to pursue early college credit. Dual credit high school students can earn college credits while fulfilling high school graduation requirements -- which makes higher education more attainable to students from diverse backgrounds by reducing the overall cost and time needed to complete a degree.

In FY 24, almost 700 students across the Illinois Valley Community College district -- roughly 20 percent of the College's overall enrollment -- enrolled in dual credit courses.

In FY 23, Illinois community colleges offered 14,638 dual credit courses to 82,600 high school students across the state.

IVCC is also one of 18 community colleges across the state providing individuals with short-term training for in-demand fields. The Workforce Equity Initiative has helped community colleges expand skills training and support to at-risk communities and address workforce gaps.

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For more information about IVCC's PATH, Dual Credit and WEI programs, visit [ivcc.edu](http://ivcc.edu).

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**Can you identify this photo?**

**LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:**  
Entrance to Mendota Police Station  
Winner: Carl Kittelson

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Northbrook Middle School Honor Roll - Trimester 1

MENDOTA – Northbrook Middle School Trimester 1 Honor Roll and High Honor Roll students have been named for the 2024-25 school year.

**5th Grade High Honor Roll** – Daniella Arteaga, Jersie Carr, Harrison Coss, Gabriella Diaz, Aubre Dinges, Nina Escatel, Alexxa Figueroa, Nikki Figueroa, Addison Gaspar, Brody Gilkerson, Landon Kent, Krew Knaff, Adelynn Landers, Jacob Lengsfeld, Aubrey Mathieu, Kennedy McCollom, Kennedy Mellott, Jacob Nunez Diaz, Aria Olson, Lyla Pecher, Brayden Piller, Jayden Saylor, Aleeah Smith, Connor Stevenson, Maddie Strait, Scarlett Valencia, Reese Ward, Alexander Wickstrom, Austin Wire, Julien Woods, Briana Zendeli

**5th Grade Honor Roll** – Omar Aranda, Emilio Arteaga, Rigoberto Arteaga III, John Bend, Lindsey Boege, Jude Brelli, Ruben Celis, Victor Correa, Oliver Davis, Abel Diaz, Peter Dunfrund, Sophia Dunley, Ella Escatel, Dana Falcon Santoyo, Emilia Farrier, Charlee Fordham, Paris Furar, Aubrey Gambrel, Julian Garcia, Camila Garnica Avalos, Evelina Gonzalez, Faelan Hagy, Kayden Hunt, Evan Komitas, Brogan Kreiser, Bailee Lambert, Izaiah Lopez, Daniela Magallanes, Liliana Montoya, Javyon Moss, Gunner Owens, Ariel Pavnica, Camden Phalen, Easton Pyse, Evelyn Quintana, Molly Randa, Mayra Renteria, Jaclynn Ridge, Israel Rivera, Samuel Saylor, Tyler Skaggs, Liam Venegas, Aubreyanna Williams

**6th Grade High Honor Roll** – Jake Allen, Cruz Arteaga, Daniela Arteaga,

Julian Arteaga, Bradley Betz, Jaxx Bonnell, Emiliano Casas Valle, Eliza Celis, Adam Cox, Kinsley Diaz, Brianna Escatel, Sophia Garcia, Elijah Godina, Sebastian Harzheim, Olivia Jomant, Collin Kleckner, Kate Kleckner, Macy Mahaffey, Colton Mikulik, Michelle Montes, Mara Ohlendorf, Marley Pelka, Daniel Price, Isabella Ramos, Kamilah Raya, George Rhynedance VI, Nadia Rodriguez, Kenyen Scott, Kayli Seablom, Drake Silva, Lily Skjoldager, Brayden Thiele, Angie Vazquez, Ruzdije Zendeli

**6th Grade Honor Roll** – Antonio Arteaga II, Olympia Becker, Karessa Brown, Mason Fielder, Jayla Francis, Shelby Fultz, Grayson Goodlow, Xavier Hiatt, Liliana Krisch, Leonardo Leek, Jesse Lopez, Alexa Loutsch, Camden Milus, Gianna Morano, Hunter Noles, Aaron Ortega, Taylyn Piskie, Kaylynn Read, Emma Renoud, Alexander Rivera, Jace Schnaiter, Kayne Schneider, Isabella Silva, Aiden Skaggs, Ayden Stallings, Jaxson Villegas

**7th Grade High Honor Roll** – Isaac Baltazar, Karly Beetz, Austin Brown, Kenna Brown, Kathleen Clark, Lila Coss, Aliya Escatel, Samantha Foltyniewicz, Kayleigh Higgins, Albana Imeri, London Jones, Chloe Klein, Sebastian Magallanes, Dianely Mendez-Santana, Kendra Milus, Charlize Pena, Hunter Piller, Maggie Price, Camilo Ramirez, Lyla Rodriguez, Evelyn Sims, Victor Solorzano, Adalynn Sondgeroth, Gavin Stamberger, Harper Stamberger, Raelynn Sundberg, Elyse Waldron, Wyatt Zimmerman

**7th Grade Honor Roll** – Kailani

Akau-Witty, Isayanna Arreola, Bentley Bejster, Brandon Benenhaley, Brystol Bonnell, William Bromenschenkel, Caroline Correa, Holden Coss, Aaron Covarrubias, Aliya Eames, Taylor Erlenborn, Bellalyn Escatel, Janelly Escatel, Jayden Figueroa, Kendal Fromherz, Emiliano Galido-Garcia, Aubri Gonzalez, Dominic Gonzalez, Gage Hanson, Herlinda Huizar, Skyler Kenny, Kathryn Loutsch, Eli Martinez, Elaina Ohlendorf, Viridianna Perez, Kayne Phillips, Parker Ramer, Brooklyn Russell, Henry Schroeder, Maycie Sproston, Kennie Stremlau

**8th Grade High Honor Roll** – Brianna Betz, Lila Bielema, Kylee Bonnell, Jacqueline Bryson, Arian Chavez, Leighton Davis, Gabriela Diaz, Ari Gambrel, Illan Garcia, Valeria Gomez, Kyndra Higgins, Callum Indigo, Eli Kaecker, Ava Mahaffey, Allison McNutt, Alana Melendez, Nora Rhynedance, Liam Strait, Samantha Stremlau, Gavin Tolley, Camila Vallejo, Emerson VanHorn, Maci Winn

**8th Grade Honor Roll** – Candie Arteaga, Mia Arteaga, Rafael Arteaga, Sebastian Arteaga, Charles Beatty, Annalee Becerra, Mallory Beck, Sergio Correa, Aliya Delao, Kannon Delao, Eliana Eames, Isaac Espinoza, Bradley Fultz, Kaitlyn Giberson, Giana Godina, Vania Gomez, Felipe Gonzalez, Abriana Klein, Zaydn Law, Yuliza Magallanes, Olivia Perryman, Bentley Pratt, Axel Ruiz, Alexis Saylor, Juliana Seablom, Lumen Setchell, Moxie Taylor, Laurali Thompson, Dylan Welch

## Winter



Continued from Page A1

doors, and making sure heating systems are maintained. Residents are encouraged to refer to FEMA's Winter Weather Safety Tips on their website at [www.ready.gov/winter-weather](http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather) for further guidance on winterizing their homes and planning for potential emergencies.

- Stay Informed Severe winter weather can develop quickly, making it essential for residents to stay updated on the latest forecasts and alerts. LaSalle County EMA advises residents to download the LaSalle County EMA smartphone app, available for both iOS and Android devices. The app provides real-time weather notifications, emergency alerts, and preparedness tips specific to LaSalle County. "Staying informed through reliable sources like our app is one of the best ways to make sure you're aware of any immediate risks," Moore explained.

- Practice Safe Travel During the winter months, driving can be especially dangerous due to snow, ice,

and reduced visibility. Residents should plan their travel carefully, drive slower, and always inform someone of their route.

LaSalle County EMA will provide resources on their Facebook page and will share winter preparedness information on its website.

"We're committed to helping our community weather whatever comes our way," Moore added. "We encourage everyone to take advantage of the resources we provide, like the LaSalle County EMA app, and start preparing today."

For more information on Winter Weather Preparedness Month, winter safety resources, and to download the LaSalle County EMA app, visit the LaSalle County EMA website at [www.lasallecountyema.org](http://www.lasallecountyema.org).

**Winter arrives December 21!**

## Illinois' Winter Weather Rule is now in effect through March 31

CHICAGO – The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is reminding consumers that Illinois' winter weather rule is in effect from Dec. 1 – March 31. The winter weather rule prohibits utilities from disconnecting eligible customers who use electric or gas as their primary source of home heating.

"Frigid winters are a given in Illinois. The state's winter weather rule offers peace-of-mind for individuals and families who might otherwise be struggling to stay warm during the coldest months of the year," said ICC Chairman Doug Scott.

To protect Illinoisans during dangerous cold, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) participants; electric space heating customers; and military personnel and veterans cannot be disconnected if they fall behind on their utility bills. The rule excludes disconnections related to theft, tampering, or safety.

The cold weather rule also protects residential customers from disconnections when temperatures are forecasted to be at or below 32 F, and on days preceding holidays and weekends when the forecast is expected to drop to freezing.

To protect against disconnection, customers with past due balances should contact their utility to enroll in a Deferred Payment Agreement (DPA). If your electric or gas service has already been disconnected, contact your utility directly to see if you qualify for reconnection at less than the full amount owed.

Other residential customers or master-metered apartment buildings who used gas or electricity as the primary source of space heating equipment during the previous winter cannot be disconnected for non-payment unless: the utility has offered the customer a DPA with a maximum down payment of 10 percent; provided the customer with contact information for public and private aid agencies; the customer refused to enter a DPA; and all disconnection notices provisions have been met.

Households struggling to pay their utility bills are encouraged to apply for LIHEAP annually with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Ameren, Nicor, North Shore, and Peoples Gas

natural gas customers who qualify for LIHEAP whose incomes are at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty line are eligible for a monthly discount on their gas bills through the state's new low-income discount rates.

Enrollment in the programs mentioned above is free of charge, and customers can access LIHEAP benefits regardless of immigration status.

Contact the ICC's Consumer Services Division at 1-800-524-0795 for further guidance or to file a complaint against your utility.

**About the Illinois Commerce Commission**  
The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient, and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses, and repossession agencies. The

Commission's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities, and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices, and bureaus, click here. If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795. For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

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# OPINION



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

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

## Robbing Peter to pay Paul's Social Security benefits cannot last forever

By BRENTON SMITH  
The Heartland Institute

Back in the 1980s, the last time that Congress was able to agree on changes to Social Security, U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) coined a pivotal axiom about consensus building: You are entitled to your own opinion, but not your own set of facts.

That principle has long since been abandoned in the discussion about Social Security as politicians, regardless of party, are happy to lose fact check after fact check as their claims get more absurd by the day.

Moynihan was right, every debate must have a framework of fact on which consensus can be built. Social Security reform drifts with time because it lacks that fundamental foundation.

In the past election cycle, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump served as the yin and yang of Social Security reform. They appear to be opposites, but both are essentially the same integral parts spinning yarns in an endless cycle of inaction over the program's future. Both are happy to lose fact checks over statements that even to the untrained eye are little more than Big Foot sightings.

For reasons beyond understanding, voters give politicians a lot of latitude on facts about a system on which millions depend. Policy experts, on the other hand, should not be given the privilege of creating their own set of facts. The people who lead the discussion need to demonstrate an understanding of the problem before they offer solutions.

As an example, many politicians claim that money set aside for Social Security benefits has already been spent on earmarks, bridges and wars. Moreover, they claim that all that is left in the program's coffers are worthless, non-negotiable IOUs.

It all sounds quite sinister, but it is not necessarily true. In reality, Social Security hasn't generated a penny of excess cash to spend on anything other than benefits since 2010. Every penny collected in payroll taxes has been distributed to eligible beneficiaries. That is what your hard-earned taxes were spent on.

If the root cause of Social Security's financial imbalances stemmed from a raid on the reserves, things would at least stabilize given there is no longer any money left to raid. However, the problem we face has roughly doubled since that time.

At the end of 2023, the Trust Fund held \$2.75 trillion in reserves. From inception to the end of 2023, the program collected \$2.6 trillion in interest and interest on interest.

Interest is money that Congress contributed to the program. It is the cost of time. So, Congress didn't use the money in Social Security to buy a tank or a bridge. It used the money to pay for time between right now and when the budget could afford to pay for it.

Keep in mind, one of the reasons that Congress couldn't afford the bridge or a couple of extra tanks is because lawmakers have allocated nearly \$1 trillion in cash to Social Security from the general fund over the past few decades. Importantly, that is money Congress has shifted from other things, like infrastructure and national defense, to Social Security.

Congress isn't raiding Social Security. It is propping up the program with general fund subsidies that come at the cost of those other things that voters want and the nation needs.

While there is no evidence that Congress misused the money dedicated to Social Security, the legend grows every year and serves as a substantial impediment to consensus building because few voters will buy into benefit cuts or tax increases when they believe that Congress can just put the money back into the Social Security Trust Fund.

So, how did we really get here? In 1977, Congress set Social Security on auto-pilot, which expands the program every year based on the performance of the economy. The process is called wage-indexing, one that has driven an ever-growing gap between what is promised and what can be paid.

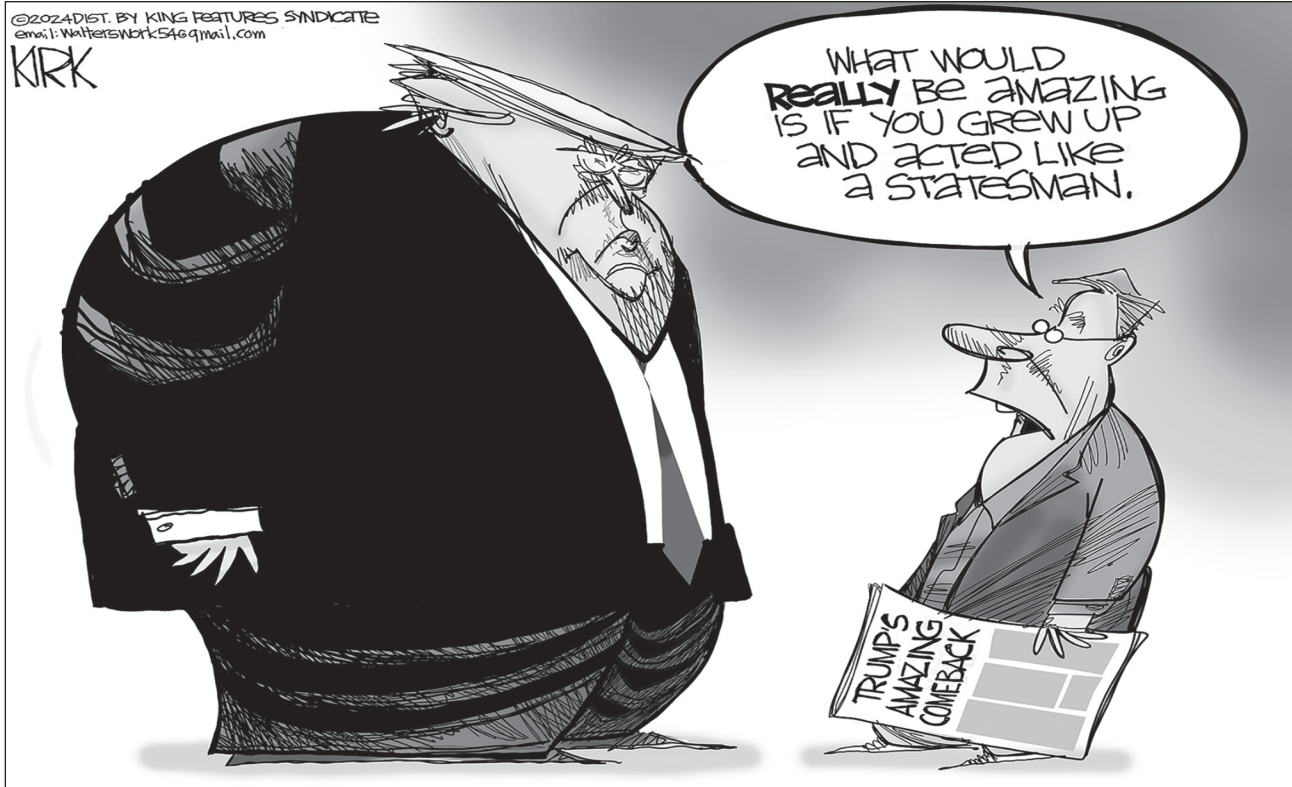
That gap is \$22.6 trillion, a figure which means that for every dollar the program has ever collected in revenue, the system has created more than a dollar in promises that it does not expect to keep. That relationship doesn't sound like a Trust Fund problem. It sounds more like another politicians-making-promises-they-can't-keep problem.

Instead of thinking about a real problem as Moynihan would have preferred, voters are now more divided, with too many stewing over Big Foot sightings.

(Brenton Smith is a policy advisor with The Heartland Institute.)

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## Community supports Mendota Hospital – 1949

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Dec. 1, 1999.)

By Jessica Nashold

The fifth fundraising drive for the Mendota hospital was underway in December 1949. The hospital was under construction and the new drive was focused on equipment. In Mendota, there had been auctions and numerous other events with proceeds going to the hospital. An accounting by finance chairman Harry Fahler makes clear that funds were also being raised in surrounding communities.

Fahler's list of contributors included the following townships: Brooklyn, Clarion, Earl, Freedom, LaMoille, Meriden, Ophir, Sublette, Troy Grove and Wyoming. Easy to understand why the name adopted for the new institution was Mendota Community Hospital.

\*\*\*

The Mendota Reporter, in 1949, had correspondents in 20 communities in this area. In the Dec. 1, 1949 issue, Amboy news was handled by Betty Hiatt, Sublette news by Miss Tillie Full and LaMoille news by Miss Pearl Schmehr. Other area correspondents were: Mrs. Allie Whitney, Van Orin; Mrs. Otto Zorn, Troy Grove; Mary Conagh, Compton; Dr. W.E. Schenk, Franklin Grove; James Cave, Scarboro; Doris C. Mead, Paw Paw; Mrs. Howard Bauer, Perkins Grove; Mrs. Mildred Aubry, Waltham; Dorothy Walter, Ohio; Gertrude Spohn and Alice McFadden, Maytown. News from other communities whose correspondents were not identified came from Earlville, West Brooklyn, Meriden, Arlington, Rollo and Dimmick.

For whatever reason, Triumph news did not appear in the Dec. 1, 1949, issue. Perhaps the correspondent missed a deadline.

\*\*\*

Police Chief Godfrey Ichorn issued a stern warning. Anyone stealing light bulbs from the Christmas decorations in downtown Mendota, or found in possession of such bulbs, would be subject to a minimum fine of \$25.

The bulbs were distinctive – too large for regular Christmas trees and too small for regular light sockets. A Christmas tree was attached to each light standard in the business district and lights were turned on for the first time on Dec. 3, 1949.

### Backtracks & Sidetracks

\*\*\*

The Mendota grade school and high school boards issued a joint announcement that a new head for the music department in both districts had been found to replace William Pierce. Pierce had resigned to take a position with a manufacturer of musical instruments.

The new man was Earnest F. Schlick, who would direct the bands in both grade and high schools, beginning Jan. 3, 1950. He would also be in charge of the high school chorus.

He has taught at both college and high school levels.

\*\*\*

Motorists who have encountered deer with varying degrees of damage usually remember the incident for a long time. Dean Otterbach probably remembers the deer that met its end when it leapt over a fence north of Deer Park, landing in the path of his car. Otterbach was not injured but reported the left front fender and headlight on his vehicle were somewhat damaged. That was 50 years ago on a Saturday night – 11:30 p.m. Nov. 26, 1949.

\*\*\*

Santa's first appearance in Mendota in 1949 was on Dec. 7 between 1:30 and 3:30. His headquarters was positioned on Illinois Avenue, east of the National Bank of Mendota, then located on the northwest corner of Illinois Avenue and Washington Street. Every boy and girl visiting Santa that day received a bag of candy. The following week, headquarters were moved to city park.

\*\*\*

Dale Wakeman, a MHS graduate with the Class of 1932, took the name of Joseph Dale and in 1949 published a book of poems entitled, "Strange Caverns." He was feted by the Chicago Town Hall Forum at a tea in the Morrison Hotel on Nov. 27, 1949.

The autographing party was open to public and press.

Sadly, the poet was a homicide victim some years later.

\*\*\*

The A&P company ran a full-page ad to protest anti-trust charges being brought against them. They stated that they manufactured many quality foods such as Bokar, Red Circle and Eight O'Clock coffees, Anne Page foods and White House milk, passing along the resulting savings to customers. Anti-trust lawyers were seeking to compel A&P to get rid of these manufacturing companies. Should they succeed, the A&P contended, it would destroy a system that had made the American standard of living the envy of the world.

\*\*\*

The city council was visited by a representative of Westinghouse and the owner of the Peru Electric Shop. They sought permission to install a mercury vapor light on a bracket, which would be mounted on the roof of the Gish Jewelry building. A 20,000 lumen tube would require only 400 watts, whereas incandescent bulbs needed 1000 watts. The costliest part of an installation of mercury vapor tubes would be the standards, which for greatest efficiency, should be 25 feet in height.

The demonstration light was installed Dec. 8, 1949.

\*\*\*

The major featured at a 1949 open house at MHS was the newly equipped kitchen. About 200 came to view the new stoves, double sinks, refrigerators, cabinets and workspace. Refreshments were served in the cafeteria, after which visitors saw displays in the art, agricultural and industrial arts rooms. A program in the auditorium topped the evening.

\*\*\*

Walt Delaney's Motor Repair advertised it would be located in the Billings Service Station at the southeast corner of Sixth and Main streets. Delaney was prepared to pick up and deliver cars in need of repair.

A courtesy car will be provided during repairs.

\*\*\*

Wittgan Tin Shop left its longtime location at 805 Sixth St. and moved to 406 Sixth St. Eddie and Cora Hood, proprietors, hoped their customers would follow them there.

\*\*\*

Markets on Dec. 8, 1949 –  
Oats, No. 2 – 68 cents  
Corn, No. 2 – 1.19  
Beans (new) – 2.17

## Why America loves rockets

By Rich Lowry

At his Madison Square Garden event a week before the election, Donald Trump went on an extended riff about the famous "chopstick" maneuver of Elon Musk's Space X.

In describing his slack-jawed amazement at watching the feat -- the first stage of a Starship rocket returning to the launch tower upon coming back to Earth -- Trump spoke for all us.

The various videos of the operation that witnesses have posted online never get old. It's not just the technical achievement -- the joyous awe of spectators is itself wonderful to behold.

The other day, President-elect Trump took time off from forming his new administration to travel to South Texas with Musk to observe another test launch of Starship, and why not? Rockets are an enduring object of human fascination, and Space X is bringing an appropriate sense of brio to one of mankind's coolest ventures.

Modern rocketry is the product of a couple of centuries of human thought and ingenuity, from the 13th century when the Chinese used "arrows of flying fire" to fight the Mongols, to Newton's 16th century work on laws of motion, to the experiments of Robert Goddard early in the 20th century, to the advances driven by World War II and the Cold War, to, of course, the Apollo missions to the moon.

A rocket launch is literally spectacular. It is a feast for the eyes and an assault on the ears, as a tall, thin projectile is, after a controlled explosion, propelled upward on a raging plume of fire.

The iconic 1969 launch of Apollo 11 on the sleek, instantly recognizable Saturn V rocket emblazoned with the words "United States" in red lettering remains a thing of beauty, and an unmatched symbol of 20th century technological achievement.

A rocket is otherworldly in more than one sense. A car can be analogized to a horse. A plane can be analogized to a bird. A rocket is like nothing in nature. And it promises to take us to worlds beyond our own, whether outer space,

or the moon, or, if Musk can achieve his ambitions, Mars.

There is an inherent risk to the enterprise, making it even more compelling. The countdown of mission control always holds a certain drama, and the announcement of "liftoff" always carries a justified tone of triumph.

Space X's chopstick operation had a little of all of this. The returning rocket stage looked like a Roman candle flying in reverse, and it created visible -- and then audible -- sonic booms as it descended. It represented a new frontier in human achievement, since such a thing had never been done before. And, as it hovered above the tower, the success of the test remained in doubt, until it nestled in the metal arms of the tower.

In engineering terms, it was a virtuoso performance -- like watching a skater land a quadruple axle.

It looked and felt like the future.

When Musk was with Trump in Texas and demonstrated how the latest Starship test would work with a model in his hand, he looked every bit a boy smitten with the adventure of rocketry and eager to share his enthusiasm.

That, in large part, is what Musk is, but no one should mistake the seriousness of his achievements. For all that rockets are supposed to be cutting edge, there was a decades-long period of stagnation in launch costs until Musk came along and revolutionized the business with his entrepreneurial mindset. Now, launch costs have radically diminished and Musk alone operates 10 times more satellites than any other country or company, according to Ars Technica.

The tests of Starship, the world's largest and most powerful rocket, are the latest iteration of Musk's approach of rapid innovation toward the goal of sending men to the moon again, and then Mars. It is an expression of a basic human instinct for exploration and adventure, with the rocket as its symbol and vehicle.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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### Mendota City Officials

#### FIRST WARD ALDERMEN

James Fitzpatrick, 807 Pennsylvania Ave., ...815-538-2474  
John Hessenberger, 1406 Hillcrest Drive, ....815-539-9934

#### SECOND WARD ALDERMEN

John Holland, 902 West Lawn, .....815-528-5367  
Leo Hochstatter, 1102 S. Park Ave., .....630-841-1315

#### THIRD WARD ALDERMEN

Kyle Kim, 504 First Ave., .....815-538-2414  
Jay Miller, 702 First Ave., .....757-412-9374

#### FOURTH WARD ALDERMEN

Mark Peasley, 2111 Cedar Ave., .....815-252-7243  
Vicki Johnson, 206 Ninth St., .....815-866-5558



# LOCAL AND AREA

## IVCC tuition due Dec. 11; new payment plan defers first payment

OGLESBY – The first tuition payment for Illinois Valley Community College’s Spring 2025 classes is due Dec. 11, but students who establish a payment plan will receive a holiday bonus – their first payment will not be due until January.

Students must act by Dec. 11 to lock in their classes or they will be dropped and must re-enroll. To preserve their chosen class schedules, students can pay in full or arrange a payment plan or notify the College that they receive Financial Aid.

“All the effort students put into arranging their class schedules around work and family obligations and graduation expectations could be lost if they miss the payment deadline,” said IVCC Comptroller Eric Johnson. “They risk losing their preferred class lineup – or worse, sitting out a semester or more if a class is filled and will not be offered again until another



semester. That could mess up their entire graduation plan.”

Even if they re-enroll immediately after a drop, it could be too late to regain that seat. “So, lock in your spot by paying early,” advises Director of Enrollment Services Tom Quigley.

Payment plans, payments, and class schedules are easy to arrange online using the IVCC Self-Service portal at <https://ssprod.ivcc.edu/Student/Student/Courses>.

Johnson said students can choose between a payment plan with either five payments or four – in both

cases, the first payment is deferred until Jan. 5. “This could allow them some financial flexibility to enjoy with family and friends over the holidays,” he said. A \$30 setup fee is charged on either plan option.

While nearly half the enrollees pay in full, about 10 percent of them arrange payment plans to give them time to pay in installments over the semester, said IVCC Bursar Miguel Hermosillo.

Hermosillo said about 5-10 percent of enrollees are dropped for missing the initial payment deadline each

semester, but many are reinstated quickly because they pay immediately in response to a drop notice.

The College developed a system of mailings, emails, texts and phone calls to alert students about the deadline and to help them recover if they miss it. Johnson said the process has been an effective way to reach students, and staff have been able to walk some students through the payment process when they call.

Students who miss the first due date of Dec. 11 will be dropped for non-payment on Dec. 12. They can re-enroll that day.

Students who miss the second due date of Jan 8, 2025, will be dropped for non-payment a day later, on Jan. 9, which is also the first day of classes. They can re-enroll that day.

For more information, contact the IVCC cashier’s office at 815-224-0213.

## MFD - Clear Hydrants

MENDOTA – The Mendota Fire Department would like to ask residents of Mendota that during snow removal efforts to keep fire hydrants free from obstruction of snow. As you blade, shovel or push snow off your driveways and sidewalks, take time to clear away the snow from around fire hydrants.

During a fire, seconds count. The extra minute removing snow from around fire hydrants may save you or your neighbor’s home. If you are unable to clear the snow from around hydrants yourself, call the City Clerk’s office at (815) 539-7459. Also, keep your house numbers readily visible.

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## Learn tree identification on winter nature walk

OTTAWA – Nell’s Woodland and the University of Illinois Extension invites the community to join a Winter Nature Walk on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Nell’s Woodland in Ottawa (2000 Alexis Ave.). This guided hike will provide participants with an opportunity to explore the beauty of nature in winter. Master Naturalist volunteers will also teach participants how to identify trees using their bark, branches, and buds. Hot cocoa and a special nature-themed holiday craft will be provided by LaSalle County 4-H.

This event is open to all ages and skill levels. Participants are encouraged to dress warmly and wear comfortable walking shoes. For more information or to register visit [go.illinois.edu/WinterNatureWalk](https://go.illinois.edu/WinterNatureWalk).

If you need an accommodation to participate, please contact

Emily Hansen at [emhansen@illinois.edu](mailto:emhansen@illinois.edu) or 815-224-0896. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

\*\*\*

Extension offices are located in Princeton, Ottawa, Henry, and in Oglesby on the IVCC campus. The Mission of University of Illinois Extension is to provide practical education you can trust to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Visit our website at <https://extension.illinois.edu/blmp>. If you have questions or need more information, please call University of Illinois Extension—Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Unit Office at 815-224-0896.

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# Santa's Christmas COLORING CONTEST

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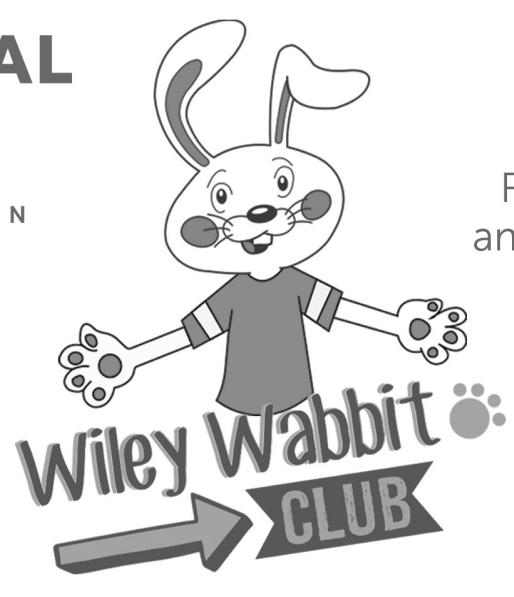
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"Christmas Elves" with names and ages of needy children will be available starting Nov. 18th, at Eureka Savings Bank, First State Bank, Financial Plus Credit Union, Midland States Bank, and First State Bank Plaza North.

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

We would like to thank all of our family and friends for the gifts and many cards we received for our 60th anniversary. It was a very enjoyable and memorable day.

Larry and Janet Barker

BLESSED EVENTS

**VIVIENNE K. WIXOM**  
Beau Wixom and Paige Simonton of Mendota are parents of **Vivienne Kaye**, born Nov. 8, 2024, at CGH in Sterling. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce. Maternal grandparents are Jeff and Lori Simonton of Mendota. Paternal grandparents are Chad and Pam Wixom of Mendota. Great-grandparents are William and Marlene Simonton, and George and Ruth Wixom, all of Mendota, Richard Jones of Lebanon, Mo., and Allen and Mary Rapert of Gainesville, Texas.

POLICE BLOTTER

**WOMAN ARRESTED**  
Desiree M. Shamblin, 38, no address, was charged with violation of pretrial release conditions at 2:38 p.m. Nov. 24 after police officers responded to a call for service in the 1800 block of Lincoln Avenue. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

**WARRANT ARREST**  
A 17-year-old juvenile was arrested at 3:07 p.m. Nov. 25 on a warrant from Bureau County for assault and aggravated battery. The subject was transported to the Bureau County jail.

**DUI**

Sandra L. Aguilera, 30, of 1206 First St., Mendota, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after a traffic stop at Washington Street and 11th Avenue at 1:14 a.m. Nov. 29. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE**  
Andrew C. Kerr, 27, of Spring Valley, was charged with driving with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at 13th Avenue and Memorial Drive at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 2. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Snowmobiles and ATVs are not allowed on Mendota H.S. property

MENDOTA – Public notice from Mendota High School: Snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are not allowed on any District 280 school property. Violators will be prosecuted.

Prohibited Parking

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

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

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Notice of Proposed Tax Increase for Mendota Township High School District #280

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Mendota Township High School District #280 for 2024 will be held on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Mendota High School, 2300 W. Main St, Mendota, IL 61342.
- Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Dr. Denise Aughenbaugh, Superintendent, at 815-539-7446.
- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$5,991,852.
- The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$6,457,384. This represents a 7.77% increase over the previous year.
- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 were \$173,400.
- The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 are \$0. This represents a 100% decrease from the previous year.
- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$6,165,252.
- The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$6,457,384.
- This represents a 4.74% increase over the previous year.

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The Mendota Reporter

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GG2024



# SPORTS



## Tournament champions

Mendota's junior varsity boys' basketball team claimed first place in the Oregon Thanksgiving Tournament. Members of the team, front row, left to right, are Carter Wujek, Javy Hernandez, Cayden Taliani, Cesar Casas and Collin Coss. Middle row, Blake Bute, Eddie Bautista, Benoni Hernandez and Jayden Lesley. Back row, assistant coach Pat Reeder, Jamal Lesley, Drew Becker, Andrew Rinaldo and head coach Ryan Reeder.

## MHS claims Oregon JV tourney title

OREGON – Mendota won four straight games to capture the championship of the Oregon Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball Tournament held Nov. 25-30. The Trojans opened the action with a 43-32 triumph over Morrison on Nov. 25. Mendota led 19-11 at the break and then opened the margin to 34-19 heading to the fourth frame. Drew Becker pumped in 26 points to pace the Trojan attack, while Jayden Lesley contributed seven markers. \*\*\* Mendota cruised past Rockford Christian, 51-21, on Nov. 27. The Trojans zoomed out to a 22-8 first-quarter lead behind nine points from Cesar

Casas. The count stood at 29-10 at intermission and 41-16 after three periods. Casas finished with 15 points to lead the team, followed by Becker with 11. Carter Wujek and Ashtyn Stamberger added seven and six markers, respectively. \*\*\* The Trojans had to stave off a second-half comeback by Sherrard to post a 52-47 victory in the first of two games on Nov. 30. Mendota held a seemingly comfortable 36-17 halftime advantage and still maintained a comfortable 14-point lead (47-33) with just eight minutes to play. But the Trojans went cold, scoring only five fourth-quarter points as Sherrard

rallied but only to come up short. Casas and Becker dropped in 14 and 12 points, respectively, while Cayden Taliani chipped in with six tallies. \*\*\* Mendota captured the tournament title with a 44-43 win over Woodstock Marian. The Trojans built a 32-18 halftime lead, but then they went scoreless in the third period as Marian put up 11 points to climb back in the game. Mendota was able to hang on in the fourth to claim the crown. Casas topped the point chart with 16, followed by Becker with 13, Taliani with seven and Wujek with six.

## Cold shooting plagues Lady Trojans in setback

OREGON – Mendota suffered a 52-40 loss at Oregon in a nonconference varsity girls' basketball game on Nov. 26. The Lady Trojans were down by a 15-9 count after the opening stanza and then Oregon increased the margin to 31-16 at intermission. Mendota was able to cut into the deficit by three points in the third period but it wasn't enough. "Our defense wasn't perfect by any means, but it was good enough to win," said Mendota coach John Hansen. "We're in a shooting slump and need to get it going." Ella Martin led the team in scoring with 10 points and in rebounding with eight. Kennedy Knaff supplied eight points and seven caroms, while Ava Eddy and

OREGON 52, MENDOTA 40				
Mendota (40)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	2	1-3	3	6
Garcia	0	0-0	1	0
Reddin	1	0-0	2	2
Knaff	2	3-6	7	8
Coss	2	2-4	3	6
Martin	3	4-6	8	10
Denault	1	2-2	2	4
Gonzalez	2	0-0	3	4
Totals	13	12-21	29	40

Oregon (52)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Shaffer	1	0-0	1	2
Kitzmilller	3	3-4	3	11
Dannhorn	7	3-6	2	19
Davis	1	0-2	5	2
Rufer	0	0-0	2	0
Eckardt	1	3-10	3	5
Wendt	1	1-2	3	3
Girton	4	0-3	0	8
Smith	1	0-0	0	2
Totals	19	10-27	19	52

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	9	16	28	40
Oregon	15	31	40	52
Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 1, Knaff 1; Oregon - Kitzmilller 2, Dannhorn 2				

Ella Coss netted six points apiece. Eddy topped the club with seven steals.

## Deer harvest totals given for first firearm season

SPRINGFIELD - Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 54,661 deer during the first weekend of the Illinois firearm deer season between Nov. 22-24. Comparatively, hunters took 53,348 and 52,354 deer during the first firearm weekends in 2023 and 2022, respectively. Illinois' seven-day firearm deer season will conclude Dec. 5-8. Remaining 2024-2025 deer hunting opportunities in Illinois include: • Muzzleloader-only deer season Dec. 13-15. • Late-winter antlerless-only and chronic wasting disease deer seasons in select counties only, Dec. 26-29 and Jan. 17-19. • Archery deer season continues through Jan. 19. Please note that archery deer hunting is closed Dec. 5-8 in counties open for firearm deer season. Deer harvest totals for area counties are as follows: Bureau – 628; DeKalb – 97; LaSalle – 392; Lee – 424; Ogle – 418; Putnam 229; Whiteside – 391 The top five harvest total counties in Illinois are as follows: Randolph – 1565; Adams – 1414; Jefferson – 1406; Jackson – 1355; Fulton 1317 Go online to the IDNR website for more information.

## Second firearm deer hunting season set for Dec. 5, 6, 7, 8



striction: 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.

## Trojans go 3-1 in Oregon Tourney

❑ MHS tops N. Boone for 5th place

OREGON – Mendota captured three wins in four games to finish in fifth place in the Oregon Thanksgiving Tournament to start the 2024-25 varsity boys' basketball season. Mendota 79, Morrison 59 The Trojans began the season with a bang by rolling over Morrison, 79-59, on Nov. 25. Mendota opened up a 20-15 lead after the first quarter as freshman Cole Tillman, in his first high school game, provided 16 of the Trojans' 20 points. He knocked down two shots from three-point range. H i s brother, Aden Tillman, provided the spark in the second period as he dropped in a pair of three-pointers and had eight points in the frame as Mendota took a 36-28 lead to the locker room. The Trojans were able to substantially widen the gap in the third quarter when they outscored the Mustangs, 25-11. Cole Tillman finished with 20 points to pace the attack, while Aden Tillman had 18 markers. Cam Kelly was the only other Mendota player in double figures with 12 tallies. Rockford Christian 99, Mendota 90 The Trojans and Rockford Christian hooked up in a slugfest in round two of tournament and the Royal Knights prevailed in overtime, 99-90, on Nov. 27. The seesaw affair finally ended 89-89 at the conclusion of regulation, but then in the extra session, Mendota managed only one point while Rockford Christian scored 11 to claim the victory. The Trojans got out of the blocks in fine fashion, leading 26-21 at the opening stanza, but the Royal Knights outscored Mendota, 26-14, in the second period to grab a 47-40 halftime lead. Mendota was able to close the gap to two heading to the fourth frame. The Trojans placed four players in double figures, led by Cole Tillman with 26 points. Aden Tillman knocked down six three-pointers on his way to a 23-point effort, while Kelly had 14 points and Dane Doyle added 12 tallies. Christian's Christian Cummings led all scorers with 39 points. He dropped in eight shots from three-point land. Braiden Freeman topped Mendota with nine rebounds and Kelly dished out eight assists. Mendota 62, Genoa-Kingston 53 The Trojans built an early lead and never relinquished it on their way to a 62-53 win over Genoa-Kingston in the first of two games on Nov. 30. Mendota led 12-11 after the first period and 30-25 at the break. The Cogs sliced one point off the deficit in the third quarter, but the Trojans managed to pull away in the fourth. Aden Tillman and Cole Tillman fired in 21 and 17 points, respectively, while Freeman added 11 markers. Kelly led the squad with seven rebounds and seven assists. Drew Becker grabbed six caroms off the glass. Mendota 54, North Boone 49 The Trojans recovered from a slow start to down North Boone, 54-49, in the fifth-place contest.

MENDOTA 79, MORRISON 59				
Mendota (79)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Tillman	9	0-2	2	20
Kelly	3	5-6	2	12
A. Tillman	3	9-10	1	18
Freeman	1	0-0	3	2
Doyle	2	0-0	1	5
A. Beetz	1	0-0	3	2
Cortez	2	0-0	4	4
K. Beetz	1	0-0	0	2
McPheeters	1	0-0	1	2
Becker	3	1-1	0	7
Fitzgerald	2	0-0	2	5
Totals	28	15-19	19	79

Morrison (59)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Hepner	7	2-2	4	16
Wiebenga	0	0-0	1	0
Rubright	5	4-6	1	15
Bielema	3	1-2	1	7
Swaim	3	1-3	0	9
Callan	1	0-0	0	3
Ernst	3	0-0	5	8
Cross	0	1-2	1	1
Totals	22	9-15	13	59

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	20	36	61	79
Morrison	15	28	37	59
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Tillman 2, Kelly 1, A. Tillman 3, Doyle 1, Fitzgerald 1; Morrison - Rubright 1, Swaim 2, Callan 1, Ernst 2				

R. CHRISTIAN 99, MENDOTA 90				
Mendota (90)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
C. Tillman	12	0-0	7	26
Kelly	4	5-5	3	14
A. Tillman	8	1-2	4	23
Freeman	2	0-1	9	4
Doyle	4	0-0	5	12
Cortez	1	0-0	0	3
Becker	3	2-4	5	8
Totals	34	8-12	33	90

Rockford Christian (99)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Williams	0	1-2	3	1
Cummings	14	3-3	9	39
Daugherty	8	7-10	1	27
Carlson	6	3-4	11	19
Longley	5	1-2	7	11
Smith	0	2-2	0	0
Johnson	0	0-0	2	0
Totals	33	16-23	33	99

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	26	40	66	90
R. Christian	21	47	68	99
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Tillman 2, Kelly 1, A. Tillman 6, Doyle 4, Cortez 1; Rockford Christian - Cummings 8, Daugherty 4, Carlson 4				

MENDOTA 62, GENOA-K. 53				
Mendota (62)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
C. Tillman	8	0-0	2	17
Kelly	1	0-1	7	2
A. Tillman	6	5-12	1	21
Freeman	4	3-4	5	11
Doyle	1	2-2	2	4
A. Beetz	0	0-0	2	0
K. Beetz	1	0-1	0	2
Becker	2	0-0	6	5
Totals	23	10-20	25	62

Genoa-Kingston (53)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
N. Kleba	2	0-0	3	5
Johnson	0	1-2	0	6
Peterson	2	0-0	4	4
Cravatta	0	0-0	1	0
Ides	2	1-2	5	6
B. Kleba	2	0-0	0	6
Swineheart	2	0-2	4	5
Hodgson	8	0-2	5	21
Meyer	0	0-2	3	0
Totals	21	1-8	31	53

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	12	30	38	62
Genoa-K.	11	25	34	53
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Tillman 1, A. Tillman 4, Becker 1; Genoa-K. - N. Kleba 1, Ides 1, B. Kleba 2, Swineheart 1, Hodgson 5				

MENDOTA 54, NORTH BOONE 49				
Mendota (54)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
C. Tillman	7	2-4	7	16
A. Tillman	4	1-2	6	13
Freeman	1	0-5	6	2
Doyle	5	3-8	6	18
A. Beetz	2	0-0	5	5
Cortez	0	0-0	1	0
K. Beetz	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	19	6-19	32	54

North Boone (49)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
McKibben	5	0-2	1	10
Dixon	0	1-2	4	1
Howard	5	1-3	3	11
Ford	7	4-5	6	18
Persson	1	0-2	6	2
Ragland	3	1-3	4	7
Totals	21	7-17	24	49

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	6	25	42	54
North Boone	11	23	41	49
Three-point goals: Mendota - A. Beetz 1, A. Tillman 4, Doyle 5.				

The Vikings claimed an 11-6 lead with one quarter in the books, but Mendota heated up with 19 second-quarter points compared to 12 for North Boone to take a 25-23 advantage to the locker room. North Boone made it a one-point game (42-41) heading to the fourth, where the Trojans outscored the Vikings, 12-8, to secure the victory. Doyle had the hot hand for Mendota, pumping in five three-pointers on his way to a team-high 18 points. Cole Tillman followed with 16 points and Aden Tillman contributed 13 tallies. Cole Tillman led the club with seven rebounds. \*\*\* Cole Tillman and Aden Tillman both earned spots on the all-tournament team. Rockford Christian was the tournament champion with a win over South Beloit in the title game.

## Mendota H.S bowling

**Nov. 25 vs. Hall (varsity boys)**  
**Mendota 3346, Hall 2269**  
Mendota scores: Paxton Bauer 184, 200, 233 – 617; Kooper Novak 214, 194, 185 – 593; Alex Holland 212, 182, 181 – 575; BJ Bresley 245, 220,, 185 – 650; Caeleb Ensor 115, 161, 175 – 451; Josh Sondgeroth 142, 159, 158 – 459

**Nov. 26 @ Rochelle (varsity boys)**  
**Mendota 3373, Rochelle 2993**  
Mendota scores: Paxton Bauer 166, 225, 190 – 581; Kooper Novak 175, 202, 202 – 579; BJ Bresley 191, 269, 156 – 616; Alex Holland 197, 207, 233 – 637; Josh Sondgeroth 169, 155, 151 – 475; Caeleb Ensor 152, 166, 167 – 485  
**(junior varsity boys)**  
**Mendota 2002, Rochelle 1787**  
Mendota scores: Jack Gillespie 121, 177, 111 – 409; Wyatt Sondgeroth 120, 153, 181 – 454; Toby Bulen 155, 162, 145 – 462; Corbin Doll 122, 93, 133 – 348; Cole Nosalik 130, 107, 92 – 329



# SPORTS

## Trojan matmen get win over Amboy

Mendota opened up the new wrestling season with losses to Three Rivers Conference foes Monmouth-Roseville, Rockridge and Mercer County on Nov. 25 at Aledo.

The Trojans fell by a 42-24 count to Monmouth-Roseville. Winning their matches for Mendota were Gavin Stevenson, Komen Denault, Rhett Watson and Corbin Furar.

Rockridge posted a 42-33 triumph over the Trojans. Mendota winners were Stevenson, Denault, Gavin Evans, Watson, Furar and Reese Lane.

The host school defeated Mendota, 60-18. Picking up victories for the Trojans were Stevenson, Denault and Watson.

**Nov. 25**  
**Monmouth-Roseville 42, Mendota 24**  
106 – double forfeit; 113 – double forfeit; 120 – Gavin Stevenson (M) def. Peterson (MR); 126 – MR won forfeit; 132 – Spear (MR) won forfeit; 138 – Komen Denault (M) def. Brown (MR); 144 – Morales (MR) won forfeit; 150 – double forfeit; 157 – Valero (MR) def. Cole Kleckner (M); 165 – Rhett Watson (M) def. Martinez (MR); 175 – Corbin Furar (M) def. Smith (MR); 190 – Gandarilla (MR) won forfeit; 215 – Montroy (MR) def. Mike Thornhill (M); 285 – Cunl (MR) def. Reese Lane (M)

**Rockridge 42, Mendota 33**

106 – Lower (R) won forfeit; 113 – double forfeit; 120 – Stevenson (M) pinned Larson (R), 1:11; 126 – Stroud (R) won forfeit; 132 – Degelman (R) won forfeit; 138 – Osborn (R) pinned Trayvon Rucker (M), 3:35; 144 – Denault (M) won forfeit; 150 – Nicholson (R) won forfeit; 157 – Gavin Evans (M) dec. Brunat (R), 16-10; 165 – Watson (M) pinned Vargas (R), 1:11; 175 – Furar (M) pinned Tate (R), 0:34; 190 – Junis (R) won forfeit; 215 – McKeag (R) pinned Thornhill (M), 1:19; 285 – Lane (M) pinned Buser (R), 1:20

**Mercer Co. 60, Mendota 18**  
106 – double forfeit; 113 – E. Adamson (MC) won forfeit; 120 – Stevenson (M) pinned J. Adamson (MC), 1:08; 126 – Nelson (MC) won forfeit; 132 – Gomez (MC) won forfeit; 138 – Denault (M) pinned Link (MC), 1:36; 144 – Ward (MC) won forfeit; 150 – Clark (MC) won forfeit; 157 – Ocampo (MC) pinned Evans (M), 2:48; 165 – Watson (M) pinned Roark (MC), 0:13; 175 – Burns (MC) pinned Furar (M), 1:58; 190 – Salmon (MC) won forfeit; 215 – Heinrichs (MC) pinned Thornhill (M), 5:39; 285 – Terrill (MC) pinned Lane (M), 2:15

\*\*\*

Mendota defeated Amboy and lost to LaSalle-Peru in a triangular meet on Nov 26 at the MHS gym.

The Trojans were 33-27 winners over

the Clippers. Denault won by decision for Mendota, while the rest of the victories were by forfeit.

LaSalle-Peru scored a 57-11 win over the Trojans. Trayvon Rucker and Furar got the wins for the Trojans.

**Nov. 26**  
**Mendota 33, Amboy 27**  
106 – Amboy won forfeit; 113 – double forfeit; 120 – Florscheutz (A) dec. Stevenson (M), 16-10; 126 – Huggins (A) won forfeit; 132 – double forfeit; 138 – Denault (M) dec. Thompson (A), 6-3; 144 – Heath (A) dec. Rucker (M), 15-4; 150 – double forfeit; 157 – Evans (M) won forfeit; 165 – Watson (M) won forfeit; 175 – Furar (M) won forfeit; 190 – Payton Gagliardo (M) won forfeit; 215 – Flanagan (A) def. Thornhill (M); 285 – Lane (M) won forfeit

**L-P 57, Mendota 11**  
106 – Verucchi (LP) won forfeit; 113 – double forfeit; 120 – Herron (LP) def. Stevenson (M); 126 – double forfeit; 132 – Gomez (LP) won forfeit; 138 – Kellett (LP) def. Denault (M); 144 – Rucker (M) dec. Clifford (LP), 10-4; 150 – Watson (LP) won forfeit; 157 – Plut (LP) def. Evans (M); 165 – Pocivasek (LP) dec. Watson (M), 13-4; 175 – Furar (M) dec. Haage (LP), 6-3; 190 – Harmon (LP) won forfeit; 215 – Selders (LP) won forfeit; 285 – Mateike (LP) def. Lane (M)

## IDNR reminds deer hunters to be safe using tree stands

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) urges hunters to use safety harnesses when hunting from tree stands in the field during the Illinois deer hunting season. Tree stands are the No. 1 source of hunting-related accidents and fatalities in Illinois.

“Our top priority is ensuring hunters return home safe and unharmed after every hunt,” said Jed Whitchurch, director of IDNR’s Office of Law Enforcement. “We want hunters to enjoy themselves and be successful in the field, but safety must be top of mind at all times.”

So far during the fall 2024 hunting season, which includes archery deer season, Illinois Conservation Police have documented one hunting-related fatality. On Nov. 10, a man hunting in Wayne County fell from a tree stand after apparently nodding off in the stand. He was not wearing a safety harness. The man was air-lifted to a nearby hospital, where he later died.

Tree stand falls, often from heights of 20 to 30 feet, can cause significant injuries, including broken bones, spinal damage, paralysis, concussions, organ injuries, internal bleeding, sprains, cuts, and bruises. Most of these injuries are preventable by using fall arrest systems, avoiding drug and alcohol use, and making sure the tree stand equipment is in good working order.

“Most tree stand accidents can be avoided by using a functional and trustworthy fall arrest system and thoroughly examining every tree stand component prior to use,” Whitchurch said. “The consequences of falling from a tree stand can have a lasting impact on hunters and their loved ones. The Illinois Conservation Police strongly emphasize prioritizing safety in all hunting endeavors.”

Conservation police have documented additional tree stand falls that resulted in injuries this season. Among them:

- On Oct. 5 in Kankakee County, an archery deer hunter fell out of his stand 20 feet to the ground and landed on his tailbone. The hunter was not wearing a safety harness. He suffered two fractured vertebrae.
- On Nov. 2 in Rock Island County, an archery hunter fell out of a tree stand while climbing the ladder. The stand was on property the hunter did not have permission to be hunting on. He was air-lifted to an area hospital for treatment of his injuries.
- On Nov. 11 in Randolph County, a hunter reported a strap on his ladder stand failed while archery deer hunting, causing him to fall about 20 feet and roll when he hit the ground. The hunter was not wearing a safety harness. He suffered minor injuries.
- On Nov. 11 in Will County, a hunter fell from a tree stand while placing climbing sticks about 10 feet off the ground. He landed on his back on a log, shattering a vertebra.
- On Nov. 18 in Lawrence County, a hunter fell about 15 feet from a tree stand, suffering three fractured vertebrae and a collapsed lung.

Tree stand-related falls in previous years:

2023: 17, three of which were fatal; 2022: 6; 2021: 13; 2020: 14, one of which was fatal

Tree stand safety tips include:

- Use a fall arrest system that includes a safety harness and follow the manufacturer’s guidelines that come with it.
- Inspect the tree stand for wear and tear before each use.
- Use a haul line to bring up unloaded firearms, bows, and other hunting equipment.
- Take a cell phone.
- Tell a friend or loved one where you intend to hunt and when you intend to return.
- Avoid drug or alcohol use before and during hunting.

For more information about hunting safety, visit IDNR’s hunter safety website.

## Hunters take 292 wild turkeys in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Turkeys hunters in Illinois harvested 292 wild turkeys during the 2024 fall firearm season Oct. 19-27, up 10% from the previous year’s harvest.

The record harvest was set in 2005 when 1,218 birds were harvested.

This year, 1,756 regular

fall firearm season permits were sold compared to 1,771 last year. The largest number of permits sold was in 2007 when hunters purchased 4,968 permits.

Fall firearm turkey hunting was open in 56 of Illinois’ 102 counties. The top counties for harvest this year were Jefferson, 17;

Jasper, 16; Marion, 16; Jo Daviess, 13; and Cass, 12. Preliminary data show 57% of the harvest were female birds, while 43% were male.

There were no turkeys taken in Bureau, DeKalb, LaSalle, Lee and Putnam counties. Whiteside County had a total of five turkey harvests.

## LaMoille H.S boys’ hoops

**Ashton-Franklin Center Thanksgiving Tournament**  
**Nov. 25**  
Indian Creek 63, LaMoille 39  
Stats: Tyler Billhorn 20 points, 7 rebounds; Braden Fischer 9 points

**Nov. 26**  
Leland 68, LaMoille 45  
Stats: Fischer 16 points, Billhorn 15 points

**Nov. 29**  
Durand 52, LaMoille 49  
Stats: Billhorn 22 points, 10 rebounds; Brayden Klein 14 points, 6 rebounds

**Nov. 30**  
*(7th place game)*  
LaMoille 58, Hiawatha 52  
Stats: Billhorn 19 points, 15 rebounds; Klein 11 points; Ed Fry 7 rebounds

## Northbrook boys’ hoops

**(6th Grade)**  
**Nov. 25 vs. Oglesby Holy Family**  
Northbrook 40, Holy Family 14  
Scoring: Cruz Arteaga 15 points, Elijah Godina 9 points, Antonio Arteaga 6 points

## BOWLING

**Wednesday Night Men’s League**  
Standings as of Nov. 20 – 1. Black Brothers 28.5-19.5; 2. First State Bank 28-20; 3. Man On 27-21; 4. O’Donnell Excavating 26-22; 5. Maybe Next Week 22.5-25.5; 6. Novak Farms 12-36

High team game (scratch) – O’Donnell Excavating 1006, Black Brothers 1000, Man On 992

High team game (hdcp) – Black Brothers 1265, Maybe Next Week 1223, O’Donnell Excavating 1195

High team series (scratch) – O’Donnell Excavating 2762, Black Brothers 2696, Man On 2688

High team series (hdcp) – Black Brothers 3491, Maybe Next Week 3409, First State Bank 3386

High individual game (scratch) – Drake O’Donnell 275, Mike Smith 256, Todd Smith 248

High individual game (hdcp) – Griffin Newell 299, Mike Smith 292, Drake O’Donnell 289

High individual series (scratch) – Drake O’Donnell 707, Mike Smith 671, Luke. Ross 616

High individual series (hdcp) – Skip Stachlewitz 795, Mike Smith 779, Griffin Newell 758

**Saturday 9 Youth League**  
Standings as of Nov. 23 – 1. Team 4 6-2; 2. Team 3 6-2; 3. Team 1 4-4; 4. Team 2 0-8

High team game (scratch) – Team 4 276, Team 3 258, Team 1 238

High team game (hdcp) – Team 4 645, Team 3 618, Team 2 591

High team series (scratch) – Team 4 777, Team 3 728, Team 1 704

High team series (hdcp) – Team 4 1884, Team 3 1808,

Team 1 1757

Boys’ high game (scratch) – Graham Phillips 120, Jaxon Stamberger 89, Landyn Welch 76

Boys’ high game (hdcp) – Graham Phillips 242, Jaxon Stamberger 213, Henry Schoepf 211

Boys’ high series (scratch) – Graham Phillips 319, Jaxon Stamberger 257, Landyn Welch 221

Boys’ high series (hdcp) – Graham Phillips 685, Jaxon Stamberger 629, Henry Schoepf & Landyn Welch 602

Girls’ high game (scratch) – Grace Piskie 112, Brooklyn Bejster 98, Addyson Fahr 78

Girls’ high game (hdcp) – Grace Piskie 228, Addyson Fahr 205, Brooklyn Bejster 205

Girls’ high series (scratch) – Grace Piskie 288, Brooklyn Bejster 270, Addyson Fahr 215

Girls’ high series (hdcp) – Grace Piskie 636, Addyson Fahr 596, Brooklyn Bejster 591

**Saturday 11 Youth League**  
Standings as of Nov. 23 – 1. Team 1 8-0; 2. Team 4 4-4; 3. Team 2 3-5; 4. Team 3 1-7

High team game (scratch) – Team 2 368, Team 1 351, Team 4 342

High team game (hdcp) – Team 1 686, Team 2 638, Team 4 623

High team series (scratch) – Team 2 1055, Team 4 994, Team 1 902

High team series (hdcp) – Team 1 1907, Team 2 1865, Team 4 1837

Boys’ high game (scratch) – Parker Ramer 169, Lyncoln Daley 123, Bentley Bejster 122

Boys’ high series (scratch) – Parker Ramer 475, Gavin Stamberger 321, Lyncoln

Daley 318

Girls’ high game (scratch) – Catherine Moench 148

Girls’ high series (scratch) – Catherine Moench 395

**Monday Night Mixed League**  
Standings as of Nov. 25 – 1. Split Happens 42-18; 2. Leagal Beagles 40-20; 3. CM Farm 34-26; 4. Bad Kats 22-38; 5. The Struggle is Real 22-38; 6. Ramer Inc. 20-40

High team game (scratch) – Leagal Beagles 734, Ramer Inc. 649, CM Farm 602

High team game (hdcp) – Leagal Beagles 1014, CM Farm 962, Ramer Inc. 905

High team series (scratch) – Leagal Beagles 2078, Ramer Inc. 1890, CM Farm 1679

High team series (hdcp) – Leagal Beagles 2918, CM Farm 2759, Ramer Inc. 2658

Men’s high game (scratch) – Matt Ramer 266, Aaron Holocker 199, Mike Smith 197

Men’s high game (hdcp) – Matt Ramer 285, Aaron Holocker 270, Carl Reistad 262

Men’s high series (scratch) – Matt Ramer 689, Aaron Holocker 570, Mike Smith 557

Men’s high series (hdcp) – Aaron Holocker 783, Matt Ramer 746, Ed Roulston 711

Women’s high game (scratch) – Emily Thomas 213, Audrey Holocker 197, Gail Sessler 181

Women’s high game (hdcp) – Audrey Holocker 281, Emily Thomas 254, Dria Kuntz 252

Women’s high series (scratch) – Emily Thomas 556, Audrey Holocker 498, Gail Sessler 487

Women’s high series (hdcp) – Audrey Holocker 750, Kim Smith 720, Emily Thomas 679

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

**Q:** What ever happened to Jussie Smollett since he was let out of jail after he was convicted for lying about



**Smollett**

**A:** Actor Jussie Smollett was at the peak of his career as a regular on the hit Fox series "Empire" when he said he was the victim of a hate crime. He eventually admitted that he staged the incident with his "attackers" and was subsequently charged with falsifying police reports. He was sentenced to 150 days in jail but only served six days before being released in 2023. The Illinois Supreme Court also recently ruled that he will not have to return to jail to finish his sentence, which was a possibility at one point.

As for his career in front of the camera, this appears to be over for now. He did direct, co-write and star in a movie called "The Lost Holliday" this year with Vivica A. Fox

("Curb Your Enthusiasm") and Jabari Redd ("The Chi"). But he has no other projects on the horizon.

\*\*\*

**Q:** When is "The Traitors" coming back, and who will be competing this time besides Tom Sandoval? -- **S.E.**

**A:** Season three of the American version of the whodunit reality show "The Traitors" returns to Peacock on Jan. 9, 2025. Set in an ancient castle in the Scottish Highlands, celebrity contestants compete to be the last one standing for a six-figure cash prize. With ratings of over 2.5 million viewers, they're also competing for more fame than they ever achieved prior to the show.

The upcoming season has already been filmed, and episodes will be released weekly instead of all at once, which increases the suspense for viewers at home. The third season's cast includes Tom Sandoval from "Vanderpump Rules", Robyn Dixon, Dorinda Medley, Dolores Catania and Chanel Ayan all from "The Real Housewives" of various cities; "Big Brother" stars Danielle Reyes and Britney Haynes; "Survivor" alums

Boston Rob Mariano, Carolyn Wiger, Jeremy Collins, and Tony Vlachos; Chrisell Stause ("Selling Sunset"); and British Royal Lord Ivar Mountbatten.

The delightful, quippy host Alan Cumming and his fantastic wardrobe will return. His rescue dog, Lala, who appeared onscreen last season, has been given a promotion to "co-host," and the two will likely be wearing matching outfits once again.

\*\*\*

**Q:** Is country music singer Alana Springsteen related to Bruce Springsteen at all? I've heard both "yes" and "no." -- **A.E.**

**A:** No, the two singers aren't related, but it's a question she is often asked. The 22-year-old singer-songwriter moved to Nashville, Tennessee, at age 14 and released her debut album "Twenty Something" last year. She says she had thought about changing her last name at one point because she didn't want people to think she was taking advantage of the Springsteen name, but she decided to stay true to herself and keep her surname.

## Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD --** In 2001, Oscar winner Renée Zellweger gave us "Bridget Jones's Diary," which grossed \$334.2 million against a \$25-million cost. Four years later, "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason" came and grossed \$265.1 million against a \$50-million cost. In 2016, she made "Bridget Jones's Baby," which grossed \$212 million against a \$35-million cost, and now we'll get "Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy," with Emma Thompson, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Isla Fisher, Gemma Jones and Jim Broadbent, just in time for Valentine's Day.

\*\*\*

Social media's been buzzing about "Blue Bloods," with fans inferring that it'll be renewed for season 15. Official blurbs claim that Tom Selleck is certain CBS will come to their senses and renew it. But even as a producer and an Emmy winner for "Magnum, P.I.," he couldn't get the hit series past eight seasons.

When "Blue Bloods" began in 2010, the actors' contracts had automatic sal-

ary bumps yearly. By season 13, actors had to take pay cuts to reduce the high cost of producing the show or face cancellation. Selleck, of course, was the highest-paid at \$200,000 an episode, while Donnie Wahlberg earned \$60,000 in the beginning but was bumped up to \$150,000. Will Estes earned \$100,000, and when you're in all 288 episodes as they were, it becomes a big payday! Add in the escalated costs of shooting in NYC, and CBS had to cancel the show!

Had it remained a top-10 show (it's currently placed 37), it might have swayed CBS Entertainment president Amy Reisenbach, who explained, "It is a function of having a really strong schedule that we have to refresh, and that means in order to refresh, shows have to eventually end."

There were even alleged quotes from Selleck saying that he needs "Blue Bloods" to be renewed in order to maintain his avocado farm, which had to be untrue since his net worth is estimated to be at \$45 million!

\*\*\*

Are you ready for "Black

Panther 3" starring Denzel Washington? Washington's currently doing Broadway in "Othello," which he plans to make into a film. He's also starring in "Gladiator II," which swashbuckled into theaters on Nov. 22, and he's just completed Spike Lee's Apple TV+ crime thriller "High and Low," with Jeffrey Wright. On Dec. 28, Washington turns 70, and in a recent interview, he confessed, "Especially at this point in my career, I am only interested in working with the best. ... I want to do things I haven't done."

\*\*\*

Dwayne Johnson's riding high with "Red One," an exceptional action/thriller Christmas movie co-starring Chris Evans, J.K. Simmons and Lucy Liu. He also has the animated film "Moana 2" coming out on Nov. 27 and the live-action "Moana" due in July 2026. Back in 2002, he informed his agents that he wanted to be bigger than Will Smith or George Clooney. When they expressed skepticism, The Rock delivered a TKO punch and sacked them!

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## Couch Theater

"The Wild Robot" (PG) -- This animated sci-fi film became the fourth-highest-grossing film of 2024, garnering \$309.7 million against a \$78 million cost. A sequel for the film is already in development following its great commercial success, with critics praising its watercolor animation style and emotional storytelling. Lupita Nyong'o ("A Quiet Place: Day One") lends her voice to portray Roz, a service robot who gets shipwrecked on an island that seems to be the antithesis of her technological makeup. But as Roz befriends the local wildlife in the area, including Fink the fox (Pedro Pascal) and Brightbill the goose (Kit Connor), she not only figures out how to exist on the island -- she also finds her home. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Conclave" (PG) -- The magnetic yet terrifying Ralph Fiennes ("The Menu") stars in this mystery-thriller film based on the 2016 novel by Robert Harris. (Although with a PG rating, how thrilling can it really be?) In the

film, Cardinal Thomas Lawrence (Fiennes) is tasked with leading the papal conclave to select the new pope, after the current Pope dies of a heart attack. With four candidates to choose from but none who really strikes a chord with the College of Cardinals, Lawrence must hold vote after vote until the cardinals decide on who will be the most powerful man in the Catholic church. Between these votes, plenty of shady politics and secrets transpire. Stanley Tucci and John Lithgow co-star in "Conclave," out now to rent. (Apple TV+) "Dear Santa" (PG-13) -- Jack Black ("Borderlands") leads this Christmas comedy movie, co-starring Keegan-Michael Key ("Transformers One") and Jason Alexander ("Stealing Pulp Fiction"). "Dear Santa" follows a young boy named Liam, who accidentally makes a crucial spelling error when writing his annual Christmas letter to Santa. Instead of being delivered to the North Pole, the letter gets delivered to literal hell as it is, indeed, addressed to

Satan. So, when the horned devil appears to grant him three wishes, rather than the jolly old man he was expecting, he knows he's in for quite an adventure. Out now. (Paramount+)

"Summer Camp" (PG-13) -- Nothing keeps Diane Keaton ("Maybe I Do") from a comedy film about a group of older women, as evidenced by her starring in this film from the same producers of her other buddy-comedy franchise "Book Club." In "Summer Camp," Keaton plays Nora, who is best friends with Ginny (Kathy Bates) and Mary (Alfred Woodard), and their trio used to spend every summer as kids at sleepaway camp together. Although they're now much older than your normal camper, when they get the opportunity to attend a summer camp reunion, the women see it as a rare chance to bond and reminisce on their glory days. Eugene Levy, Josh Peck and Nicole Richie co-star in the film, out on Dec. 6. (Hulu)

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## • Trivia Test •

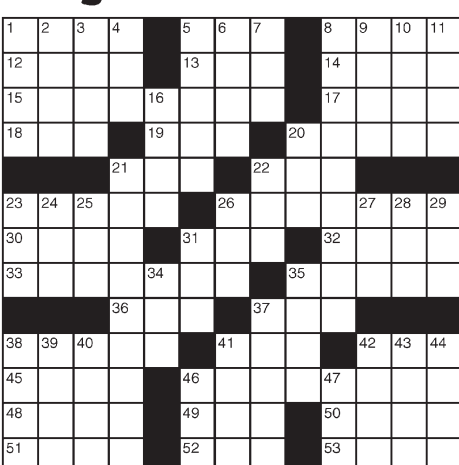
1. ANATOMY: Where is the glabella located in the human body?
2. LITERATURE: In children's books, what is the name of the Big Red Dog?
3. GEOGRAPHY: In which country would you find the 98-foot-tall Christ the Redeemer figure?
4. GAMES: What number is represented by the phrase "two little ducks" in bingo?
5. SCIENCE: What percentage of air is nitrogen gas?
6. MUSIC: When did Rock the Vote, an organization that encourages young people to vote, come into being?
7. TELEVISION: Which 1970s comedy show features the theme song "Come On Get

- Happy?"
  8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which month of the year has the least number of letters?
  9. U.S. STATES: Which state is first alphabetically?
  10. MOVIES: Which 1983 movie features a character named Tony Montana?
- Answers
1. Between the eyebrows
  2. Clifford
  3. Brazil
  4. 22
  5. 78 percent
  6. 1990
  7. "The Partridge Family"
  8. May
  9. Alabama
  10. "Scarface"
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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Winter coaster
- 5 Gear tooth
- 8 Guesser's words
- 12 "Arrivederci!"
- 13 Notre Dame coach
- 14 German refusal
- 15 Well-known
- 17 Body powder
- 18 "Now, where -- I?"
- 19 Novelist Deighton
- 20 One of the Kardashians
- 21 Squeak stopper
- 22 Golfer Trevino
- 23 Lake flock
- 26 Neighbor of Germany
- 30 Penny
- 31 Physique
- 32 Sci-fi race
- 33 Boise native
- 35 Labor group
- 36 Work unit
- 37 Prof's degree
- 38 Presentation aid
- 41 Romance
- 42 "Right you --!"
- 45 Petty of "Tank Girl"
- 46 Working
- 48 "Topaz" author



- 49 -- Dhabi
- 50 Roman censor
- 51 Ordered
- 52 Prof's helpers
- 53 Strong farm team

### DOWN

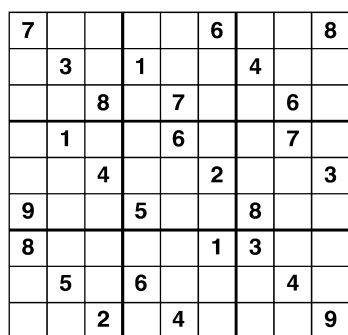
- 1 Garbage barge
- 2 Director
- 3 Werthemuller
- 3 Comestibles
- 4 Homer's lament
- 5 Caravan beast
- 6 Algerian port
- 7 Hiatus

- 8 Getting better
- 9 Authentic
- 10 Missile shelter
- 11 Formerly
- 16 Yale students
- 20 "Community" actor Jeong
- 21 Up-and-coming
- 22 Guided
- 23 Biol. or chem.
- 24 Marry
- 25 Santa -- winds
- 26 Mafia boss
- 27 Foreman foe
- 28 Aussie hopper
- 29 Family
- 31 Satchel
- 34 Scrap
- 35 "Oops!"
- 37 VIP on Air Force One
- 38 Sandwich type
- 39 Circle dance
- 40 Bone-dry
- 41 Connecticut
- 42 Sun's org.
- 42 Trojan War hero
- 43 Memory method
- 44 Black, in verse
- 46 Feedbag tidbit
- 47 -- friendly

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

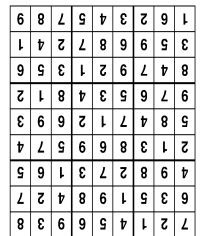


Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

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

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Answers

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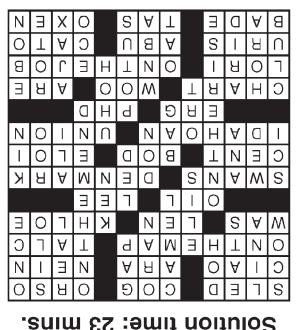
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Love, Joey



Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



# HOLIDAYS

## Caroling is a festive and joyful tradition of the holiday season

Christmas caroling is a joyful tradition that has endured for centuries. Christmas caroling can be traced to the fourth century in Rome. Latin hymns were written to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Historians believe that even before the emergence of Christianity midwinter songs existed to lift people's spirits through the bleak weather and extended hours of darkness.

Christmas caroling continues to unite communities and spread holiday cheer through song. It is time to inspire a resurgence of caroling by planning to gather friends, family, or neighbors for a caroling session. This guide can help anyone plan a memorable caroling event.

**Gather your group**

Begin by assembling a group of singers. No one needs to be an expert singer, as enthusiasm goes a long way. Reach out to friends, family, coworkers, and/or

local community members. Try to get a diverse group of people together whose main goal is to have fun.

**Find the right time and date**

Typically evening hours after work or during weekends are when you can reach the greatest number of people. The goal is to enable participants to relax and enjoy the experience.

**Map out a caroling route**

Carefully identify neighborhoods or locations that are known for being festive. While the organizer may choose to carol around his or her own neighborhood, it may be possible to engage more of the community in other settings. Look at local nursing homes or even community centers as caroling locations. Contact businesses along Main Street to see if caroling in the center of town to coincide with holiday shopping may be a good idea.

**Compile a list of classics**

Most people will want to hear the carols and other songs they know and love. Make a list of classic Christmas songs that aren't overly complicated and singers will already know how to sing, such as "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "Frosty the Snowman," and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." If a particularly accomplished singer is in the group, he or she might do a featured solo. Be sure to have printed copies of the lyrics and sheet music for all participants.

**Enlist a group of musicians**

Although caroling is traditionally done a capella, having someone who plays an instrument, like a guitar or violin, can ensure everyone is on the right note and can keep the pace of each song.

**Plan to rest**

Singing can be joyful,

but also tiring. Bring along refreshments so the carolers can rest their voices and stop to grab a drink or snack. Tea, coffee and cocoa can warm up participants on chilly days. Perhaps make one of the caroling stops in front of a local coffee shop and pop in after a set.

**Coordinate attire**

Although everyone does not have to dress alike, a similar element, such as a red scarf or green mittens, can unite the group.

**Add a charitable element**

Consider incorporating a charitable aspect to the caroling. Collect financial or food donations for a local food pantry, or do a toy drive while caroling, encouraging people to offer a wrapped gift in exchange for some beautiful music.

Christmas music often sets the holiday scene, and carolers can bring familiar songs into neighborhoods this time of year.



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# HOLIDAYS



Horse-drawn sledding at Hegeler Carus Mansion from years past.

## Hegeler Carus Mansion hosting holiday events

LaSALLE – The Hegeler Carus Mansion is all dressed up for the holidays, offering for the first time a unique extended holiday treat.

The Mansion will be decorated with enchanting Victorian flair you are accustomed to.

The Oh, Christmas Tree Tour is a guided 45-minute tour focusing on the Christmas traditions and history of Victorian and Gilded Age life. You will walk through Main Floor, plus some of the Hegeler and Carus living quarters on the Second Floor not shown on the General Tour, viewing the beautiful festive decorations and Christmas Trees. The Oh, Christmas Tree tour is \$25/person and runs from Nov. 7-Dec. 21, 2024.

Sankt Nikolaus has confirmed he

will make three special visits to the Mansion. You and your family will have the opportunity to take a photo with him. During his first visit to the Mansion on Friday, Dec. 6 from 6-8 p.m. (and if you’ve been good all year) you can have cookies and hot cocoa. He will return on Saturday, Dec. 7 and Dec. 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for photos. Photosessions are approximately 10-20 minutes and are \$20/session.

The Little Christmas Brunch on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., will feature an elaborately decorated Hegeler Carus Mansion, delicious Holiday brunch, Holiday music performed by Manderley Strings (violin/viola/cello trio), and a Christmas Tree Silent Auction. Christmas Trees, decorated by local sponsors, will be available for

silent auction to adorn your home in the years to come. Tickets are \$100/person (limited seating available).

Make this an annual tradition to celebrate the holidays by joining in for this inaugural event. If you’re seeking a place to immerse yourself in the wonder of the season, look no further.

The Hegeler Carus Mansion was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995, and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2007, a prestigious designation granted by the U.S. National Park Service. The Mansion is located at 1307 Seventh St., LaSalle. For information and to register for these events and others, visit website at [www.hegerlercarus.org](http://www.hegerlercarus.org) or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hegerlercarus/>.

## Take the time to honor veterans this holiday season

The holiday season is a time when family and friends gather to reconnect and celebrate. For many families there are people missing from these celebrations, whether they sacrificed their lives defending the country or died honorably years after serving in the military.

As individuals plan to add spirit to homes and businesses through decorations and other touches, they also can consider adding a bit of the holidays to the places where their beloved service members lie in eternal rest. This is the main premise behind the Wreaths Across America organization.

The primary activity of Wreaths Across America is to distribute wreaths to be placed on graves in military cemeteries. On National Wreaths Across America Day, which takes place on a moving day each December at thousands of locations, volunteers place wreaths on headstones and read out the names of the service members.

The organization was founded by Morrill Worcester and his wife, Karen, as a way to teach all generations about the value of their freedoms and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. Worcester, owner of the Worcester Wreath Company in Maine, remembered a trip to Washington D.C. as a child that included a visit to Arlington National Cemetery. In 1992, when



Worcester’s business had a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season, he remembered an indelible image of wreaths on graves at Arlington and devised a way to put those wreaths to use honoring the country’s veterans.

Arlington National Cemetery was the first place to receive wreaths. Since then, the movement has grown to include cemeteries across the nation. In 2022, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers placed more than 2.7 million sponsored veterans’ wreaths on headstones of our nation’s service members at 3,702 participating locations.

Although veterans are remembered each Memorial Day and Veterans Day, they can be honored 365 days a year for their service and sacrifices. Wreaths Across America offers an important way to set aside time during the holiday season show appreciation for veterans who are no longer with us.

Those looking to get involved can visit [www.wreathsacrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org) to learn more about volunteer opportunities or bringing WAA into their communities.

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# RELIGION

## Discover the truth about love

The Bible teaches us that it's God's will for us to help hurting people. In John 13:34-35, Jesus says, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (NIV).

Matthew 22:37-39 says, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (NIV).

The love message is

the power of the Gospel. It's so simple: Love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself. We often think we need someone to love us, but what we really need is someone to love. And the world is desperate for real love, so it isn't hard to find someone who needs to be loved.

We live in a society that drives people to selfishness. So much of the advertising we see and hear influences us to want more and more and to never be satisfied with what we have. But the more selfish and self-centered we are, the less power we have to do

good and help others.

The good news is we have what we need in Christ to overcome a selfish "What about me?!" mindset and lifestyle. We have the power of God's love! It's the answer to every dilemma and problem in our society today. And as Christians, our goal is to represent Christ in the world and show His love.

Love is not just a feeling, or a theory, or a nice word. It's action—it's the way you treat people...what you do for others. Love will always cost you something: time, energy, effort, money, giving up your pride, doing what's right when you don't feel like it, keeping a good attitude when you don't get your way.

Loving the way God loves means you love when there's nothing in it for you; it's all about giving out and not expecting anything in return. We're called to outreach, not in-reach. Real love is about dying to self and living to love others.

Now, you have to understand that before you can love others, you have to experience God's love in your own life, because you can't give away something you don't have. Then you have to be willing to ask God to teach you to love the way He loves. When you do this, God will enable you to reach out and help someone else. I



know this works because I've lived it.

I used to be selfish, self-centered, always thinking about how I could get my way. And I was miserable. See, I loved God and wanted to love people, but no matter how hard I tried to be sweet and nice to everybody, all of my trying was getting me nowhere. I was cranky, hard to get along with, and impatient. God showed me the problem was that I didn't like myself because of the shame of my past. I grew up in an abusive home, and I felt guilty, condemned, and ashamed because of it. I had to accept God's love for me before I could love anyone else.

So I decided to study God's love in the Word, pray for God to change my heart, and confess what His Word says about His love for me. Every day I would say out loud, "God loves me," and I would say it over and over to purposely keep this truth in my heart throughout the day. After a year of doing this,

I finally got a revelation about God's love for me.

Now I am able to receive God's love and love others the way Jesus taught us to love. I don't do it perfectly all the time, but I've come a long way and am making progress every day. My prayer is, "God, show me how I can help others. Make me a blessing everywhere I go. I want to live to love You and others."

Every day I look for ways to add value to people I come in contact with. I can honestly say that learning how to love others with God's love has made me the happiest I've ever been! The truth is, you can't be selfish and also be happy or have peace.

Make it your goal each day to pursue God's love and then give it away. First Corinthians 14:1 (AMPC) says to "eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]...." So go after it with all your might, and ask God to make you a blessing everywhere you

go! You can do something to help someone. You can live to love, just like Jesus.

\*\*\*

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource What Is Love? 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 150 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and THE ANSWER TO ANXIETY (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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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

Dec. 5 - 10 a.m. Worship at Allure  
Dec. 7 - 10 a.m. Stonecroft Advent study  
Dec. 8 - Second Sunday Advent;  
1 p.m. Caroling  
Dec. 9 - 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee

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."

UNITED PENTECOSTAL  
CHURCH

4401 State Route 251  
(815) 538-3444

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

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

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

WEDNESDAY:  
Midweek Bible Study - 7 p.m.

VICTORY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

"Faithful & Effective"

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(815) 539-9081

Pastor Steve Bredlove

SUNDAY  
Sunday school  
Worship

WEDNESDAY  
Prayer Service

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

Larry Sheaves, Pastor

www.newcovenantmendota.org  
www.facebook.com/NCAOG

"Preaching the blood, book and  
blessed hope."

Sunday School  
Worship

MENDOTA BIBLE  
CHURCH

Rt. 251, 1/2 mile south of  
Mendota  
(815) 538-6876

Brian Kelly, Pastor

www.mendotabiblechurch.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
Sunday School  
Worship  
Evening Service

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

607 Tenth Ave.  
(815) 539-5626

Pastor Elise Rothfusz

E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Website:  
www.stjohnsmendota.org

Schedule:  
9 a.m. Sunday Worship in person  
and online via YouTube

Find us on Facebook

NOTE: Please contact your individual church regarding online services or for other church-related information.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

PROVERBS 28:1

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

1003 5th St.  
(815) 538-5603

Website: fpcmendota.com

Accessible

Pastor Laurie Walker

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School following  
children's message

Fellowship 11 a.m.

Available on Facebook Live

Facebook page

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

Dec. 5 - Annual reports due  
Dec. 6 - 12:30 p.m. HOH pickup; 3  
p.m. Unload & stock HOH foods  
Dec. 8 - 9 a.m. Second Sunday  
breakfast  
Dec. 10 - 12:30 p.m. MAMA

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

1107 Main St.  
(815) 993-2462

Dave Manion Jim McDowell  
Wayne Shuman

Please join us for . . .

Sunday Bible Study (all ages) 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Church Builders 12:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.  
Men's Ministry  
Ladies & Mens Bible Study  
Thursday 6 p.m.

Non-denominational  
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Pastor Jeffrey Schlesinger  
(815) 539-6567

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Website: www.ilccompton.org

E-mail: immanuellutheran  
compton@live.com

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

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

Dec. 11 - 6:30 p.m. Confirmation class

Online "devotional service" videos continue  
every Sunday at  
facebook.com/ilccompton and  
YouTube. Check our website and Facebook  
page for more information.

Join Us  
Sunday!

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OUR SHEPHERD

LA MOILLE

ZION EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LaMoille (Clarion)

4 miles west of Mendota on Rt. 34

(815) 539-7820

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

Accessible

COMMUNITY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

La Moille  
(815) 638-2348

Pastor David Jungnickel

E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9 a.m.

Children's Sunday School  
following children's message

FELLOWSHIP 10 a.m. (nursery available)

Mondays - 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m. Soup & Soul

TROY GROVE

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FELLOWSHIP

208 W. South St.,  
Troy Grove

Pastor Brian Hamiel

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info

E-mail: fbchurch20817@gmail.com

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and raising of His name.  
We would love to have you join us  
to worship and learn about  
our risen Savior."

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

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Advent (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?  
2. What was the innkeeper's name who turned away the pregnant Mary as there was not room? Eliada, Jesimiel, Phlegon, Bible does not say  
3. According to the Gospel of Matthew, the Wise Men saw the star in the ...? North, East, South, West  
4. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of \_\_\_\_\_ in the days of Herod the king. Nazarene, Jerusalem, Judaea, Capernaum  
5. In what type of clothes did Mary wrap the newborn Jesus? Admonishing, Resurrecting, Swaddling, Castling  
6. How many times is "swaddling clothes" mentioned in the Bible? 1, 2, 3, 4  
ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Bible does not say, 3) East, 4) Judaea, 5) Swaddling, 6) Two (Luke 2:7, 12)

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

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Phone (815) 539-7211

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Phone (815) 539-5060

Faith



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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 an order or judgment entered.

Dated November 14, 2024  
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk  
No. 1107  
(Nov. 20, 27 and Dec. 4, 2024)

### 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.

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Dated November 14, 2024  
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk  
No. 1108  
(Nov. 20, 27 and Dec. 4, 2024)

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## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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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National Institute on Retirement Security, 2016.

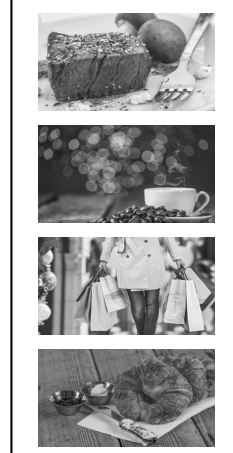
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815-538-5300  
stonecroftvillage.com

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815-539-5673

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306 Plaza Dr.  
815-539-6075

## AUTO REPAIR

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

**Sahuayo Auto Repair**  
202 Sandra Ave.  
815-538-2000

## ATTORNEY

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

**Guilfoyle & Stevenson LLP**  
1316 Meriden St.  
815-539-6711  
Guilfoyleandstevenson.com

## AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

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

**Schimmer, Inc. Buick • Chevy**  
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815-539-9343  
www.schimmergm.com

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

## CABINETRY

**Maze Lumber**  
Water Street • Peru  
815-223-1742

## CABINETRY AND STAIRS

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

## CARPET & FLOORING

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

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

## CONTRACTORS - GENERAL

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

## DENTISTS

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

## ELECTRICAL

**Triple Service**  
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815-539-3828  
IL Lic. #055-041123

**Hilliker Electric, LLC**  
1417 Franklin Grove  
815-456-7036

## ELECTRICAL/CONTRACTING

**Carriage House Electric**  
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815-538-5598

## EXCAVATING AND SEWER

**TJS Excavating**  
815-228-9845  
Tjsexcavating.com

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

**Financial Plus Credit Union**  
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815-539-3444  
Member NCUA-ESI

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

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

**First State Bank of Van Orin**  
200 N Main St., Van Orin  
815-638-2111  
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**Malden Banking Center**  
302 N Main St.  
815-643-2121  
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**NuMark Credit Union**  
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## FIREPLACES

**Maze Lumber**  
Water Street • Peru  
815-223-1742

## FITNESS

**Mendota YMCA**  
1811 S. 13th Ave.  
815-538-2900  
Ivymca.org/mendota-ymca/

## FLORISTS

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

## FOOD TRUCK

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815-539-6263

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815-539-6871

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

## HEALTH CARE CLINIC

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

## HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS

**Correa Heating and Air Conditioning**  
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**Malley Plumbing & Heating**  
123 South Ottawa Street, Earlville  
815-246-6011  
IL License #055-009898

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

## HOME HEALTH/HOSPICE

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

## HOUSE CLEANING

**Illinois Valley Clean Team**  
815-228-5273

## ICE CREAM SHOP

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**La Esquinita de Oro**  
**Ice Cream Shop**  
1206 Sixth Ave. • Mendota  
815-503-0162

## IDOT INSPECTIONS

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904 Main St.  
815-538-6311

## INSURANCE

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

**Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance**  
1103 Main St.  
815-539-3878

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

## KITCHEN & BATH

**Maze Lumber**  
Water Street • Peru  
815-223-1742

**SITK**  
1619 N. Main St. • Princeton  
815-879-0604  
www.somekitchen.com

## KITCHEN & BATH

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

## LIBRARY

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

## LIQUOR STORE

**Lakeside Liquors & Tobacco**  
1310 Meriden St.  
815-539-6400

## MUSEUMS

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

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

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

## OPTOMETRIST

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

## PET GROOMING

**Dirty Dawgs**  
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815-538-2550

## PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

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123 South Ottawa Street, Earlville  
815-246-6011  
IL License #055-009898

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815-539-3828  
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## POST FRAME BUILDERS

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**Homestead Realty**  
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815-539-3811

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

## RESTAURANTS

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

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

**Ziggie's Family Restaurant**  
1212 First Ave.  
815-539-5060  
Ziggiesrestaurant.com

## SEAMLESS ROOFING

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

## SOCIAL CLUB

**Mendota Elks Lodge #1212**  
707 Indiana Ave.  
815-538-3557

## TAX PREPARATION

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

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

## THRIFT STORES

**Nightengales Thrift Shop**  
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## TRANSPORTATION

**Mendota Area Senior Services**  
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815-539-7700  
mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com

## TOWING

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

## VAPE/SMOKE SHOP

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

## VETERINARIANS

**Ancare Veterinary Clinic**  
Stephen J. Dullard, DVM ABVP  
1205 6th Ave.  
815-539-3844  
www.ancarevet.com

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

## WINDOWS & DECKING

**Maze Lumber**  
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**City of Mendota**

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