



## 'A Mendota Christmas'



Top left, Leni Kromm, of Mendota, is excited to tell Santa Claus her Christmas wish list during the 'A Mendota Christmas' event held on Dec. 7 in downtown Mendota. Santa arrived in a Mendota fire truck with mini royalty Landon Fancher and Maeve Schmidt and then spent many hours greeting young children and hearing all of their Christmas wishes before traveling back to the North Pole to get ready for Christmas day. Some of the other features of the day were an appearance by The Grinch offering donuts to children at the Elks and a holiday cone ring toss, which was one of many activities held in the 700 block of Illinois Avenue. On the eve of 'A Mendota Christmas,' a tree-lighting ceremony was held at Veterans Park to help brighten up Mendota for the holidays. (Reporter photos)

## The next school reform push in Illinois: testing and accountability

❑ Officials say grading systems need fresh overhaul

By **PETER HANCOCK**  
*Capitol News Illinois*  
SPRINGFIELD – Education officials from five statewide organizations are pushing for fundamental changes in the way student achievement is measured each year and how schools are held accountable for meeting the state's academic standards.

In a new report entitled Vision 2030, organizations representing local school boards, superintendents, principals, district business officers, and regional superintendents argue that in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire landscape of public education has been dramatically altered, presenting new challenges and heightened scrutiny of public schools.

The report is similar to one the same groups released about a decade ago, Vision 20/20, that pushed for reform of the state's school funding system, eventually leading to the adoption of the Evidence-Based Funding formula that is used today to steer state funding to the neediest school districts.

The new report makes recommendations on several aspects of public education, such as improving schools' focus on college and career readiness, enhancing student safety and well-being, and attracting and retaining a diverse educator workforce—all subjects that are routinely at the center of most discussions about education policy.

But the groups also argue in the new report that it's time to take a new look at the whole system of outcomes-based accountability for schools, something that has been a central focus of public education since the 1990s.

They say the current system of grading schools based largely on standard-



ized test scores fails to give an accurate picture of how well students are doing or what schools need to do to improve.

"This might seem counterintuitive, but educators do welcome accountability," Jason Leahy, executive director of the Illinois Principals Association, said during a media briefing about the report. "But we just want to make sure that the accountability really talks about the comprehensive work that educators do, much more than just test scores."

**State Assessments**  
In the 1990s, Illinois, along with most other states, began moving to an outcomes-based education model in which teachers, schools, and districts were graded based on how well their students were learning. That was measured by how students performed on standardized tests that were tied to the state's official learning standards for each subject and grade level.

Such systems became a federal mandate in 2002 with passage of the No Child Left Behind Act – later replaced by the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act – which required standardized testing as a condition of receiving federal education funding. NCLB also required states to adopt systems of holding schools and districts account-

See School, Page A5

## The secret recipe this holiday season is fire safety

SPRINGFIELD – The OSFM is providing the secret recipe for a fun and safe holiday season; fire safety. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) more than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. More than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. The NFPA also reports U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 853 home structure fires per year

that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees. Between 2018-2022, US fire departments responded to an average of 155 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in more than two in five homes. As Christmas trees dry out, they become more and more flammable. Thirty-six percent of Christmas tree fires were in January. Although Christmas tree fires are not common, they can grow very fast.

Candle fires peak in December followed closely by January. More than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and New Year's Eve. Before you head to bed or out for the evening, extinguish all lit candles.

"Decorations create a festive environment in homes during the holiday season, but these decorations can increase the risk

of an accidental fire if proper steps and precautions are not followed," said Illinois State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera. "If you are planning to host family and friends during the holidays, make sure they are aware of your fire escape plan. Show them where all the exits are in your home and make sure they are aware of a meeting spot location in case of fire."

The OSFM will once again be hosting the Keep the Wreath Red Campaign

at our offices in Springfield and Chicago, along with at the Quinn Fire Academy in Chicago and the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign. This campaign raises awareness about the importance of fire safety during the holiday season (December 1st through January 2nd). Unfortunately, last year 9 lives were lost in fire related incidents during the holiday season in Illinois.

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# LOCAL AND AREA



## Mendota P.E.O. turns 100

The Philanthropic Educational Organization in Mendota turned 100 in the beginning of December. The group of Mendota women dressed in their best old-fashioned attire to help celebrate the birthday on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at St. John's Lutheran Church. The party included punch, croissants, fruit, a table with nostalgic photo albums, and all the conversation. P.E.O. International is global and puts a priority on celebrating, supporting, motivating, and educating women. (Reporter photos by Brandon LaChance)



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## Baked potato bar at Mendota Area Senior Services

The yearly fundraiser for Mendota Area Senior Services brought out the extra large potatoes, large helpings of broccoli and chili, and the biggest tubs of butter, cheese, and sour cream on Friday, Dec. 6. Members of the M.A.S.S. board and employees served potatoes from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. to feed some bellies and help raise funds for the organizations. M.A.S.S. recently canceled all operations on Wednesdays because of lack of funding. If you would like to donate to Mendota Area Senior Services to aid them in their efforts to support our seniors, call 815-539-7700, stop in at 1901 Tom Merwin Drive in Mendota, or follow The Mendota Reporter for future M.A.S.S. fundraisers. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

## Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Each month our students participate in a kind deed for others as part of our kindness program at Blackstone. For the month of December, our students took home a kindness board with challenges to show kindness to others at home. As students complete each task, they color in a Christmas light bulb. Once the board is completed, they are to return it to school to be recognized for their kindness. All boards are due by Dec. 20.

□□□

We are enjoying two beautiful Christmas trees at Blackstone in the month of December. All of our students made ornaments and helped to decorate the trees. It has made the building festive and fun for all to enjoy this month.

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Emily Sorg, Elli Hernan-

dez-Delacruz, Oliver Lauer, Nova Escatel, Xavier Dean, Viviana Moreno, Sofee Gonzalez and Nathan Gonzalez. The winners were Jay Rodriguez, Yulissa Escatel, Ophelia Bronski and Brody Sellers. Congratulations to all of you!

□□□

The Blackstone Christmas Concert 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. Students recently brought home more detailed information. We will bus all students to MHS on Friday, Dec. 13 to practice for the performance. We hope to see a great audience!

□□□

Winter break is approaching. It begins on Dec. 20 and runs through Jan. 6. Students will return to school on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Helping you find a happy home

**Mendota native Tiffeny Meyers featured in magazine for being successful real estate agent in Chicago**

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

MENDOTA — Tiffeny Meyers knew she didn't want to stay in Mendota after graduating from Mendota High School in 2003. She wanted to branch away from rural life and see what was in the great beyond the corn fields. She followed her aspirations to paint, which then morphed into a niche in interior design.

The love of interior design, and being good at it, brought Meyers to Chicago where she graduated from Harrington College of Design and put her on the path to become a successful professional in the interior design industry.

"I wanted to go to the city and see what I could do. Since I grew up in the furniture store, Meyers Furniture, I didn't know if I wanted to only focus on painting," said Meyers, who besides a short stint in the pacific northwest, has lived in Chicago for the majority of the last 20 years. "I thought maybe I could utilize my art and make money at the same time. That's how I got into interior design. I went to school at a prestigious school, Harrington, and graduated from there.

"There is The Art Institute of Chicago and Columbia College, but Harrington is a place if you received an interior design degree, you were automatically getting a job because of how well they trained you. It was more about interior architectural systems, building systems, and you had a better sense of how do to work with a space and simply picking

out finishes, which is what I loved about it."

Meyers also loved the ability to change and adapt to her environment.

Although Meyers still uses her interior design skills and education from time to time, she shifted after eight years in design to real estate, first commercial, and has been 100 percent focused on residential real estate for the last eight years.

For her continued success in the real estate field, Meyers was featured in Chicago Real Producers Magazine in July.

"You have to be a top agent in the city in order to qualify and be featured in the magazine," Meyers said. "You have to be well established within the industry and do so much volume. If I had to guess, there is approximately 13,800 agents in Chicago alone. I've been in the top 200 agents in the city for the last six or seven years.

"I work my butt off, so it was nice to receive some acknowledgement."

The acknowledgment comes because of her hard work, consistency, and dedication.

She learned a long time ago what it takes to be a good real estate agent and added her own touch to become a great agent.

"They say in order to sell something successfully it has to be something you love. I love Chicago," Meyers said. "I love the city, what it has to offer, the opportunities, the culture, the people, the food, and there is so many things to do here.

"Also, I don't necessarily feel like I'm selling homes. I'm working for a bigger purpose. I'm helping people with a huge investment in their lives. Sometimes, real estate is the biggest investment people will make in their entire lifetime. They need someone who is going to truly advocate for them and have them in their corner. I pride myself in being a true advocate for my clients. I'm not here to sell them a home. I'm here to help them make a good investment. They put their trust in me, and I don't take that for granted."

Meyers added as a realtor she often knows about someone's life before their family does as purchasing a home is a giant life decision which could steam from life events such as having a child, going through a divorce, expanding or down grading due to career moves.

The real estate agent then becomes a friend who wants to help them succeed in the next step of their life.

"You're helping them prepare for these huge life changes. Being able to guide them through it is such a wonderful experience," said Meyers, who announced she joined Baird & Warner, residential real estate services, December 6 on Facebook. "Then you end up developing these wonderful relationships with these people. It makes your world and your community even bigger, stronger in Chicago."

Meyers and her 3-year-old son Bodhi come to Mendota to visit the family as



Meyers' mom and dad, Kari and Dale, and siblings, Zach and Heidi, continue to mold and shape homes in Mendota with their furniture.

But when the visit is over, Tiffeny is ready to go to her home in Chicago and help others find their happy home.

"I get this all the time where people ask me, 'How can you live in Chicago with all of the violence and gun shooting?' They have to understand, Chicago is a huge

city," Meyers said. "A lot of violence happens in small pockets, it doesn't happen everywhere in Chicago. If you actually come to the city and are not in the downtown area, you'll actually find yourself in these wonderful neighborhoods with vibrant communities of people who talk to their neighbors and actually get to know them.

"It's not the mindset that most people who don't live in Chicago think. You can

come to the city and not no anyone and be by yourself if you want, but there is so much more to Chicago. There are really good people here and amazing cultures.

"Living in Chicago makes your world view so much bigger."

If you're looking for a home in the Chicagoland area contact Tiffeny Meyers at [tiffany.meyers@baird-warner.com](mailto:tiffany.meyers@baird-warner.com) or on Instagram at [@tiffenysellschicago](https://www.instagram.com/tiffenysellschicago).



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# LOCAL AND AREA



## Santa collects food

Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance held its 4th annual Santa Shoot on Dec. 7. State Farm collected over 120 non-perishable food items for the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry in exchange for photos with its very own Santa Claus. Sitting alongside Santa are Anthony Contreras, center, and Jaxson Johnson. (Photo contributed)

## NCI ARTworks to host reception on Dec. 13th for month-long exhibition, "A Brush with Art"

PERU – NCI ARTworks will host an opening reception on Friday, Dec. 13 from 6-8 p.m. for the month-long exhibition called "A Brush with Art," featuring the work of Bill Swisher of Spring Valley, Earlene Campbell of Princeton, and Gayle Akerman of Streator. The exhibition is free, and all are welcome.

Born and raised in Mendota, Spring Valley resident Bill Swisher always loved art and its many mediums. As a young man, he took lessons from talented local instructors, including Victor Wedemeyer, who was a teacher in Mendota High School, and portrait artist Edith Steincross, who was a neighbor in Mendota. In addition, he often sketched and painted the sites that he visited as a sailor in the US Navy. Images from ports of

call abound in his artistic repertoire: Haiti, Venice, France, Italy, Greece.

Gayle Akerman's artwork is inspired by her experiences, both abroad and at home. She is intrigued by the small wonders of everyday life, finding beauty in everything from an old, weathered fence post, the last rose of summer, or a street scene in Italy. As a child, Gayle was encouraged to develop her skills by her art teacher who gave her an old canvas over which she painted a self-portrait that won first place in a local competition. As she matured, she began working in oil and has produced hundreds of paintings in both acrylics and oil.

Princeton-area artist Earlene Campbell began painting as a young woman and as she entered her seventh decade, she began concentrating primarily on subjects

that made her—and everyone around her—smile. Many of her paintings are whimsical, featuring fantastical creatures depicted in bright, vibrant colors. As she honed her skills watching YouTube videos, she discovered pour painting. She then began to produce art with this medium, creating a successful small business she called "Art After 80" as a delightful play on words referring to her age and her location (near Route 80). Her approach to pour painting is different from traditional paint pours in that she uses the pour as the base for creating realistic images on the poured canvas. Her work graces the homes and businesses of many local residents.

The opening reception is at the NCI ARTworks Gallery, 400 Fifth St., Peru, in the west wing of the West-

clox Building. The gallery is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. and private viewings of the exhibit can be arranged by emailing outreach@nciartworks.com.

\*\*\*

NCI ARTworks is a regional arts agency, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and expanding the arts community in LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam counties through artistic collaboration, educational outreach, and art space development. Its mission also is to create venues that support public and private education, community events, economic development, and cultural tourism. The organization is supported, in part, by the Illinois Arts Council Agency. For more information visit [www.nciartworks.com](http://www.nciartworks.com).

## LaSalle County EMA completes federally evaluated nuclear power plant exercise

OTTAWA – Officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) were in LaSalle County recently completing a federally evaluated exercise for the LaSalle Generating Station. While the official report won't be available for 90 days, the preliminary consensus of the evaluation team is that the LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) along with a long list of local response partners successfully demonstrated their ability to manage an off-site response to a nuclear powerplant emergency. This important exercise, which took place at different locations throughout the county, was conducted to test and evaluate the county's readiness to respond to a potential nuclear emergency.

This type of exercise is conducted every other year in LaSalle County and includes the participation of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Constellation, LaSalle County Sheriff's Office, LaSalle County Highway Department, LaSalle County Health Department, the Regional Office of Education, LaSalle County Information Technology Department, WCMY 1430 AM and 93.5 FM radio, LaSalle County Board Office, the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), the American Red Cross, Illinois Valley Community College, Seneca Grade and High Schools, LaSalle County GIS Department and Bruce Harris and Associates. Additionally, the municipalities of Marseilles, Seneca, Ottawa and Streator also participated.

The exercise involved a simulated emergency scenario designed to test the

effectiveness of emergency response plans, communication systems, and coordination between agencies within and outside of the county.

"The safety and well-being of our community is a top priority," said emergency management agency director Fred Moore. "This exercise was a critical step in ensuring that we are fully prepared to protect residents in the event of a nuclear emergency. We are proud of the collaboration between local, state and federal partners, as well as our dedicated emergency response teams and EMA volunteers, for their professionalism and commitment to safeguarding our community."

There were over 45 different criteria evaluated at the LaSalle County Emergency Operations Center including radiation exposure control, alert and notification, traffic and access control, emergency operations center management and protective action decision making.

"While we hope to never face such an emergency, exercises like this ensure we are ready to act swiftly and efficiently should the need arise," EMA director Moore said. "This successful demonstration reinforces our commitment to the preparedness of our community and the strength of our emergency management system."

LaSalle County EMA will continue to work closely with local agencies, the State of Illinois and the LaSalle Generating Station to refine response strategies and ensure ongoing preparedness. The agency remains committed to conducting regular training and exercises to further enhance the county's emergency response capabilities.

### DEATH NOTICES

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# OPINION



**The Mendota Reporter**

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

## Moving is for the birds

Whenever I want to have some fun during interviews with individuals under 18, I'll throw a sidwinding question to throw them off, 'What is your least favorite chore?'

I've heard the gambit of chores such as dishes, babysitting, garbage, bathroom, mopping, sweeping, dusting, grocery shopping, walking the dog, windows, laundry, cleaning the car, and yard work.

Through the years, my answer has changed as I always answer quietly to myself while I'm waiting for the result from my subject.

But without a shadow of a doubt, I am not changing my answer again.

Moving.

Some may not think it's a chore and call it a job instead, which I wouldn't argue, but for the sake of this column and because, in my opinion, work and chores are synonymous, moving is the absolute worse.

When you're a kid, your body doesn't creak, crack, and ache, and it's fun to open the boxes when you get to the new places. It's almost like Christmas. Plus, it's exciting to meet the new neighbors, see a new scenery, and be in a new location with all kinds of grand unforeseen adventures.

However, as you get older, moving becomes less and less, and then zero fun.

The Christmas-like joy is gone as you know everything that is in every box and you have to figure out if you want to put them in a new place in the new abode, put them in a different spot you may forget an item is even there, or maybe even throw it away after you already packed it, took up room in a box or tote, and used muscle fatigue to transport.

The older we get, the creaks, cracks, aches, pains, possible fractures and scars, are tougher and tougher to get over or recoup from, especially if there are steps or a long walkway.

I'm in solid shape since I'm an IHSA official and have had long spurts in the weight room or walking/jogging/running every day, but my body still feels a move the next day. Or the next two weeks.

Then there is the factor we don't think of when we're younger.

Why did you move?

After 30, it's probably because of a bad breakup, a divorce, or a loved one passed away or needs help at home because of health reasons. Each one of those brings negative energy and a depression sets in before the move even takes place because of the bad omens or lack of enthusiasm because of the situation.

When going through the boxes, each item makes you think of something.

Hopefully, all of the nostalgic memories make you think of happy thoughts like people you love to the moon and back, moments of triumph, or a souvenir of someone you miss who lives somewhere else or you haven't seen in a while.

Then there are the bad ones.

The sweater given to you by your late, great grandmother.

The charm you received for a birthday or Christmas from the former loved one, who is the reason you're going through the moving process in the first place. There are many more I could list, but I like to keep these upbeat and funny as much as possible.

Nothing funny about your heart being ripped out and stepped on after you've spent all of your Monster or Purpose Nutrition energy trekking up and down stairs for four hours.

The point is, moving is by far the worst.


It takes time, gas money, physical pain, and emotional grief.

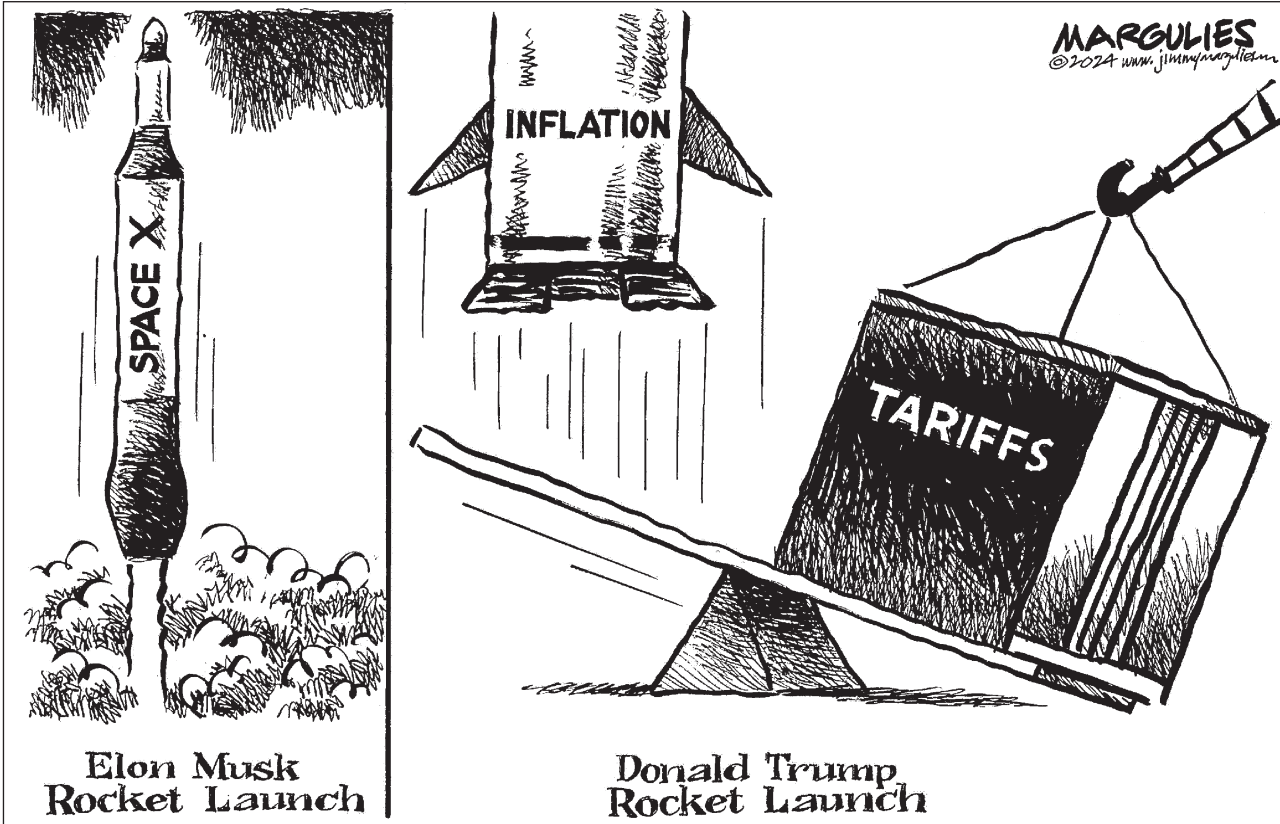
Hopefully, you stay in one place and don't have to experience the angst of moving except from high school to college, college to a home, and maybe one or two additional moves due to career or family advancement.

But don't be silly and force yourself into unwanted suffering by unneeded or unwarranted packing.

## Never the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance





# Expanding the sewer plant – 1992

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Dec. 10, 1997.)

**By Jessica Nashold**

Five years ago, in December 1992, the city of Mendota purchased five acres north of the sewer plant from H.D. Hume at \$5,000 per acre to accommodate expansion. Marty Masear, chairman of the Water & Sewer Department, said the expansion plan had been submitted to the EPA.

**As soon as it is approved, we can get on with it.**

The plant, drying beds, lagoons and digest system would be rebuilt, but about 90 percent would be new construction. The capacity would be nearly doubled from its 1.4 million gallon flow. A \$400,000 grant from the state was being sought, but most of the \$7.5 million project would be collected from increased sewer rates. Completion by the end of 1995 was anticipated, but until the new facility was functioning, no new industrial plant could be added.

\*\*\*

A first step was taken by the city council to pave the way for another addition to the Mendota Lutheran Home. The alley behind the home was vacated with the exception of the south 54 feet. The entire block was rezoned from R3 to B3 except for one residential property facing Sixth Street. Now, work on the addition would go forward.

\*\*\*

The MHS Madrigal singers presented their 20th Renaissance Dinner on Dec. 12-13, 1992. Madrigals were first performed at MHS in 1967 under the direction of Ray Rebuck. Initially there were 10 singers. The first dinner was served in 1973 with Jerry White in charge.

For the 20th presentation, Chris Benson was director. She said auditions for the performers were "stiff."

**If there are only 10 good voices, we only have 10 singers, but this year we have 20.**

Only 130 diners could be seated at each Madrigal performance. Meals were served at 7:30 on Saturday evening and at 2:30 on Sunday afternoon. An innovation in 1992 was presentation of a short playlet from "Midsummer

## Backtracks & Sidetracks

Night's Dream." Added Benson –

**There's a lot of variety so those who come back year after year are never bored.**

\*\*\*

The board for the Graves-Hume Public Library District decided to appoint a secretary of grant appropriations with a three-month renewable contract. Kathy Berggren, library director, said the per capita receipt from the state (95 cents per resident) could be used only to improve or expand services. Hence, the need to apply for grants for other purposes.

A survey was made to determine whether residents preferred expansion of the old library or a new building. The city had expressed willingness to provide land north of Meriden Street between the two Main streets as a possible site. Pledge cards were included with questionnaires on which to indicate support.

Friends of the Library was willing to support any decision reached by the board.

\*\*\*

HCC, Inc., received a \$150,000 rural development loan to purchase equipment needed to make machinery for companies manufacturing harvesting equipment. It has been anticipated the project would create 30 new jobs the first year.

**Basically, we are providing jobs for people who would otherwise not be working.**

\*\*\*

The Lady Trojans basketball team took the championship in the Princeton Tournament. Next, they topped the Lady Norsemen of Newark, 71-47, for a 7-1 season up to that point. High scorers were Tricia Wujek, Chris Wujek, Laura Stuckey and Jackee Doran.

\*\*\*

Beth Dewey was selected Miss Merry Christmas to publicize a Christmas Fantasy Shopping Spree. She was pic-

tured visiting nine of the local businesses involved. The Spree would provide \$250 in trade at participating stores. The drawing was Dec. 14, 1992, and the Spree included limo service to and from the shopping area, lunch in downtown Mendota and dinner in a restaurant of the winner's choice. Barb Vietti of Mendota won the Fantasy Spree.

\*\*\*

A feature by The Reporter's Tamara Abbey described local preparations for Mexican feast days, providing recipes courtesy of Sara Espinoza and information on Christmas traditions supplied by her daughter, Petra Estrada. The recipes published were for tamales, enchiladas rojas, frijoles refritos and rosce de reyes. The Noche Bueno observance on Christmas Eve concludes with departure of guests for Midnight Mass.

\*\*\*

Fundraising for an all-weather track continued. Classon's Super Foods donated brats and butterfly pork chops at six home games. Skelgas provided a grill and gas. The Booster Club provided labor and a total of \$3,046 was added to the track fund. Track coach John Jackson urged support.

**It's a community track that everyone will have access to and be able to use.**

\*\*\*

Mendota Community Hospital joined the Rock River Region EMS System. MCH would provide initial and stabilizing care after which Rockford Memorial Hospital would take care of additional needs. Kris Goodbred, emergency department nurse, managed liaison between MCH and Rockford EMS.

\*\*\*

The Trojan Tattler reported seven sets of twins enrolled at Mendota High School in 1992 – four fraternal and three identical sets. They were Toni & Tobi McCauley, Amy & Jodi Borelli, Matt & Mark Chism, Marty & Matt Sawin, Danny & Darrel Fouke, Stacey & Becky Chandler, Mauricio & Juan Diaz.

The twins considered it an advantage to always have someone around, although paradoxically, the advantage was also a disadvantage – no privacy.

# The intellectual collapse of DEI

**By Rich Lowry**

DEI is a bad idea whose time came with a vengeance several years ago, but now its continued ascendancy is in doubt. Perhaps the most important event this year outside of the presidential election is the intellectual collapse of so-called diversity, equity and inclusion, which is poisonous hokum that is finally being exposed as such.

DEI has been one of the most morally perverse and damaging fads in recent American history.

We've been spending an estimated \$8 billion a year telling Americans in training sessions, workshops and educational material that they are, depending on their race or gender, victims or oppressors, and that the country is shot through with white supremacy. The DEI mindset is dominant in human resources departments and on college campuses.

Common sense says that this racist hectoring -- often administered by people who brook no dissent -- must be unhealthy, and, sure enough, evidence is beginning to pile up.

Research has suggested that DEI can create negative feelings or make people afraid to speak their minds. Now comes a compelling new study from an outfit called the Network Contagion Research Institute and Rutgers University Social Perception Lab. It found that DEI amplified "perceptions of prejudicial hostility where none was present and punitive responses to the imaginary prejudice."

In other words, if its goal is to create illiberal racial paranoias, DEI is succeeding brilliantly.

In one experiment, the study's architects gave one group of students an anodyne essay about U.S. corn production to read while another got an essay drawn from the work of DEI superstars Ibram X. Kendi and Robin DiAngelo. Then, the students were asked to evaluate a simple, racially neutral scenario involving a college applicant getting rejected by an East Coast university.

The students who had read the DEI material were more likely to believe that the hypothetical admissions officer in the scenario was more discriminatory, more unfair, and more harmful, as well as guilty of more micro-aggressions -- again, even though nothing in the scenario suggested as much.

The Kendi-DiAngelo students were also more likely to want to require DEI training for the admissions officer, to suspend the officer for a semester, and to demand a public apology. Why let an absence of facts stand in the way of punitive measures?

Meanwhile, a report in the New York Times Magazine found that the University of Michigan's decade-long, roughly \$250 million experiment in making DEI part of the warp and woof of the school's life has been a failure.

"In a survey released in late 2022," the Times notes, "students and faculty members reported a less positive campus climate than at the program's start and less of a sense of belonging. Students were less likely to interact with people of a different race or religion or with different politics."

Ordinary campus disputes have become five-alarm DEI crises, administrators complain about all the new DEI-created paperwork, and students and faculty are afraid to say anything that might offend anyone.

It'd be one thing if it were only the University of Michigan that had sunk itself in this mire, but this dynamic has been duplicated throughout corporate America and our education system. There are signs, though, that the wave has crested. Walmart just announced that it will stop using the term "diversity, equity, and inclusion" and end various DEI-related initiatives. Other companies have been pulling back, as well. The trend will presumably only accelerate with a new Trump administration hostile to DEI.

The end of DEI would be a net addition to our collective life. It would avoid, at best, a waste of time and, at worst, a gratuitous source of conflict and mutual suspicion. It would roll back the undue power given to fatuous martinets. It would stop the spread, under the guise of inclusion, of lies about American society.

The old saw is that socialism hasn't failed, it just hasn't been tried. Well, DEI has been tried, and the dismal results are now becoming known.

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

## Heritage Corridor Destinations Tourism contributes to record tourism growth in Illinois

JOLIET—Heritage Corridor Destinations announced recently the area generated a local economic impact of \$1.6 billion and contributed to an increase in visitor spending across Illinois in 2023. In addition, this boost in tourism contributed \$54.4 million in local tax revenue while directly supporting more than 12,200 jobs in the tourism and hospitality industry, according to the latest data provided by Tourism Economics.

"I'm thrilled to see our six-county region continues to provide significant economic impact from visitors to the region — celebrating the 175th anniversary of the I&M Canal, the beauty of Starved Rock Country, and the nostalgia of The First Hundred Miles of Route 66 Illinois," said Robert Navarro, President & CEO of Heritage Corridor Destinations. "Visitors are spending over \$1.6 billion on transportation, lodging, attractions, food & beverage and other tourism related services in our region — that translates to over 12,000 jobs and more than \$54 million in taxes for our local communities."

Governor JB Pritzker recently announced that Illinois reached its highest



ever total tax revenue figures in FY24 (\$322 million) — a 4.5% increase over the previous record set in FY23. Illinois welcomed 112 million domestic and international visitors who spent \$47 billion in 2023 — an increase of one million visitors and \$3 billion in spending from 2022. Visitor spending in 2023 surpassed 2019 levels for the first time, reaching 4% above its pre-pandemic benchmark. As a result of tourism spending and visits in 2012 the overall economic impact, which included indirect and induced impacts, amounted to \$83 billion, which is a 6.4% increase from 2022 figures.

"Illinois continues to make substantial investments in the travel and tourism sector, leading to an increase in visitors who are spending more time in our state and supporting local businesses," said DCEO Director Kristin Richards. "We're excited

to continue this momentum and further enhance tourism in Illinois, building on this record-breaking success."

"Illinois' tourism is thriving, with another record-breaking year across key metrics such as the average length of stay, visitor spending, and overall growth," said Daniel Thomas, Deputy Director of the DCEO Office of Tourism. "Whether it's the vibrant energy of Chicago or the charm of our small towns, we've introduced new initiatives like LUXE by Illinois, which highlights luxury experiences and expanded our outdoor experiences campaign, Real People, Real Stories, Real Outdoors, giving visitors even more compelling reasons to extend their stay and spend more."

Economic Impact of Domestic Travel by County:

- Bureau travel expenditures-\$55.6 million (4.9 decrease), Local tax revenue-\$1.4 million
- Grundy travel expenditures-\$119.8 million (.34% increase), Local tax revenue-\$3.3 million
- LaSalle travel expenditures-\$323.6 million (.9% increase), Local tax revenue-\$9.8 million
- Livingston travel expenditures-\$51.2 million (1.9% increase), Local tax revenue-\$1.7 million
- Putnam travel expenditures-\$10.1 million (4.1% increase), Local tax revenue-\$1 million
- Will travel expenditures-\$1.037 billion (.5% increase), Local tax revenue-\$37.2 million

nue-\$1.4 million

- Grundy travel expenditures-\$119.8 million (.34% increase), Local tax revenue-\$3.3 million
- LaSalle travel expenditures-\$323.6 million (.9% increase), Local tax revenue-\$9.8 million
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- Putnam travel expenditures-\$10.1 million (4.1% increase), Local tax revenue-\$1 million
- Will travel expenditures-\$1.037 billion (.5% increase), Local tax revenue-\$37.2 million

Fast Facts about Illinois Tourism in 2023

- Illinois welcomed 112 million domestic and international visitors in 2023, an increase of one million visitors from 2022
- Visitor spending resulted in \$47 billion in 2023, an increase of \$3 billion from 2022
- State and local tax revenue from visitor spending generated \$4.6 billion in 2023
- Visitor spending supported 278,200 tourism related jobs, an increase of 7,600 jobs from 2022
- Illinois reached its

highest-ever hotel tax revenue figures in FY24, \$322 million—a 4.5% increase over the previous record set in FY23

### About Heritage Corridor Destinations

Heritage Corridor is a destination of six Illinois counties (Will, Grundy, Livingston, LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam) southwest of Chicago including the first hundred miles of Route 66, I & M Canal towns and Starved Rock Country. Experience heritage with a modern twist in dining, culture, vintage shopping, and outdoor activities for visitors to explore whether it be a daytrip or weekend visit. Cruise through the first hundred miles of Route 66 where a visitor can enjoy more than

a taste of the Mother Road and midcentury Americana style. Stroll through the I & M Canal towns and experience the amenities of this cultural, natural, and economic resource with a combination of industrial grit and up-cycled architecture that leaves a visitor inspired about the past and the future. Starved Rock Country, one of the Midwest's original vacation destinations, invites visitors to unplug and experience the charm and beauty of the area waterfalls, canyons, and the Illinois River valley. Visiting the Heritage Corridor is time well-spent...the essence of midwestern hospitality, outdoor rejuvenation, and vintage flair with a modern twist.



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# TRI-COUNTY NEWS

## Indian Creek School to set tuition rate for Paw Paw students

SHABBONA – The Indian Creek School Board met on Nov. 11.

High school Principal Dr. Erik Borne reported that on Nov. 11 three students spoke to honor Veterans. Twelve Veterans attended. Nicole Begne, an Indian Creek alum and Army Vet, was keynote speaker. Heide Gallagher led the choir and band in a song honoring their service.

Over 100 Veterans’ names were displayed on flags across the ICHS Lawn. At the conclusion of the program, students shook hands with the Veterans to show their appreciation.

ICHS celebrated World Kindness Day on Nov. 13 with an assembly that revisited the pillars of Rachel’s Challenge (the main event of last year’s assembly), which includes finding the best in others, choosing positive influences, speaking with kindness, dreaming big, and starting a positive chain reaction. Recently, all students received a red slip of paper on which they wrote the name of a peer and what positive qualities they admire about that person. The Friends of Rachel club stapled these slips of paper together to create a literal chain to represent the positive chain reaction ICHS wants to create. After the guest speaker Buffy Coleman, former player for the Harlem Wizards, spoke, students brought out the paper chain for all to see, and students will return to SPARK (Supporting Positivity through Academics, Relationships, and Kindness) to identify other students whose positive qualities they admire. These will be added to the chain before it is attached to the ceiling in the main hallway. Ideally, both ends of the school will be reached with the chain by the end of the school year.

The ICHS winter play, “A Kidnapped Santa Claus,” was performed at the high school on Nov. 23.

Dr. Borne has continued his meeting with freshmen, and talked to them about their first impressions of high school. He was pleasantly surprised to hear of the many who enjoy recreational reading in their free time.

Three students have inquired about graduating early due to having fulfilled the required credits. This request is being taken under consideration; the student must have completed the Resource Management, English, and P.E. requirements to be considered.

There are still para-professional openings in the middle school and high school.

The Board will meet in December to decide the new tuition rate for Paw Paw High School students attending Indian Creek.

Feelers have been put out for co-oping girls’ softball and soccer with Serena and Earlville.

Research is currently being done on a potential new baseball field with a possible cost breakdown.

Shalea Brown was approved as seventh grade boys’ basketball coach.

Alaina Amoroso was approved as middle school night custodian.

Jane May was approved as middle school cheer coach.

Arneson Oil company was approved as the bus fuel provider.

David Erickson was hired for snow-removal for the Fiscal Year 24-25.

The acquiring of six new gas buses was approved.

## Sublette ushers in Christmas season with Dec. 1 celebration

SUBLETTE – The Village of Sublette ushered in the Christmas season with its annual “Christmas in the Village” celebration on Dec. 1. The local shops, restaurants and stores were open to welcome visitors.

The festivities included crafters and vendors in the Ellice Dinges Center and the Sublette Community Building. There were also dancers at the Dinges Cen-

ter as well as refreshments.

The Grace Fellowship Church served free hot chocolate, cookies and popcorn. There was also face-painting at the church.

Lighting of the community Christmas tree took place at 6 p.m. in the downtown area following the lighted Christmas parade. To add to the festive mood, there was caroling around

the community tree.

Santa Claus greeted children at the McGraw Tax and More office. A band also played Christmas music in the building.

Shuttle service was provided by Mendota Hills Campground to take visitors to the various locations.

The celebration drew a large crowd despite very cold weather.



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- IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:  
In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest and Hub City Senior Center  
In Oregon at: Merlin's  
In Dixon at: Shining Star
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Return to: The Mendota Reporter, P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342.  
Reporter office located at 703 Illinois Ave. Phone 815-539-9396.



# THE BACK PAGE

POLICE  
BLOTTER

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED**

Victor R. Escamilla, 38, of 701 Meadowview Drive, Apt. 406, Mendota, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at 13th Avenue and Tom Merwin Drive at 3:27 p.m. Dec. 4. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**WARRANT ARREST**

Jason A. Henry, 34, of 2601 E. 12th St., Mendota, was arrested at 5 p.m. Dec. 6 on an active LaSalle County failure to appear warrant/possession of a controlled substance. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

PEACE & JOY  
TO ALL THE WORLD

Social Security news

*Are Americans financially educated on retirement savings?*

**By Mike Weiti**

PERU – Financial education helps people learn about savings, credit, and loans. It also helps them prepare for life changes and the unexpected. When planning for retirement financial knowledge is essential.

So, how prepared are adults in the United States for their retirement? The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) conducts polls on how retirement savings affect people’s financial well-being.

Here’s what we have learned:

- In a financial well-being poll conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, 85% of respondents confirmed that some aspect of their personal finances was causing them stress. For 31% of respondents, that concern was “having enough saved for retirement.”
- In that same poll, 70% said they made financial adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of that group, 27% increased contributions to their emergency savings, retirement savings, or other savings or investments. In comparison, 21% tapped into emergency savings—or borrowed against retirement savings.
- In a poll about financial education mandates, 80% of adults said they wish they were required to complete a semester- or year-long course focused on personal finance education during high school. Also, 88% think their state should require a semester- or year-long course for high school graduation.
- In that same poll, 84% of those approaching retirement age said “spending and budgeting” should be taught in schools.

Lifetime financial education is helpful when it comes to retirement preparation. This includes understanding Social Security retirement benefits and making the most of retirement income. You can learn more on our Retirement webpage at [www.ssa.gov/retirement](http://www.ssa.gov/retirement).

A personal my Social Security account should be a part of your financial plan. With an account, you can verify your earnings history, get personalized retirement benefit estimates, and more. If you don’t have an account, you can easily create one at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

To learn more about NEFE, visit their website at [www.nefe.org](http://www.nefe.org). Please share this information with friends and family.

*(Weiti is the Social Security District Manager in Peru.)*

DINING

& entertainment guide

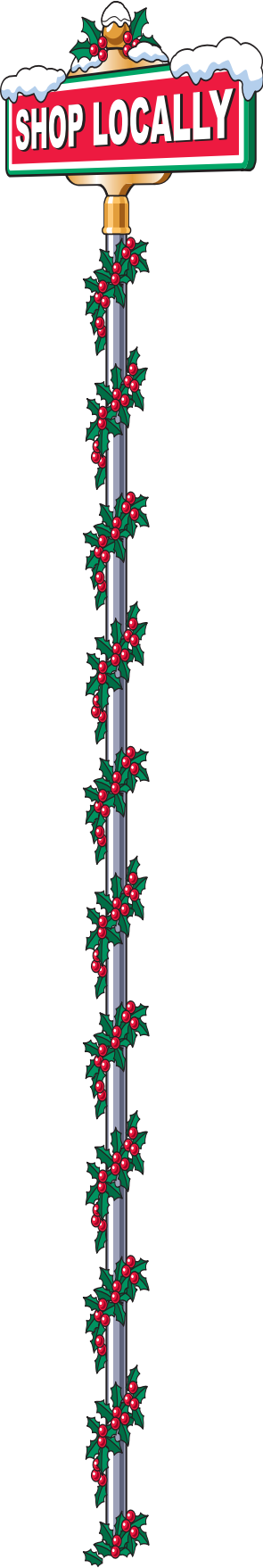
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11/06/2024



# SPORTS

## Trojans roll in opener of Colmone Classic

□ MHS has little trouble with Putnam Co.

SPRING VALLEY – It was a great start to the Colmone Classic for the Mendota varsity boys' basketball team as it rolled over Putnam County, 65-30, in a pool play game on Dec. 7 at Spring Valley.

The Trojans took control soon after the opening tip as they raced out to a 23-11 lead at the end of the first quarter. Dane Doyle sparked the first-quarter barrage with 15 of Mendota's 23 points. All of the junior's markers came from three-point range.

Mendota continued its dominance in the second quarter with 25 points compared to six for Putnam County and the Trojan lead was 48-17 at intermission. Freshman Cole Tillman supplied 11 points in the second stanza.

Mendota took its foot off the pedal in the second half and put up 17 points.

Cole Tillman topped the scoring chart with 19 points, followed by Doyle with 15, and Cam Kelly and Braiden Freeman with eight apiece.



Doyle

The Trojans will return to action on Wednesday, Dec. 11 when they wrap up pool play against Rock Falls at 5:30 p.m. The tournament will continue with three games on Thursday, Dec. 12 and three more on Friday, Dec. 13. The action will conclude on Saturday, Dec. 14, starting with the 11th-place game at noon and ending with the championship contest at approximately 7:30 p.m.

MENDOTA 65, PUTNAM CO. 30					
Mendota (65)					
	FG	FT	Fls	TP	
C. Tillman	8	3-3	1	19	
Kelly	4	0-0	3	10	
A. Tillman	1	3-3	2	6	
Freeman	3	2-2	1	8	
Doyle	5	0-0	0	15	
A. Beetz	1	0-0	1	3	
Cortez	0	0-0	1	0	
K. Beetz	0	0-0	1	0	
McPheeters	0	0-0	1	0	
Becker	2	0-0	2	4	
Jones	0	0-0	1	0	
Totals	24	8-8	14	65	

Putnam County (30)					
	FG	FT	Fls	TP	
Furar	0	1-2	0	1	
Stunkel	1	1-2	2	3	
Main	1	1-2	0	3	
Carlson	1	0-1	2	2	
Zuniga	1	0-0	0	3	
Mattingly	2	1-1	1	5	
Bickerman	1	0-0	0	3	
Ramirez	2	0-1	0	4	
Stoddard	2	2-2	1	6	
Totals	11	6-11	6	30	

SCORE BY QUARTERS					
Mendota	23	48	62	65	
Putnam Co.	11	17	23	30	
Three-point goals: Mendota - Kelly 2, A. Tillman 1, Doyle 5, A. Beetz 1; Putnam County - Zuniga 1, Bickerman 1					

## MHS JV wins pair at Colmone

SPRING VALLEY – Mendota's junior varsity boys' basketball team won both of its pool play games in the Colmone Classic on Dec. 7 at Spring Valley.

The Trojans began the tournament with a 49-35 triumph over Putnam County. Mendota owned a 20-11 lead after the first quarter, but Putnam County sliced into the deficit and trailed by just three (28-25) at halftime. The Trojans were able to take control in the third period when they put up 17 points and held the Panthers to just four.

Drew Becker was the lone double-digit scorer for Mendota with 15 points. Cesar Casas dropped in eight points, while Javier Hernandez, Cayden Taliani and Carter Wujek provided six tallies apiece.

\*\*\*

Mendota held off Rock Falls for a 40-36 win in its

second pool play game.

The contest was tight throughout, with the Trojans on top 21-18 at halftime and 29-25 after three. With the game still up for grabs, the Rock Falls coach was hit with two technical fouls and an ejection with 15 seconds left and the Trojans up by one point. Mendota was able to connect on five of six free throws in the fourth frame to secure the win.

Casas hit three of four free tosses in the final period and ended with a team-high 17 points. Becker was next with 10 tallies, while Jayden Lesley chipped in with eight.

Mendota will return to tournament action at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 when it takes on Kewanee, which also went 2-0 in pool play. A win by the Trojans will propel them into the championship game at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14.

The players and coaches will be announced between the junior varsity and varsity games. Varsity tipoff is at 3 p.m.

A celebration will be held at the Elks after the game.



Mendota's Laylie Denault looks to the basket while being surrounded by three Newman defenders on Dec. 5 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

## Hall, Newman topple Lady Trojans in league play

The Mendota varsity girls' basketball team opened up the Three Rivers Conference schedule with losses to Hall and Newman.

The Lady Trojans hooked up with Hall in a fierce battle that ultimately went to the Lady Devils, 45-44, on Dec. 2 at Spring Valley.

Mendota was quick out of the gate, specifically Kennedy Knaff, who scored the first eight points of the game to give the Lady Trojans an

8-0 lead. Two of her field goals came from beyond the three-point arc. But Hall managed to claw its way back and owned a 14-10 lead after the opening quarter. The Lady Devils took a 20-17 advantage to intermission.

Hall was able to up its lead to near the double-digit mark for most of the second half before Mendota went on a 9-0 run, capped off by another Knaff three-pointer to put the Lady Trojans up

by a point with just over a minute left in the contest. The Lady Devils regained the lead with under a minute to go and Mendota had three chances to go back in front, but all three attempts failed to connect and Hall hung on for the one-point win.

Knaff finished with 15 points, while teammates Ava Eddy, Ella Coss and Cassie Gonzalez supplied six points apiece. Gonzalez topped the team with eight rebounds and Eddy had six steals.

\*\*\*

Newman was on fire from three-point land in the first half and cruised to a 61-34 triumph over the Lady Trojans on Dec. 5 at the MHS gym. Mendota is 1-6 overall and 0-2 in league play.

The Lady Comets dropped in three trifectas in the first quarter to take an 18-10 lead and knocked down three more treys in the second period to build a 37-19 halftime margin. "We came out swinging but couldn't keep up with Newman's shooting," said Mendota coach John Hansen. "We turned the ball over more than usual."

Knaff and Garcia provided 10 points each for Mendota with both hitting a pair of three-pointers. Five players—Eddy, Garcia, Gonzalez and Ella Martin—had five rebounds apiece, while Garcia and Coss each swiped five steals.

Newman placed three

players in double-figure scoring and ended with nine successful three-point attempts.

HALL 45, MENDOTA 44					
Mendota (44)					
	FG	FT	Reb	TP	
Eddy	1	3-6	1	6	
Garcia	2	0-0	6	5	
Reddin	0	0-0	1	0	
Knaff	6	0-0	2	15	
Coss	2	2-2	3	6	
Martin	1	0-0	5	3	
Denault	1	1-3	3	3	
Gonzalez	2	2-4	8	6	
Totals	15	8-15	29	44	

Hall (45)					
	FG	FT	Fls	TP	
Pellegrini	2	4-5	2	8	
Wozniak	1	2-2	3	5	
Sterling	2	5-6	2	9	
Morris	3	0-2	1	6	
Zamora	4	1-2	1	9	
Orozco	3	1-2	2	8	
Totals	15	13-19	11	45	

SCORE BY QUARTERS					
Mendota	10	17	29	44	
Hall	14	20	37	45	
Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 1, Garcia 1, Knaff 3, Martin 1; Hall - Wozniak 1, Orozco 1					

NEWMAN 61, MENDOTA 34					
Newman (61)					
	FG	FT	Fls	TP	
Pappocia	6	1-2	1	15	
Williams	2	2-2	0	6	
Smith	5	0-2	1	14	
Oetting	2	4-4	0	8	
Martin	3	2-2	0	11	
Propheter	1	0-0	0	2	
Haley	2	1-2	3	5	
Totals	21	10-14	5	61	

Mendota (34)					
	FG	FT	Reb	TP	
Eddy	1	2-2	5	4	
Garcia	4	0-0	5	10	
Knaff	3	2-2	2	10	
Coss	2	1-2	1	5	
Martin	1	0-0	5	2	
Denault	0	0-0	2	0	
Reddin	0	0-0	1	0	
Gonzalez	1	1-2	5	3	
Totals	12	6-8	26	34	

SCORE BY QUARTERS					
Newman	18	37	47	61	
Mendota	10	19	29	34	
Three-point goals: Mendota - Garcia 2, Knaff 2; Newman - Pappocia 2, Smith 4, Martin 3					



Mendota's Kennedy Knaff drives in for a shot against Newman on Dec. 5 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

## Grapplers get 1 win in 4 outings

The Mendota boys' wrestling team split a triangular meet with Morrison and Galena on Dec. 3 at Morrison.

The Trojans took down Galena, 36-27. Pin wins for Mendota came from Komen Denault, Trayvon Rucker, Gavin Evans, Mike Thornhill and Reese Lane. Gavin Stevenson won his match by forfeit.

Morrison posted a 42-24 triumph over Mendota. Denault, Lane and Payton Gagliardo pinned their opponent, while Stevenson and Thornhill picked up wins via decision.

### Dec. 3 @ Morrison

#### Mendota 36, Galena 27

106 – Tamerell (G) won forfeit; 113 – double forfeit; 120 – Gavin Stevenson (M) won forfeit; 126 – double forfeit; 132 – double forfeit; 138 – Denault (M) pinned McIntyre (G); 144 – Trayvon Rucker (M) pinned Bailey (G); 150 – Kingston (G) won forfeit; 157 – Gavin Evans (M) pinned Faulkner (G), 1:06; 165 – Davis (G) pinned David Reyes (M), 1:48; 175 – Nack (G) dec. Corbin Furar (M), 15-12; 190 – Potton (G) pinned Payton Gagliardo (M), 1:45; 215 – Mike Thornhill (M) pinned Garcia (G), 1:13; 285 – Reese Lane (M) pinned Belken (G), 1:09

#### Morrison 42, Mendota 24

106 – Rubright (Mo) won forfeit; 113 – double forfeit; 120 – Stevenson (M) dec. Gerlach (Mo), 18-13; 126 – double forfeit; 132 – double forfeit; 138 – Z. Milder (Mo) pinned Rucker (M), 2:20; 144 – Denault (M) pinned Baldwin (Mo), 0:24; 150 – Hutson (Mo) won forfeit; 157 – L. Milder (Mo) pinned Evans (M), 5:02; 165 – Lahman (Mo) won

forfeit; 175 – Gagliardo (M) pinned Bush (Mo), 1:22; 190 – Wilson (Mo) won forfeit; 215 – Thornhill (M) dec. Corroll (Mo), 11-8; 285 – Lane (M) pinned Tripton (Mo), 1:23

\*\*\*

Mendota went up against Seneca and Beardstown on Dec. 6 at Seneca.

The Trojans dropped a 45-12 decision to Beardstown. Denault and Corbin Furar picked up pin wins for Mendota.

Seneca took down Mendota, 70-6, with Furar pinning his opponent for the Trojans' lone win.

### Dec. 6 @ Seneca

#### Beardstown 45, Mendota 12

106 – double forfeit; 113 – double forfeit; 120 – Armenta (B) dec. Stevenson (M), 15-10; 126 – Rivera (B) won forfeit; 132 – Brown (B) pinned Adrian Arteaga (M), 0:48; 138 – Denault (M) pinned Ortiz (B), 2:47; 144 – double forfeit; 150 – Avila (B) won forfeit; 157 – Medrano (B) won forfeit; 165 – Lopez (B) won forfeit; 175 – Looker (B) pinned Gagliardo (M), 1:54; 190 – Furar (M) pinned Medrano (B), 1:37; 215 – Hartlin (B) pinned Zach Schmidt (M); 285 – Dailey (B) pinned Lane (M), 1:24

#### Seneca 70, Mendota 6

106 – Kubat (S) won forfeit; 113 – Thompson (S) won forfeit; 120 – A. Terry (S) dec. Stevenson (M), 18-3; 126 – Hedol (S) won forfeit; 132 – R. Terry (S) pinned Arteaga (M), 0:32; 138 – Phillips (S) pinned Denault



Mendota's Ella Martin encounters some tight defense from a Newman player while looking to put up a shot on Dec. 5 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)



# SPORTS

## Mendota H.S. bowling

**Dec. 7 @ Oregon Hawk Boys' Invitational**  
Dixon 6212, Sycamore 6007, Oregon Red 5819, Mendota 5545, LaSalle-Peru 5270, Kaneland 5136, Oregon White 5041, Sterling 4968, Streator 4900, Burlington Center 4789, Erie-Prophetstown 4492, Hall 3965

Mendota scores: Alex Holland 194, 222, 193, 183, 236, 213 – 1241 (5th place overall); Kooper Novak 200, 214, 180, 181, 203, 233 – 1211 (6th place overall); Paxton Bauer 203, 168, 177, 200, 177, 199 – 1124; BJ Bresley 164, 175, 143, 152, 182, 201 – 1017; Caeleb Ensor 134, 202, 180, 158, 176 – 850; Josh Sondgeroth 102



Mendota High School girls' wrestlers Jayleen Jordan, left, finished in sixth place and Laina Gonzalez took fourth place in their respective weight classes at the Princeton Invitational on Dec. 7. (Photo contributed)

## Wrestling

Continued from Page B1

(M), 2:30; 144 – Dean (S) won forfeit; 150 – Flynn (S) won forfeit; 157 – Varland (S) won forfeit; 165 – Grant (S) won forfeit; 175 – Feldt (S) won forfeit; 190 – Vencia (S) def. Gagliardo (M); 215 – Angellort (S) won forfeit; 285 – Gagnow (S) pinned Lane (M), 1:43

\*\*\*

The Mendota girls' team competed in the Princeton Invitational on Dec. 7.

Jayleen Jordan finished sixth in the 130-pound weight class and Laina Gonzalez took fourth place in the 235-pound division.

Other competitors for Mendota were Hayden Senders (135), Delila Kent (170) and Lea Turner (190).

## BOWLING

**Wednesday Night Men's League**  
Standings as of Nov. 27 – 1. Black Brothers 30.5-21.5; 2. Man On! 30-22; 3. First State Bank 29-23; 4. O'Donnell Excavating 28-24; 5. Maybe Next Week 24.5-27.5; 6. Novak Farms 14-38

High team game (scratch) – Man On! 1083, Black Brothers 1036, First State Bank 991

High team game (hdcp) – Man On! 1255, Black Brothers 1253, First State Bank 1199

High team series (scratch) – Man On! 3104, First State Bank 2783, Black Brothers 2718

High team series (hdcp) – Man On! 3620, First State Bank 3407, Black Brothers 3369

High individual game (scratch) – Nate Bradford 269, Luke Ross 246, Mike Smith 246

High individual game (hdcp) – Nate Bradford 285, Mike Smith 279, Charlies Gordon 276

High individual series (scratch) – Nate Bradford 761, Scott Vickrey 633, Luke Ross 622

High individual series (hdcp) – Nate Bradford 809, Charlie Gordon 746, Steve Manning 737

**Saturday 9 Youth League**  
Standings as of Nov. 30 – 1. Team 4 9-3; 2. Team 3 6-6; 3. Team 1 5-7; 4. Team 4 4-8

High team game (scratch) – Team 1 284, Team 4 271, Team 3 222

High team game (hdcp) – Team 1 638, Team 4 621, Team 2 604

High team series (scratch) – Team 4 755, Team 1 686, Team 3 634

High team series (hdcp) – Team 4 1805, Team 2 1768,

Team 1 1748

Boys' high game (scratch) – Jaxon Stamberger 122, Grayson Kent 86, Dallas Rice 82

Boys' high game (hdcp) – Jaxon Stamberger 241, Henry Schoepf 211, Grayson Kent 203

Boys' high series (scratch) – Jaxon Stamberger 308, Grayson Kent 250, Dallas Rice 217

Boys' high series (hdcp) – Jaxon Stamberger 665, Grayson Kent 601, Henry Schoepf 597

Girls' high game (scratch) – Lainey Ramer 103, Brooklyn Bejster 101, Addyson Fahr 80

Girls' high game (hdcp) – Lainey Ramer 220, Brooklyn Bejster 210, Addyson Fahr 208

Girls' high series (scratch) – Brooklyn Bejster 249, Lainey Ramer 248, Grace Piskie 228

Girls' high series (hdcp) – Lainey Ramer 599, Brooklyn Bejster 576, Addyson Fahr 573

**Saturday 11 Youth League**  
Standings as of Nov. 30 – 1. Team 1 10-2; 2. Team 4 6-6; 3. Team 2 4-8; 4. Team 3 4-8

High team game (scratch) – Team 4 394, Team 1 322, Team 2 282

High team game (hdcp) – Team 4 664, Team 1 640, Team 3 621

High team series (scratch) – Team 4 989, Team 1 877, Team 2 812

High team series (hdcp) – Team 1 1831, Team 4 1799, Team 3 1778

Boys' high game (scratch) – Parker Ramer 189, Gavin Stamberger 140, Lincoln Daley 125

Boys' high series (scratch) – Parker Ramer 444, Gavin Stamberger 322, Bentley Be-

## LaMoille H.S. boys' hoops

**Dec. 3 at Streator Woodland 78, LaMoille 52**  
Stats: Tyler Billhorn 36 points, 5 rebounds; Brayden Klein 11 points, 5 assists

**Dec. 4 vs. Alden-Hebron**  
LaMoille 75, Alden-Hebron 31  
Stats: Billhorn 41 points, 10 rebounds; Klein 21 points, 9 rebounds, 5 assists; Cody Winn 5 rebounds; Tate Sundberg 5 assists

**Dec. 6 vs. DePue**  
LaMoille 42, DePue 31  
Stats: Klein 18 points; Winn 7 points; Billhorn 12 rebounds; Connor Deering 6 rebounds

## Northbrook boys' hoops

**(6th Grade)**  
**Dec. 2 vs. Holy Cross**  
"A" game  
Holy Cross 32, Northbrook 29 OT  
NB scoring: Cruz Arteaga 9 points, Sebastian Harzheim 8 points, Grayson Goodlow 8 points

"B" game  
Northbrook 24, Holy Cross 10  
NB scoring: Brayden Thiele 10 points, Antonio Arteaga 6 points, Cam Milus 4 points

**Dec. 3 vs. Streator**  
"A" game  
Northbrook 27, Streator 26  
Scoring: Grayson Goodlow 15 points, Cruz Arteaga 6 points, Elijah Godina 4 points

"B" game  
Streator 18, Northbrook 17  
Scoring: Antonio Arteaga 7 points, Xavier Hiatt 6 points

**Dec. 5 vs. Ottawa Central**  
"A" game  
Northbrook 27, Ottawa 25  
Scoring: Julien Arteaga 15 points, Cruz Arteaga 7 points

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

**Q:** I just read that Robert De Niro is going to star in a TV series soon. Has he ever done one before or just movies? -- *K.E.*



De Niro

**A:** According to TV Guide, two-time Oscar winner Robert De Niro was “pretty much Hollywood’s last A-list holdout” when it came to starring in a regular television role. The series that lured him away from motion pictures is “Zero Day,” a six-episode miniseries that will premiere on Netflix on Feb. 20, 2025. It also stars Emmy nominee Connie Britton (“Nashville”) and Oscar nominees Jesse Plemons (“The Power of the Dog”) and Angela Bassett (“Black Panther: Wakanda Forever”).

While the conspiracy/political thriller will be De Niro’s first contract role in a series, he has guest-starred on a few others, playing himself on the NBC sitcom “30 Rock” and the British series “Extras.” In “Zero Day,” which he also produces, De Niro will play the former

leader of the free world, who faces a global cyberattack.

One of the creative minds behind the series is Michael Schmidt, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the sexual harassment case against Bill O’Reilly. He also wrote the book “Donald Trump v. The United States,” which was published in 2020. “Zero Day” is his first TV script.

\*\*\*

**Q:** I love watching “A Christmas Story” marathons when they show it every year on TBS. I know the actor who played Ralphie has gone on to do other things in show business, but whatever happened to Ralphie’s younger brother? -- *M.S.*

**A:** Peter Billingsley, who played young Ralphie in “A Christmas Story,” is one of the few success stories involving a child actor in Hollywood. As an adult, he’s gone on to produce and direct several projects, even making (and starring in) “A Christmas Story Christmas” -- the 2022 sequel to the original. Melinda Dillon and Darren McGavin, who were both brilliant as Ralphie’s parents, have since passed away, but their characters live on each year when “A Christmas Story” airs on

TBS, TNT and Max.

Ralphie’s younger brother, Randy, who ate mashed potatoes like a “little piggy,” was played by Ian Petrella. He continued working as a child actor in the 1980s and most recently worked in animation and puppetry, according to Entertainment Weekly.

Petrella reprised the role of Randy in “A Christmas Story Christmas,” along with actors Scott Schwartz as Flick (whose tongue infamously adhered to an icy pole in the original) and R. D. Robb as Schwartz (who laughed at Flick’s predicament).

\*\*\*

**Q:** Is “The Night Agent” returning for another season? My wife and I really enjoyed the first one. -- *K.A.*

**A:** Yes, “The Night Agent,” an action-thriller series based on the novel of the same name by Matthew Quirk, proved to be a big hit on Netflix during its first season. Starring Gabriel Basso (“Hillbilly Elegy”) as an FBI agent working in the basement of the White House, it’s already been renewed for a third season before the second has even premiered. Look for season two on Netflix, beginning on Jan. 23, 2025.

## • Trivia Test •

- LITERATURE: Which Victor Hugo novel was made into an animated Disney movie?
- MUSIC: In the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” what was the gift on the eighth day?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Kalahari Desert located?
- HISTORY: Who was the first African-American justice on the U.S. Supreme Court?
- BIOLOGY: What is the process called in which a non-reproductive cell divides in two?
- MOVIES: In the movie “Elf,” what is the name of Santa’s sleigh?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the largest mammal on Earth?
- U.S. STATES: Where did the first organized celebration of Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) take

- place in the U.S.?
- ASTRONOMY: Which planet is the smallest in our solar system?
  - TELEVISION: Which 1980s-1990s TV family sitcom had a holiday episode titled “A Very Tanner Christmas”?
- Answers
- “The Hunchback of Notre Dame.”
  - Eight maids a-milking.
  - Southern Africa.
  - Thurgood Marshall.
  - Mitosis.
  - The Kringle 3000.
  - The blue whale.
  - Mobile, Alabama.
  - Mercury.
  - “Full House.”
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## King Crossword

ACROSS

1 "Waterloo" group

5 Financial pro

8 Sci-fi vehicles

12 Starring role

13 — Royal Highness

14 Worn-down pencils

15 Nose and mouth covering

17 Move like a butterfly

18 Short sock

19 Curved fasteners

21 Shoe width

22 Tropical tree

23 Santa's helper

26 Highland hat

28 Prettify

31 Painter Joan

33 Coffee vessel

35 A few

36 Glasses, slangily

38 Bro's kin

40 Compass dir.

41 And others (Lat.)

43 Goal

45 Filmed anew

47 Lubricate

51 Mountain ht.

52 Gathering organized via social media

54 Jai —

DOWN

1 — Romeo

2 Legume

3 Support

4 "Skyfall" singer

5 French vineyard estate

6 Math ratios

7 Invite to one's loft

8 Develops

9 Spectacular lunar phase

10 Last write-up

11 Bygone fliers

16 Bump into

20 Sheepish remark

23 German river

24 Sass

25 Comp for a foodie

27 "— Miniver"

29 LBJ's successor

30 Formerly known as

32 Spencer of "Hidden Figures"

34 — Falls

37 Blue

39 Round Table titles

42 Certain jobs

44 Maestro

45 Genuine

46 Big name in scat

48 Latin 101 word

49 Type

50 Online auction site

53 Science room

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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## Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD** -- Paul Mescal is poised to be the next international superstar. With the huge worldwide success of “Gladiator II,” co-starring Denzel Washington, it’s the one to watch for Best Picture, even before its opening in the United States!

Who is Paul Mescal? In addition to winning the Laurence Olivier Award for reinventing Stanley Kowalski for the London revival of “A Streetcar Named Desire” (2022), the Irish-born actor was Oscar-nominated in 2023 for “Aftersun.” He’ll follow “Gladiator” with the historical romantic drama “The History of Sound,” co-starring Josh O’ Connor. They play two young men who travel in the summer of 1919 and revive folk songs. Mescal also has another historical drama titled “Hamnet,” opposite Jessie Buckley.

Currently, Mescal’s filming scenes in Daniel Radcliffe’s role for “Merrily We Roll Along,” the 1981 Stephen Sondheim/George Furth musical that flopped. It closed after only 160 performances, but its revival became an on- and off-Broadway hit in

2023, winning Tony Awards for Jonathan Groff and Radcliffe. Ben Platt is playing Groff’s role, while Beanie Feldstein plays Lindsay Mendez’s role. But before fans get excited, they’ll have to wait about 10 years to see it because director Richard Linklater films his movies over a span of 10-20 years. They’ve only completed two sequences so far.

\*\*\*

John Travolta is making his movie-musical comeback starring in the musical rom-com “That’s Amore!” with Katherine Heigl, D. B. Sweeney, William Fichtner and Christopher Walken.

\*\*\*

Also hitting the musical-movie world again is former James Bond Pierce Brosnan, who is considering joining Cher in “Mamma Mia 3!” “Mamma Mia!” (2008) grossed \$611.4 million, while “Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again” (2018) earned \$402.3 million. Cher revealed of the sequel, “We’re talking about it.” She’s angling for Meryl Streep to be in “3,” but Streep’s character died in the second film. So, it sounds like flashback magic will be

needed. Since they make a “Mamma Mia!” movie every 10 years, it gives them until 2028 to complete this one.

Meanwhile, Brosnan’s playing a 93-year-old World War II veteran who grapples with his past pain in “The Last Rifleman.” The 71-year-old former “Remington Steele” also has a new western called “The Unholy Trinity” with Samuel L. Jackson, as well as Stephen Soderbergh’s spy thriller “Black Bag” with Cate Blanchett, Michael Fassbender, and Regé-Jean Page. The latter is due sometime in March 2025.

In addition, Brosnan has the Netflix British crime drama “The Thursday Murder Club” with Helen Mirren, Ben Kingsley, David Tennant and Jonathan Pryce for 2025, as well as an upcoming untitled “Cliffhanger” action-thriller film starring Lily James. He and wife, Keely, have managed over 30 happy years together without a breath of scandal. Ever wonder how a 71-year-old actor can maintain a 23-year marriage, raise five kids, and star in film after film? His Bond was made from Steele ... Remington Steele!

## Couch Theater

“Fly Me to the Moon” (PG-13) -- This film deemed as a “rom-com drama” tells an intriguing story about marketing specialist Kelly Jones’ (Scarlett Johansson) efforts to improve NASA’s public image during the Space Race. Kelly moves from New York to Cocoa Beach, Florida, to start work at the Kennedy Space Center, where she meets launch director Cole Davis (Channing Tatum), who disagrees with her marketing strategies. However, their opposing energies cause a romantic spark to develop between them, even though Kelly is hiding the fact that she’s also been secretly tasked with creating a fake moon landing just in case the Apollo 11 mission doesn’t succeed. Ray Romano and Woody Harrelson co-star in the film, which is out now to stream. (Apple TV+)

“Our Little Secret” (TV-14) -- Lindsay Lohan (“Irish Wish”) and Ian Harding (“Pretty Little Liars”) star opposite each other in this Christmas rom-com out now; although for a Christmas movie, the holiday spirit is lukewarm at best. Focusing more on the amusement of its incredulous story rather

than the elements needed to tell the story properly, “Our Little Secret” follows exes Avery (Lohan) and Logan (Harding) who receive the surprise of a century when they bump into each other at their new significant others’ family Christmas celebration. Realizing their new partners, Cam and Cassie, are siblings, Avery and Logan agree to keep their romantic past a secret so that they can make it through the holiday without any hiccups. The highlights of the film were the quips made by the supporting cast, specifically Kristin Chenoweth, Dan Bucatinsky and Judy Reyes. (Netflix)

“The Wonderful World of Disney: Holiday Spectacular” (TV-PG) -- Alfonso Ribeiro and Julianne Hough trade the “Dancing with the Stars” ballroom for Disney to host this holiday special out now! In this 1-hour-and-20-minute spectacular, viewers can enjoy performances of their favorite holiday songs and a few new songs from Disney films like “Moana 2” and “Mufasa: The Lion King.” Look out for musicians such as Elton John, John Legend and Pentatonix, as well as

familiar faces like Auli’i Cravalho, Seth MacFarlane and Leslie Odom Jr. The performances were filmed in Disney resorts located in Florida, California and Hawaii. (Disney+)

“Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story” (PG-13) -- This documentary, out now, recounts the life of actor Christopher Reeve, who is known best for his role as Superman in the 1978-1987 “Superman” films. But Reeve’s career spanned over 30 years, with many television, theater and directing credits to his name. Unfortunately, in 1995, Reeve suffered a spinal cord injury after falling from his horse, which paralyzed him from the neck down. Fortunately, though, it catapulted him into activism as a result, and he began advocating for disabled people and spinal cord injury research. In the doc, there is ample footage of Reeve and his wife, Dana, as well as his children, Alexandra, Matthew and Will. Actors Jeff Daniels, Susan Sarandon, Glenn Close and Whoopi Goldberg were also interviewed for the film. (Max)

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Happy 21st Birthday Michelle!



We love you! Mom, Dad, Billie & Susie

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

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Love, Joey





# RELIGION

## What real love really looks like

I have made it a priority to study about love in the Word of God. Getting a revelation about how much God loves me and learning to receive His love has been life-changing for me. It's the key to being able to really enjoy my life, because when I learned how to receive God's love, then I could love others.

This is so important, because the best way—the only way—you can have a happy, powerful life is to get your mind off yourself and do something for someone else. Helping people, being a blessing, and adding value to other people's lives is what it means to walk in love and follow the example of Jesus.

Ephesians 5:2 (NKJV)

says, "Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God..." Jesus—our perfect and holy Savior—gave His life for us, took all of our sin upon Himself, and shed His blood so we could have a personal relationship with Him and become the righteousness of God. That was His gift to us. And once we experience the gift of salvation, our gift to God is following Jesus' example in the way we live our lives.

Jesus says in John 13:34, "...Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (NIV). If we will learn how to follow this one commandment, everything

else in our lives will fall into place. Because when we live a life filled with God's love, then we can become everything we're created to be.

In Luke chapter 10, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan to demonstrate what it means to love God and your neighbor as yourself. In verses 30-37 (NIV), we read that a man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when "he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead."

A priest and a Levite both passed by him and neither stopped to help. Verse 33 says, "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion" (NKJV). Notice that he "had compassion" for this man and he was moved to do something to help him.

He dressed his wounds and took him to an inn where he could get the care he needed. He paid the innkeeper and told him, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you" (v35, NKJV).

There are a few things I want you to notice here. First, the Samaritan was traveling the road and was probably going somewhere he needed to be; he had a plan but



he was willing to stop and help this man even if it meant his plan was interrupted.

Also, he gave his best effort to make sure the man had good care and then paid for him to get it. He was obviously willing to pay whatever it was going to cost because he told the innkeeper, "Whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you." So he was planning to come back and make sure everything the man needed was covered.

Jesus is showing us in this story what real love looks like. First Corinthians 13 lists the characteristics of God's love: it is patient and kind, never jealous, boastful, or rude; it does not demand its own way, is not irritable, and keeps no record of being wronged. Love rejoices when truth wins out. It never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Love never fails!

Now, if you're think-

ing, "There's no way I can live up to this list!" I want to tell you, "Yes, you can!" You can love others like this because as a Christian, you have everything you need to be like Jesus.

It's not always easy, because we have to resist the temptation to be selfish, but 1 John 4:4 says that the Spirit of God in us is greater than our enemy. So in Christ, we have the power we need to walk by faith and live a life of love.

It's important to understand that God is not expecting you to be perfect in your love walk or to do it without His help. What He wants is for you to seek Him through prayer and studying the Word, and as you do, lean on Him for the grace to do what He's asking you to do each day.

God is love, so you can rest in the truth that He is patient with you, He's always with you, He believes in you, and He will not give up on you. With God's love in

your life, you can learn how to live a life of love!

\*\*\*

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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## LEGAL NOTICE

## ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually.

Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

<b>Mendota Twp HSD 280</b>	<b>2300 W Main St Mendota, IL 61342 1061</b>	<b>8155397446</b>	<b>7:30 to 4:00 PM</b>
<i>School District/Joint Agreement Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>

will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

**SUMMARY:** The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

**Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2024**

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	5,000,152	1,270,414	373,970	980,171	290,346	146,686	269,801	393,435	129,847
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0		0	0				
State Sources	3000	2,054,655	0	0	490,468	0	50,000	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	450,789	122,296	0	2,373	0	11,370	0	0	0
<b>Total Direct Receipts/Revenues</b>		7,505,596	1,392,710	373,970	1,473,012	290,346	208,056	269,801	393,435	129,847
<b>Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures</b>		6,416,776	807,814	364,775	1,068,217	224,782	39,422		288,042	36,149
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		0	0	0	2,800	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2023</b>		3,489,446	1,683,013	123,407	516,471	471,787	1,647,096	257,301	556,554	323,358
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024</b>		4,578,266	2,267,909	132,602	924,066	537,351	1,815,730	527,102	661,947	417,056
<b>Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024</b>		4,901,048	2,267,909	132,602	924,066	537,351	1,815,730	527,102	661,947	417,056

**SALARY SCHEDULE OF GROSS PAYMENTS FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL AND NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

<b>GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL</b>	<b>Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999</b>	Younger, James; Zinke, Cody; Zinke, Elizabeth	Matthew; Pinter, Tricia; Sester, Aaron; Siri, Scott; Sondgeroth, Brook; Stephens, Melissa; Wilson, Amy; Wohrley, Kevin; Zinke, Brook	Sofia; Davis, Kyler; Decker, Melissa; DeLong, Janet; Dieter, Dawn; Duttinger, Gary; Espinoza, Agusina; Figueroa, Rocio; Fitzgerald, Jaelyn; Gallagher, Gail; Ganz, Nicholas; Guerrero Jr., Robert; Guzman, Enrique; Hansen, John; Hanson, Daniel; Haun Jr., Kenneth; Haun Sr., Kenneth; Heinzeroth, Joanne; Herbert, Karen; Herrera, Lucia; Kaufman, Sean; Kettleborough, Owen; Lofgren, David; McNally, Laura; Meyer, Matt; Meyers, Dale; Muhlstadt, Michael; Nagel, Janet; Nowlin, Janice; Perez, Joel; Prusator, Jeffrey; Reeder, Ryan; Sarver, Rebecca; Schallhorn, Mary; Scheppers- Flanagan, Kimberly; Schneider, Taylor; Schroeder, Lisa; Serrano, Arturo; Simonton, Jeffrey; Soto, Alexis; Stephenitch, Mary; Strouss, Jeffrey; Stuepfert, Tamora; Swartz, David; Tondl, Boris; Wapner, Otmar;	Tyler, Kimberly; Villegas, Esteban; Wamhoff, Alexandria; Watson, Jennifer; Weiler, Sheila	<b>Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999</b>	Zimmerman, Antonia <b>Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999</b> Bauer, Sheldon; Dean, Christa; Johnson, Jarred; Leonard, Karen; Perez, Guadalupe; Phalen, Debra <b>Salary Range: \$60,000 - \$89,999</b> Knowlton, Andrew; Lipe, Raymond; Sims, Wesley <b>Salary Range: \$90,000 and Over</b>
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**PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OVER \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES**

If no payments were made, put "None" in "Person" column and "0" in "Aggregate" column.

Person, Firm or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
Ace Hardware	2590.00	Future Communications	4928.00	Perma-Bound	4651.00
Air Filter Solutions	2757.00	Gallagher RMS Inc., Arthur J	2883.00	Prairie Farms Rockford	6839.00
Amalgamated Bank of Chicago	364275.00	Getz Fire Equipment	3425.00	Prairie State Insurance Cooperative	181545.00
Amazon.com	18055.00	Global Water Technology Inc	10984.00	Prairie State Tractor	14645.00
American Building services	5598.00	Goodyear Tire Co	12847.00	Provantage Paving Inc	21745.00
American Capital Financial Services	35371.00	Gopher	3198.00	Quadient Finance USA Inc	6147.00
American Fidelity Assurance Co (Annuity)	75184.00	Gorenz and Associates Ltd	21785.00	R.C. Service	4231.00
American Fidelity Assurance Co (Flex)	19431.00	Grainco FS Inc	10963.00	Realityworks	3095.00
American Fidelity Assurance Co (Insurance)	39986.00	Grainger Industrial Supplu	52279.00	Regional Office of Ed #35	27341.00
Area Career Center	48375.00	Great Lakes Coca-Cola	21768.00	Renaissance Learning Inc	3522.00
Arneson Oil Company	154214.00	Hagenbuch, Kati J	27329.00	Republic Services	12456.00
Aspire Financial	5325.00	Harris School Solutions	4456.00	Resonant Education Inc	2800.00
Automotive Fire Sprinkler	6813.00	Healthcare Service Corporation	713739.00	Sadler Power Train	8404.00
AXA Equitable	7050.00	Highland Products	5222.00	Samaco Locks Supply	2596.00
Bell Techlogix Inc	4225.00	Home Depot Credit Services	3609.00	Sapp Brothers	5523.00
Bimbo Bakeries USA	10369.00	Home Depot Pro	39478.00	School Datebooks	4271.64
Blick Art Materials	8611.00	IASB	10760.00	SHI	14816.00
Breedloves	6335.00	IL Municipal Retirement Fund	121607.00	Snap on Tools	3769.00
Bright Start College Savings Program	7800.00	Illinois Dept of Revenue	264013.00	Special Education Services (Menta Academy)	103943.00
BSN Sports LLC	15809.00	Illinois Valley Community College	7695.00	State Disbursement Unit	11265.00
Camelot Therapeutic Schools LLC	95336.00	Imprest Fund	68874.00	Sterling Commercial Roofing	26451.00
Carquest Auto Parts	4859.00	Interquest Detection Canines	2840.00	Sterling Commercial Roofing Inc	26451.00
Carriage House Electric	18050.00	IVSA	3900.00	Sulivans Foods	4813.00
Carrier Corporation	4310.00	Johannes Bus Service Inc	1648.00	Sunrise Southwest LLC	10187.00
Cengage Learning Inc	4545.00	Johns Service & Sales	14846.00	Sunrise Southwest LLC	8420.00
Central Restaurant Products	3484.00	Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP	5111.00	Teacher Health Ins Sec/TRS	81482.00
Central States Bus Sales Inc	545665.00	Jostens Inc	2917.00	Teacher Retirement System-IL	502461.00
Cintas	5456.00	Kelley Williamson Company	5676.00	T-Mobile	3458.00
CIT Trucks_Peru 2650	2967.00	Kohl Wholesale	155071.00	Troy Simplified Technologies	4973.00
Citibusiness Card	47197.00	L.E.A.S.E.	110755.00	Turnit in LLC	4195.00
City of Mendota	9524.00	LaSalle Peru Township High School	30666.00	University of St Francis	3290.00
College Board	8747.00	LaSalle Publishing Company	4841.00	Vernier Software	3651.00
Comcast Cable	3969.00	Learnwell LLC	3253.00	Veterans Floors Inc	2995.00
ComEd	8122.00	Lighted Way	98027.00	Wallace CCSD 195	10285.00
Constellation New Energy-Gas Div	43652.00	Lighted Way Association	101505.00	Youth Service Bureau	10299.00
Contract Paper Group	4325.00	Locker Room	6452.00	Zeptive Inc	4825.00
Crown Gym Mats Inc	3100.00	Majorclarity Inc	3500.00	Zukowski Law Offices	7816.00
Davis Family Health LLC	4795.00	Marco Technologies LLC	40824.00		
DBS	2608.00	Menards	3699.00		
Dearborn National Life Ins	7963.00	Mendota Education Association	35548.00		
Design and Signs by Anderson	3450.00	Mendota Elementary Schools	30880.00		
Direct Fitness Solutions LLC	19617.00	Mendota Elks Lodge	5500.00		
DLA Architects LTD	25997.00	Mendota Police Department	52902.00		
Dynegy Energy Services	130912.00	M-F Athletic Co. Inc	4195.00		
EasterSeals	47378.00	Midwest Educational Furnishings Inc	64977.00		
Edmentum	7235.00	Milestone Inc	70094.00		
EduLink Systems	11582.00	Music Shoppe Inc	23316.00		
EMS Linq Inc	11170.00	Neff Company	2578.00		
Field Turf USA	3495.00	Nicor Gas	3485.00		
First State Bank VISA	17976.00	Notte Concrete	33091.00		
Follett School Solutions Inc	4333.00	Oreitley Automotive Inc	3536.00		
Frontline Technologies Group LLC	8580.00	OSF Healthcare-Athletic Trainer	16570.00		
Frontline Technologies Group LLC	9223.00				
Furars Body Shop	3980.00				

No. 1201  
(December 11, 2024)

No. 1201  
(December 11, 2024)

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© 2024 will be available for public inspection in the school district's open meeting administrative

[illegible]

Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

<b>La Moille CUSD 303</b>	<b>801 S Main St La Moille, IL 61330 9499</b>	<b>815-490-7086</b>	<b>8 - 3:30</b>
<i>School District/Joint Agreement Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>

will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

**SUMMARY:** The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

## Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2024

[illegible]



# Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL  
Place A Classified Ad



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

SALARY SCHEDULE OF GROSS PAYMENTS FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL AND NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL									
GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL	Ellena, Melissa Scott, Theresa Kostello, Velma Fonderoli, Victor Crossdale	Jeff Biederstedt, Jennifer Williams, John Roemer, Josh Shaw, Judith Hart, Linda Troyan, Lori Miller, Megan Burke, Melissa Dever, Rebekkah Conley, Susan Brown, Tara Robinson, Taylor Breedlove	Lacy Hansen, Laure DeSchepper, Linda Whitmore, Lourde Finkle, Steve Kastorff	Walker, Barbara Klein, Bella Drummer, Brooke Lovgren, Carly Burke, Cecelia Smith, Chantel Brennan, Clint Stockwell, Darryl Sellers, Debra Bartman, Dennis Becker, Emily Smith, Erika Kleckner, Erin Bennett, Erin Sondgeroth, Faith Schafer, Gonzo Gallardo, Harvy	Blumhorst, Hayley Popp, Jan Becker, Janice Geuther, Janice Klein, Jeanne Struna, Linda Beattie, Matthew McIntyre, Michael Kriz, Rebecca Sieghartner, Richard Wulf, Ron Davis, Rosalie Gallardo, Sara Sellers, Sharon Johnson, Staci Shrimplin, Stephanie Felton, Stephanie Naber, Steven DeLong,	Susan Hoffman, Susan Miller, Troy Cromwell, Vicky Bonnell	Shrimplin	Salary Range: \$60,000 - \$89,999	Salary Range: \$90,000 and Over
Salary Range: Less than \$25,000	Adam Johnson, Bernetta Wood, Betsy Sobin, Debra Suplee, Diane Brandau, James Brandau, Jessica Tweit, John Barry, Joseph Skotzke, Kristal LeRette, Maricille	Jason Kazin, Jeff Prusator, Michelle Beaty, Scott Hitzler	Katie Shevokas, Lisa Gifford				Cathy Griffin, Colleen King, Doug Tuntland, Elecia Lindenmier, Linsey Deery, Lori Fry, Lori Sprung, Tori Sadnick		
Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999									
Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999									
Salary Range: \$60,000 - \$89,999									
Salary Range: \$90,000 and Over									

PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OVER \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

If no payments were made, put "None" in "Person..." column and "0" in "Aggregate" column.

Person, Firm or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
A.F.T. Local #4347	16,216.00	Hopkins & Associates	8,800.00	Robinson, Tara G	7,928.70
Achieve3000, Inc.	4,296.80	I.D.E.S.	14,226.63	Scholastic	3,854.81
Amazon Capital Services	15,553.71	Illinois Association of School Administrator	2,591.54	Shevokas, Katie	11,788.83
American Express	27,631.80	Illinois Association of School Boards	9,239.00	SHI International Corp.	5,240.00
American Funds Service Co	50,400.00	Illinois Department of Revenue	108,759.00	SKI Sealcoating & Maintenance, Inc	121,400.00
Arukah Institute of Healing	157,273.61	Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund	27,586.61	Skyward	7,049.12
Axiom Solutions	20,991.01	Illinois School District Agency	85,565.00	Specialty Floors	2,851.00
Behavior Disorder Program Coop	9,672.00	Illinois Valley Community College	5,854.00	Staples Business Credit	3,044.72
BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois	366,733.15	Imagine Learning LLC	4,500.00	Sun Life Financial	21,028.90
BMP Special Ed Co-op	128,232.32	ISCorp	3,000.00	Sunrise Supply	11,385.18
BOK Financial, NA	104,975.00	Kohl Wholesale	31,879.98	Teachers' Health Insurance	28,519.87
BR Bleachers	3,325.00	Kone, Inc.	5,518.38	Teachers' Retirement System	176,992.89
Bureau Valley CUSD #340	109,090.27	KS State Bank	15,093.85	Technology Made Easy	14,750.80
Common Goal Systems, Inc.	5,832.91	La Moille CUSD 303	10,192.68	Traffic Logix Corporation	6,768.55
Communication Associates	21,620.50	La Moille Revolving Fund	13,427.02	UHS Premium Billing	85,041.75
Comtech Holdings, Inc.	5,342.55	LaSalle-Peru Area Career Center	36,000.00	Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet	3,200.50
Connecting Point Computer Center	11,497.50	LearnWell	2,915.77	Village of La Moille	3,401.31
Constellation NewEnergy	22,482.05	Lighted Way Association	172,104.08	Wilson Language Training Corp	7,578.84
Department of the Treasury	282,973.21	Marco, Inc.	9,001.89	Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Tru	41,936.00
DePue USD 103	108,836.53	Mendota Ford	39,812.26	Youth Service Bureau	4,806.58
Eddiespeak LLC	3,200.00	Menta Tech Academy	3,004.05	Zukowski Law Offices	31,672.42
Emergency Lock & Safe Inc	3,020.20	Midland Paper Company	2,873.05		
Engie Resources	30,246.68	Midwest Bus Leasing, Inc.	57,966.60		
Especially School Books	19,222.70	Northern Partners Coop	24,237.90		
EVODC/Evocateive	3,388.00	Ottawa Twp High School District 140	10,006.00		
First State Bank	45,123.00	Paper 101	2,525.63		
Frontier	8,410.67	Paths Program LLC	3,898.40		
Gopher	5,776.05	Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.	6,984.05		
Hall High School	151,315.83	Princeton High School	106,551.40		
Hewlett-Packard Financial Services	23,154.93	Regional Office of Education #47	5,985.00		

No. 1202  
(December 11, 2024)

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**  
**No: 2024-JD-128**

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

Take notice that on the 5th day of December, 2024 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Alexandria D. Biggins, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 28th day of January, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.

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

Dated December 5, 2024

Greg Vaccaro, Clerk  
No. 1203  
(Dec. 11, 2024)

**NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Janet L. Schmidt, Deceased

Case No. 2024-PR-193

**CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Janet L. Schmidt of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 27, 2024 to Connie Sue Krzmarzick of 2401 Elm Street, Plover, Wisconsin 54467, as Independent Executor, whose Attorneys of record are Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342.

Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. If the claim notice is personally mailed or delivered to a creditor of the above estate, the claim must be filed in the above entitled cause within 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later. Any claims not filed within the above periods are barred. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <https://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 758, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claims not filed on or before 6 months from the first publication of this notice are barred.

No. 1204  
(Dec. 11, 18 and 25, 2024)

## NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MATTHEW J. WALLIS, Deceased.

Case No.: 24 PR 137

**CLAIMS NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of MATTHEW J. WALLIS, of Mendota, Illinois.

Letters of Administration were issued on December 4, 2024 to SEAN TRAVIS OWEN, 3911 Louisiana Rd., Rockford, IL 61108, and whose attorney is David M. Kaleel, 806 Jefferson Street, Mendota, Illinois 61342.

Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Independent Administrator, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or if mailing or delivery of a Claim Notice from the Independent Administrator is required, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before the above stated dates is barred. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/serviceproviders.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>. Copies of a claim e-filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Administrator and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been e-filed with the Clerk of Court.

Dated this 4th day of December, 2024.

Circuit Clerk-LaSalle County Courthouse  
119 W. Madison St.  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
David M. Kaleel  
Attorney for Executor  
806 Jefferson St  
Mendota, IL 61342  
815-539-5616  
kaleel5@frontier.com

No. 1205  
(Dec. 11, 18 and 25, 2024)

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

## 113 FINANCIAL

**NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers**

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

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is

specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

## 203 HELP WANTED

Looking for **Class A CDL FULL-TIME and PART-TIME TRUCK DRIVER** to haul farm commodities.

Call Roger  
Jameson at  
815-252-8576.

04222020

## 301 ANTIQUES

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

## 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

**SPLIT Firewood For Sale.** Contact 779-251-0254

## 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

## 501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**IN COMPTON**

2 Bedroom  
Stove, Refrigerator, Water, Sewer & Garbage included.  
\$650.00/Month  
Deposit & Reference Required.

815-440-5086

62020204


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

## 601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

For Sale - Compton - 2012 Cadillac SRX - 112,856 Miles - All New Brakes, Rotors & Linings  
Tires, Like New - Call 815-757-8840 - (OCL 122324)

## 203 HELP WANTED

The City of Mendota seeks to hire a full-time Building Code Officer/Property Safety Director. The person will be responsible for approving building permit applications and performing inspections to ensure compliance with all building codes and ordinances for new and existing residential and commercial buildings. The director will conduct health and safety inspections for commercial and rental properties. The director will also manage contractor, business, landlord, and vacant building registrations, including applications, renewals, and reporting. The director may assist with staff management for various city and grant projects. Candidate must have Building Inspection Certification and Home Inspection License. However, City is willing to provide training for these certifications. Candidate must possess experience in construction and have computer skills. Candidate must be able to make independent judgments based on accepted policy and interact effectively and courteously with the public, especially when conveying general legal guidelines. Salary based on experience. Benefits include health, vision, dental, life, and IMRF Pension. Full job description and application available at Mendota City Clerk's Office (800 Washington St.) or available at [mendota.il.us/jobs](http://mendota.il.us/jobs)




The "I'll Just Have One More" Martini

3 oz. gin or vodka  
1/2 oz. dry vermouth  
3 olives  
1 automobile  
1 long day  
1 diminishing attention span  
1 too many

Combine ingredients. Drink. Repeat.  
Mix with sharp turn, telephone pole.

Never underestimate 'just a few.'  
Buzzed driving is drunk driving.



**NO ONE GETS A DIPLOMA ALONE.**

If you're thinking of finishing your high school diploma, you have more support than you realize. Find teachers and free adult education classes near you at [FinishYourDiploma.org](http://FinishYourDiploma.org).



# Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL  
Place A Classified Ad



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

307  
MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

AMBULANCE BID

The City of Mendota is accepting sealed bids for the sale of (1) used 2001 Ford E450 MedTech Ambulance. This vehicle has a 7.3 diesel motor and an automatic transmission. Mileage on this vehicle is 87,312 miles, 6806.8 hours. Vehicle can be seen by contacting the Mendota Fire Department at 815-539-3434. Bids to be in by Friday, Dec. 20, 2024, at 4 p.m. at Mendota City Hall, 800 Washington St., Mendota, IL 61342. The City of Mendota reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

511  
STORAGE UNITS

MENDOTA STORAGE UNITS

210 N 4099th Rd., Mendota, IL 61342

Available:

20X20 \$195 / 10X10 \$100

Call

ADAM 815-830-4422 TRACY 815-791-4582  
Janko Realty Advantage Property Mgmt  
Reserve online at [www.apm4rent.com](http://www.apm4rent.com)

ACT NOW

to Advertise in Our Upcoming  
*Holiday Sections!*

Call for rates and reservations!  
815.539.9393

601  
VEHICLES FOR SALE

2022 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTE 4x4 Z71

2022 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTE 4x4 Z71, 50K Miles, White, GM Certified, 1-owner, leather interior, heated/cooled seats, bedliner, running boards & More!

**\$42,900**

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

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

• 2-Year/24,000-Mile Standard CPO Maintenance Plan

• 12-Month/12,000-Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty

2022 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4x4 Z71, 50K Miles, White.....	\$42,900
2019 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT 4x4 Z71, 29K Miles, Red.....	\$33,900

QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2022 Chevy 1500 Crew LT, 4WD, Trailboss, Gray, 122K Miles .....	\$28,900
2019 Ford F250 Crew Cab 4x4 Lariat Diesel, 97K Miles, White.....	\$43,900
2021 Chevy Traverse LT, AWD, Silver, 102K Miles .....	\$23,900
2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, Z71 4x4, 6.2L, 95K Miles, Maroon.....	\$31,900
2020 Chevrolet Traverse LT AWD, Leather, Silver, 88K Miles .....	\$21,900
2014 GMC Sierra SLT Crew Cab 4x4, 79K Miles, Blue.....	\$22,900

VAESSEN BROTHERS CHEVROLET, INC.

HIGHWAY 52  
SUBLETTE, IL  
[www.vaessenbrothers.com](http://www.vaessenbrothers.com)  
(815) 849-5232  
1-800-227-5203

"Great Deals - Great Service Since 1926"

GMF Financing or Leasing

\* Plus Tax, title and license. Rebates applied. Subject to credit approval.

FIND NEW ROADS™

*"I want to be a bench. Recycle me!"*

IWantToBeRecycled.org

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL

EVERY MORNING MY HUMAN SHAVES OFF HIS FACE FUR, HE'S FUNNY LIKE THAT.

-TUCK adopted 05-04-11

A PERSON IS THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO A SHELTER PET

adopt the shelter pet project.org

TEXT AND WHATEVER JUST DON'T TEXT AND

STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG

Thanks for leaving your car here last night and not ending my family's lives.

Maria Punjabi

SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED. BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.

Quitting smoking was hard. Screening for lung cancer is easy.

If you smoked, you may still be at risk, but early detection could save your life. Get **SavedByTheScan.org**

END FAMILY FIRE

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# 12 Days of Giving

## Shop Local & WIN!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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El Zarape

Expressions

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La Esquintia

Lakeside Liquors

LaSalle News Tribune

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Lube Cube Plus

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Maxie Salon

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Mendota Area Y

Mendota Elks Lodge

Mendota Golf Club

Mendota Moose Family Center

Mendota Shell

Mendota Sport Shop

Meyers Furniture

Moore Tires

Nightengales

OSF St Paul Gift Shop

Parkway Restaurant

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Purpose Nutrition

Quest

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Rosati's Pizza Pub

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GG2024



# Christmas Services Schedule

## Holy Cross Catholic Church

1010 Jefferson St. • Mendota



*And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly hosts with the angels, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."*

*A Light will shine on us this day, the Lord is born for us.*




### Worship with us this Christmas Season!

**Christmas Eve Services:**  
**4:30pm**  
Family Friendly Worship and  
**7pm**  
Worship

Both services will include Holy Communion and candle lighting.

St. John's Lutheran Church  
607 10th Ave Mendota  
815-539-5626  
Pastor Elise Rothfusz



### Please join us for

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

**5 PM**  
All are welcome  
Pastor Laurie Walker  
Facebook: FPCMendota

## First Presbyterian Church

1003 5th Street, Mendota

**815-538-5603**  
mendotafirstpres@gmail.com

## 2024 Christmas and Holy Day Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24	Wednesday, December 25
4:00 pm Holy Cross	8:30 am St. Theresa
4:00 pm St. Theresa	9:00 am Sts. Peter & Paul
6:00 pm Sts. Peter & Paul	10:00 am Holy Cross
6:00 pm Holy Cross - Spanish	
10:00 pm Holy Cross	



**Tuesday, December 31**  
4:00 pm Holy Cross  
5:00 pm St. Theresa

**Wednesday, January 1**  
8:00 am St. Theresa  
9:00 am Sts. Peter & Paul  
9:30 am Holy Cross  
11:00 am Holy Cross - Spanish



Fr. Greg Nelson, Pastor  
Fr. Jeff Windy, Parochial Vicar  
Phone (815) 538-6151



*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*  
Luke 2:11 KJV

**Saturday, Dec. 14**  
9am - Noon  
**Bake Sale**  
at 1st State Bank Main Lobby

**Friday, Dec. 20**  
7pm  
**Blue Christmas**  
at Zion

**Tuesday, Dec. 24**  
9:30pm  
Christmas Eve Worship Service

**Wednesday, Dec. 25**  
9:30am  
Christmas Day Worship Service

**Each Sunday, Sunday School 9 am**  
**Worship Service 9:30 am**

## Mendota First United Methodist Church

100 E 6th Ave, Mendota, IL  
815-538-5587



### In Celebration of Our Saviors' Birth & New Year

**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24**  
7:00 p.m. at Immanuel  
9:00 p.m. at First, Lee  
Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

**Christmas Day**  
**December 25**  
10:00 a.m. at Immanuel  
Worship with Holy Communion (no worship at First, Lee)



## Immanuel Lutheran Church

398 Church Road  
Compton, Illinois  
815-539-6567

Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

[www.ilccompton.org](http://www.ilccompton.org)



# Christmas Services