



MHS District 280 Board approves 2024 tax levy

❑ \$6.4 million levy is a 7.77 percent increase over ‘23

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education approved the annual tax levy and handled other items of business at its Dec. 16 regular meeting.

Prior to the regular meeting, a public truth in taxation hearing was held. There was no public comment.

Superintendent Denise Aughenbaugh presented the 2024 tax levy for the board’s review and approval. The proposed corporate levy and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$6,457,384. This represents a 7.77 percent increase over the previous year’s actual amount of \$5,991,852. The proposed tax rate for District 280 is \$2.05.

In other action from Aughenbaugh’s report, the board approved the second reading of Press Plus 117 IASB School Board updates.

The board also reviewed the FY24 audit, with a formal presentation by Gorenz and Associates scheduled for another meeting.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Joe Masini presented an overview of

the Fall 2024 final exam schedule and also provided commendations to students.

Gracie Botts, Brianna Russell, Owen Schroeder and Jillian Younger have been selected for the 2025 ILMEA All-State Choir, and Spencer Kain and Nick Reyes were chosen for the 2025 ILMEA Honors Choir.

Principal Masini also recognized Ella Lewis for being selected as the Mendota VFW Post 479 Voice of Democracy contest winner, and Shelby Bentley and Desha Komitas for being named Elks Teen of the Month.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Masini provided the Athletic Committee report. The board appointed Daniel Hernandez as volunteer soccer coach, accepted the resignation of Sean Kaufman as assistant football coach and approved spring athletic bids.

OTHER ITEMS

An executive/closed session was held, and upon re-entering into open session, the board hired Kasey Cain and Rocio Figueroa as school bus drivers and accepted the

retirement notice of Zondra Eiten at the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year.

The board also approved the request to bargain with the Mendota Education Association.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A brief PowerPoint was presented with the ENGIE Phase 3 and 4 updates. Phase 3 is closed out with the final invoice.

Phase 4 discussions included solar research and health life safety required work. The solar project failed interconnection with ComEd. ComEd stated that it cannot accept any renewable energy into its grid. Therefore, if MHS pursues a solar project, the district cannot export electricity. The next steps could include the district reducing the size of the solar project to reach 90 percent of the building consumption at 280KW and below. Excess solar energy could be stored for future building use. The smaller scope of the project could focus on rooftop installation

See MHS, Page A5

Nearly 300 new Illinois laws take effect in 2025

❑ Laws include digital driver’s licenses, salary transparency and health insurance changes

By BEN SZALINSKI
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD—Time to study up, Illinois. When the clock hits midnight on New Year’s Day, 293 new state laws will take effect.

Those include some of the defining bills of the 2024 legislative session and others that will change how people get IDs, evaluate job postings and even cancel gym memberships.

In addition to the laws taking effect on Jan. 1, the state’s minimum wage will rise to \$15 to complete a ramp up initiated during Gov. JB Pritzker’s first month in office in 2019.

Digital driver’s licenses

The secretary of state can begin creating a process to issue digital driver’s licenses and state IDs beginning in the new year after Pritzker signed House Bill 4592. Residents will still be required to receive a physical ID and agencies or private entities will not be required to accept digital IDs in place of physical IDs.

Providing a phone to police to show a digital ID also doesn’t give police consent to search a person’s cell phone.

Salary transparency

Employers with 15 or more employees must in-



clude information about benefits and the salary range on job postings, according to House Bill 3129. The law will also apply to businesses hiring for remote work positions in Illinois.

“When employers aren’t transparent about pay, gender and racial wage gaps widen, costing women and people of color valuable compensation,” Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton said in a news release. “Illinois’ new Pay Transparency law is a resounding win for the working people who call our state home.”

‘Junk’ health insurance

Short-term, limited duration health insurance plans will be illegal in Illinois beginning Jan. 1. The plans, often called “junk insurance” by critics, do not meet the

minimum standards of the federal Affordable Care Act.

The ban outlined in House Bill 2499 was part of Pritzker’s health insurance overhaul that lawmakers passed in the spring. It was aimed at reducing barriers to care for patients and making health care more affordable by expanding coverage requirements for insurance companies.

Short-term insurance plans are typically for people who have a lapse in health insurance coverage such as when they lose or change jobs, but they are different from COBRA benefits, which most employers are required to offer under federal law. Supporters of the bill argued the plans are deceptive and stick consumers with huge out-of-pocket

costs, but others said the plans provide consumers with an affordable option to fill a gap in coverage.

Caregiver discrimination

House Bill 2161 adds family responsibilities to the list of categories protected from discrimination and retaliation in the workplace. The new law prevents employers from taking adverse action against employees because of their responsibilities as a caregiver for a family member, which could cause them to miss work.

Bill sponsor Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, told a House committee in April that pregnant women are a good example of who the bill is designed to help. He said pregnant women shouldn’t be passed up for a promotion or face other consequences at work in anticipation that they will be taking time off to care for their baby. Guzzardi stressed the bill does not protect employees who fail to meet job performance requirements.

AI regulations

New laws governing artificial intelligence take effect Jan. 1. It will be illegal to generate child pornography

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NCRBC brings Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to area

MENDOTA – The North Central Regional Betterment Coalition (NCRBC) has partnered with the Dollywood Foundation to bring Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library (DPIL) to all previously unserved areas of LaSalle County. Parents and guardians of children aged 0-to-5 located from Earlville to Mendota to Utica to Streator and all towns west, including LaSalle and Peru, may now enroll for free books. Enrolled children will receive one age appropriate book a month by mail, every month.

NCRBC has also assumed responsibility for an existing DPIL program in Bureau and Putnam counties. Since its ‘soft’ rollout two months

ago, currently over 900 area children are receiving Dolly Parton books.

“We have 3 objectives in providing Imagination Library to area families,” said NCRBC President J. Burt. “One, we want kids to have a better life, two, that may, in time, reduce the need for mental health and homeless services, and three, this may eventually improve the human talent pool for area employers.”

Research shows when 0-to-3-year-olds are exposed to more words and verbal interactions, they get a head start in life. “Dolly Parton’s

See Dolly, Page A5



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LOCAL AND AREA



Lincoln School fourth graders donate to MASS
With the help of candy cane sales, Lincoln Elementary School fourth grade students donated a check worth \$1,149.83 to Mendota Area Senior Service Executive Director Rayanne Sester on Friday, Dec. 20. Sester asked, "How cool is that?" (Photo contributed)

Graves-Hume offers six-week course on managing anxiety for caregivers, children

MENDOTA – Graves-Hume Public Library is excited to offer a free six-week course for parents/caregivers and their children to learn essential skills for helping children manage anxiety beginning Friday, Jan. 14.

Tricia Lockwood is a family peer specialist specializing in psychoeducation supporting children/teens, parents, and caregivers. Lockwood has a bachelor of science in psychology and also has experience as a parent of a mentally ill child while navigating the mental health system. She is passionate about this area and wants to give back to the community and caregivers.

Lockwood seeks to help families identify their strengths and needs. She will give information on stress management, optimistic thinking, strength-based problem solving, executive functioning skills and much more.

The best way to help your loved one is to be informed. This program is for both caregivers and their youth. She will provide information and refer families to community resources according to what each family needs.

Her goal is to empower parents and families to make their own informed decisions about all aspects of services. Family peer support has been recognized as an evidence-based approach that enhances the quality of care for both families and individ-



uals facing mental health challenges.

This course is for children ages 6-11 and their caregivers. Each class will focus on a different topic. This course is designed for you to attend all classes, but it is fine if you can only attend a few.

The schedule is as follows:

1/14 – What is worry?

1/21 – How does worry affect your body?

1/28 – How does worry affect your thinking?

2/4 – Watch out for thought holes

2/11 – The 5c technique

2/18 – The Farr Method

Library programs are open to all and no library card is required. Please call 815-538-5142 to register for this program.

Special recipe helps Lee Center UCC, Amboy Lions Club host chili luncheon Jan. 12

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**

Staff writer

AMBOY – Deep in the corridors of the Lee Center United Church of Christ in a folder, a file, a notebook, or a card catalog (never to be disclosed which) is a secret chili recipe.

Once a year, the recipe is brought out for the annual chili luncheon.

"We do whip out a lot of chili. It's a special recipe that is tucked away in the files at the church and is not to be shared," said Lee Center UCC member Sandy Wittenauer. "No one talks about the recipe but the chili is consistent year after year."

This year the church and the Amboy Lions Club are hosting the chili luncheon from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12 at the Amboy Community Building.

The two parties first connect-

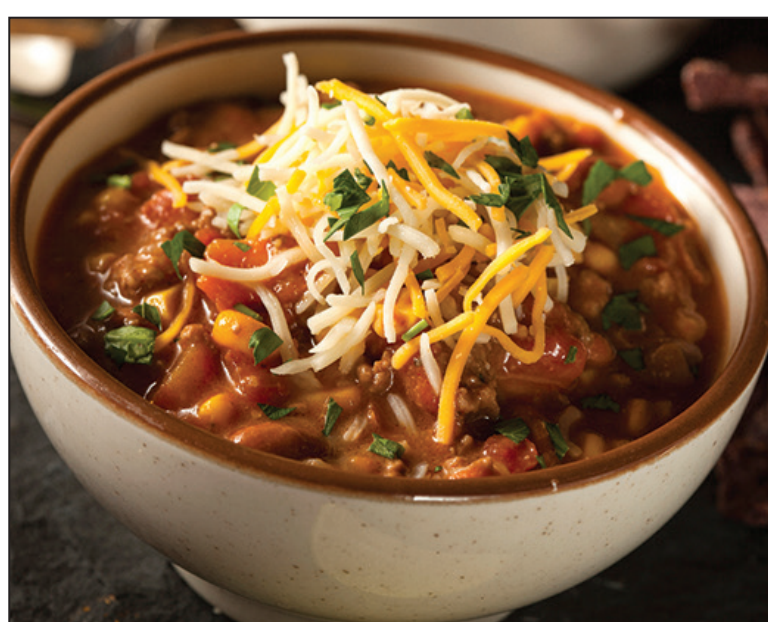
ed in 2022, but this will be the 47th chili luncheon for the Lee Center church.

"Four years ago, we joined the Lee Center United Church of Christ with the Amboy Lions Club," Wittenauer said. "Our facility wasn't ideal and we needed more volunteers. The Amboy Lions Club was ready, willing, and able to join us and hold the chili luncheon at the Amboy Community Building."

"We can serve more people there and it's accessible with parking, restrooms, and comfort."

Through the years, the luncheon has averaged 131 meals served with a high year of 145 and a low year of 120.

Since the church and the club are no longer charging for the chili, a free will donation is accepted. Profits are split between



the two parties.

"With the help of the luncheon, we were able to paint

the church's annex last year,"

Wittenauer said. "This year, we are putting our funds toward

painting the church. We're trying to keep the Lee Center United Church of Christ standing and the doors open. We want to make it appealing to everyone."

The Amboy Lions Club is always raising money for community projects and is currently working on an accessible park for special needs residents. Last year the luncheon fundraiser helped fund the disc golf course now at Amboy City Park.

Also to help raise money, is a basket raffle. Tickets are six for \$5 or \$1 each. The variety of baskets are donated to the raffle with many different items.

Wittenauer added ground beef donations from church members and Lions Club members helps make the luncheon possible every year.

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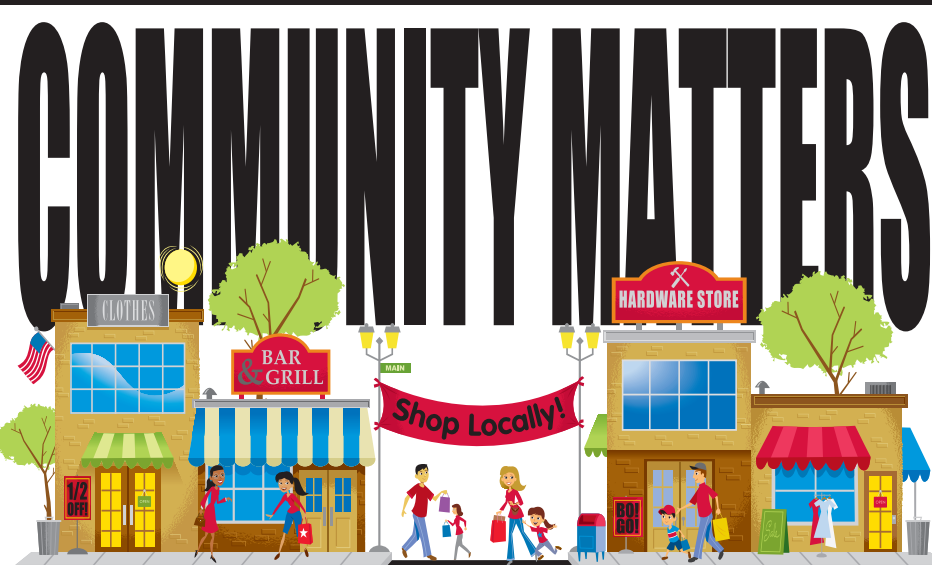


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LOCAL AND AREA

Pesticide applicator tests to be offered in winter 2025

OGLESBY – University of Illinois Extension – Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, and Putnam counties is offering the following testing-only sessions and certification program for pesticide applicators. Certification is required to apply restricted-use pesticides. All sessions are offered in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins will be allowed. Participants will need to bring a calculator. Calculators must be simple function calculators. No smartphones or smart devices will be allowed.

Information for 2025 testing-only sessions are as follows:

- LaSalle County
 - Wednesday, Jan. 15, 9 a.m.-noon (Private applicator test only), Illinois Valley Community College, 815 N Orlando Smith Road, Room C-316, Oglesby
 - Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, 9 a.m.-noon (Private applicator test only), LaSalle County Extension Office, 1689 North 31st Road, Suite 2, Ottawa
- Bureau County
 - Wednesday, Feb. 12, 9 a.m.-noon

(All tests offered), Bureau County Extension Office, 850 Thompson St., Princeton

–Wednesday, March 26, 9 a.m.-noon (All tests offered), Bureau County Extension Office, 850 Thompson St., Princeto

- Marshall-Putnam County:
 - Wednesday, Feb. 5, 9 a.m.-noon (All tests offered), Marshall-Putnam County Extension Office, 509 Front S.t, Henry
 - Friday, March 7, 9 a.m.-noon (All tests offered), Putnam County EMA Building, 1120 Old Illinois-26, Hen-nepin

There is no charge for the testing. Manuals and workbooks can be purchased online or at local Extension offices. Extension offices are located in Princeton, Ottawa, and Henry. Registration is available online through IDOA, visit go.illinois.edu/BLMPAg for more information.

If you need an accommodation to participate, please contact Emily Hansen at emhansen@illinois.edu or 815-224-0896. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

Agronomy Summit to be held January 23 at IVCC

OGLESBY – With the Midwest harvest season in the books and spring 2025 coming into view, plan to attend the University of Illinois Extension Oglesby Agronomy Summit. Attendees will hear research updates from university experts to gain insightful tips for making farm management decisions.

The Oglesby Agronomy Summit will be held on Thursday, Jan. 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby.

This year’s conference will feature research updates from University of Illinois faculty specialists, highlighting best management practices in the areas of soil fertility, corn and soybean management,

and industrial hemp.

Presentation topics include:

- Management Strategies with Low Incomes, presented by Dr. Gary Schnitkey, University of Illinois Ag Econ Professor
- Midwestern Hemp Research Collaborative: Insights into Agonomic Performance and Chemical Traits of Industrial Hemp for the North Central Region, presented by Dr. Chance Riggins, University of Illinois Crop Sciences Professor
- Current Strategies for Disease Management in Field Crops, presented by Dr. Boris Camiletti, University of Illinois Crop Sciences Professor
- Corn and Soybean Management Considerations for 2025, presented by Dr. Connor Sible,

University of Illinois Crop Sciences Professor

- Updating Illinois Phosphorus and Potassium Soil Test Recommendations for the 21st Century, presented by Luke Bergschneider, University of Illinois Soils Researcher

Registration cost is \$25 and includes lunch. Continuing education units are available for Certified Crop Advisers. Register online by Jan. 16, 2025 at go.illinois.edu/AGSOglesby.

If you need an accommodation to participate, please contact Emily Hansen at emhansen@illinois.edu or 815-224-0896. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

Adams Voice

- IN CONCERT -



Adams Voice live at LaMoille church

The Community United Methodist Church, located at 73 N. Main St. in LaMoille, is holding a concert featuring Adams Voice at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10. Adams Voice performs songs ranging a wide variety of styles for listeners of all ages. (Photo contributed)

Kish College to host Discover Kids for new students on Jan. 9 at Malta

MALTA – Kishwaukee College will host Discover Kish, an informational event for new students and their families. Discover Kish is from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at the College.

The event includes guided tours at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., student ID photos, textbook purchases or rentals, Kish swag and a Resource Fair from 10:30 a.m.-noon and 12:30-2 p.m.

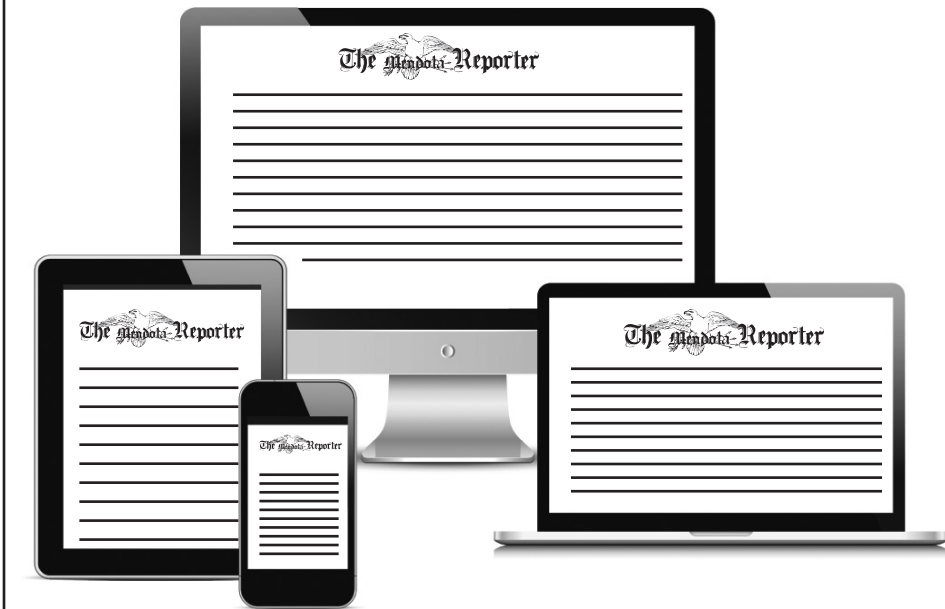
“Discover Kish is a great way to get a preview of campus and all the opportunities Kishwaukee College offers. We look

forward to showing you around and answering your questions before the start of the Spring 2025 semester,” said Colleen Tumminaro, Director of Dual Credit & K-12 Partnerships.

Check-in will take place in the Student Center, C-Wing Lobby. Guests can park in Parking Lot A and enter through Door 6. Registration is not required, but it is recommended for a faster check-in.

Learn more or register for Discover Kish at kish.edu/visit.

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OBITUARIES

Julia A. Wade

MENDOTA – Julia Ann Wade (née Johnson), 76, of Mendota, passed away the afternoon of Dec. 21, 2024, after a brief battle with lung cancer. She passed peacefully, surrounded by family.

A memorial visitation was held from 4-6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, at the Horner-Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota. A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 28 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Compton.

Julia was born Feb. 28, 1948, to Ray Johnson and Marie Johnson (née Foulk), the second of their three children, including her older brother Joel Johnson, and her younger sister Jill McNeill.

She is survived by her husband, Jim Wade; her sons, Erin and Gabe, and their wives, Marnie Wade (née Kerr) and Michelle Wade (née Montavan); her grandchildren, Savannah, Ethan, and Devin; Savannah's husband, Matt Brown and Ethan's fiancée, Dasie Newkirk; and her great-grandchildren, Miles and Rylin.

Julia was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Joel.

Julia lived and grew up with her family at the family homestead north of Mendota. She had many happy memories of her life growing up and would tell those stories frequently. She deeply loved her parents and siblings. She often spoke of her father Ray's kindness and generosity, and of his sense of humor. Her mother was a kind and gentle woman - traits she passed on to Julia. Throughout her mother Marie's life, Julia saw and spent time with her frequently, and spoke with her on a nearly daily basis. She maintained strong relationships with both her brother and sister, seeing and engaging with them often.

She attended schools in Mendota, and was an active member of the Girls Athletic Association, the White Collar Club, and Future Homemakers of America. Julia was an excellent student, and enjoyed school, with the exception of a pointed dislike for the tortures of mathematics. She made relationships in high school that she maintained and cherished throughout her life. And it was in school that she met James "Jim" Wade, the young man that would become her high school sweetheart, and later her devoted husband.

After high school she briefly pursued a career in the airline industry, attending Patricia Stevens Career College in Chicago, which she routinely referred to as a "finishing school" to friends and family. Ultimately, she decided instead to return home and start a family with her high school sweetheart, Jim.



They married on Sept. 14, 1968, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Compton. Their union persisted with deep love and affection for the entire 56 years they were together.

With Jim, Julia became the mother of two sons, Erin and Gabe. She embraced motherhood and proved to be an excellent parent, showing the patience, support, and firm boundaries needed to raise two very headstrong boys. She was side by side with her boys for hours of homework help, attended virtually every sporting event and activity, and was an enthusiastic personal and public cheerleader for her sons throughout. She actively chose the role of mother and housewife with pride - when asked once by her eldest son why she didn't "work," she explained, with patience and clarity, that she loved what she did, and then gently disabused the boy of the idea that raising him was somehow *not* work. With this, and despite the efforts of her sons, she kept an immaculate home (don't use the guest towels!). And, when the need arose from time to time, she did work outside of the home, aiding first her husband, and later her son and his family, in running the family business.

Julia loved being a grandmother and loved her three grandchildren - Savannah Brown (née Wade), Ethan Wade, and Devin Wade. She delighted in their company and their achievements. She attended myriad sporting events, plays, and musicals as she was able, and supported all of them as and when they needed it. She was delighted to have the opportunity to live to see and spend time her great-grandchildren - Miles and Rylin - as well.

Julia had a lifelong love of learning, and was an avid reader of novels, collecting hundreds of books from her favorite authors. Tied to this, she had a deep love of language and a sharp ear for alliteration and humorous turns of phrase. She enjoyed such things throughout her life and expressed it herself by engaging in mutual insult games with key family members, as well as by granting her friends and family with a variety of affectionate, and sometimes subtly, but delightfully, embarrassing nicknames. These were often modified and added to over time, taking on lives of their own. In return, she graciously received nicknames in kind, and was variously referred to, lovingly, as Julio, Jules, Blanche, Sissy, and Auntie Doodah, among many other names.

Julia was a woman with a strong sense of personal pride and dignity, but was also a woman of faith, was humble and self-deprecating. She likely did not fully appreciate the outsized impact she had, and will continue to have, on so many family members and friends. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Memorials can be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Compton.

Visit www.horner-merritt.com to sign online guestbook.

**Please see more
obituaries
on Page A7.**

Lynn L. Matheis

MENDOTA – Lynn Louise (Dunlap) Matheis, 70, of Mendota, died Monday, Dec. 23, 2024, at Allure Care Nursing Home, Mendota, in OSF Hospice Care, and further compromised by Covid-19 in early December.

No service will be held. There will be a private graveside service at a later date. Horner-Merritt Funeral Home is assisting with cremation.

She was born Oct. 22, 1954, in Shenandoah, Iowa, to Dan L. and Ruth (Ashelford) Dunlap, who soon thereafter moved to LaSalle County, Illinois, and to Mendota in 1963. Lynn married Michael V. Matheis of Chicago, on Aug. 4, 1979, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota.

Lynn Matheis is survived by her mother, Ruth L. Dunlap of Mendota; her sisters, Mary L. Orwig of Milan, Robin L. Austin of Earlville and Dawn L. Henning of Bedford Texas; nieces and nephew, Cassandra Orwig, Emily Henning and Adam Henning; and four cousins.

Lynn and her husband lived in the Chicago suburbs and worked for a model railroad equipment company and distributor, then lived in Mendota the past 20 years. Michael V. Matheis died in 2011 in Mendota. They had no children. They both enjoyed the card game of Magic The Gathering.

Lynn was confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota, and she was a graduate of Mendota High School in 1972 where she was named an Illinois State Scholar. She played clarinet in Mendota school bands and Augustana College, Rock Island, from which she was graduated in 1976 with a major in geology. She loved music and singing all her life. Lynn was a voracious reader all her life. She also enjoyed science fiction.

Kathryn A. Dungan

ELMHURST – Kathryn Ann Dungan, 66, of Elmhurst, passed away Dec. 25, 2024.

Public visitation was from 3-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30 at the Horner-Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota. Funeral mass was at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Mendota with Father Jeff Windy. Cremation care followed the funeral mass and burial of cremated remains will take place at a later date.

Kathryn was born Aug. 21, 1958, in LaSalle, the daughter of Paul and Constance (Slaughter) Kimrey. Kathy lived a fulfilling life and was a beacon of love and strength to those around her. Kathy was a 1976 graduate of Mendota Township High School. She then received her associate's in nursing from IVCC in 1978.

Kathy is survived by her loving husband, Otis Dungan of Elmhurst; two children, Grant Dungan and Molly (Mike) Novak, both of Elmhurst; two brothers, Tom (Sharon) Kimrey and Tim (Donna) Kimrey, both of Mendota; one sister, Mary Helen Kimrey of Monroe Center; and one grandchild, Elise Novak.

She is preceded in death by her father, Paul Kimrey, and her mother, Connie Kimrey, and one granddaughter, Angela Novak.

Having resided in Elmhurst for 40 years, her presence was a cherished part of the community. Kathy dedicated a significant part of her life to the medical field, serving as a devoted nurse at the UIC University of Illinois for 30 years, before retiring in 2023. Kathy lived her life from a place of positivity, always carrying an air of optimism and open heartedness. She will be remembered as loving and giving of her time to her friends and loved ones, particularly when it came to offering encouragement and praise.

Memorials can be made to the IVCC Foundation for the Establishment of Kathy Dungan Memorial Nursing Scholarship. Visit www.horner-merritt.com



DEATH NOTICES

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

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Notice is given of the Annual Open Meeting at the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry. The meeting is open to the public and anyone wanting to serve on the board or anyone with other business should attend. Election of board members and officers will take place at this meeting. The meeting will be held at the pantry at 710 6th Ave., Mendota, IL. at 6:30 pm on January 14, 2025.

01012025

Furar's auto body

David Furar
Owner

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01012025

LOCAL AND AREA

Lions Club offers free bowling to students

MENDOTA – The Mendota Lions Club is hosting free bowling for any student aged 6-16 during Christmas break. The event will be held on Friday, Jan. 3 at the Mendota Elks Lodge.

Students ages 6-9 can bowl free from 10 a.m.-noon. Students ages 10-12 will take the lanes from noon-2 p.m. and students 13-16 years old can bowl from 2-4 p.m.

Pizza and water will be available for the students. Supervision is provided.

IVCC celebrates the success of new surgical technician program

OGLESBY – A total of 27 students are expected to complete the Illinois Valley Community College's inaugural surgical technician program this fall, IVCC President Dr. Tracy Morris reported to the College Board of Trustees on Dec. 12.

Non-credit programs like the surgical technician program are typically fast-tracked programs that lead to certification. A third section of the program is scheduled to be offered during spring semester, beginning Jan. 9, 2025.

Responding to a demand from healthcare organizations facing a critical shortage of skilled workers, the Continuing Education and Business Services department developed and implemented the course through the Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce (PATH) Grant. The program fills that gap while offering students unique on-site observation opportunities. Under the workforce training grant, students can also become eligible for a partial tuition waiver.

Surgical technicians prepare the operating room with instruments, equipment, supplies, and medications. Graduates are in demand by hospitals, and the OSF Healthcare system even offers hiring incentives. Dr. Morris also indicated that

Morris Hospital has partnered with IVCC to provide clinical hours for students.

In other action, the Board approved a \$17.1 million tax levy, which increased over the 2023 actual levy of \$14.9 million due in large part to an increase in district EAV and the addition of a Protection, Health and Safety levy to support relocation of a microbiology lab to address safety concerns. The levy will result in an increase of approximately \$7.96 on a \$100,000 home.

The Board also established a new meeting schedule for 2025. Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in January through April. Then, beginning in May, the meetings will be on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. These dates can be found at www.ivcc.edu/board/board_meeting_dates.php.

In other action, the Board:

- Learned of the appointments Dr. Sammy Kumar, CNA instructor; Kaitlyn Edgcomb, recruitment coordinator, and Christopher Stickney, maintenance.
- Learned of the retirement of Christine Blaydes, CNA instructor/program coordinator, at the end of this year, the retirement of Lynn Moore, enrollment services assistant, in February 2025, and the resignation of art instructor Rachael Olson.

MPD gives winter driving safety tips

MENDOTA – The Mendota Police Department would like to remind drivers of a few safety tips to keep everyone safe while driving in winter weather conditions.

Take the time to clean the snow and ice from all vehicle windows prior to driving on the road. Keep your speed down to assist in keeping control of your own vehicle when driving on slick icy roads. If traveling long distances remember to pack a few emergency items to take along in the event your vehicle should go off the roadway, including a cell phone, blankets and water.

If you are leaving town and need information regarding road conditions, call 800-452-4368.

Laws

Continued from Page A1

using AI, according to House Bill 4623. Supporters of the bill, including the Illinois Attorney General's Office, said it is becoming more difficult to distinguish between real and AI-generated images. They said updating Illinois' child pornography laws was a necessary to step allow law enforcement to identify and prosecute child pornography cases.

House bill 4875 also adds new protections to prohibit using AI to recreate a person's voice, image or likeness for commercial purposes without the person's consent. Recording artists can seek damages for violations of the law.

Politics and religion at work

Employees can't be required to sit through work meetings discussing religion or politics starting Jan. 1. Senate Bill 3649, an initiative of the Illinois AFL-CIO, creates new protections for employees who skip out on such meetings and prevents employers from retaliating against them.

The law does not prohibit discussing religion or politics at work, but employees are not required to participate in the discussions if such activities are not part of their job. The law excludes non-profit and advocacy groups where politics or religion may be part of job.

Coming later in 2025

Pritzker's signature health reform package goes into effect on Jan. 1, but most provisions don't have to be implemented until the beginning of 2026. House Bill 5395 bans "step therapy," which requires patients to try and fail treatments preferred by insurance companies before they can receive the treatment recommended by their doctor.

It also bans insurance companies from requiring prior authorization for emergency in-patient mental health treatment, requires insurers to keep up-to-date lists of in-network providers and expands the power of the Illinois Department of Insurance to regulate premium rates.

Many hotels in Illinois will no longer be allowed to provide customers with single-use plastic soap and shampoo beginning July 1 under Senate Bill 2960. The

In addition to the laws taking effect on Jan. 1, the state's minimum wage will rise to \$15 to complete a ramp up initiated during Gov. JB Pritzker's first month in office in 2019.

move is designed to cut down on waste from single-use products. The Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association supported the change. Hotels with fewer than 50 rooms have until 2026 to make the change.

Other new laws

NIL money: Student athletes at NCAA universities can earn name, image and likeness money directly from their universities. House Bill 307 was an initiative of the University of Illinois.

Hearing aids: Insurance providers must cover medically prescribed hearing aids for all people under House Bill 2443. Coverage was previously only required for those under 18.

Gym memberships: House Bill 4911 requires gyms and fitness centers to accept multiple ways for people to cancel their membership. Physical fitness locations also must now allow customers to cancel their membership by email or online. Customers will also be allowed to submit written notice for canceling their membership by mail.

Subscription renewals: Businesses that offer a free trial or promotional period for their product or service must notify customers at least three days before the subscription automatically renews at a paid rate under Senate Bill 2764. The law only applies to subscriptions longer than 15 days.

Crime victim DNA: DNA evidence collected from a person who is the victim of a crime to aid a criminal investigation cannot be entered into a DNA database, according to House Bill 1168.

(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.)

MHS

Continued from Page A1

or ground. At this time, the board is no longer interested in researching solar energy options.

Phase 4 will also include mandated health life safety work. The majority of the work is in flooring and masonry projects. The summer of 2025 will be the work completion dates.

The 10-year Health Life Safety survey is a regulation established by the state of Illinois for public school buildings. It is a comprehensive safety survey by a licensed architect, and the district's architect is DLAArchitects. The survey ensures compliance with building codes and identifies necessary repairs and upgrades to maintain a safe learning environment. The majority of the district's safety survey results are "Level A" items to repair within one year of the survey. The summer 2025 work items will include a Level A priority items.

The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board will be Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m.

Dolly

Continued from Page A1

Imagination Library can help break the cycle of poverty that some families go through," according to Burt.

Four years ago, NCRBC and its collaborators debuted the 'Words Matter' program in which every mother discharged from area maternity wards is given a set of children books along with a pamphlet explaining the importance of reading and verbally engaging their newborns. Over 2,300 book sets and pamphlets have been given out.

"Providing these services does have an ongoing cost. We are asking those who are able to consider a donation in conjunction with 'Giving Tuesday.' The webpage, ncrbc.net, is equipped with a donation page, which will also be offered on links in various social media platforms."

Enrollment information can be found at imaginationlibrary.com or at ncrbc.net.

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2025

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OPINION



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Without major policy shifts, U.S. economy is likely to slow further in 2025

By ORPHE DIVOUNGUY
The Center Square contributor

(The Center Square) – The Federal Reserve recently lowered the target for the federal funds rate by another quarter point while signaling fewer rate cuts in 2025 than previously anticipated.

This approach aligns with the Fed’s dual mandate to promote price stability and support the labor market. Headline inflation has accelerated in recent months, and a strong economy has left room for further price growth. Reflecting this, the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury has risen nearly 100 basis points since the first rate cut in September.

However, with inflation already below the median FOMC member forecast of 2.5%, the Fed is signaling greater tolerance for a slightly higher inflation rate in 2025. At the same time, a modest softening in the labor market could prompt more rate cuts than currently projected in the latest Summary of Economic Projections.

The labor market clearly remains a key concern for the Fed.

Job openings have fallen significantly over the past year, leaving the labor market looser than it was before the pandemic. While nominal wage growth remains elevated at roughly 4%, it is not a source of inflationary pressures. Job-to-job changes – an important source of wage gains – have fallen drastically.

Absent major policy initiatives from Congress, job gains are likely to underwhelm in the coming year. Slower-than-expected employment and wage growth could also push down the benchmark 10-year Treasury yield, which influences consumer borrowing costs for credit cards, auto loans and mortgages.

The housing market provides further evidence of economic cooling. Historically, housing starts have been a reliable leading indicator of changes in real economic growth. Significant shifts in new home construction often signal broader economic trends, and housing starts are currently 14.6% lower than a year ago. Most housing forecasters have also downgraded their outlook for home sales in 2025.

In past downturns, declining residential investment has been a leading contributor to economic weakness before a recession, followed by reductions in business spending on equipment and software during a recession. Consumer spending tends to be the last domino to fall. While my baseline forecast suggests the U.S. economy will avoid a recession in 2025, the Fed may need to ease policy in the second half of next year to prevent stalling growth in 2026.

That said, early-year data volatility could heighten market fluctuations. Still, with the labor market expected to cool further, the Fed’s recalibration of monetary policy is far from complete. Economic risks remain tilted toward a slower pace of growth in the year ahead.

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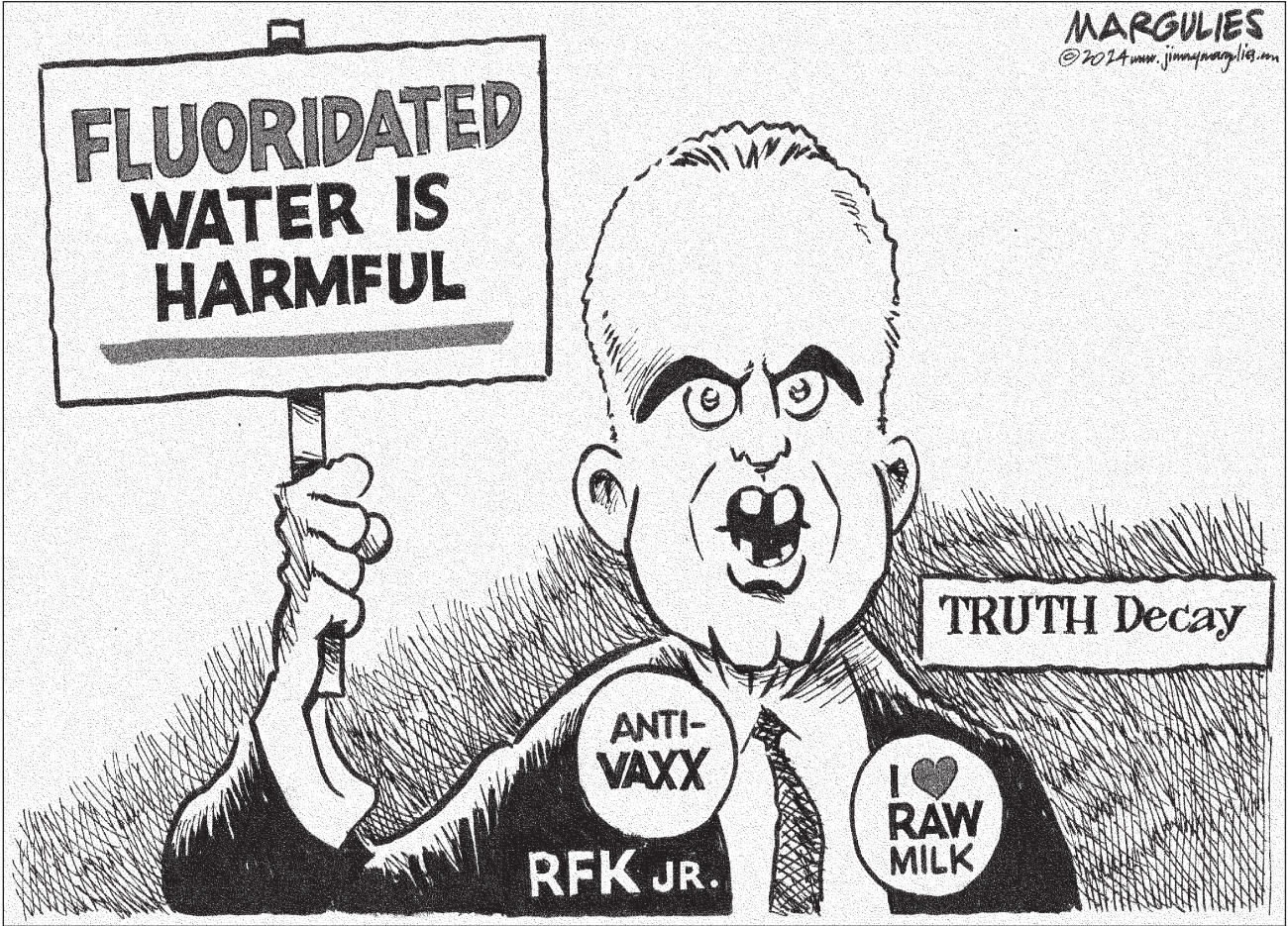
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School proposals put to vote – 1954

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Jan. 5, 1994.)

By Jessica Nashold

Forty years ago this month, The Mendota Reporter was filled with details of school proposals, which would be put to a vote at a special election on Feb. 2, 1954.

Dr. William C. Reavis from the University of Chicago had predicted that enrollment at Mendota High School, which stood at 442 in the 1953-54 school year, would be 646 by 1963-64. Furthermore, if seventh and eighth grades were to be included in the high school building, enrollment would exceed 1,000.

School “experts” were recommending that the seventh and eighth grades be housed at MHS. The eighth grade had already been there for two years, with the grade school district reimbursing the high school district for a share of the costs.

The “experts” also recommended three additions to the school – an east wing for farm and metal shops, an enlargement of the gym and a west wing to double the size of the cafeteria.

Architects’ drawings of the building as it would look with these additions, as well as floor plans, were published for consideration by voters.

Also recommended was a nine-car bus garage to be built at the athletic field with space for dressing rooms and public restrooms, plus permanent bleachers to seat 2,000.

In the Feb. 2 election, voters were asked to approve transfer of seventh and eighth grade classes to the high school, to approve construction of three additions and bonding of \$635,000 to finance the project. Also to approve construction at the athletic field with bonding of \$95,000 for financing. It was estimated that the resultant tax increase would be 11 cents per \$100 valuation.

The referendum was defeated.

At a meeting held Jan. 4, 1954, at the home of Mrs. Walter Delaney, the newly organized Mendota Community

Backtracks & Sidetracks

Theatre set about choosing the cast for its first offering, “Arsenic and Old Lace.”

The play was scheduled to be presented on Washington’s birthday under auspices of Mendota Community Hospital Auxiliary, which was to receive the proceeds from ticket sales.

A cast meeting was held Jan. 8 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Hume.

An invitation to join the group is extended to anyone interested in theater work.

Methodists held an election in their church parlors on Sunday, Jan. 10, 1954, to determine the site for their new church. The Rev. John Paul Stafford Jr. invited “all members in good standing, 18 and above,” to cast a ballot. The parlors would remain open until 4 o’clock.

The choice was between a lot on Sixth Street and the site of the older church on Sixth Avenue and Fifth Street. Before the vote was taken the merits of each location were described by Lila Powell, Edward Baker Jr., Glenn Momeny and Virgil Scott.

The vote was 247 for the new site, 57 for the existing location.

The new site, on the northeast corner of Sixth Street and First Avenue, known as the Otto Schlesinger property, would be purchased. A house on that corner would be moved.

It was announced that services would continue to be held in the old church until the new edifice was completed.

A legal notice dated Dec. 28, 1953, indicated that a charter had been issued to a not-for-profit corporation, Mendota Lutheran Home, to maintain and operate a nursing home and home for the aged.

On Jan. 5, 1954, a group of volunteers

met to organize a Newcomer’s Club as part of the Chamber of Commerce “Welcome to Mendota” program. The volunteers were the Mesdames Dan Copper, Forest Frazier, Warren Hanson, Spencer Johnson, Wayne Nelson and John Redmon. Purpose of the new club

To assist new residents in getting acquainted with each other and with the organizations and activities available in Mendota.

The first meeting was held at the Lions Den on Jan. 28.

A game between MHS and DePue resulted in a 57-57 tie, but the DePue box score showed one more field goal than the scoreboard. An adjusted score gave DePue a 59-57 win.

Upon looking in the rule book, officials agreed the running score had preference over the box score and the 57-57 tie was restored.

Coach Doenier requested an overtime, but this was refused by the DePue coach.

The only thing left to do is protest the game, which is being done.

The Kanteen Mothers’ Board for 1954 met with Mrs. Frank Prescott in charge. She issued a call for a used vacuum with brush attachment to be used in cleaning the Kanteen bowling lanes.

The Rev. E.L. Holcomb was called to the First Baptist Church. He followed the Rev. Kenneth W. Sollitt who was called to Midland, Mich.

William Brown sold his Mendota Feed Store to Norman Mortensen.

The parking meter ordinance was revised. A 15-cent fine would be assessed if paid within 48 hours and 50 cents during the next 48 hours. The \$1 fine was eliminated.

It was the intention of the city to alleviate traffic problems, not to make money or antagonize shoppers.

How far can enemies push the U.S.?

By Rich Lowry

If they have any instinct for self-preservation, Iran and Hamas should be monitoring President-Elect Donald Trump’s communications closely these days.

A couple of weeks ago, there was the Truth Social post promising “ALL HELL TO PAY” if Hamas didn’t release its hostages by Trump’s inauguration on Jan. 20.

“Those responsible,” Trump noted, “will be hit harder than anybody has been hit in the long and storied History of the United States of America.”

He followed up during a press conference Monday. When asked what he meant by his prior threat, Trump left it menacingly vague. “Well,” he said, referring to our adversaries, “they’re going to have to determine what that means, but it means it won’t be pleasant. It’s not going to be pleasant.”

What does that signify? Does Trump have something in particular in mind, or is he making it up as he goes along? Is he bluffing? Or is he deadly earnest?

No one has come up with a Trump Doctrine yet, but a candidate might be: Find out if I’m serious or not at your own risk.

The most basic thing to note about Trump’s threat, though, is that it is the first time an official of the U.S. government -- or a soon-to-be government official -- has sounded appropriately outraged and harsh about an ongoing crime perpetrated against our fellow citizens.

Trump’s “hell to pay” is a throwback to Andrew Jackson or Teddy Roosevelt, making it clear that we aren’t to be trifled with, and doing it in a clarion tone.

It’s been shocking how muted the Biden administration has been about the hostages. Whereas Trump is expressing a righteous indignation in thunderous terms, the Biden administration has spoken as compellingly as a deputy Secretary of State summarizing the notes of a three-hour-long committee meeting.

This kind of jawboning comes naturally to Trump, of course. His approach doesn’t represent any particular foreign-policy theory. It’s not realist, or neocon, or isolationist. It’s less Clausewitz’s “On War” or Thomas Schelling’s “The

Strategy of Conflict,” than Trump’s “Art of the Deal.”

The famous British line is that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton; in the same sense, every successful Trump negotiation as president has been won on the playing fields of Manhattan real estate, where Trump first learned his distinctive mode of gaining leverage and psychological advantage.

His willingness to escalate and follow through means no threat can be completely discounted, while his sheer unpredictably adds to the difficulty of any foreign actor trying to calculate his next move.

To the famous Machiavellian axiom “It’s better to be feared than to be loved,” Trump adds the proviso, “and it’s best to keep them guessing, either way.”

This couldn’t be in starker contrast to Joe Biden, who always fears escalation and is predictably conventional to the point of being sodden and dull.

Trump is what they call in poker a “loose aggressive player,” whereas Biden plays measured games of bridge over tea and crumpets.

The president-elect doesn’t like foreign conflict, but he bombed ISIS to smithereens as promised in 2016 and killed the top Iranian intelligence official, Qasem Soleimani, without hesitation in 2020. The safest default is to take him at his word, even if you only -- in Trump’s words about a threat he says he made to Vladimir Putin in his first term -- believe him “ten percent.”

With an eye to the imminent arrival of Trump, there is a chance that Hamas cuts a deal over the hostages in the coming weeks, the same way Iran released the captives from the U.S. Embassy in 1980 just as Ronald Reagan was taking office.

Regardless of how it plays out, we are already re-entering a period when enemies of the United States have to be scared or nervous, not knowing how far they can push us, or what will happen if they do. And that’s exactly where Donald Trump wants them.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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OBITUARIES/TRI-COUNTY NEWS

Pamela J. Spanier

BYRON – Pamela Jane (Hough) Spanier, 70, of Byron, passed away peacefully with her loving husband and sister by her side on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, at her home in Byron.

She was cremated. A visitation for friends and family has been scheduled for Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, between the hours of 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church of Byron. Immediately following the visitation, a memorial mass will take place in her honor at 3 p.m. with Father Richard Rosinski presiding at St. Mary Catholic Church of Byron. She will be laid to rest at Walnut Hill Cemetery of Council Bluffs, Iowa, at a later date.

She was born July 17, 1954, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, the daughter of Donald and Wanda (Woods) Hough. She graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1972. She went on to obtain her bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Iowa State University. She married the love of her life, Robert Spanier, at St. Edwards Church of Rockford, on Sept. 1, 1986.

She is survived and missed dearly by her loving husband Robert Spanier of Byron; sister Teri Hough of Council Bluffs, Iowa; brothers, Donald (Ana) Hough Jr. of San Diego, Calif., Roger (Marilyn) Hough of Indian Land, S.C., John (Juli) Hough of Council Bluffs, Iowa; sister-in-law, Gloria Mannino (Hough) of Dallas, Texas; brother-in-law, Joe (Diane) Spanier of Mendota; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Wanda; brother, Richard Hough; brothers-in-law, James Spanier and John Spanier; and sisters-in-law, Marilyn (Spanier) Neff and Bernice Spanier.

Pamela enjoyed being part of the Byron and Stillman Valley Library Book Clubs and participating in the Byron Library crafting classes. She had also been a member of the Byron Chapter of the Red Hat Ladies. She loved to travel the United States and abroad with her husband, visiting family and friends, and finding breweries along the way to enjoy. The two would spend time at their cabin in Breezy Point, Minn., enjoying family visiting and friends they had met in the area.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Serenity Hospice and Home of Oregon, Ill., so they may continue to serve our communities.

To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in her memory please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com.



Gloria A. Stremlau

MENDOTA – Gloria A. Stremlau, 94, of Mendota, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, at Liberty Village in Peru.

Public visitation was from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, at the Horner-Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota. Funeral Mass was at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 30 at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Peterstown. Burial followed at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery.

She was born Oct. 16, 1930, in Freeport, to Ervin and Emma Nelson. She married Jerome Stremlau on Nov. 26, 1949, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

They were blessed with five children, Beth A (David) Doran of Lebanon, Ind., Diane M. (Lloyd) Chapman of Ottawa, Steven A. (Karen) Stremlau of Mendota, Kevin F (Luanne) Stremlau of Peoria, and Alan J (Misty) Stremlau of Tonica; 12 grandchildren, Michael Doran, Bridget Doran, Craig Renz, Kyle Stremlau, Kurt Stremlau, Kory Stremlau and Konner Stremlau, Stacy Sparks, Melissa Perschall, Janelle Lewis, Sarah Angelos, Austin Stremlau; 16 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was proceeded in death by her husband, Jerome; parents, Ervin and Emma Nelson; and brother, Duane Nelson.

Gloria worked at Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Peru for 22 years as a Certified Dietary Manager. She was a convert to the Catholic faith. She was a Eucharistic minister at church and to the homebound. She was a member of the Altar Society at Sts. Peter and Paul. She helped establish the "Teens Encounter Christ" program and was Lay Director for numerous years. She was an avid supporter of the Cursillo movement and was kitchen chairperson for numerous years. Including the Cursillo Prison Ministry, she was an advocate for the Prolife movement, Prayer Chain and St. Bede Abbey Oblates. She organized the "We Are The Church" program, the Peterstown Homecoming Program, "See You At The Pole" program and was member of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women receiving the Pere Marquette Award from the Peoria Diocese. She was a volunteer at the Abigail Pregnancy Outreach Center and was a volunteer at Nightingale's Closet in Mendota and at Mendota Hospital.

She was her husband's caregiver for five years, and following his death, she traveled to many world destinations. No matter what she was involved in, her family, children and grandchildren received priority.

Memorials can be made to Abigail Pregnancy Center, Illinois Valley Cursillo, or Peterstown "Teens Encounter Christ" program. Visit www.horner-merritt.com for online guestbook.



Paw Paw School Board OKs reduced tax levy

PAW PAW – The Paw Paw School Board met in regular session on Dec. 17.

The yearly property tax levy was approved. The tentative tax rate will be reduced by approximately 1% from last year's rate.

The eighth grade presented a video of why the class would like their Class Trip on May 20 to be extended to an overnight. It was decided that there were insufficient educational opportunities presented to require an overnight stay. The request was denied by the Board.

The building's boilers and fire pump on the north side of the building need to be replaced. Bids are going out for the project in January, and for a glycol-leak-alert system to be possibly added.

No asbestos abatement is needed for this summer's projects.

There is an ongoing discussion with Indian Creek and Hinckley-Big Rock for a potential co-op with the girls' softball and girls' soccer teams.

The deactivation agreement with Indian Creek School District was approved for school years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.

The Board intends to send a letter to our state representative regarding the option of the deactivation of the high school status being considered from a two-year reassessment to a 10-year reassessment.

Indian Creek Director of Special Education Matthew Swanson was present to inform the Board of activities at the high school, and to answer any questions.

Board policies were reviewed for a second month and will be voted on to be updated at the February board meeting.

Board members who attended the Illinois State Board of Education program's Evidence-Based Funding reported that the accountability standards are not equal from state to state. The

Statewide System of Support focuses resources on the schools and districts with the greatest need to build the capacity of school leaders to implement effective school improvement practices. The goal is to enable schools in improvement status to improve student outcomes and exit status. Resource Allocation Review hopes to have these defined and implemented state-wide by 2030.

Braden Hill has been hired as custodian.

Gracie Rabuck and Teresa Cardot were approved as Junior High Planning Directors.

The wage for IVVC morning bus route has been doubled.

There will be a Crisis and Emergency Communication Planning, Preparedness and School Safety conference conducted by the Lee County Sheriff's office, which Ms. DuBois intends to attend.

Proposed bill aims to reduce state requirements for name changes

□ Sponsors cite safety concerns for victims of domestic abuse, transgender people

By ATMIKA IYER
Medill Illinois News Bureau
for Capitol News Illinois

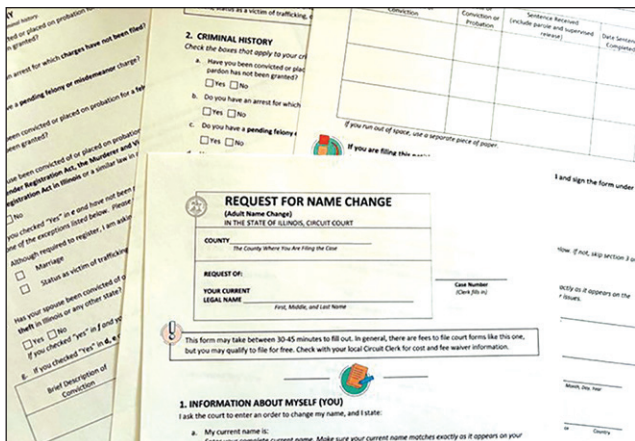
SPRINGFIELD — Illinois lawmakers in early January could consider easing requirements for residents to change their names, a move proponents say will reduce risks for victims of domestic abuse, transgender residents and others.

The measure must clear the full Senate in the first week of January to reach Gov. JB Pritzker's desk, otherwise it must go through the entire legislative process again after a new General Assembly convenes Jan. 8.

The bill, House Bill 5164, would eliminate an existing requirement to publish name changes with a local newspaper. It would also reduce the state residency requirement of people wanting to change their name from six months to three months.

"There are residents in our state who do not feel safe when they are an adoptee; they're transgender; they're an immigrant; they're a survivor of domestic violence, survivor of sexual exploitation and human trafficking," Sen. Ram Villivalam, the bill's sponsor and a Chicago Democrat, said in an interview. "So they would like to change their name, and in doing so, we need to remove as many barriers as we can to ensure their health and safety."

The goal of the bill is to decrease threats to people who have endured domestic abuse, discrimination and other threats to their safety. Villivalam said 24 states have already eased this requirement. Planned Parenthood,



Equality Illinois and Brave Space Alliance are pushing for the change.

But the Senate's top Republican, Sen. John Curran, R-Downers Grove, pushed back against the bill. He argued that impounding the records, meaning restricting access to them, should have a higher threshold.

Individuals are allowed to petition the court to impound records if they believe public disclosure would put them in harm's way. That process allows individuals to self-attest to hardships and says they may – but are not required to – submit documentation.

"Why make it permissive, rather than a requirement, to attach relevant documents to the petition," Curran said during a November committee meeting.

But Mike Ziri, the director of public policy at Equality Illinois, said impounded records don't disappear from court records and are not sealed, but rather are selectively available to the involved parties.

"So it's not a complete sealing. There will still be access to parties and by the clerk, as well," Ziri said. "In

my experience, working with communities, folks who say they've experiencing hardship and headache, they're not making that up, and they want protection for very good reasons."

The Republicans who hold a minority in the state senate questioned whether noncitizens with a criminal record could change their names to evade legal consequences as a result of the lowered requirements for a name change.

"Is this creating a loophole for people who are here, who are criminals and part of things involved in the trafficking, involved in all of these nefarious activities that we've been reading about?" Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, said.

Ziri said that the self-attestation was for impounding the court records of name changes, not to get the name change itself. Illinois law states that people on the sex offender registry, arsonists and people on the murderer and violent offender against youth list are barred from seeking name changes. The exceptions are marriage, religious reasons, human

trafficking or gender identity. He also said a name change still requires the signature of a judge, and the process can take months.

"Changing your name does not allow you to escape the criminal record. That was legislation that was passed two years ago," Ziri said. "That's on top of the other requirement state police already have to check the criminal records with the name change granted months later."

Villivalam said this bill takes Illinois "another step forward" in ensuring the health and safety of residents.

"Now, more than ever – given the rise in hate and discrimination across the board – people you know feel targeted. So the legislative work that we can do to reassure them on their safety and health is part of our job," Villivalam said in an interview. "As people continue to feel the hate, feel the discrimination, get targeted, we need to continue to take these steps to make sure they feel healthy and safe."

(Atmika Iyer is a graduate student in journalism with Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, and a Fellow in its Medill Illinois News Bureau working in partnership with Capitol News Illinois.)

(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.)

Prohibited Parking Ordinance

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

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

Daily Food & Drink Specials

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Friday & Saturday 11AM-11PM

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Family Deal

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With this coupon. Valid at Mendota location only. Not valid with other offers, specials, catering or prior purchases.

Offer expires 2/5/25. Code 24deal

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18" thin crust

2 topping pizza & 6 bone in buffalo wings

With this coupon. Valid at Mendota location only. Not valid with other offers, specials, catering or prior purchases.

Offer expires 2/5/25. Code 31meal

THE BACK PAGE

Upcoming U of I Extension program series to focus on sustainable agriculture practices

5 programs to run Jan. 16 through March 20

OGLESBY – University of Illinois Extension will host a program series this winter all about sustainable agriculture.

Sustainability on the Farm is a series of educational programs designed to empower farmers and landowners with the knowledge and tools to implement sustainable agricultural practices on their land. The program will explore various topics, providing participants with practical insights and strategies to enhance their operations while minimizing environmental impact. Each

session will be hosted by local industry experts from organizations such as The Wetlands Initiative, Pheasants Forever Quail Forever, American Farmland Trust, and USDA NRCS.

Program schedule:

- Cover crops: Thursday, Jan. 16, 10-11 a.m. at Illinois Valley Community College
- Wildlife habitat: Thursday, Feb. 6, 10-11 a.m. at Bureau County Extension Office
- Conservation tillage: Thursday, Feb. 20, 10-11 a.m. at Bureau County Extension Office

• Edge of field practices: Thursday, March 6, 10-11 a.m. at Illinois Valley Community College

• Cost share programs: Thursday, March 20, 10-11 a.m. at Marshall-Putnam Extension Office

Register online at go.illinois.edu/SustainableFarms.

If you need an accommodation to participate, contact Emily Hansen at emhansen@illinois.edu or 815-224-0896. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.



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Janko Realty & Development

Janko Realty currently has **1, 2 and 3 bedroom and studio units** available for rent in Mendota. Please check out our available rentals and applications online at www.jankorealty.propertyware.com or call **815-830-4422**.

03062023

DINING & entertainment guide



Winter Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 11am-8pm
Thursday 4pm-8pm | Friday 11am-9pm
Saturday 10:30am-9pm
Sunday 10:30am-8pm

Mendota (815) 539-5985
1206 13th Avenue, Mendota
www.elzarapemendota.com



Monday, Wednesday, Thursday • 10am to 8pm
Friday - Saturday • 10 am to 9 pm | Sunday • 10 am to 4
Closed Tuesday

Authentic Mexican Food!

(815) 539-8400
604 6th St., Mendota

09022024

Community Calendar

JANUARY 2025

OCT. 1, 2024 - SEPT. 30, 2025

ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by M.A.S.S. Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

All are welcome to join in the fun.

JAN. 7, 14, 21 & 28

Wii BOWLING

Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 10:30 AM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call (815) 539-7700

All welcome to come and enjoy the fun!

JAN. 7, 14, 21 & 28

EUCHRE

Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 12 PM (Noon)

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

All are welcome!

JAN. 8

SMALL FRIES

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

4 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

Registration is required for ALL youth programs. 3 years - Kindergarten.

JAN. 9

LEGO CLUB

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

4 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

Registration is required for ALL youth programs. Grades 1st - 8th.

JAN. 9

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

Registration is required for ALL youth programs. Birth - 2 year olds.

JAN. 11

BLUEGRASS, GOSPEL, COUNTRY

OPEN MIC MUSIC JAM

Sponsored by Northern IL Bluegrass Association (NIBA) & Ophir Community Building (OCB)

6 - 10 PM

Ophir Community Building, Triumph, IL

For more info call (815) 488-9154 - Jay Allen

FREE

Donations accepted for refreshments. No Smoking or Alcohol.

JAN. 13

CREATE ART AT THE LIBRARY

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

Registration is required for ALL youth programs. Help us create art for the Youth Services Department. Design a paper heart for all to see! Supplies will be provided. All ages.

JAN. 14

JANUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1 PM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Join us for free Birthday Cake & Coffee.

JAN. 14 - FEB. 18

MANAGING ANXIETY FOR CAREGIVERS & KIDS

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

6 PM

FREE

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

Six week course with Tricia Lockwood who is a Family Peer Specialist specializing in psycho-education that supports children/teens, parents and caregivers. Meet at the Library every Tuesday from 6-7 pm. January 14 - February 18.

JAN. 14 & 28

BLOOD PRESSURE / BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS

Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 11 AM - 12 PM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Free to anyone in the community.

JAN. 15

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

11 AM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

Registration is required for ALL youth programs. Birth - 2 year olds.

JAN. 21

3RD TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

Choose

1 PM OR 6 PM

FREE

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

New members are encouraged to come! January we are reading and discussing "In Five Years" by Rebecca Serle. Stop by the Library to pick up a copy of the book.

JAN. 21 - FEB. 18

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

11AM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

FREE

Show love by feeding those in need. Food items will be collected for the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry at the Library. Cash donations also accepted.

JAN. 22

MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S. - "THE APARTMENT" (1960) STARRING SHIRLEY MACLAINE

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library & M.A.S.S.

3 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Free. Snacks (popcorn and beverages) provided by M.A.S.S.

JAN. 23

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

Registration is required for ALL youth programs. Birth - 2 year olds.

JAN. 27

TWEENS

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

FREE

Registration is required for ALL youth programs. Grades 5th - 8th. Are you an artist? No? Well, great! For Bad Art Night, you don't have to be! All you need to do is create a terrible work of art. Pizza from Mendota Rosati's at 6:30 p.m.

JAN. 29

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

11 AM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

Registration is required for ALL youth programs. Birth - 2 year olds.

JAN. 31

JANUARY POTLUCK

Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 12 PM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Meat dish will be provided. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Public Library 11 AM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call (815) 538-5142
Registration is required for ALL youth programs. Birth - 2 year olds.

JAN. 15
CHAPTER CREW
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library
4 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

FREE

Registration is required for ALL youth programs. Grades 1st and Older.

Introduction into chapter books with play and movement incorporated!

JAN. 21

3RD TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

Choose

1 PM OR 6 PM

FREE

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142

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JAN. 21 - FEB. 18

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Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library

11AM

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11 AM

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For more info call (815) 538-5142

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JAN. 31

JANUARY POTLUCK

Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 12 PM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Meat dish will be provided. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

More local events found at mendotachamber.com

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

Basil Construction

Becker Chiropractic

Beck's BP

Beck's 1-39 Auto/Truck Plaza

Big Uproar Music

Black Brothers

Boelk Truck Lines

Bower's Corner Tap

Buckman Iron & Metal

SPORTS



Mendota's varsity boys' basketball team won the consolation championship of the Plano Christmas Classic after a 43-40 victory over Sandwich on Dec. 28. After losing in the first round, the Trojans won their final three games of the tournament. (Photo contributed)

Trojans take consolation title at Plano

□ MHS tops Sandwich in finale; finishes with 3-1 tournament record

PLANO – After an opening-round loss, Mendota went on to win three straight games and capture the consolation championship of the Plano Christmas Classic. The Trojans began action with a 57-54 loss to LaSalle-Peru on Dec. 23. Mendota trailed 27-20 at halftime and L-P took a 47-39 lead to the fourth frame where a Trojan rally came up short. Cam Kelly had his shooting eye for the Trojans as he drained five three-pointers on his way to a team-high 17 points. Cole Tillman was close behind with 16 markers. Drew Becker ripped down six rebounds to pace the team.

Mendota responded nicely after the loss with a 63-19 decision over Gardner-South Wilmington in second-round action on Dec. 26.

The Trojans raced out to a 16-6 advantage after the opening stanza and then outscored GSW, 22-2, in the second period to take a 38-8 lead to the locker room. Ten Trojans broke into the scoring column, led by Cole Tillman with 18. Kelly and Aden Tillman provided nine points apiece. Dane Doyle topped the squad with six rebounds.

Another fast start propelled the Trojans to a 67-52 verdict over Plano on Dec. 27. The win vaulted Mendota into the consolation championship game. The Trojans grabbed a 16-7 lead after the first eight-minute session and increased the margin to 36-19 at the break. Mendota was able to maintain a comfortable lead throughout the second half.

Mendota had three players reach double digits in scoring, led by Aden Tillman with 20 tallies. He connected on five shots from three-point land. Cole Tillman was next with 18 points and Becker added 10. Cole Tillman paced the club with nine caroms.

Mendota (9-6) closed out the tournament with a narrow 43-40 triumph over Sandwich in the consolation championship (9th place) contest on Dec. 28. The Trojans led throughout the first half, including 21-14 at the half, before Sandwich rallied in the second half to make it a tighter final margin. Aden Tillman (12) and Braiden Freeman (10) hit double figures in scoring, while Kelly provided nine

points. Cole Tillman and Doyle each snared four rebounds.

Final day results

1st place: Kaneland 91, Yorkville Christian 85; 3rd place: Northridge Prep 64, Streator 55; 5th place: Aurora Marmion 64, Lincoln Way Central 56; 7th place: LaSalle-Peru 51, Ottawa 46; 11th place: Plano 73, Morris 68; 13th place: Hinckley-Big Rock 66, Newark 62; 15th place: Gardner-South Wilmington 42, Lisle 37

All-Tournament Team

Nolan Lukach, Ottawa; Freddy Hassan, Kaneland; Jayden Riley, Yorkville Christian; Jack Wheeler, Morris; Martin Ledbetter, Hinckley-Big Rock; Ali Tharwani, Aurora Marmion; Lucas Andresen, Lincoln Way Central; Evan Kataoka, Northridge Prep; Dom Rome, Sandwich; Cole Tillman, Mendota; Dylan Long, Newark; MVP – Marshawn Cocoft, Kaneland.

LaSALLE-PERU 57, MENDOTA 54				
Mendota (54)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
C. Tillman	8	0-0	4	16
Kelly	6	0-3	1	17
A. Tillman	1	0-0	2	3
Freeman	1	1-2	3	3
Doyle	2	0-0	2	5
A. Beetz	1	0-0	1	2
Cortez	1	0-0	0	3
Becker	1	2-2	6	5
Totals	21	3-7	19	00

LaSalle-Peru (57)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Wheatley	1	0-0	1	3
Hartman	1	0-1	8	3
Sotelo	6	0-0	6	14
Hill	1	2-2	5	4
Olivero	6	2-2	9	18
Persich	6	2-2	4	15
Medina	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	21	6-7	34	57

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	12	20	39	54
LaSalle-Peru	13	27	47	57
Three-point goals: Mendota - Kelly 5, Cortez 1, A. Tillman 1, Becker 1, Doyle 1; LaSalle-Peru - Wheatley 1, Hartman 1, Sotelo 2, Olivero 4, Persich 1				

MENDOTA 63, GARDNER-SW 19				
Gardner-S. Wilmington (19)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Gray	0	0-0	5	0
Kemp	2	0-0	11	4
Millette	0	0-0	3	0
Hampson	2	0-6	5	4
Hirsch	0	4-4	2	4
Christensen	0	1-4	1	1
Enerson	0	0-0	3	0
Grimes	3	0-0	6	6
Totals	7	5-14	36	19

Mendota (63)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
C. Tillman	7	2-2	4	18
Kelly	3	1-2	3	9
A. Tillman	3	0-0	5	9
Freeman	2	0-0	5	4
Doyle	2	0-0	6	4
A. Beetz	0	0-0	5	0
Cortez	2	1-2	4	5
McPheeters	1	0-0	0	2
Becker	1	2-2	2	4
Fitzgerald	0	2-2	4	2
Jones	2	0-0	0	6
Totals	23	8-10	38	63

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Gardner-SW	6	8	16	19
Mendota	16	38	53	63
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Tillman 2, Kelly 2, A. Tillman 3, Jones 2,				

MENDOTA 67, PLANO 52				
Plano (52)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Steele	3	0-1	0	6
Cesario	2	0-0	3	4
Contreras	3	0-0	0	7
Saunders	1	0-0	0	2
Bryant	3	2-3	4	8
Corral	0	2-2	0	2
Taxis	2	3-6	7	8
McGowan	6	0-0	2	13
Martinez	0	2-2	4	2
Totals	20	9-14	20	52

Mendota (67)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
C. Tillman	8	2-2	9	18
Kelly	1	1-1	3	3
A. Tillman	7	1-2	4	20
Freeman	1	1-2	6	3
Doyle	2	0-0	5	5
A. Beetz	2	1-2	1	5
Cortez	1	0-0	3	2
K. Beetz	0	1-2	0	1
Becker	3	4-4	5	10
Totals	25	11-15	37	67

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Plano	7	19	38	52
Mendota	16	36	53	67
Three-point goals: Mendota - A. Tillman 5, Doyle 1; Plano - Contreras 1, Taxis 1, McGowan 1				

Lady Trojans drop three games in Amboy Tourney

□ MHS's Eddy chosen all-tournament

AMBOY – The Mendota Lady Trojans suffered losses in all three games of the Amboy Holiday Tournament held Dec. 26-28. Mendota began play with a 53-34 setback to Amboy on Dec. 26. After trailing 22-17 at the break, Mendota came out firing in the third quarter and scored 12 points while holding Amboy to just six to grab a 29-28 advantage with one quarter to play. But the Lady Clippers turned up the heat in the fourth frame, sparked by a 13-0 scoring over a two-minute span, to take control. Missed opportunities at the free throw line plagued Mendota as it connected on just one of 12 tries. “Our free throws need to be better, but probably the best the offense has looked all year,” said Mendota coach John Hansen. “Overall, I was proud of our showing.”

Ava Eddy and Ella Coss dropped in 10 points apiece to pace the Lady Trojans, while Laylie Denault added eight markers. Cassie Gonzalez topped the team with nine rebounds. Jillian Anderson's 13 points paced Amboy.

Newman zoomed out to a big first-quarter lead enroute to a 56-18 decision over Mendota on Dec. 27. The Lady Comets held a 17-4 lead after the opening stanza and took a 30-13 halftime advantage. The Lady Trojans scored just five second-half points, including being shutout in the fourth period. “We turned the ball over way too much,” noted Hansen. “Newman is a solid team and they shot and moved the ball really well.”

Eddy had eight points, five rebounds and four steals to lead Mendota. Gonzalez also hauled down five boards.

Marquette shot the lights out from three-point range and dealt the Lady Trojans a 62-41 loss in the final day of the tournament on Dec. 28. Marquette connected on 11 shots from beyond the arc, including five in the first quarter when it built a 21-12 lead. The margin ballooned to 17 (33-16) at the break, and then Marquette drilled four more three-pointers in the third period as it put 23 points on the board to take a 56-29 lead with one quarter to play. “I wish we would've

attacked a little more on offense, but 41 points isn't a bad night either,” said Hansen. “Marquette just shot the ball really well.”

Coss topped the scoring and rebounding chart for Mendota with 11 points and seven caroms, while Eddy, Gonzalez and Emily Sondgeroth added six points apiece.

All-Tournament Team

Mendota's Ava Eddy was chosen to the all-tournament team.

AMBOY 53, MENDOTA 34				
Mendota (34)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	4	1-6	3	10
Coss	4	0-0	5	10
Martin	1	0-3	3	2
Denault	4	0-0	3	8
Gonzalez	2	0-3	9	4
Totals	15	1-12	23	34

Amboy (53)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Vaessen	3	1-3	2	7
Pertell	4	1-2	1	10
Anderson	4	5-8	2	13
Sachs	4	1-4	4	9
Yanos	4	2-2	1	10
McLaughlin	0	1-4	1	1
McKendry	0	3-6	0	3
Totals	19	14-29	10	53

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	10	17	29	34
Amboy	13	22	28	53
Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 1, Coss 2; Amboy - Pertell 1				

NEWMAN 56, MENDOTA 18				
Mendota (18)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	2	3-4	5	8
Knaff	0	0-0	2	0
Coss	0	2-4	1	2
Martin	0	0-2	3	0
Denault	2	0-2	2	4
Gonzalez	0	2-2	5	2
Doyle	1	0-0	2	2
Totals	5	7-14	20	18

Newman (56)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Pappocia	3	1-2	3	8
Williams	2	0-0	1	4
Allen	5	0-0	2	10
Smith	3	0-0	2	9
Oetting	5	0-0	3	10
Martin	2	1-4	1	5
Propheter	2	0-0	0	4
Hailey	3	0-0	2	6
Totals	25	2-6	14	56

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	4	13	18	18
Newman	17	30	45	56
Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 1; Newman - Pappocia 1, Smith 3				

MARQUETTE 62, MENDOTA 41				
Mendota (41)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	2	0-0	2	6
Knaff	1	0-0	4	2
Coss	4	2-4	7	11
Denault	2	0-0	0	4
Gonzalez	2	2-7	4	6
Baxa	2	1-1	1	5
Doyle	0	0-0	1	0
Freeman	0	1-2	2	1
Sondgeroth	2	2-2	4	6
Totals	15	8-16	26	41

Marquette (62)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Hopkins	8	2-2	0	21
Carson	3	0-2	1	8
Nelson	1	0-2	2	3
Davis	6	0-2	1	17
Corcoran	0	1-2	2	1
Cuchra	1	2-2	3	4
Kozlowski	4	0-0	4	8
Totals	23	5-12	13	62

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	12	16	29	41
Marquette	21	33	56	62
Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 2, Coss 1; Marquette - Hopkins 3, Carson 2, Nelson 1, Davis 5				

JV boys place 4th at Plano

PLANO – The Mendota junior varsity boys' basketball team won two of four games and finished in fourth place in the Plano Junior Varsity Christmas Classic. Mendota opened the action with a 53-31 verdict over Gardner-South Wilmington on Dec. 23. The Trojans led 19-14 at intermission, but went on a 22-8 scoring run in the third period to take control. Carter Wujek led the point production with 17, followed by Drew Becker with 15 and Cayden Taliani with eight.

Mendota needed overtime to top LaSalle-Peru, 52-49, on Dec. 26. The Trojans led 23-16 at halftime, but L-P crept back to with 35-31 after three and managed to tie the score at the end of regulation. Four Trojans hit double figures in scoring, paced by Cesar Casas with 15 points. Becker was next with 14 markers, while Wujek had 11 points and Taliani added 10 tallies.

The Trojans, who were seeded fifth in the tournament, had to face top-seeded Kaneland in the semifinals, and the Knights picked up a 57-46 win over Mendota on Dec. 27. Kaneland sprinted out to a 22-9 first-quarter lead and maintained a double-digit advantage throughout. Becker supplied 17 points for the Trojans and Taliani chipped in with seven.

Ottawa handed Mendota a 53-38 setback in the third-place game on Dec. 28. The Trojans trailed by just a 9-8 count after the opening stanza, but Ottawa erupted for 23 second-quarter points compared to nine for Mendota to substantially widen the gap. Casas (14) and Taliani (12) led Mendota scorers. Kaneland won the tournament title with a 47-44 victory over Aurora Marmion in the championship game.

Deer harvest totals given for firearm season

SPRINGFIELD – Hunters in Illinois took a preliminary total of 82,496 deer during the seven-day 2024 Illinois firearm deer season that concluded Dec. 8. Comparatively, hunters harvested 76,494 deer during the 2023 firearm season. The preliminary harvest for the second segment of the 2024 firearm season Dec. 5-8 was 27,835 compared with 22,883 deer harvested during the second part of the

2023 season. The preliminary harvest for the first segment of this year's firearm season Nov. 22-24 was 54,661 deer. Remaining 2024-2025 deer hunting opportunities in Illinois include:

- Late-winter antlerless-only and chronic wasting disease (CWD) season, in designated counties only, Dec. 26-29 and Jan. 17-19.
- Archery deer season continues through Jan. 19.

More information about deer hunting in Illinois can be found at the IDNR website. Deer harvest totals for area counties are:

Bureau: 2nd season-338; total-966; DeKalb: 2nd season-48; total-145; LaSalle: 2nd season-209; total-601; Lee: 2nd season-231; total-655; Ogle: 2nd season-275; total-693; Putnam: 2nd season-136; total-365; Whiteside: 2nd season-256; total-647



Mendota's Laylie Denault gets defensive pressure from Amboy's Emily Sachs in action from the Amboy Holiday Tournament on Dec. 26. (Reporter photo)

SPORTS



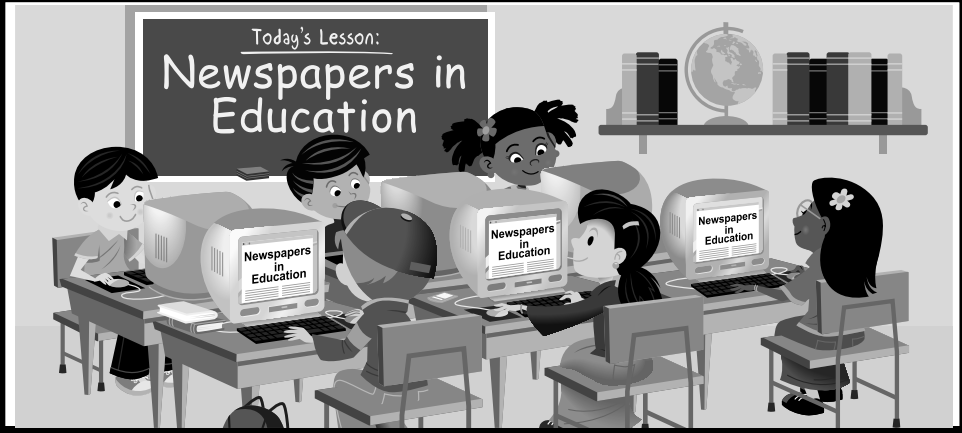
Mendota's Cassie Gonzalez puts up a shot while being guarded by Amboy's Ellie McLaughlin in the first round of the Amboy Holiday Tournament on Dec. 26. (Reporter photo)

LaMoille High School boys' basketball

LaMoille Holiday Classic

Dec. 26
LaMoille 55, Calvary Christian 49
Stats: Tyler Billhorn 19 points, 15 rebounds; Brayden Klein 16 points; Ed Fry 8 points; Cody Winn 5 rebounds
Dec. 27
Low Point-Washburn 66, LaMoille 42

Stats: Klein 15 points; Billhorn 8 points, 7 rebounds
Dec. 28 (3rd place game)
Amboy 55, LaMoille 45
Stats: Klein 23 points, 5 rebounds; Billhorn 11 points, 11 rebounds
(Championship game)
Galva 67, Low Point-Washburn 55



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Northbrook 8th Grade Basketball

The Northbrook Middle School eighth grade boys' basketball team won the consolation championship of the Serena Tournament held Dec. 6-7. Members of the team, left to right, are coach Rey Arteaga, Romeo Sanchez, Sam Arteaga, Axel Ruiz, Dylan Welch, Isaac Espinoza, Josh Granados, Arian Chavez, Elian Garcia, Pryar Christmann, Armani Perez. (Photo contributed)



Northbrook 7th Grade Basketball

The Northbrook Middle School seventh grade boys' basketball team won the consolation championship of the LaSalle Lincoln Tournament held Dec. 6-7. Front row, Austin Brown. Middle row, left to right, are Holden Coss, Sklyer Kenny and Bentley Bejster. Back row, Billy Bromenschenkel, Gavin Stamberger, Parker Ramer, Jaylen Olivarez, Jordan Olivarez and coach Ethan Ruiz. (Photo contributed)

BOWLING

Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Dec. 18
– 1. O'Donnell Excavating 8-0; 2. Man On! 6-2; 3. Black Brothers 4-4; 4. First State Bank 3-5; 5. Maybe Next Week 2-6; 6. Novak Farms 1-7
High team game (scratch)
– O'Donnell Excavating 1029, Man On! 982, Black Brothers 934
High team game (hdcp) – O'Donnell Excavating 1222, Black Brothers 1193, Man On! & First State Bank 1132
High team series (scratch)
– O'Donnell Excavating 2932, Man On! 2766, Black Brothers 2744
High team series (hdcp)
– Black Brothers 3521, O'Donnell Excavating 3511, Novak Farms 3299
High individual game (scratch) – Todd Smith 268, Tyler Schmitt 234, Joe Kennedy & Drake O'Donnell 233
High individual game (hdcp) – Todd Smith 295, Joe Kennedy 275, Owen Wixom 264
High individual series (scratch) – Todd Smith 708, Drake O'Donnell 687, Tyler Schmitt 683
High individual series (hdcp) – Todd Smith 789, Tyler Schmitt 752, Walker Smith 726

Elks 9 Youth League

Standings as of Dec. 21
– 1. Team 4 14-6; 2. Team 1 11-9; 3. Team 3 10-10; 4. Team 2 4-16
High team game (scratch)
– Team 1 283, Team 4 269, Team 3 250
High team game (hdcp)
– Team 1 646, Team 4 612, Team 3 602
High team series (scratch)
– Team 4 773, Team 1 746, Team 3 695
High team series (hdcp) – Team 1 1835, Team 4 1802, Team 3 1751
Boys' high game (scratch)
– Jaxon Stamberger 114,

Graham Phillips 111, Henry Schoepf 65

Boys' high game (hdcp)
– Jaxon Stamberger 229, Graham Phillips 217, Henry Schoepf 206

Boys' high series (scratch)
– Jaxon Stamberger 293, Graham Phillips 276, Henry Schoepf 181

Boys' high series (hdcp)
– Jaxon Stamberger 638, Henry Schoepf 604, Graham Phillips 594

Girls' high game (scratch)
– Lainey Ramer 111, Grace Piskie 108, Brooklyn Bejster 106

Girls' high game (hdcp)
– Lainey Ramer 230, Grace Piskie 222, Brooklyn Bejster 218

Girls' high series (scratch)
– Lainey Ramer 273, Brooklyn Bejster 270, Grace Piskie 269

Girls' high series (hdcp)
– Lainey Ramer 630, Grace Piskie 611, Brooklyn Bejster 606

Elks 11 Youth League

Standings as of Dec. 21
– 1. Team 1 15-5; 2. Team 4 11-9; 3. Team 2 10-10; 4. Team 3 4-16

High team game (scratch)
– Team 4 347, Team 1 333, Team 2 296

High team game (hdcp)
– Team 1 649, Team 2 627, Team 4 608

High team series (scratch)
– Team 4 1014, Team 1 936, Team 2 843

High team series (hdcp) – Team 1 1884, Team 2 1836, Team 4 1797

Boys' high game (scratch)
– Parker Ramer 162, Jaxen Daley 124, Bentley Bejster 118

Boys' high game (hdcp)
– Jaxen Daley 236, Bentley Bejster 214, Parker Ramer 211

Boys' high series (scratch)
– Parker Ramer 439, Jaxen Daley 359, Bentley Bejster 308

Boys' high series (hdcp)
– Jaxen Daley 695, Bentley

Bejster 596, Lyncoln Daley 593

Girls' high game (scratch)
– Catherine Moench 147, Olivia Frank 75

Girls' high series (scratch)
– Catherine Moench 404, Olivia Frank 193

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Dec. 23
– 1. Bad Kats 5-0; 2. CM Farm 4-1; 3. Leagal Beagles 3.5-1.5; 4. The Struggle is Real 1.5-3.5; 5. Split Happens 1-4; 6. Ramer Inc. 0-5

High team game (scratch)
– Leagal Beagles 717, Split Happens 709, Ramer Inc. 683

High team game (hdcp)
– Leagal Beagles 994, The Struggle is Rea; 952, Bad Kats 948

High team series (scratch)
– Split Happens 2007, Leagal Beagles 2001, Ramer Inc. 1902

High team series (hdcp)
– Leagal Beagles 2832, The Struggle is Real 2813, Bad Kats 2765

Men's high game (scratch)
– Mike Smith 217, Aaron Hollocker 214, Matt Ramer 211

Men's high game (hdcp)
– Aaron Hollocker 281, Charlie Betz 263, Mike Smith 255

Men's high series (scratch)
– Matt Ramer 584, Mike Smith 574, Aaron Hollocker 559

Men's high series (hdcp)
– Aaron Hollocker 760, Ron Westphal 731, Bob Moench Jr. 719

Women's high game (scratch)
– Emily Thomas 213, Hannah Westphal 181, Jessica Robinson 179

Women's high game (hdcp)
– Connie Yost 264, Stephanie Ramer 261, Sarah Westphal 261

Women's high series (scratch)
– Emily Thomas 574, Gail Sessler 505, Jessica Robinson 482

Women's high series (hdcp)
– Stephanie Ramer 767, Connie Yost 728, Sarah Westphal 726

ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Who is the actor starring as Superman in the new film coming out this summer? I've never seen him before.

A: Director James Gunn chose David Corenswet to don the red cape in his upcoming "Superman" movie because the film focuses on an earlier part of the superhero's life. Henry Cavill, who most recently played the Man of Steel, is 41 years old, while Corenswet is a decade younger. A brief trailer of the movie was recently released online, which not only featured the titular character but also featured Lois Lane (Rachel Brosnahan) and Lex Luthor (Nicholas Hoult).

Corenswet's prior credits include the miniseries "Lady in the Lake," the movie "Twisters," and the Ryan-Murphy-produced series "The Politician." "Superman," however, will likely make him a household name this summer.

Q: Whatever happened to the latest western movie

by Kevin Costner? I blinked and missed it in theaters. Is it streaming anywhere? -- **Y.S.**

A: "Horizon: An American Saga" is a four-chapter film series that "Yellowstone" star Kevin Costner wrote, directed, and acts in. "Chapter 1" reportedly had a \$100 million budget with a big chunk of it financed by Costner himself. He received a standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival after the movie premiered there in May, but one month later when it was released nationwide in theaters, you could hear a pin drop.

It was rather surprising given that his western "Dances With Wolves" won the Oscar for Best Picture three decades earlier and that the "Yellowstone" TV series, which was set on a ranch out West, was a recent huge hit. Alas, "Yellowstone" audiences didn't feel like watching Costner in a 3-hour slow-moving flick, no matter how good the writing and performance. "Chapter 2" was supposed to be released in 2024, but because of the box-office failure of its predecessor, it's been pushed to 2025.

Currently, you can stream "Chapter 1" on Max. "Chapter 3" started its principal

photography in May, while "Chapter 4" is in active development. But it might be best to simply release "Horizon" as one big miniseries on streaming. Perhaps then it would receive accolades from the Emmy Awards instead of the Oscars someday.

Q: I saw a book at the library that had Millie Bobby Brown's name on it, but I forgot the title. Is she an author now, too? -- **D.D.**

A: The novel "Nineteen Steps," which was published in 2023, is based on actress Millie Bobby Brown's ("Stranger Things") grandmother's traumatic experience during the time of World War II. Brown's name is featured prominently on the cover, which would make the reader presume that she authored the book. However, it turns out it was ghostwritten by Kathleen McGurl.

Brown has been open about her collaboration with the author, and the book would never have been published without Brown's input about her own family's history. According to Variety, Brown and Netflix are developing the book into a movie, and yes, Brown is set to star in the role of her grandmother.

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- James Bond fans haven't exactly embraced Daniel Craig's portrayal of a gay man in director Luca Guadagnino's film "Queer." The well-publicized love scene between Craig and Drew Starkey didn't create the box-office boom they hoped for. It cost 48 million euros to make and has only grossed \$3.2 million at the time of this writing. This is unlike Guadagnino's other films: "Call Me by Your Name" (\$43.1 million gross against a \$3.5 million cost), "Bones and All" (\$15.3 million gross against a \$20 million cost), and "Challengers" (\$96 million gross against a \$55 million cost).

Julia Roberts, Andrew Garfield and Chloë Sevigny are gambling on Guadagnino as he directs their upcoming thriller "After the Hunt."

I don't know if anyone took Jim Carrey seriously when he retired from filmmaking after "Sonic the Hedgehog 2" (\$405 million gross against a \$110 million cost). He's back in "Sonic the Hedgehog 3" once again as Dr. Ivo Robotnik, along

with Ben Schwartz, James Marsden and Idris Elba.

Carrey jokingly said, "I came back to this universe because, first of all, I get to play a genius, which is a bit of a stretch. And ... I bought a lot of stuff, and I needed the money, frankly."

Ryan Reynolds hasn't rested on his laurels after the \$1.338 billion grosses for "Deadpool & Wolverine." He completed the road action comedy "Animal Friends," with Jason Momoa, Vince Vaughn and Aubrey Plaza, in March for an October 2025 release. Then he jumped into Apple TV+'s action-adventure film "Mayday" with Kenneth Branagh and Maria Bakalova.

Finally, you've no doubt heard about a pair of the ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz" that were stolen in 2005 from the Judy Garland Museum. They were recovered in 2018 and sold at an auction for \$28 million (\$32.5 million after taxes and fees). Apparently the thief, ex-mobster Terry Martin thought they were valuable because they

were insured for \$1 million and were made with actual rubies.

Originally, six pairs of Garland's ruby slippers were made by MGM. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has a pair in their Academy Museum, which were donated by Leonardo DiCaprio and Steven Spielberg in 2012. Another pair is in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. Two other pairs are owned by private collectors, and the sixth pair was owned by Debbie Reynolds.

Debbie invited me to view her collection prior to her auction, and her ruby slippers were called "The Arabian Test Pair" with curled toes, which were on the feet of the Wicked Witch of the South under Dorothy's house. Reynolds said she paid \$300 for them and resold them to a private buyer in 2011 for \$690,000. Debbie bemoaned to me that she "almost couldn't bear to part with them." Now that's what we call a "Wicked" return on your investment! Happy New Year!

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Couch Theater

"Gladiator II" (R) -- The sequel to director Ridley Scott's "Gladiator" has finally arrived 24 years after the original film was released, but how will it hold up alongside its predecessor? Starring Paul Mescal ("Normal People"), Pedro Pascal ("The Last of Us") and Denzel Washington ("The Equalizer 3"), the sequel picks up 16 years after the death of Marcus Aurelius, and Rome is thick with corruption due to its psychotic twin emperors Geta and Caracalla. But Lucius (Mescal), the long-lost imperial heir, lurks in the shadows under the name "Hanno" and coincidentally becomes a gladiator when his North African kingdom gets conquered by the Roman army. Most reviews were positive, but critics did sound off on its likeness to the first film, whose magic cannot be imitated or repeated. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"A Real Pain" (R) -- This short comedy-drama film seems to be a hidden gem for the upcoming 2025 award season, with it already receiving four nominations for the Golden Globes. Directed, written by and starring Jesse

Eisenberg ("Manodrome"), the film follows American-Jewish cousins David (Eisenberg) and Benji (Kieran Culkin) who embark on a trip to Poland to reconnect with their heritage. Throughout the trip, the two cousins' personalities contrast completely as David assumes the honorable family-man role, while Benji is more free-spirited and laid-back with his life. But showing their complex love for each other against the backdrop of emotional moments in Jewish history makes for a very heartwarming watch indeed. Available to rent on Dec. 31. (Apple TV+)

"Anora" (R) -- From Sean Baker, director of "The Florida Project," this comedy-drama recently won the Palme d'Or at the 77th Cannes Film Festival in May, and it's also one to watch during the award season race. Mikey Madison ("Once Upon a Time in Hollywood") has received much praise for her performance as the titular character, a 23-year-old stripper living in Bright Beach, New York. During a night at work, Anora gets introduced to Vanya, the young son of a Russian

oligarch, and he hires her to spend a week with him. The pair fly to Las Vegas with his entourage, where the two fall into a passionate love affair that seems everlasting. They marry, and just when Anora thinks she's about to start her "happily ever after," Vanya's parents make moves to get the marriage annulled. Out now to rent. (YouTube)

"Carry-On" (PG-13) -- This action-thriller out now starring Taron Egerton ("Blackbird") and Jason Bateman ("Ozark") is sure to keep you on your toes! Egerton plays Ethan, a TSA officer at Los Angeles International Airport who requests to work a shift on the baggage-scanning lane on Christmas Eve. In the middle of his shift, Ethan finds an earbud that he's told to put on; through the earbud, a mercenary called the Traveler (Bateman) demands that Ethan let a dangerous carry-on suitcase through the scanning lane. Threatening Ethan's pregnant girlfriend as blackmail, the Traveler gives him direct orders to follow, or else people will begin to die. But did he pick the right TSA agent? (Netflix)

Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* Despite the NFL making more than \$9 billion annually, being projected to make more than \$25 billion a year by 2027, and paying its CEO more than \$30 million a year, 68% of NFL stadium construction costs since 1923 have come from taxpayer money.

* One of Walt Disney's first art jobs was drawing cartoons for a local barber in exchange for haircuts.

* The Khasis are a tribe in India that grow their own bridges. For generations, they have passed down the art of tree-root manipulation, forming centuries-old "living bridges" out of the powerful roots of Ficus elastica trees.

* Jesse James once gave a widow who housed him enough money to pay off her debt collector and then robbed the debt collector as the man left the widow's home.

* In 2007, a Swiss woman was unable to enter the U.S. because she had no fingerprints. She had a rare genetic disorder called adermatoglyphia, where a person is born without fingerprints. There are only four known extended families worldwide that are affected by this condition.

* Arnold Schwarzenegger was paid \$15 million for his role in "Terminator 2," which averaged out to a most impressive \$21,429 per word.

* Lions, tigers, leopards and other big cats go wild for Calvin Klein's Obsession for Men cologne! It's used by researchers to lure animals toward cameras in the wild and is sprayed at zoos and wildlife refuges.

Thought for the Day: "There's no hope without endeavor. Hope has no meaning unless we are prepared to work to realize our hopes and dreams." -- Aung San Suu Kyi

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Solution time: 21 mins.

Trivia Test

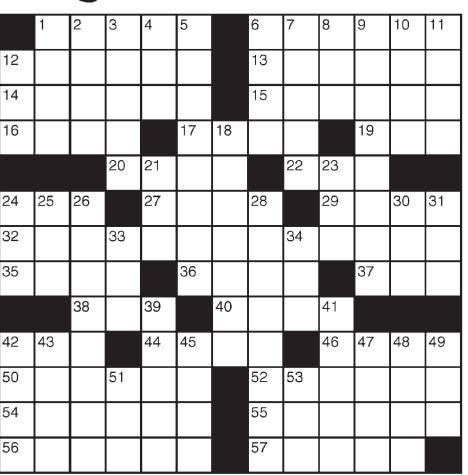
- FOOD & DRINK: What kind of cake is named after a British queen?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the family dog on "The Simpsons"?
- ANATOMY: How long does a human red blood cell exist?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where is New Year's celebrated first each year?
- ADVERTISING: Which company sponsors a 13-foot-long Weinermobile?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many pints are in a quart?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the dance performed in the "Rocky Horror Picture Show"?
- BIOLOGY: What does the term ectothermic mean?

- GEOGRAPHY: Which country has the longest coastline in the world?
 - LITERATURE: Who is the author of "The Canterbury Tales"?
- Answers
- Victoria Sponge Cake.
 - Santa's Little Helper.
 - About 120 days.
 - The island of Kiribati in the Oceanic nation of Kiribati.
 - Oscar Mayer.
 - Two.
 - The Time Warp.
 - Coldblooded, when body temperature is regulated by the environment.
 - Canada.
 - Geoffrey Chaucer.
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King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Wash thoroughly
6 Black Sea port
12 Saudi neighbor
13 Reacts to a pun
14 Baseball's Roberto
15 Attack verbally
16 — pedi
17 Barrel bottom bit
19 — tree
20 Use a stun gun
22 California's Big —
24 Director Brooks
27 Campbell of "Scream"
29 Eve's guy
32 Citrusy flavoring used in baking
35 Pedestal part
36 Actress de Matteo
37 Pro vote
38 Decade parts (Abbr.)
40 "No seats" signs
42 Food additive
44 Help a crook
46 Like custard
50 Venetian marketplace

DOWN
1 Ward of "Once and Again"
2 "Let's go!"
3 Pay
4 Italian article
5 Tweety's meal
6 Monster
7 Pulls
8 Very long time
9 The "S" of SNL overseer
10 Crisp cookie
11 Hammett pooch
12 Candied veggie
18 Undo
21 Director Lee
23 Former Mideast gp.
24 '60s chic
25 Mound stat
26 "Bad Romance" singer
28 Physical effort
30 Super serve
31 NYC subway
33 Fish-fowl link
34 Eastern "way"
39 Squelched
41 Factions
42 Hosp. scans
43 Ninny
45 Physiques
47 Pace
48 Neutral color
49 QB's gains
51 Blue
53 "Levitating" singer Lipa



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Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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RELIGION

Understand your authority and defeat your enemy

I went to church for years and never heard about the devil. It's not fun talking about him, and I don't ever want to put too much focus on him. But the truth is, we have an enemy. First Peter 5:8 (AMPC) says, "...That enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour."

If we're going to defeat our enemy, it's important for us to believe in the power and authority we have in Christ. That's the only way we can have the great life God wants us to have.

There are so many Chris-

tians who seem to be going through their daily life just hoping they can make it through the day. They go from one problem or crisis to the next, and they lack a confident, bold faith in God that can keep them stable and full of His peace and joy in the difficult circumstances of life.

The good news is, God doesn't want us to live in the emergency room of life all the time. He wants us to get to the point where we know what to do to have a great life and take responsibility for ourselves, trusting we can do whatever we need to do through the strength

we have in Christ (Philippians 4:13). This means we know who we are in Christ (who He says we are in His Word) and how to walk in the authority we have as believers in Jesus.

John 10:10 tells us Jesus gave His life so we can "have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)" (AMP). When we accept Christ as our Savior, we receive the assurance of eternal life, but we also become "joint heirs" with Christ (Romans 8:17 NKJV) and are entitled to have everything He is and everything He has: grace, peace, righteousness, joy, and power and authority over the enemy.

Matthew 10:1 says, "Jesus summoned to Him His twelve disciples and gave them power and authority over unclean spirits, to drive them out, and to cure all kinds of disease and all kinds of weakness and infirmity" (AMPC). This authority has been given to every believer. It's important to understand that Satan has power, but we have power and authority in Christ.

Our enemy only has the authority that we give him, and many times we give him the ability to attack us through ignorance.

The devil hates anyone who is trying to do any good in the world, and his influence can be seen in the evil things people do. For example, when I'm tempted to be selfish and complain, it's not God working in my life. James



1:13, 17 says, "...God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ...Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights..." (NKJV).

We need to learn how to be proactive and resist the devil immediately when temptation comes. First Peter 5:9 says to "Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset—rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined]..." (AMPC). Notice this verse says to resist him at his onset.

Don't wait to see how bad things will get or how much you can get away with before you get in trouble. Be firm in your faith at all times and resist the enemy immediately when he comes against you. God has a plan for your life and walking in the authority you have in Christ is an important part of experiencing His will for you.

The Word of God is an offensive weapon in our warfare against the enemy. It contains life and has the power to renew our mind, heal our brokenness, and change our lives! (Hebrews 4:12; Romans 12:2; Psalm 107:20.) The Word contains

God's wisdom and the direction we need for every problem we face. Everything we need is found in the Word; it's God's love letter to us, our instruction book for life, and reveals all of God's promises to us as His children.

The power and authority in God's Word equips you to go after the enemy—he hates the Word and must bow down to it. But we must approach the Word with the attitude, "With God's help, I'm going to do what it says." That's the key to operating in the authority we have in Christ.

I want to encourage you to make it a priority to spend time with God and study the Word. Go for quality, not quantity; meditate on Scripture so you really get it deep down in your heart. Make a predetermined decision to apply what you learn to your life. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you, and He will show you how to obey the Word in your daily life.

Remember that in Christ, you have everything you need to enjoy your life and have the abundant life He died for you to have. God has equipped you to stand up to whatever comes against you. Through the

power and authority you have in Christ, you can remain stable, full of peace and joy, and advance God's kingdom on earth at all times. That's God's plan for you!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource *How to Release God's Power in Your Life*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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

Real News



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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

MENDOTA
ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS
Rev. Greg Nelson, Pastor
Fr. Jeff Windy, Parochial Vicar
Ray Fischer, Jose Lopez,
and Hector Diaz, Deacons

HOLY CROSS, MENDOTA
Weekday Mass
M - 6 p.m., Tu - 8 a.m., W - 8:10 a.m.,
Th - 8 a.m., F - 7 a.m.
Weekend Mass
Sat - 8 a.m. (1st Saturday only), 4 p.m.; Sun -
6:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon (Spanish)
Confession

**STS. PETER AND PAUL,
PETERSTOWN**
Weekend Mass
Sun - 9 a.m.
Confession

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
100 E. Sixth St.
(815) 538-5587

Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor
SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
9 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship

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

Jan. 2 - 10 a.m. Allure worship
Jan. 5 - Epiphany Sunday;
8:30 a.m. Confirmation
Jan. 6 - 8-12 LEASE; 6:30 p.m. Finance

**ZION UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
808 Jefferson St.


Pastor Jeff Brace
jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186
Facebook: Mendota Zion United
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

TUESDAY - Prayer group 7 p.m.



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

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

**UNITED PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH**
4401 State Route 251
(815) 538-3444

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor
E-mail: mendotaupc@yahoo.com
www.mendotaupc.org

SUNDAY: Christian Education-10 a.m.
Worship - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Midweek Bible Study - 7 p.m.

**VICTORY BAPTIST
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(815) 539-9081

Pastor Steve Breedlove

SUNDAY
Sunday school
Worship

WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service

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Rt. 251 at Lake Mendota
P.O. Box 54
Phone (815) 539-7107 (church)
(815) 871-5702 (pastor)

Larry Sheaves, Pastor
www.newcovenantmendota.org
www.facebook.com/NCAOG

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Worship

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

Brian Kelly, Pastor
www.mendotabiblechurch.org


SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Sunday School
Worship
Evening Service

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
607 Tenth Ave.
(815) 539-5626

Pastor Elise Rothfusz
E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Website:
www.stjohnsmendota.org
Schedule:
9 a.m. Sunday Worship in person
and online via YouTube
Find us on Facebook

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



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle,
and vegetation for the service of man,
that he may bring forth food from the earth,
and wine that makes glad the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine, and bread which
strengthens man's heart.
PSALM 104:14,15

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CHURCH**
1003 5th St.
(815) 538-5603

Website: fpcmendota.com
Accessible

Pastor Laurie Walker
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Children's Sunday School following
children's message
Fellowship 11 a.m.
Available on Facebook Live
Facebook page
www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

Jan. 2 - 10 a.m. "Fill My Cup"
Jan. 3 - 12:30 p.m. HOH pickup;
3 p.m. Unload & stock HOH foods
Jan. 5 - 10 a.m. Communion; 11:15
a.m. Special congregational meeting;
Installation, Ordination & Training
Jan. 6 - Epiphany
Jan. 7 - 12:30 p.m. MAMA

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Church . . . That in everything He
might have the supremacy." Col. 1:18

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Dave Manion Jim McDowell
Wayne Shuman

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Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Church Builders 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.
Men's Ministry
Ladies & Mens Bible Study
Thursday 6 p.m.
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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship at First

Jan. 8 - 6:30 a.m. Confirmation class

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



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**ZION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
LaMoille (Clarion)
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(815) 539-7820
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Accessible

**COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
La Moille
(815) 638-2348

Pastor David Jungnickel
E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com


SUNDAY WORSHIP 9 a.m.
Children's Sunday School
following children's message
FELLOWSHIP 10 a.m. (nursery available)
Mondays - 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m. Soup & Soul

TROY GROVE
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FELLOWSHIP**
208 W. South St.,
Troy Grove
Pastor Brian Hamiel

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info
E-mail: fbfbchurch20817@gmail.com

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to glorify God through the equipping
of His saints, teaching of His Word
and raising of His name.
We would love to have you join us
to worship and learn about
our risen Savior."

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



BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. For possible new year's resolutions, Proverbs 16:3 (KJV) says, "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be ____." Resolved, Established, Directed, Bountiful
2. Likewise, Psalm 37:5 (KJV) instructs us to, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to ____." Nurture, Pass, Action, Light
3. From which book's 29:11 does the Lord declare plans to prosper you, thoughts of peace to give you hope and a future? Leviticus, Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah
4. 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 are among the verses to focus on what in a new year? Blessings, Moving forward, Grace, Church attendance
5. In which month of the religious calendar did the new year begin in the Bible? 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th
6. From James 1:5, what may one lack, and if they ask God, it shall be given? Love, Wisdom, Truth, Goals
ANSWERS: 1) Established, 2) Pass, 3) Jeremiah, 4) Moving forward, 5) 7th, 6) Wisdom
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on this page urge  
you to attend a  
house of worship  
this week.



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Phone (815) 539-8500

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101
LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on December 18, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Danny's Wash & Wax located at 516 Lundy Street Stretator, IL. 61364.
Dated: December 18, 2024. Daniel Lynch Applicant.
No. 0101
(Jan. 1, 8 and 15, 2025)

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
NO: 2022-JA-01**
TO: Jason Miller, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 25th day of October, 2024, a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by David A. Greer, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Kevin Bruce Miller, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 26th day of February, 2025, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for you.

Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

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

Dated December 23, 2024.
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0102
(Jan. 1, 8 and 15, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE

A notice of guardianship of Billie Marie Belcher Gamboa, a minor, to the parents Rebecca Belcher and Lupe Gamboa. A petition has been filed for guardianship by Dawn Belcher. The case number 24GR454 has been filed at the Will County Courthouse. A public hearing will be held at River Valley Justice

Center
3208 W McDonough St
Joliet, IL 60432
Room 2
February 4, 2025 at 9 am
No. 0103
(Jan. 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2025)

NOTICE OF INTENTION OF COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 289 LASALLE, LEE AND BUREAU COUNTIES, ILLINOIS TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$3,800,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that on the 19th day of December, 2024, the Board of Education (the "Board") of Community Consolidated School District Number 289, LaSalle, Lee and Bureau Counties, Illinois (the "District"), adopted a resolution declaring its intention and determination to issue bonds in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$3,800,000 for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, and it is the intention of the Board to avail of the provisions of Article 20 of the School Code of the State of Illinois, and all laws amendatory thereto, and to issue said bonds for the purpose of increasing said Working Cash Fund. Said Working Cash Fund is to be maintained in accordance with the provisions of said Article and shall be used for the purpose of enabling the District to have in its treasury at all time sufficient money to meet demands thereon for expenditures for corporate purposes. A petition may be filed with the Secretary of the Board (the "Secretary") within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice, signed by not less than 619 voters of the District, said number of voters being equal to ten percent (10%) of the registered voters of the District, requesting that the proposition to issue said bonds as authorized by the provisions of said Article 20 be submitted to the voters of the District. If such petition is filed with the Secretary within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice, an election on the proposition to issue said bonds shall be held on the 17th day of March, 2026. The Circuit Court may declare that an emergency referendum should be held prior to said election date pursuant to the provisions of Section 2A-1.4 of the Election Code of the State of Illinois, as amended. If no such petition is filed within said thirty (30) day period, then the District shall thereafter be authorized to issue said bonds for the purpose hereinabove provided. By order of the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District Number 289, LaSalle, Lee and Bureau Counties, Illinois. DATED this 19th day of December, 2024. Sarah Landers Secretary, Board of Education, Community Consolidated School District Number 289, LaSalle, Lee and Bureau Counties, Illinois

Theresa Komitas
President, Board of Education, Community Consolidated School District Number 289, LaSalle, Lee and Bureau Counties, Illinois
No.0104
(January 1, 2025)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 289, LASALLE, LEE AND BUREAU COUNTIES, ILLINOIS TO SELL NOT TO EXCEED \$3,800,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Community Consolidated School District Number 289, LaSalle, Lee and Bureau Counties, Illinois (the "District"), will hold a public hearing on the 16th day of January, 2025, at 6:30 o'clock P.M. The hearing will be held in the District 289 Education Center Boardroom, 1806 Guiles Avenue, Mendota, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds of the District in an amount not to exceed \$3,800,000 for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District. By order of the President of the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District Number 289, LaSalle, Lee and Bureau Counties, Illinois. DATED the 26th day of December, 2024. Sarah Landers Secretary, Board of Education, Community Consolidated School District Num-

203
HELP WANTED

ROCHELLE
News-Leader

Part-time local
delivery driver

The Rochelle News-Leader has an opening for a part-time newspaper bundle delivery driver who would load and deliver bundles to the post office, store racks and machines.

The daytime deliveries would be two or three days per week (including weekends) and consist of approximately 4-5 hours per shift depending on the route usually 10-15 hours per week.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver's license, proof of insurance and a safe driving record. Drivers will use company vehicles when delivering, and will be trained on the respective routes.

Candidates must be able to load, unload and carry multiple bundles of 5 to 10 pounds each. Driver applicants must be reliable, personable and have a general knowledge of area streets and roads.

This position is perfect for someone looking to supplement their income or retirement.

Interested individuals must fill out an application in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle.
No phone calls please.

ber 289, LaSalle, Lee and Bureau Counties, Illinois
No.0105
(January 1, 2025)

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

203
HELP WANTED



Mendota High School is accepting applications for **two teaching positions:**
Math and Spanish

and a Cafeteria Supervisor.



Multiple **coaching positions** are open:
Head Football Coach, Asst. Football Coach,
Asst. Volleyball Coach,
Football Cheerleading Coach.

Additional information and application are available online at www.mendotahs.org

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



Mendota High School is accepting applications for **two teaching positions:**
Math and Spanish

and a Cafeteria Supervisor.



Multiple **coaching positions** are open:
Head Football Coach, Asst. Football Coach,
Asst. Volleyball Coach,
Football Cheerleading Coach.

Additional information and application are available online at www.mendotahs.org

501
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EVENTS

GUN SHOW: January 3-5, 2025, Racine Area/Sturtevant, Fountain Hall-8505 Durand Fri 3-9pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm. \$10 (under 14 FREE). More info: 363-608-4401 www.marvkrauspromotions.net

301
ANTIQUES

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

307
MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

601
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2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, Z71 4x4, 6.2L, 95K Miles, Maroon.....\$31,900
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