

City makes appointments to positions

By KIP CHEEK
Staff writer

MENDOTA - Several mayoral appointments and the passing of ordinances highlighted the Jan. 20 regular meeting of the Mendota City Council.

Alderman John Holland was elected mayor pro-tem in the absence of Mayor David Boelk. During Holland's mayor's report, he announced the appointment of Gary Kettleborough to the Mendota Plan Commission. Also, he appointed Raul Gonzalez, Frank Kobilsek, Aimee Holland and Michelle Wade to the recently created Mendota Arts Commission.

ALDERMANIC REPORTS

In action from Alderperson Vicki Johnson's report, the council approved an ordinance amending the TIF Redevelopment Agreement with HCC, Inc.

Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick presented two items during his report. First, the council passed an agreement with Black Brothers Company in regard to the bridge repair work at the corner of Fifth Street and Ninth Avenue.

In a related matter, the council approved an ordinance authorizing a joint funding agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding the bridge work in the amount of \$590,000.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, Feb. 3 at 5:30 p.m.



MFD sets events for card party & dance

MENDOTA – The Mendota Fire Department will hold its 152nd annual Card Party & Dance on Saturday, Feb. 1. Tickets are \$10 each.

A Texas Hold'em Deep Stack Tournament will begin at 1 p.m. at the Mendota Moose Lodge. The buy-in is \$100.

Vegas Night will take place at the Mendota Elks Lodge from 6 p.m. until midnight, featuring Chuck A Luck, Blackjack and more games.

Music by the band 'Abbynormal' can be enjoyed at the Mendota Elks Lodge from 8 p.m. to midnight.

It is the mission of the Mendota Fire Department to dedicate itself in protecting lives and property of citizens of Mendota and Mendota-Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection District from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies or the exposure to dangerous conditions caused by man or nature. MFD will accomplish its mission through continuous public education, emergency medical service, fire suppression and extensive training.

The Mendota Fire Department appreciates your financial assistance to keep its firefighting and emergency equipment efficient and up to date.

Illinois bill could raise age for mandatory license renewal driving test for seniors

❑ No other state requires an age-based driving test for license renewal

By ASHLEY SORIANO
For Capitol News Illinois
and Medill Illinois
News Bureau

CHICAGO – Older drivers in Illinois could face fewer barriers to renew their driver's licenses next year as part of a bill that would raise the age for the state-mandated annual driver's test from 79 to 87.

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced support for House Bill 1226 this week, joined by lawmakers from both parties. The measure, dubbed the Road Safety and Fairness Act, would impact roughly 350,000 Illinoisans, according to Giannoulias.

Illinois is the only state that requires a driving test for seniors based on age. Currently, people 79 and above are required to take a road test to renew their license. The proposed bill comes after years of efforts by some lawmakers and advocates to raise the "behind-the-wheel" driving test age and to establish procedures to report unsafe drivers.

"Age alone does not necessarily determine if someone should or should not have a driver's license," said Giannoulias, whose office oversees driver's license issuance and vehicle registration. "A birthday is not an accurate gauge of one's ability to get behind the wheel safely."

Older drivers tend to have lower crash rates, according to state data. In 2023, the



Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias said age alone does not necessarily determine if someone should or should not have a driver's license. (Photo contributed)

crash rate for drivers aged 75 and above was 24.61 per 1,000 drivers, which was lower than any other age group, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation. The low crash rate has been consistent since at least 2018, according to the Secretary of State's Office's 2023 Study on Age-Related Driving Abilities.

The crash rate is more than double for many of the other age groups.

"I think about my mom. I don't think my mom would admit she's a senior, but she

is someone that is very much a safe driver," said state Sen. Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago. "I can't think of someone that I know that's a safer driver. This legislation is removing this archaic requirement and doing so in a very balanced way."

Villivalam, chair of the Illinois Senate Transportation Committee, said the road test is the No. 1 issue seniors reach out to his office about in his district, which includes Chicago.

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IDs in Apple Wallet will be coming to Illinois

❑ Mobile driver's licenses and state IDs will ensure even more privacy and security

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Secretary of State's office is working to bring IDs in Apple Wallet to Illinois residents in the future with the goal of launching by the end of the year, Secretary Alexi Giannoulias announced.

This capability will enable residents to seamlessly and securely add and present their driver's licenses and state IDs in person and in apps using their iPhone or Apple Watch. The news follows legislation that took effect at the beginning of the year, which enabled the Secretary of State's office to begin this work. The plan includes robust testing requirements to ensure the office delivers the most secure and private product for Illinois residents, Giannoulias said.

"We're excited to have kicked started our work with Apple – a company that shares our commitment to data security – to provide IDs in Apple Wallet that



will offer convenience and privacy for Illinoisans," said Giannoulias, whose office pushed for the legislation enabling the development of mobile driver's licenses and state IDs in Illinois. "This is the first component of a multi-faceted approach to deliver a state-of-the-art mobile driver's license and state ID program that leverages

best-in-class technology for residents."

Once the program launches, driver's licenses and state IDs in Wallet will provide an easy and more secure way for Illinoisans to present their identification. Users will have the ability to add their driver's license or state ID to Wallet and simply tap their iPhone or Apple Watch to

present it in person, without taking out their physical card or handing over their device.

The office has set up a sign-up page for Illinoisans to receive updates about the mobile driver's license and state ID program and when IDs in Apple Wallet will become available for users.

Anyone interested can visit www.ilsos.gov/MDL to sign up.

Mobile driver's licenses and state IDs will not be mandatory and will serve as a companion – rather than a replacement – to a physical card.

Presenting an ID in Apple Wallet will allow for more security and privacy than presenting a physical card. Using Apple Wallet, only the information needed for the transaction is presented, and the user has the opportunity to review and authorize the information being request-

See IDs, Page A5

New year, new flag? State flag redesign public voting begins

SPRINGFIELD – The public voting period for the Illinois state flag redesign contest has kicked off and will run through Feb. 14. Illinoisans can choose to vote for one of the Illinois Flag Commission's Top 10 new designs, or one of three former flag designs, including the current one.

"Now is the time to make your voice heard and I encourage folks to join the process by voting for the flag that they feel best represents our great state," said Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, whose office will conduct the public vote. "The public feedback received during this period will help guide the General Assembly's final decision on the future of our state's flag later this year."

Public voting is available at www.ilsos.gov/stateflag. Participating Illinoisans can vote for:

- One of the Illinois Flag Commission's Top 10 flag designs
- Retaining the existing state flag
- Or reinstating Illinois' 1918 centennial flag or 1968 sesquicentennial flag.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Students brought home Trimester 2 midterm reports on Jan. 17. This is a great opportunity for parents to see their child's academic progress thus far in the trimester. If parents have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Our kindergarten students are currently learning about Native Americans in their reading unit. Thank you to Blackstone staff member Sheila Betner for talking with our classes about her family's heritage. She taught them so much and had some amazing

artifacts to show. This was a great learning experience for our kindergarten students!

We do benchmark testing three times per year as another tool to monitor student progress. We just completed winter benchmark testing. Students will soon bring home their results to share with parents. We will use this data to help us determine the needs of our students and drive instruction. If any changes are made to current intervention plans, parents will be notified.

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Callie Kit-tilson, Noah Moreno, Blaire Hansen, Axel Acosta-Diaz, Aishah Arellano, Maylen Vela Vazquez, Colton Coconaur and Leo Figueroa. The winners were Asher Comp-ton, Benjamin Hermosillo, Leanna Rojas and Kaitlyn Castaneda. Congratulations to all of you!

For our January kind deed at Blackstone, we are encouraging students and staff to

donate a box of kleenex. We will replenish all of our classrooms during this cold and flu season. We are hoping to spread kindness and not germs as we want to keep our classrooms healthy and clean. We appreciate any donations we can get!

Looking ahead, there will be an early dismissal on Wednesday, Jan. 22. Kindergarten students will dismiss at 11:20 and first grade students at 11:30 for a teacher inservice. No lunches will be served this day.

State Rep. Ryan Spain re-appointed as Deputy Republican Leader

SPRINGFIELD – House Republican Leader Tony McCombie released her list of House Republican Leadership team members, once again naming State Representative Ryan Spain as one of her Deputy Leaders. Spain is honored to continue to serve in this capacity, helping shape the strategic policy decisions that will lay the groundwork for Illinois families and businesses to thrive.

“Serving as a Deputy Leader is an honor and I value the trust Leader McCombie has in me to work beside her to advocate for our state's future,” said Spain.

In addition to serving the 73rd District and being on the House Republican Leadership team, Spain was named co-chairman to the prestigious Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), which was announced today. JCAR is a bipartisan, bicameral legislative oversight committee where Spain will work alongside 11 other legislators to help oversee the rule-making process by state agencies, making sure the rules abide by the original intent of legislators when laws are passed, adequately inform the General Assembly of how laws are

implemented through agency rulemaking, and help facilitate a public understanding of rules and regulations.

“JCAR holds a critically important role in making sure the rules abide by the original legislative intent when the laws are passed,” said Rep. Spain. “I am looking forward to continuing the essential work of this committee, to ensure our government's checks and balances remain intact.”

House Republican Leader Tony McCombie says Deputy Leader Spain has earned his re-appointment to her leadership team, and his voice will be a key asset for the 104th General Assembly.

“Ryan Spain is a diligent leader and I am confident he will continue to be a strong advocate for our caucus and residents across our state,” McCombie said. “Our state faces many challenges in this new term and Ryan's fearless pursuit of beneficial public policies will make all the difference for the great state of Illinois.”

Representative Ryan Spain serves as State Representative of the 73rd District, which includes portions of Bureau, Henry, Lee, Marshall, Peoria, Rock Island, Stark, Whiteside, and Woodford counties.



Delao named LaSalle County Board Student Excellence Award winner

MENDOTA – Kannon Delao has been chosen as the LaSalle County Board Student Excellence Award winner for January. Delao is an eighth-grade student at Northbrook Middle School in Mendota. He is the son of Jose Delao and the late Lyndsey Delao.

He is a member of student council, band and Mendota Junior Tackle. He has won the student of the month award multiple times and is also an honor roll student.

Principal Paula Daley said, “Kannon is always involved at Northbrook and volunteers endlessly helping anyone out when needed. He volunteers working in the concession stand at games and helps us organize student

council events.”

Delao is noted for having a tremendous amount of empathy and is always willing to help students who need it. When students are out sick and return, he helps them by letting them know what they missed and assists them in catching up. Teachers noted Delao is a well-rounded good human and a role model for all students to see.

After Northbrook, Delao will attend Mendota High School and participate in band and football.

On behalf of the LaSalle County Board and Northbrook Middle School, congratulations to Delao for being named as this month's Student Excellence award winner.

U of I Extension planning junk journaling workshop Feb. 17

PRINCETON – University of Illinois Extension invites you to join 4-H for a hybrid junk journaling workshop to spark creativity and self-expression! This interactive hybrid workshop will guide youth through the art of junk journaling, where they'll turn everyday materials into meaningful, one-of-a-kind journals. Participants will explore techniques like collage, layering, doodling, and upcycling, as they craft unique pages that reflect

their interests, dreams, and stories.

Along the way, they'll learn how to repurpose materials, experiment with different layouts, and use art as a tool for self-reflection. Whether adding photos, ticket stubs, favorite quotes, or mini sketches, this workshop invites youth to turn scraps into treasures while connecting with others in a fun and supportive environment.

Junk Journaling will take place on Monday, Feb. 17 from 2-3:30 p.m. at

University of Illinois Extension at 815 Thompson St., Princeton. Supplies are provided, and the event is free to attend. Registration is required at: go.illinois.edu/junkjournal

If you will need an accommodation in order to participate, please contact Shasta Hladovcak, at shlad@illinois.edu or 217-244-5812. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.



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LOCAL AND AREA

Kish College Foundation program enhancements benefit educational needs

MALTA – The Kishwaukee College Foundation awarded \$99,978 in program enhancement funds to Kishwaukee College departments for the 2024-2025 academic year. The Foundation has various program enhancement funds established by the generosity of donors for specific purposes. Funds support many needs, including educational support for instructors, new equipment, and student testing services.

The following program enhancement funds have been awarded this year:

- **Evelina Jose Cichy Fund** - Honoring Evelina Cichy and her many years of service at Kishwaukee College, the fund helps pay for fees associated with Illinois High School Diploma tests.
- **John & Barbara Dant Memorial Fund** - The fund provides financial support for the needs of the math and English departments. This year, funds support faculty professional development, outstanding student awards and resource software.
- **Jobe-Lewis Fund** - Suzanne K. Lewis established the fund to honor her mother, Doris V. Lewis, who obtained



Kishwaukee College students utilize laboratory equipment during a science class. During the 2024-2025 academic year, the Kishwaukee College Foundation provided program enhancement funds for new equipment, instructional support, student resources and more. (Photo contributed)

a nursing degree. Suzanne wished to honor her mother by helping support others who chose the nursing field. This year, the fund supports staff professional development and new program supplies.

- **Jenkins Presidential Endowment** - The fund supports and enhances the activ-

ities of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society.

- **Yvonne A. Johnson Endowment for Community Education** - This fund benefits the programmatic needs of the Fine Arts, Communications, Science and Horticulture programs. This year, funds support the Horticulture program

through technology supplies for plant identification and labeling for plant sales.

- **Leifheit Literacy Endowment** - The Leifheit Literacy Endowment supports the adult and family literacy programs at Kishwaukee College. It provides students with testing supplies and support to obtain their

Illinois High School Diploma.

- **Library Endowment Fund** - This fund supports the operations of the Kishwaukee College Library. This year, the fund helped purchase display materials and diversity promotional posters.

- **Lifelong Learning Endowment** - Honoring the retirement of Judy Krajewski, former Dean of Community Education & Services, this fund was established to ensure a legacy of lifelong learning for future generations by increasing access to community education opportunities through scholarships in non-credit courses.

- **Matteson Horticulture Fund** - The fund supports the programmatic needs of the Horticulture Department. This year, funds helped purchase portable drafting tables.

- **Terry & Sherrie Martin Health & Science Endowment** - The fund was born out of a deep commitment to education and strong faith in the values of Kishwaukee College. The endowment supports program enhance-

ments for the Allied Health or Science programs. This year, the endowment helps cover costs for staff attendance at national conferences, technology for the Radiologic Technology program, and student retention activities.

- **Terry & Sherrie Martin PTK Endowment** - The endowment supports the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Hallmark Award, a student scholarship. Terry Martin was a long-time advisor of Kish's PTK chapter.

- **Robert L. "Smitty" Smith Assistantship** - The assistantship fund was established to honor Robert L. Smith, a highly regarded faculty member in the science department during Kishwaukee College's early years from 1968 to 1975. The fund supports student assistantships in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) departments. Students assist faculty in research projects and lab development.

For more information on Program Enhancements, contact the Kishwaukee College Foundation at 815-825-9803 or visit kish.edu/foundationfunds.

Illinois EPA bringing Recycle Coach to all Illinois communities

SPRINGFIELD —Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Director James Jennings has announced a new partnership with Recycle Coach to provide all Illinois residents in 6,835 units of local government a holistic, locally-tailored, easy to access recycling education platform. In the coming months, Recycle Coach will be engaging counties and municipalities across the state to ensure all Illinois residents are afforded the opportunity to have their community participate in this opportunity. Use of the program will decrease inbound contamination at material recovery facilities in Illinois, increase the amount of material diverted from Illinois landfills, prevent environmental contamination, and ultimately reduce emissions that contribute to climate change.

"The Illinois EPA is excited to offer this innovative technology that will provide all Illinois residents with advanced and easily accessible tools to allow them to increase and improve recycling throughout our communities," said Illinois

EPA Director James Jennings. "We look forward to partnering with Recycle Coach to make this tool available to all Illinois residents, which will help expand the amount of recyclable materials diverted from Illinois landfills."

As part of this partnership, Recycle Coach will onboard all units of local government so their residents may leverage collection calendars, notifications, and reminders along with the free Recycle Coach mobile app and a web widget placement on the local government website. These assets will feature real-time, searchable information about local waste and recycling programs, and will be available in multiple languages.

Local government staff can leverage robust analytics and marketing resources to improve communication and engagement about waste and recycling.

Increasing the volume of materials recycled reduces the amount of greenhouse gases generated by Illinois landfills. In addition, by empowering residents with community specific knowledge about their waste and accurate recycling options

at their fingertips, the amount of contamination in Illinois waterways and on the land from waste mishandling will decrease significantly.

As of January, five counties/solid waste agencies have finished onboarding and are now live. This includes DuPage, Kane, Tazewell, along with the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). Various municipalities have also onboarded, along with the City of Chicago.

To date, Recycle Coach is roughly available to 27% of the Illinois Population. That number is expected grow to 63% by the end of the first quarter of 2025.

Recycle Coach is available at no cost to Illinois communities. Local governments can request an on-boarding meeting by emailing successgroup@recyclecoach.com. A secure web app will be provided for municipal waste websites, and once the local government has onboarded, residents will be encouraged to download the free Recycle Coach app.



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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Kathryn J. Baker

MENDOTA – Kathryn June (Wood) Baker, 66, of Mendota, passed away on Dec. 11, 2024, at Batavia Rehabilitation and Health Center.

Per Kathy's request there will be no visitation or services.

Kathy was born on April 5, 1958, in Champaign, to Stephen and Janice (Olson) Wood. She married David Baker on May 23, 1992.

Kathy is survived by her husband, Dave Baker of Mendota; her father, Stephen Wood of Spring Valley; her siblings, Karen (Rick) Jacobs, of Montello, Wis., Christopher Wood of LaSalle, and William (Kory) Wood of Peru; brother-in-law Harley (Ellene) Baker and sister-in-law Linda (Donald) Casner; her nieces and nephews, Dinelle (Zach) Freschi, Andrew (Staci) Wood, Kelsey (CJ) Greer, Lindsay (Mark) Catalanello, Aaron (Kaitlyn) Wood; nine great nephews and four great nieces.

Kathy was preceded in death by her mother, maternal and paternal grandparents, several aunts and uncles.

Her family moved to Mendota in November 1963 when she was 5 years old. She was raised in Mendota, attended Mendota Elementary Schools and Mendota High School, graduating in 1976, and she attended Illinois State University.

Kathy owned and operated Baker's Computer Service where she worked on computers, did taxes for individuals and bookkeeping for area businesses. She also taught computer classes at Illinois Valley Community College.

Kathy loved her nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. She enjoyed bowling and bowled in league at the Elks Club for many years.

Darrel "D.D." Smith

FLORENCE, Ariz. – Darrel "D.D." Smith, 92, of Florence, Ariz., formerly of Paw Paw, passed away on Dec. 19, 2024.

A service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at First Southern Baptist Church in Florence, Ariz. He will be laid to rest at a later date in Paw Paw.

He married the love of his life, Elizabeth "Betty" Smith, on Oct. 2, 1964. Together they raised and loved seven children.

He is survived by his loving wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Smith; his children, Nancy (Steve) Roberts, Mark Smith, David (Wendy) Smith, Ruth (Dale) Bussan, Conrad (Laura) Smith, Jessica (Wess) Whittaker and daughter-in-law, Crystal Bodmer; sister, Patricia (Mark) Day; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Proceeding him in death was his son, Richard "Rick" Smith.

Darrel graduated from Remus High School in Remus, Mich. He worked for Burlington Northern Railroad out of Chicago and Mendota for over 45 years.



Margot Hayman

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa – Margot Hayman, 89, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at Harmony Care Center in Cedar Rapids.

Private family burial will take place at Murray Memorial Gardens & Mausoleum in Murray, Ky.

Margot was born May 27, 1935, in Mendota, the daughter to Laurence and Gertrude (Hoffman) Walter. She graduated from Mendota High School in 1953 and was united in marriage to Dennis Hayman on Sept. 11, 1954.

Margot is survived by her children, Kevin (Marie) Hayman, Denise (John) Martin, and Tim (Darla) Hayman; grandchildren, Erika, Janelle, Brandon, Riley, Aaron, Anna, and Danielle; great-grandson, Killian; brother, Jerry Walter; and step grandkids, David, Steve, Tiffany, and Garret.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dennis Hayman; infant son, Kevin; and brothers, Neil Walter, Richard Walter, Roland Walter, and Alan Walter.

Margot worked at a hospital in Mendota as a nursing aide until she started her career being a Trainer in Sales.

She loved her family and was a wonderful Mom. She made clothes for the kids and taught them arts and crafts, making ornaments, cards, drawing, and painting. As a family, they enjoyed vacations, camping, bowling, school activities, sports, church events, and picnics. Margot loved golfing with her husband, travel, her career, entertaining, Christmas, dancing, and music. She had a beautiful voice.

Please share your support and memories with Margot's family on her Tribute Wall at www.stewartbaxter.com under Obituaries.



Art exhibit at Lincoln Library and Museum shows work of R. Hunt

SPRINGFIELD – The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is celebrating the work of renowned sculptor Richard Hunt with a special exhibition that showcases his groundbreaking art and explores the history that so often inspired him. "Freedom in Form: Richard Hunt" open now through April 20.

Hunt, who lived and worked in Chicago all his life, produced more public sculptures than any other artist in American history. They can be found in plazas and parks from Champaign and Peoria to Washington and New York. He was the subject of more than 160 exhibitions during his 70-year career. His abstract art gave form to the pain and the hopes of African Americans striving for true equality.

"Freedom in Form" will be the first major Hunt exhibition since his death last year. Already, a 22-foot sculpture by Hunt has been installed outside the ALPLM's museum building. Other massive sculptures will be represented in the exhibit through miniature prototypes called maquettes. The exhibition also includes smaller-scale works. But the goal is to give visitors a glimpse into Hunt's creative process, so the exhibition will include tools from Hunt's studio and books from his library.

For the first time anywhere, visitors will be able to see two works together that serve as emotional bookends to Hunt's career. One is the 1956 sculpture "Hero's Head," inspired by Hunt seeing the battered body of Emmett Till, the Chicago teenager who was murdered in Mississippi. The other is a maquette of a memorial to Till that Hunt was working on when he died.

"I had the privilege of visiting Mr. Hunt's studio and talking to him," said Christina Shutt, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. "I knew then that we could present a unique and powerful exhibition of his work. There was a story to tell about a visionary artist inspired by 400 years of pain and struggle, some of which connected directly to President Lincoln's historic achievements."

The exhibition was produced by ALPLM Exhibits and Shows Director Lance

Tawzer and curated by Ross Stanton Jordan, curatorial manager at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum. After its run at the ALPLM, the exhibition moves to the Loyola University Museum of Art in Chicago. The two institutions are producing a hard-cover catalog with photographs of the featured art and essays about Hunt's career. The project received cooperation from The Richard Hunt Trust, as well as the DePaul University Museum of Art, DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center, Illinois State Museum and Illinois Governor's Mansion.

"An art exhibition of this scale is a new challenge for the ALPLM, but we thought the idea was too good to pass up," Tawzer said. "We had an Illinois artist who built an international reputation exploring themes of race, justice and civil rights in America – basically, looking at where this nation stood 150 years after Abraham Lincoln wrestled with those same issues. We think people will be fascinated by this look at the intersection of art and history."

Admission to "Freedom in Form: Richard Hunt" will be included free in the regular ALPLM admission price.

The museum is open 9-5 every day of the year except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

For more information, visit www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov.

About Richard Hunt

Hunt was born in 1935 on Chicago's South Side. He studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago but taught himself to weld as he experimented with cutting-edge sculptural techniques. He achieved national attention in 1957 when the Museum of Modern Art acquired one of his early works. His career took off from there, leading more than 100 museums to add his work to their collections. Among his 160 public sculptures are monuments to such heroes as Martin Luther King Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune, Jesse Owens and Ida B. Wells. He was appointed to the National Council on the Arts in 1968.

Barack Obama called him "one of the finest artists ever to come out of Chicago," and a Hunt sculpture will stand at the Obama Presidential Center.

He died Dec. 16, 2023.

Social Security news

Social Security's FAQ page can answer your important questions

By Mike Weitzl

PERU – There are many online resources about Social Security, but it is important that you visit our official website – SSA.gov – for the most accurate and up-to-date answers. You can find lots of information about our programs and services on our Frequently Asked Questions page at faq.ssa.gov. We feature the most asked questions at the top of the page to include:

- How can I get help from Social Security?
- How much will the COLA amount be for 2025 and when will I receive it?
- What should I do if I receive a call from someone claiming to be a Social Security employee?
- How do I schedule, reschedule, or cancel an appointment?

• What happens if I work and get Social Security retirement benefits?

You can also browse by topic, including:

- Disability.
- Supplemental Security Income.
- Retirement.
- Medicare.

Many of our FAQs are available in Spanish, as well, at www.ssa.gov/espanol.

Visit our publications library at www.ssa.gov/pubs for more detailed information on many important topics. Most publications are available in text, audio, downloadable formats, and in other languages.


Please share this information with your loved ones.

(Weitzl is the Social Security District Manager in Peru.)

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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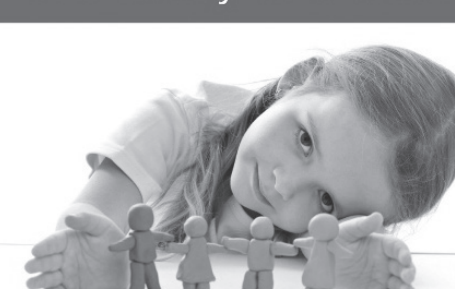
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LOCAL AND AREA

IVCC campus food pantry evolving, serving growing need

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College’s food pantry fed a growing need in 2024, serving more students – and more children in their households – than ever.

A record-setting winter quarter outpaced the strong fall quarter before it. Eagles Peak Food Pantry supplied baked items and fresh and shelf-stable goods to more than 2,030 people in the last quarter of 2024. Those patrons represented 196 households and more than 500 children.

That nearly doubled the record set in July through September, when 1,333 people – including 286 children – were supplied.

“The need has always been there, but awareness of the pantry grew significantly. Food insecurity is an increasing challenge for our students, and our pantry is seeing more visitors than ever,” said Associate Director of Retention Ashlee Fitzpatrick, who oversees the Eagles Peak Food Pantry.

IVCC President Dr. Tracy Morris says the pantry has made a difference for students. “I could not be prouder of the impact that Eagles Peak has had. The difference it has made for our students who may just need a snack before class or who might need more assistance with groceries during tough times has been tremendous. Students are so appreciative that we have this available.”

Eagles Peak is included in the campus progress summaries Dr. Morris shares with the Board of Trustees regularly. “I am humbled to see the numbers. The impact we are having for our students is tangible and the indirect impact for their families is amazing. To me, it really speaks to our holistic student support. We are committed to helping our students be successful and that goes well beyond the classroom.”



Volunteers from IVCC’s Project Success help Associate Director of Retention Ashlee Fitzpatrick restock the Eagles Peak Food Pantry in preparation for a new semester. The pantry has supplied a growing list of students and their families since it was expanded and relocated two years ago. (Photo contributed)

The campus resource has changed a lot in the last two years. In 2023, recognizing students’ growing food insecurity, the college expanded its inventory from shelves of snacks to a fully stocked pantry supplied by the River Bend Food Bank. An equipment donation enabled the addition of refrigerated and frozen items and new software helps students discover what other assistance programs they are eligible for, where to find them and how to apply.

Changes continued in 2024. The pantry recently received a \$3,000 grant from the national non-profit Swipe Out Hunger on college campuses, Fitzpatrick said. Pantry hours were extended to three days a week and partnerships on and off campus led to HyVee supplying baked goods and to campus Project Success student volunteers helping to unbox and organize the

twice-monthly deliveries from the food bank.

Fitzpatrick praises volunteers who work behind the scenes to keep the pantry operating and all the donors who support it and keep it stocked.

Last winter, IVCC joined other community colleges in a winter collection drive, which Fitzpatrick said had a tremendous impact on the pantry and the students it serves. As part of Feed the Need, the college collected more than 250 items. Earlier that fall, the Bookstore had hosted a soup drive.

The pantry will continue to evolve in 2025, Fitzpatrick said. She’s hoping to have more faculty and staff volunteers to assist students when they come to the pantry. The inventory continually changes as students who use the pantry suggest different food options, such as more non-dairy products or gluten-free items.

Connections forged be-

tween staff and pantry users help students feel more comfortable, Fitzpatrick said.

So do other steps by organizers trying to eliminate any stigma attached to using the pantry. Donated goods labeled with the pantry’s location are placed in common areas. Samples are displayed at on-campus admissions events, and the pantry is included on guided tours of high school visitors. Treat baskets are supplied to the Peer Mentor offices and items are distributed to the Ottawa Center, the East Campus and the Academic Support Center tutoring area.

Fitzpatrick has more goals. She would like to add inventory management technology and stock basic-needs items such as laundry soap, hygiene products and full-sized toiletries. She also hopes to determine how big a factor the pantry is in whether students stay in college and complete their studies.

License

Continued from Page A1

“They do not appreciate being discriminated against in this way. They do want this barrier removed,” he said.

Before the pandemic, the road test for senior drivers applied to people over the age of 75 but a temporary measure raised the age to 79. This became permanent last year after a study from the secretary of state’s office found the number of crashes did not increase significantly in each age range.

Co-sponsor State Rep. Jeff Keicher, R-Sycamore, referred to the legislation as “the art of the possible,” despite some pushback from some other legislators.

The Road Safety and Fairness Act would also allow relatives to report unsafe drivers.

Illinois is one of only five states that do not allow immediate family members

to report concerns about a relative’s driving ability, but the new legislation, in partnership with AARP Illinois, would change that.

“Illinois AARP members have asked our team for years, ‘Why is Illinois the only state in the nation to use age as a factor to require people to retake their driving test?’” Philippe Largent, AARP Illinois state director, said. “It’s time for Illinois to join the 49 other states and take a step forward in increasing the age in which older drivers in the state are required to take a driving test.”

The proposed legislation would eliminate the driving test for some, but it would still require renewals at a DMV location every one to four years, depending on age.

Every four years, 79- and 80-year-olds will still need to renew their licenses in person, while drivers between

81 and 86 years of age will need to renew every two years in person. Those 87 and above will renew annually in person, and a vision test is required for all age groups.

The bill moves Illinois closer to being consistent with other states’ driving requirements, although it remains one of the strictest states when it comes to license renewal for older drivers.

Wisconsin requires drivers of all ages to renew their licenses every eight years without a driving test. Indiana once mandated a road test for seniors but repealed it in 2005. New Hampshire was the last state besides Illinois to do away with their age-based road test in 2011.

“I would look at this as where we’re able to get the ball right now,” Keicher said. “It doesn’t mean the battle ends, but it does mean this

is where we’re able to get from the feedback that we had during the spring session (last year).”

The Road Safety and Fairness Act will be considered in the upcoming spring General Assembly session. If passed and signed by the governor, the changes would take effect July 1, 2026.

(Ashley Soriano 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.)

Flag

Continued from Page A1

Members of the public can vote for one flag once every 24-hour period. Individuals with multiple favorite submissions may select a different flag each day. Participants are encouraged to review their vote carefully before sub-

mitting, as their selection cannot be altered after a vote is cast.

After the public voting period has ended, the Illinois Flag Commission will count the votes and report its findings and recommendations to the Illinois General Assembly by April 1, 2025. Members of the

General Assembly will then vote on whether to adopt a new flag, return to a previous iteration of the flag or retain the current flag.

Senate Bill 1818, sponsored by State Senator Doris Turner (48th District—Springfield) and State Representative Kam Buckner (26th District—Chicago),

was signed into law by Governor JB Pritzker in 2023, creating the commission to gauge public desire for a new flag. The commission selected its Top 10 finalists in December from the 4,844 entries it received during the six-week submission period that closed in October.

IDs

Continued from Page A1

ed with Face ID or Touch ID before it is shared. This means that a mobile driver’s license or ID holder can provide proof of their age when legally purchasing alcohol or renting a car, without sharing other personal information – like their address.

Illinois joins 10 states and territories that have adopted IDs in Apple Wallet, including Arizona, Colorado, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Maryland, New Mexico, Ohio and Puerto Rico.

Giannoulas also expects to bring mobile driver’s licenses and IDs to additional digital wallets, such as

Google Wallet for Android users, in the future.

HB4592, which enabled the Secretary of State’s office to begin the process of developing mobile IDs in Illinois, was sponsored by State Representative Kam Buckner (26th District – Chicago) and State Senator Michael Hastings (19th District – Frankfort). The bill is part of Giannoulas’ commitment to modernizing the office, while getting up to speed with other states that already have secure mobile driver’s license and state ID programs in place.

For more information on IDs in Apple Wallet, visit <https://learn.wallet.apple/id>

HONOR ROLL

Mendota High School

MENDOTA – Mendota High School has named its honor roll students for the first semester of the 2024-25 school year.

Juniors and seniors achieving honor roll status are listed below. The honor roll students from the freshman and sophomore classes are pictured on the Best of MHS pages on page B4 and page B5.

Juniors: Allyssah Arteaga, Maren Atherton, Alex Beetz, Keegan Beetz, Vivian Begley, Ruby Bielema, Kate Biers, John Biggs, Robert Botello, Gracie Botts, Lucie Brandner, Christonah Brown, Sarah Brown, Sebastian Carlos, Janae Carr, Stephanie Casas, Milianna Castaneda, Aaden Castle, Litzy Celis, Airam Cuevas, Ally Denault, Laylie Denault, Sara Diaz, Aaron Doyle, Dane Doyle, Caeleb Ensor, Gavin Evans, Corbin Furar, Harlan Gallagher, Vivian George, Kylie Goldblatt, Sofia Gomez, Hector Gonzalez, Sienna Gonzalez, Mateo Goy, Anthony Guerrero, Brody Hartt, Alexander Holland, Chase Johnson, Addi Jones, Grady Jones, Brody Kaecker, Spencer Kain, Hannah Kunz, Aubrey Land, Trey Lee, Jahaira Leiva, Ella Lewis, Peri Manning, Kate Mikolasek, Kooper Novak, Luis Nunez, Zoey Polk, Lily

Prentiss, Elaina Reddin, Jessica Reel, Edoardo Romero, Mauricio Salinas, Ariana Sanchez, Nick Sheridan, Leah Stamberger, Joseph Stewart, Aden Tillman, Sydney Tolley, Carlos Toribio, Anna Valdes, Giselle Vallejo, Chloe Walzer, Tavian Watts, Talia White

Seniors: Eric Aranda, Fernando Arteaga, Jorge Arteaga, Noemi Arteaga, Marco Balcazar, Makenzie Bean, James Bradley, Benjamin Bresley, Katelyn Cook, Ella Coss, Jairo Covarrubias Portillo, Ava Eddy, Alessandra Enriquez, Cameron Escatel, Ivan Espinoza, Braiden Freeman, Crystal Garcia, Natalie Hanaman, Conner Hansen, Claire Hanson, Jocce Haun, Lidia Hernandez, Lauren Holland, Quin Holland, Horacio Huizar, Adrianna Johnson, Cameron Kelly, Anthony Kelson, Christopher Kimes, Kennedy Knaff, Dessa Komitas, Cameron Kordick, Brandon Leadley, Ella Martin, Samuel Matara, Korinne Miars, Travis Mumm, Brisa Nunez, Sophia Pappas, Nicholas Reyes, Isabela Rosales, Lissette Sandoval Rios, Maybrianna Schultz, Angilberto Serrano, Kaley Siemer, Josh Sondgeroth, Wyatt Sondgeroth, Madison Sproston, Cadence Thornton, Lea Turner, Rhett Watson, Jillian Younger

LaMoille Jr./Sr. High School

LaMOILLE – LaMoille Junior High School and LaMoille High School have named their honor roll students for the first semester of the 2024-25 school year.

High Honor Roll (3.51-4.0 grade point average)

Seniors: Elizabeth Boege, Richard Boege, *Isabella Fischer, Catherine Griffin, Jack Heinzeroth, Owen Hunter, Brayden Klein, *Claire Lovgren, Jenna Pinter, *Sadie Quest, Olivia Sadnick, Mylanichole Snyder, Nicholas Snyder

Juniors: Connor Deering, Madison Durdan, Abigail Michael, Ella Rya, Cody Winn

Sophomores: Jhett Cows-

Aubrey Sadnick, Chloe Williams

Freshmen: Olivea Glasper, Jena Monroe, Brianna Smith

Eighth Grade: Corbin Engel, Alexis Flanagan

Seventh Grade: Dakota Wendelken

(* denotes min. 4.0)

Honor Roll

Seniors: Sebastian Dobson, Dakota Martin-Coffman, Joshua Martin, Owen Nickel, Evan Supan

Juniors: Jayden Brockhum, Keller Hult, Grace Kelly, Taylor Wamhoff

Sophomores: Braden Fischer, Katrina Hendricks

Freshmen: Logan Bates, Alexander Lovgren, Breana Spencer

Eighth Grade: Jana Felton, Eli Olivares, Jasper Stockwell



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Brewery explosion anniversary - 1896

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks and Sidetracks column, reprinted from Jan. 24, 2001.)
By Jessica Nashold

Among major industrial tragedies in Mendota, an explosion at the Henning Brewery occurred a little after 3 o'clock in the afternoon on Friday, Jan. 25, 1895. Six lives were lost - five Mendota men and one from DeKalb.

On the first anniversary of that disaster, Jan. 25, 1896, employees of the brewery marched in the cemetery to decorate the graves of Thomas Deshazo, David L. Gheer, David E. Wells, Adam Berscheidt and Christian Seifert. The sixth fatality, J. Kennedy, had been returned to DeKalb for burial.

In Mendota, a memorial service was held in the cemetery.

Mendota Oddfellows had their third annual banquet at the Opera House. Although the night was stormy, the affair was attended by "100 Oddfellows and their lady friends."

Toastmaster was C.K. Carpenter. Caterer Dubbs provided a menu that included both creamed and escalloped oysters, cold turkey, cold ham and a variety of salads. The Imperial Lady Quartet presented a program of songs. They were Mrs. Don Simpson, Mrs. George Frey, Miss Ella Lyman and Miss Mae Edwards. The ladies "sang exceptionally fine."

It is hoped the public at large may have the pleasure of hearing them.

The Grand Jury at Ottawa indicated a number of "wealthy mayors" for ignoring indictments of saloon keepers who had served customers on Sunday. The following were charged with failure to enforce the law: F.W. Matthiessen, mayor of LaSalle, millionaire zinc manufacturer; Andrew Hebel, mayor of Peru, a wealthy brewer; John Tolman, village board president at Kangley; and S.J. Russell, village board president at Toluca.

Joe Howarth, Mendota blacksmith, was carrying his arm in a sling. A "vicious horse" had kicked his tool box to pieces.

The lame arm was the result.

The Sun had a lot of sympathy for

Backtracks & Sidetracks

taxpayers. It declared Alan Wylie "The Champion Taxpayer of Mendota." In addition to his real estate, he paid a personal property tax of \$391. Others with high personal property taxes were S.E. Rogers, \$180; E.H. Johnson, \$170; D.C. Shedd, \$145; Louis Waldorf, \$142; A. Freund, \$121; S.G. Dudgeon, \$93; S. Baker, \$91; F. Wershinski, \$91; Mary McIntire, \$91; Michael McHugh, \$90.

The Sun observed: "We know several with nearly as much personal property, who do not pay 1/5 as much tax."

A Sun reader, with community betterment in mind, was given front page space for "A Bystander's Notes" in the Jan. 25, 1896 issue. He suggested using the rooms in the Meisenbach building on Main Street for a Commercial Club. The space had been vacated by the Mendota Masons.

Ed Frederick announced his intention of opening a plumbing, tin roofing and general jobbing tin shop.

The "old" gas company completed installation of new machinery for water gas at a cost of about \$5,000. Although not yet perfectly adjusted, management promised it would give "still finer light." The Sun commented that Mendota had two gas companies as well as "the electric."

There are few towns in the country supplied with gas at \$1 per thousand feet.

Professor J.A. Wallace, instructor in music at Mendota College, was hired by the East Mendota school board to teach vocal music on Tuesdays and Fridays. Professor Wallace also gave private lessons.

The Illinois Clay Workers Association elected officers during a meeting in Streator. William Stare of Mendota was elected treasurer. The Stare Tile Yard was north of Mendota.

A rise in the price of grain was reported. Corn was now bringing 23 cents, oats 16 cents and wheat 53 cents in the Mendota market.

A Farmers' Institute was held at the Opera House, Jan. 29-30, 1896. Papers on farm topics would be read, followed by discussion.

This is the first event of the kind for Mendota.

The Sun reminded readers that nearly all community income was dependent on "products of the soil." It was hoped a good attendance at the institute would lead to its becoming an annual event.

A Leap Year party in Comus Hall on Illinois Avenue was sponsored by the Semper Club, a group of young ladies. When asked the meaning of "semper," members said it meant "always faithful" or "always the same."

If they live up to the word, they will be better than the traditional woman.

At the Leap Year party, every gentleman was presented with a "handsome boutonniere of carnations, tea roses and smilax."

Professor James O. Scott, a graduate of NINS in Valparaiso, Ind., was engaged to teach penmanship to all Mendota College students, free of charge. In 1896, president of the college was S.V. Clum.

Under the heading "PRESIDENTS WHO JOKE NOT," the following examples were listed.

Tyler was cross, sour, unapproachable and irritable. Jackson was aggressive, unpromising and serious. John Adams was too much in earnest to be humorous. John Quincy Adams had caustic bitter wit, no humor. Buchanan could never see the point of a joke. Washington seldom smiled and never laughed.

W.A. Morrissey, with seven years of experience in stenography, was prepared to teach shorthand and typewriting at \$1 for a five-day week.

Trump the expansionist knows real estate matters

By Rich Lowry

In business, Donald Trump was a real estate guy. In the presidency, he might be one, too. The prospective foreign policy of his second term has taken an unexpected turn, with his recent talk of annexing Canada, buying Greenland and taking back the Panama Canal. Rather than the neo-isolationist that he's often accused of being, Trump is talking like a neo-imperialist, at least in our own hemisphere.

Even if President Trump does none of these things -- he's largely joking about the Great White North -- his musings are a reminder of the crucial importance of geography and the control of territory.

The first thing you need to do to understand the world, and to a large extent the behavior of nations, is to look at a map. "Geography is the most fundamental factor in the foreign policy of states because it is the most permanent," the 20th-century strategist Nicholas Spykman observed. "Ministers come and go, even dictators die, but mountain ranges stand unperturbed."

The world was never "flat," in the formulation of New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman that became the catchphrase of a complacent globalism.

No, the world is full of mountains and steppes; rivers and coastlines; temperate, tropical and dry zones. Some nations, by virtue of their location, are secure, others vulnerable; some naturally rich, others resource-starved.

The first thing you need to know about Britain, for instance, is that it is an island, "this precious stone set in the silver sea," as Shakespeare had it. This basic, ineluctable fact has crucially shaped Britain's strategic orientation and national character. It is why it became a naval power committed to global trade, and why it considered far-flung places -- courtesy of the waves -- relatively nearby.

The English Channel has been an indispensable buffer between it and continental Europe. There's a reason Nazi Germany invaded Poland, France, the Soviet Union, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Greece, Yugoslavia and Italy -- but not Britain.

As for Germany, Robert Kaplan writes in his illuminating book "The Revenge of Geography" that it "faces both east and west with no mountain ranges to protect it, providing it with pathologies from militarism to nascent pacifism, so as to cope with its dangerous location."

The United States is uniquely blessed by its geography. It is of immeasurable importance that we are both a continental and island nation, combining the massive resources that come with the former, with the protection from hostile European and Asian powers that comes with the latter. We have abundant natural resources, ample coastlines, a massive river system and a disproportionate share of the world's best soil, among other advantages.

That we ended up stretching from sea to shining sea wasn't an accident. Our forefathers supported continental expansion as a matter of geopolitics, whether it was the Louisiana Purchase or the Mexican-American War. They believed that it would make us stronger and more secure, and -- although their methods weren't always admirable -- they were correct.

Control of territory matters, sometimes even relatively small pieces of territory. Consider Hawaii. It is of enormous consequence that the island archipelago sits in the middle of the Pacific athwart key sea lanes. Other powers circled it in the 19th century, while the great naval strategist Alfred Thayer Mahan urged us to acquire it. We all know the role of Pearl Harbor in World War II, and as the "Crossroads of the Pacific," Hawaii remains a major economic and military asset.

As for Greenland, the idea of buying it from Denmark is no more ridiculous than any other land purchase we've ever made, including of the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1917 ... from Denmark.

Greenland has attracted the interest of such estimable American statesmen as Harry Truman and William Seward. Given its strategic location in the Arctic Circle and its wealth of mineral deposits, it's an alluring proposition.

Geography isn't everything, but often when it comes to geopolitics, there's no substitute for cold, hard real estate.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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LOCAL AND AREA

IVCC recognizes emeritus recipients; offers new education certificate

OGLESBY – Nine outstanding retired professionals were awarded with the honorary title of emeritus during the Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees meeting in December. Recognized during the meeting on Jan. 16 were administrators Dr. Robert P. Marshall and Bonnie Campbell and faculty members Stephen Alvin, Dr. Rose Marie Lynch, and Dr. Jane Sack. Also awarded emeritus status in December were Sue Isermann, Daniel O'Connor, James Stevenson, and Linda Hawkins.

In other action, the Board approved a new Early Childhood Education (ECE) certification that focuses on creating new leaders and mentors in the field.

The ECE Director Qualified Certificate introduces a class in coaching and leadership to existing administration and early childhood education courses to create a streamlined and comprehensive program tailored to childcare workers who want to advance, according to ECE Program Coordinator Tammy Landgraf. Licensed childcare facilities are required to have director-qualified employees on-site, and trainer/mentors are always in demand, she added.

Graduates will be able to list a program of study that sets out their qualifications to licensing representatives. The new certification, recommended by the College curriculum committee, still needs state approval, but the first class is expected to enroll in the 2025-26 school year.

In her monthly report, President Dr. Tracy Morris noted:

- Early Spring 2025 semester enrollment has increased by 6.35 percent in headcount and 12.77 percent in credit hours compared to Spring 2024.

- Transformative Growth, IVCC's mental health provider partner, provided 615 total counseling sessions in the 2023-24 school year and organized 42 activities for students, staff and the community.

- The Truck Driver Training Program recently received a \$300,000 grant from the state Community College Board to promote trades programs to high school students.

In other action, the Board also:

- Authorized the purchase of independent audio-visual systems for CTC conference rooms, a test kitchen, and a yoga studio from Intech Innovations of Washington, Ill., at a cost of \$323,955.

- Authorized a furniture purchase for a distance learning classroom from KI of Green Bay, Wis., at a cost of \$27,120.

- Learned of the appointments of Danielle Bell, Student Services administrative assistant, and Sarah Ursini, Financial Aid administrative assistant.

- Learned of the resignations of Dustin Lawless, professional tutor; Michael Furlan, professional tutor (who remains a part-time instructor); Kelly Shymanski, Workforce Careers Navigator, and Jen Hauser, CNA instructor.



Five outstanding retired professionals were recognized Wednesday by the Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees for the honorary title of emeritus that was awarded in December. A short reception in their honor followed the announcement. Pictured, from left, are Stephen Alvin, Dr. Jane Sack, Dr. Rose Marie Lynch, Dr. Robert P. Marshall, and Bonnie Campbell. (Photo contributed)

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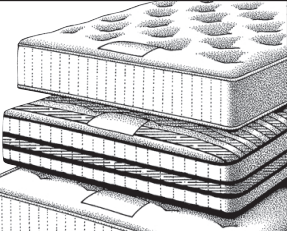
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SOCIAL NEWS

Starved Rock Country Community Foundation has over \$45,000 in scholarships available in '25

LaSALLE – Through the generosity of several caring donors, over \$45,000 in scholarships is available in 2025 from the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation, including two new awards.

The SRCCF scholarship application period is underway through 5 p.m. Friday, March 7. Visit www.srccf.org for the application and information. Awards ranging in value from \$10,000 to \$500 include the:

- Rising Star Scholarship, a \$5,000 award established by retired teacher Ethel McConnell of Ottawa for a student pursuing an elementary education degree at Illinois State University.
- Carol and Dick Janko Scholarship for Promising Entrepreneurs is awarded to students who intend to create their own business upon college graduation. The Janko awarded \$8,000 to four students in 2024.
- Internet of Things (IoT) Scholarship for Science, Engineering and Technology presented by Advantech offers a pair of \$2,500 scholarships to a male and female student.
- Mac-Aero Scholarship for Aeronautics and Aviation



Scholarship recipient Landon Whelchel of Amboy speaks at the June scholarship reception. Whelchel was one of two recipients of the Internet of Things Scholarship for Science, Engineering and Technology presented by Advantech. (Photo contributed)

is a \$10,000 award established by Ethel McConnell to honor her late husband Ed who had a passion for aviation.

• Tangled Roots Brewing Company Pie It Forward Scholarship offers \$1,000 for students pursuing a career in hospitality and/or culinary arts.

• Charles H. Beckett Scholarship for Culinary Arts, a \$2,500 award established by Chuck Beckett of Ottawa to support a student

in the Culinary Arts Management program at Joliet Junior College.

• Women Inspired Network Young Leaders Scholarship, two \$3,000 awards for female students who have demonstrated significant leadership skills and accomplishments throughout their high school or college career.

• Stephen Charles Vogler Scholarship for Electronics and Communications, a \$1,220 award established by Starved Rock Media President John Spencer for students pursuing an electronics or communications degree at Illinois Valley Community College.

• Robert J. and Ellen G. Moore Memorial Scholarship for Fieldcrest High School and Wenona students. The amount will be based on financial need and more than one Moore scholarship may be awarded.

• Molly Lenora Yacko Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 award funded by proceeds from the Run Today for Tomorrow 5K in Ottawa. It rewards a college junior or senior who is pursuing a mental health-related degree and plans to return after college to work in Starved Rock Country.

• Streator Leading Ladies Maxine Wargo Working Women's Scholarship, a \$500 award for women returning to school after a year or more absence. It honors Maxine Wargo, a businesswoman and role model for women in Streator.

New Starved Rock Country Community Foundation scholarships include:

• Dolores "Dee" Heflbower Memorial Nursing Scholarship, a \$3,000 scholarship for students pursuing an RN degree at IVCC. And the,

• Robert Cotner Memorial Scholarship for students studying English literature or fine arts. The \$1,500 scholarship will award students studying literature, painting, sculpture, photography, music, dance or theatre.

The application covers the student's academic history, honors, leadership, community service, employment, and extracurricular activities. It also requires a separate essay for each scholarship and two letters of recommendation from educators.

For information, contact SRCCF Director of Operations Janice Corrigan at (815) 252-2906, ext. 2 or janice@srccf.org.



Mr. and Mrs. George Wixom

Wixoms to observe 60th anniversary on January 23

MENDOTA – Mr. and Mrs. George (Ruth) Wixom will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Jan. 23.

George Wixom and the former Ruth Herrmann were united in marriage Jan. 23, 1965, at St. James Catholic Church in Lee. The couple are the parents of three children, Chad (Pam) Wixom of Mendota, Mark (Juli) Wixom of Mendota and Kris (Doug) Kurkowski of Peru. They are also blessed with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

George and Ruth are lifelong family farmers in the Mendota area, farming the same land that has been in George's family since 1866.

The family is celebrating with a dinner at Garzanelli's in Oglesby.

Starved Rock Country Community Foundation receives state approval as a Qualified Community Foundation

LaSALLE – The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation (SRCCF) is honored to receive state approval as a Qualified Community Foundation (QCF) for the new Illinois Gives initiative. Illinois Gives will incentivize up to \$100 million in new charitable giving over the next 5 years by authorizing a 25% state income tax credit for charitable donations to eligible permanent endowments held by the SRCCF and is being administered by the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR). Unlike traditional charitable deductions, this credit is available to all taxpayers, whether or not they itemize deductions. It's an accessible and inclusive way to make a meaningful impact while reshaping support for local communities.

Effective for tax years ending on or after Dec. 31, 2025, the Illinois Gives Tax Credit Act creates a state income tax credit for donors who contribute to one or more permanent endowment funds held by the SRCCF during a taxable year. Income tax credits cannot exceed \$100,000 per taxpayer, per year. The endowment funds provide charitable grants exclusively for the benefit of charities and charitable projects located in the State. Several eligible endowment funds are currently held by the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation and new endowments may be created in keeping with the SRCCF policies and procedures. The SRCCF will accept

contributions eligible for income tax credits and issue Certificates of Receipts (CORs) to donors.

Endowed funds at the SRCCF provide a predictable source of general operating and capital funding for a wide range of nonprofit organizations and programs throughout the state. Sustaining local nonprofits for many years to come is possible by incentivizing endowment gifts through Illinois Gives. Those gifts provide a steady stream of income to greatly benefit non-profit organizations providing vital services and strengthening communities.

Taxpayers eligible for Illinois Gives include individuals, corporations, partnerships, trusts, and estates. For individual taxpayers, Illinois Gives provides new tax relief for those who do not itemize their taxes. In enacting Illinois Gives, the State of Illinois recognizes that nonprofit businesses, which collectively employ 11% of our workforce, are vital contributors to our economy.

The recently enacted Illinois Gives Credit Act offers a groundbreaking tax benefit that's set to reshape how we support local communities.

For more information and specific details regarding the Illinois Gives Tax Credit Act:

- Visit Illinois Gives Tax Credit Program home page.
- Visit the SRCCF website at srccf.org
- Call the SRCCF office at 815-252-2906.

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THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

VIOLATION OF PAROLE WARRANT
William H. Adams, 53, of 1108 Sixth St., Mendota, was arrested on Jan. 15 for a violation of parole warrant after police officers were dispatched to the 1100 block of Sixth Street for a disturbance. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED
Tyler Kobylarz-Salgado, 23, of 4462 E. 1251st Road, Trailer 9, Earlville, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Indiana Avenue and Washington Street on Jan. 16. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Safety tips for winter driving

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.

Protect your family: Understanding the carbon monoxide risks, proper winter home heating safety

SPRINGFIELD – Winter brings cold arctic air to Illinois and as residents turn up their thermostats to stay warm the risk of a home heating fire or Carbon Monoxide incident increases. The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) encourages residents to have their furnaces checked, change furnace filters, and make sure carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke alarms are functioning properly. Unlike smoke, carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas only detectable by special devices and CO alarms.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths. U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 40,997 fires involving heating equipment per year from 2018-2022, accounting for 12% of all reported home fires during this time, and these fires resulted in annual losses of 470 civilian deaths. Space heaters were the type of heating equipment responsible for the largest shares of losses in home heating equipment fires, accounting for one-third of the fires, but nearly nine out of ten deaths and four out of five of the injuries in home fires caused

by heating equipment. Half of the home heating fire deaths were caused by having heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing mattresses or bedding. Nearly half of all home heating fires occurred in December, January, and February.

“We have already seen tragedy strike in the state when it comes to carbon monoxide this winter. It’s so important to have working CO detectors in your home and test them monthly,” said Illinois State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera. “CO is a colorless and odorless gas unlike smoke, and many rely on natural gas as a heating source in their homes making it so important to have, the key word being, working CO detectors and smoke alarms in your home and test them monthly.”

In 2024, according to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), Illinois Fire Departments responded to 23,158 calls about carbon monoxide in 2024 and determined a CO leak at 8,176 of those locations.

Symptoms of CO poisoning is very similar to the flu and include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and dizziness. Other

signs of possible CO presence include condensation on walls and windows, house pets becoming sluggish and chronic odors from malfunctioning appliances. If you suspect you may be experiencing these symptoms, smell natural gas leaking in your home, or if your CO alarm activates, if you can evacuate the building, do so immediately. Only open windows on your way out if they are easily accessible. If someone is unable to leave the building, or is unconscious, open doors and windows to the outside in the area the person is located and stay as near to the open window or door as possible until first responders arrive. Turn on any exhaust fans that may be present. Once you evacuate, call 9-1-1 from outside your home or a neighbor’s house.

Here are some other tips to keep in mind when it comes to winter heating safety:

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional and change furnace filters frequently.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters, or central heating equipment accord-

ing to the local codes and manufacturers’ instructions.

- Keep interior and exterior air vents clear of blockages or obstructions.

• Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like a furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.

- Purchase units with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over or you forget to shut it off.

• Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before being placed into a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

- Create a three-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.

• Test smoke and CO alarms at least once a month and be familiar with the sounds they make.

- Never use an oven or range to heat your home.

• Remember to turn off portable or space heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.

- Install carbon monoxide and smoke detectors on each floor of your home and within 15 feet of each sleeping area.

• CO detectors have a limited life span; check the manufacturer’s instructions for information on replacement.

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SPORTS

A different football landscape in 2025

The football fields at Mendota, St. Bede, Hall, and LaSalle-Peru are all going to be in the same locations as previous seasons. They will still be 100 yards from end zone to end zone with an additional 10 yards called paydirt. The bleachers will still be steel, hard, warm in August, and cold in October and November.



Not the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance

Keegan Hill after seven seasons and Logan Larson left the Red Devils' sideline after one campaign. Jim Eustice and Jose Medina were assistants with their respective programs before taking over the reigns – Eustice with the Bruins and Medina with the Cavaliers – in 2015. Both will be replaced before the 2025 Illinois high school football season begins.

For a lot of players, player's parents, assistant coaches, administrators, fans, and local journalists there are a lot of different emotions. Unfortunately, there is the good riddance or why didn't the change happen before because he didn't win enough or make enough playoff appearances.

There is the, man, he will be missed because he was a great coach, was great for the kids, his energy and excitement for the game will not be matched, he knew how to manage a game, he was an amazing ambassador for the program and the community.

Then there is the curiosity of the great unknown. Who will be next? Is the school going to hire within? Is the school going to bring back a previous coach? Is the program going to look for a replacement in the Illinois Valley? Is the next head coach going to be from Illinois or another state? After the hire, more questions are asked.

Have we ever heard of this person before? What is their pedigree? Are they head coach worthy? Did they get the job because they knew someone on the school board or did they get the job because of their resume?

These are all asked immediately throughout the process in every newsroom (well, those don't exist everywhere anymore) so through texts from one journalist to another. Or at the cafeteria, the teacher's lounge, the walkie talkie from one forklift to another, and at the YMCA swimming pool during water aerobics.

And, obviously, in this column. Mendota has already answered some of the questions traveling its way as it hired Eustice in an undetected, under-the-radar, unthinkable acquisition. Read more about Eustice becoming a Trojan at the bottom of this page.

The other programs still have all of the questions to answer as rumblings and rumors have been created, but no answers or a name have filled the blank.

Will Hill or Medina switch to one of the remaining open jobs? Larson is traveling south on I-39 to return to his stomping grounds to coach, so we know we won't see him in the Illinois Valley in 2025.

With the maneuvering and the change, no matter who it is, the final result or the grand question will always be, is the football team better than it was before with the new hire?

No offense to Hill, but Mendota will be in terms of Eustice being a proven coach who has advanced to the playoffs many times with rosters people didn't think SBA could be successful with. Plus, he has coached in the Three Rivers Conference in all but two seasons of his coaching career as the Bruins were a league anchor before moving to the Chicagoland Prairie Conference.

Hall has numerous seniors in the 2025 season who have been key cogs to the Red Devil operation for the last two years. Will the new coach push them to finish better than 2024's 2-7 record?

St. Bede was also 2-7 last year, but the Chicagoland Prairie has its own shakeups as Tom Jobst retired from Marquette, Dwight is losing a great class of seniors, and Seneca is dropping some of its bulk, which helped it finish 2024 with a 9-2 mark, a state ranking, and a playoff.

Every L-P fan has their fingers crossed Marion Persich will return to the Cavaliers instead of transferring to another school after wowing the bleachers with his inspiring play as a freshman. There are some nice pieces coming back to aid the star quarterback.

Each program has a different set of questions, concerns, and requirements, but for those watching, waiting, and paying 100 percent attention, the 2025 football season in the Illinois Valley is going to be interesting to say the least.

I mean, I'm writing about it, two months after the 2024 state championship games were played.

However, there will be one huge difference with all four programs – a different head coach.

The Trojans will no longer have

Trojans remain perfect in league with wins over Newman, Kewanee

A third-quarter blitz lifted Mendota to a 64-42 victory over Sterling Newman in a Three Rivers Conference varsity boys' basketball game on Jan. 14 at the MHS gym.

The game was still in doubt at halftime, with the Trojans carrying a 31-24 lead to the locker room. After the break, Mendota came out smoking in the third quarter when it pumped in four of its eight three-pointers on its way to a 25-point outburst to grab a comfortable 56-32 advantage with just one quarter left to play.

Aden Tillman connected on four shots from three-point land and paced Mendota scoring with 22 points. Cam Kelly hit three shots from beyond the arc and added 12 tallies.

A quick start by Byron propelled it to a 67-51 triumph over the Trojans in non-conference action on Jan. 15 at Byron.

The Tigers pumped in 23 first-quarter points and owned a 23-10 lead after the opening session. Byron's Cason Newton, who finished the game with 32 points, dropped in 13 of his team's first-quarter points. Byron added 20 more points in the second period and took a 43-26 advantage to intermission. The count was 58-35 after three frames.

Cole Tillman led Mendota scoring with 17 points, while Aden Tillman chipped in with nine markers.

Mendota withstood a Kewanee comeback to down the Boilers, 49-47, in a Three Rivers Conference thriller on Jan. 17 at the MHS gym.

The Trojans were on top at the conclusion of every quarter, but by the slimmest



Mendota's Cole Tillman has his shot contested by Kewanee's Colson Welgat during a Three Rivers Conference varsity boys' basketball game on Jan. 17 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

of margins. They led 22-21 at halftime, and after Kewanee took a brief lead to start the second half, Mendota was able to build a 34-28 advantage on a three-pointer by Kelly with 3:52 left in the

third. The Boilers responded with six straight points to tie the game before two Dane Doyle free throws put the Trojans on top heading to what proved to be a wild fourth quarter.

A Drew Becker field goal put Mendota on top, 40-37, with 7:05 to play, but then Kewanee reeled off the next

See Trojans, Page B2

Two MHS bowlers headed to sectional

□ Bauer & Holland take the next step

DeKALB – Two Mendota bowlers extended their season by at least another week after they advanced out of the Maple Park Kaneland Regional held on Jan. 17 at Mardi Gras Lanes in DeKalb.

Paxton Bauer and Alex Holland were both among the top 10 bowlers not on an advancing team, which is one of the criteria for moving on from the regional. Bauer finished in eighth place overall and was first among the top 10 advancing individuals with a six-game score of 1244. The junior rolled games of 204, 224, 210, 245, 198 and 163.

Holland, also a junior, place 15th overall and had the fourth best score from the top 10 advancing individuals. He fired games of 194, 167, 161, 257, 187 and 206 for an 1172 series.

The overall individual regional champion was Brian Weigel of Sycamore with a 1368 series.

As a team, the Trojans finished in seventh place out

of 13 schools with a score of 5393. The top four teams advancing to the sectional include Sycamore (6260), Dixon (6052), Rock Island (5692) and Yorkville (5651). Geneseo (5592) and DeKalb (5408) placed fifth and sixth, respectively. Schools finishing behind Mendota were Sterling (5391), Moline (5309), Rochelle (5259), Kaneland (5112), Erie (4582) and Plano (4541).

Four other bowlers participated in the regional for the Trojans. Kooper Novak had a 1090 series with games of 202, 204, 138, 210, 156 and 180. BJ Bresley finished with a 1024 series, rolling games of 158, 127, 200, 166, 203 and 170. Caeleb Ensor competed in five games (158, 135, 182, 149 – 758), while Josh Sondgeroth participated in one game (105).

Bauer and Holland will be in action again in the Oregon Sectional on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Plum Hollow Family Center in Dixon. The first ball will be at 9:30 a.m. Qualifying bowlers from the



Mendota's Alex Holland, left, and Paxton Bauer both advanced out of the Maple Park Kaneland Regional Bowling Tournament on Jan. 17 and will now compete in the Oregon Sectional on Jan. 25. (Photo contributed)

Machesney Park Harlem and Marengo regionals will also compete.

The top five individuals who are not a part of a qual-

ifying team will advance to the state tournament to be held Friday, Jan. 31 and Saturday, Feb. 1 at St. Clair Bowl in O'Fallon.

New football coach to be roaming the sidelines for '25 Trojans

By BRANDON LACHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA—After 34 years in the private school sector at Marquette and St. Bede, Jim Eustice is turning a new leaf as he has been hired to be a public-school math teacher and head football coach at Mendota High School beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

"It's still sinking in. It has been a crazy, 30-day whirlwind. It happened that fast. I'm getting used to it," Eustice said. "I'm getting more excited with every day that goes by. People have been talking to me as I'm getting to the twilight of my teaching career about the retirement system in the state of Illinois.

"I always just said, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah,' and never really fully understood it. In December, I finally made a phone call and got all of the information. After doing all of that, it came very apparent that I needed to explore moving to a public school to end my career with the benefits, salaries, and the retirement packages.

"Some schools will give you your private years of teaching and some won't. Word got out to Mendota that I was interested in going

to the public sector. (MHS Superintendent) Denise Aughenbaugh took a shot, called, and I was willing to talk. It seems like a perfect fit for me and for them."



Eustice

years beginning in 2010, and took over as the Bruins head coach in 2015.

According to IHSA.org, Eustice posted a 46-47 record as SBA's main man with an IHSA Class 2A playoff appearance in 2016 and three consecutive Class 1A playoff bids from 2021-23.

Outside of sports, Eustice was in the banking, finance industry for 20-plus years before becoming a substitute teacher in 2011 while taking classes for his math teaching certificate, which he obtained and took over

a St. Bede math classroom in 2013.

"It's an exciting new chapter in my life. It's an exciting way to move on and potentially end my career in Mendota," Eustice said. "It's tough to leave St. Bede. I had a meeting with the football team this morning (Jan. 14) to tell them I was leaving.

"Everyone at St. Bede has been great and understanding of why I'm making the move and the future for my career. Everybody seems happy and have said their congratulations that I have this career opportunity."

In a press release from Mendota High School, it stated, the school looks forward to the direction in which Coach Eustice will lead the program and the positive impact he will have on the student-athletes at MHS.

MHS Athletic Director Brock Zinke, who resigned from the football coaching staff after the 2024 season, is excited about the Trojans' new hire.

"Coach Eustice brings a ton of experience to the position and we look forward to Mendota playing his brand of football," Zinke said.

Eustice is finishing the 2024-25 school year in a St. Bede classroom and will remain the assistant baseball coach for one more spring under Bill Booker, a Mendota native.

However, beginning with summer football gatherings and workouts, Eustice will be in purple and gold instead of green and white.

"It's hard to believe how it has worked out and how perfect it seems. I'm fortunate and Mendota seems happy that I'm coming. The facilities and the resources are incredible. There is probably twice the student body that I'm used to in terms of numbers.

"I know the soccer program has been successful and I'll be competing with that, but if there is success in one sport during a season, a school should be able to have success in multiple sports in a season.

"I'm familiar with the Three Rivers Conference and the teams in the conference such as Hall, Princeton, and Kewanee. There has been some realignment since St. Bede left the conference, but it's a great, competitive conference, and I'm looking forward to coaching in it again."

SPORTS



Mendota's Cam Kelly takes the ball to the basket while being guarded by Kewanee's Logan Peed on Jan. 17 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

Trojans

Continued from Page B1

nine points over a three-minute span to take a 46-40 lead with 3:46 to go. A huge three-pointer by Mendota's Alex Beetz halted the Boiler spurt and cut the Kewanee lead in half, then just over a minute later, Aden Tillman was fouled on a three-point attempt. He connected on two of three free tosses to make it 46-45.

Kewanee's Catrelle Reed

converted one of two free throws to give his team a 47-45 lead with 1:40 to play, but Cole Tillman's basket tied the count at 47-all at the 1:27 mark, and then the Boilers decided to hold the ball for the last shot. They were able to run the clock down to 18 seconds when the Trojans stole the ball.

After two missed free throws by the Trojans, Reed couldn't connect on a drive to the hoop and Men-

dota's Braiden Freeman grabbed the rebound and was fouled. He connected on two free throws with 4.6 seconds left and Kewanee threw the ball away before it could get off a shot for the tie or the win.

Cole Tillman was the lone double-figure scorer for Mendota with 21 points.

The Trojans improved their record to 14-7 overall and 4-0 in Three Rivers Conference play.

MENDOTA 64, NEWMAN 42				
Newman (42)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Matznick	3	2-2	3	8
Bushman	2	0-0	1	6
Jungerman	2	3-3	2	7
Coward	1	0-0	1	2
Williams	3	0-0	2	6
McBride	1	0-0	1	2
Rowzec	3	0-0	1	6
Welty	1	0-0	0	2
Decker	1	0-0	0	3
Totals	17	5-5	11	42

Mendota (64)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Tillman	2	2-2	1	6
Kelly	3	3-4	0	12
A. Tillman	8	2-3	2	22
Freeman	2	0-0	2	4
Doyle	3	0-0	1	7
A. Beetz	0	0-0	1	0
K. Beetz	1	0-0	1	2
McPheeters	1	1-2	0	3
Becker	4	0-0	0	8
Totals	24	8-11	8	64

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Newman	12	24	32	42
Mendota	16	31	56	64
Three-point goals: Mendota - Kelly 3, A. Tillman 4; Newman - Bushman 2, Decker 1				

BYRON 67, MENDOTA 51				
Mendota (51)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Tillman	5	6-10	4	17
Kelly	2	0-0	1	5
A. Tillman	3	2-2	4	9
Freeman	3	0-0	2	6
Doyle	1	0-0	4	2
A. Beetz	3	0-0	2	6
Cortez	1	0-0	3	3
Becker	0	3-4	2	3
Totals	18	11-16	22	51

Byron (67)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Aken	0	1-2	0	1
Auker	0	0-0	1	0
Newton	12	2-6	1	32
Edmonson	4	4-5	4	12
Hiveley	3	0-1	2	6
Kesler	0	0-0	2	0
Daker	0	0-0	2	0
McGough	0	7-8	2	7
Concisdine	2	5-6	4	9
Totals	21	19-28	18	67

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	10	26	35	51
Byron	23	43	58	67
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Tillman 1, Kelly 1, Cortez 1, A. Tillman 1; Byron - Newton 6				

MENDOTA 49, KEWANEE 47				
Kewanee (47)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Welgat	6	0-0	5	16
Lewis	1	1-2	3	3
Reed	4	6-8	3	14
Conley	4	0-0	5	8
G. Hicks	1	0-0	1	2
Jones	1	0-0	0	2
Peed	1	0-0	1	2
Ellernbrock	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	18	7-10	19	47

Mendota (49)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Tillman	7	6-9	3	21
Kelly	2	1-2	2	7
A. Tillman	1	3-5	4	6
Freeman	0	3-4	2	3
Doyle	1	2-2	1	5
A. Beetz	1	0-2	3	3
Becker	1	2-3	3	4
Totals	13	17-26	18	49

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Kewanee	9	21	34	47
Mendota	13	22	36	49
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Tillman 1, Kelly 2, A. Beetz 1, A. Tillman 1, Doyle 1; Kewanee - Welgat 3				

Strong second halves propel JV Trojans to three victories

The Mendota junior varsity boys' basketball team used a strong second half to get past Newman, 54-44, in a Three Rivers Conference game on Jan. 14 at the MHS gym.

The Trojans scored 19 points in the first half and then nearly had that many points in the third quarter alone (18). Mendota tacked on 17 markers in the fourth frame.

Drew Becker had a monster game for the Trojans, leading the way with 25 points and 16 rebounds. He also had two steals and two blocked shots. Carter Wujek was next on the scoring chart with 15 points, while Cayden Taliani added nine tallies.

Mendota posted a 51-39 non-conference victory at Byron on Jan. 15.

The Trojans built a 10-point halftime lead (24-14) and then increased the margin to 42-26 heading to the final quarter.

Taliani and Cesar Casas dropped in 17 points apiece and Becker chipped in with 14 markers. Becker led with nine rebounds and Casas dished out seven assists.

It was a tale of two halves for the Trojans as they rallied for a 46-40 triumph over Kewanee in Three Rivers Conference action on Jan. 17 at the MHS gym.

Mendota (14-6, 4-0) held an 8-7 lead after the opening stanza, but Kewanee outscored the Trojans, 15-7, in the second period to grab a 22-15 halftime advantage. Mendota whittled the margin down to four (35-31) heading to the final frame, where it outscored Kewanee, 15-5, to post the comeback win.

Becker sparked the fourth-quarter comeback with eight of his game-high 17 points. Casas (11) and Wujek (10) also ended in double-digits for the Trojans.

MHS's Serrano takes 2nd in Kewanee Invitational

The Mendota wrestlers dropped both ends of a triangular meet at Sterling Newman on Jan. 14.

Sherrard was a 55-24 winner over the Trojans. All four of Mendota's wins came via pin, by Corbin Furar, Zach Schmidt, Oliver Turner and Angil Serrano.

Mendota also claimed four match wins against Newman in a 57-24 setback to the Comets. Serrano and Cole Kleckner pinned their opponents, while Adrian Arteaga and Hayden Senders got forfeit wins.

Jan. 14 @ Newman

Sherrard 55, Mendota 24

106 - Weber (S) won forfeit; 113 - Strauss (S) won forfeit; 120 - Werner (S) won forfeit; 126 - Bradavich (S) dec. Adrian Arteaga (M), 13-5; 132 - Schoner (S) pinned Hayden Senders (M), 0:34; 138 - Fratzke (S) pinned Jayleen Jordan (M), 1:08; 144 - Knox (S) won forfeit; 150 - Zimmerman (S) pinned Cole Kleckner (M), 2:00; 157 - Dutton (S) dec. Gavin Evans (M), 7-0; 165 - Heist (S) pinned David Reyes (M), 0:33; 175 - Corbin Furar (M) pinned King (S), 0:33; 190 - Zach Schmidt (M) pinned Starchevich (S), 1:52; 215 - Oliver Turner (M) pinned Thomas (S); 285 - Angil Serrano (M) pinned Weakley (S), 1:04

Newman 57, Mendota 24

106 - Grennan (N) won forfeit; 113 - Near (N) won forfeit; 120 - Reyes (N) won forfeit; 126 - Arteaga (M) won forfeit; 132 - Senders (M) won forfeit; 138 - Curtis (N) pinned Jordan (M), 1:06; 144 - Volz (N) won forfeit; 150 - Kleckner (M) pinned Lewis (N), 1:00; 157 - Gutierrez (N) dec. Evans (M), 9-4; 165 - Plote (N) pinned Reyes (M), 0:28; 175 - Geske (N) pinned Furar (M), 0:42; 190 - Clemmen (N) pinned Schmidt (M), 0:48; 215 - Murray (N) won forfeit; 285 - Serrano (M) pinned Spears (N), 1:34

Mendota wrestlers competed in the Kewanee Invitational on Jan. 18.

Angil Serrano had the highest finish on the day for the Trojans with a second-place effort in the 285-pound category. Gavin Stevenson took third-place honors at 120 pounds, while Gavin Evans placed sixth at 157 pounds.

IVCC men's golf team to host open house on Jan. 25

OGLESBY - Illinois Valley Community College's men's golf team will host an open house at the Deer Park Golf Club on Saturday, Jan. 25 to raise money to travel to Southern Missouri for a pre-season warmup event.

The event starts at 7 p.m. and will include 50/50 raffles, drinks and appetizers, and virtual-golf contests.

"This is our first fundraiser for our program, but it has been well received and we are expecting a great night," said Coach Nate Rodriguez. IVCC supporters, the Illinois Valley golf community and IVCC golf alumni are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Rodriguez at 815-343-2266 or email nate_rodriguez@ivcc.edu

LaMoille hoops

Jan. 14 @ Kirkland Hiawatha Hiawatha 54, LaMoille 51 Stats: Brayden Klein 20 points, 7 rebounds; Tyler Billhorn 10 points, 7 rebounds; Wyatt File 8 points; Braden Fischer 5 assists

Jan. 18 vs. Midland Midland 54, LaMoille 49 Stats: Billhorn 21 points, 10 rebounds; Fischer 6 points; Klein 5 points, 4 rebounds; Cody Winn 5 points; Ed Fry 5 points; Jhett Cowser 5 points

BOWLING

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Jan. 13 - 1. The Struggle is Real 15.5-4.5; 2. Bad Kats 15-5; 3. Ramer Inc. 9-11; 4. CM Farm 9-11; 5. Leagal Beagles 8.5-11.5; 6. Split Happens 3-17

High team game (scratch) - Ramer Inc. 724, Split Happens 716, The Struggle is Real 661

High team game (hdcp) - The Struggle is Real 1020, Ramer Inc. 990, Leagal Beagles 936

High team series (scratch) - Ramer Inc. 2102, Splits Happens 2062, Leagal Beagles 1908

High team series (hdcp) - Ramer Inc. 2900, The Struggle is Real 2832, Leagal Beagles 2739

Men's high game (scratch) - Matt Ramer 218, Raul Diaz Jr. 217, Ron Westphal 213

Men's high game (hdcp) - Ron Westphal 283, Raul Diaz Jr. 282, Brendan Ramer 270

Men's high series (scratch) - Matt Ramer 627, Aaron Hollocker 566, Ron Westphal 550

Men's high series (hdcp) - Aaron Hollocker 761, Ron Westphal 760, Brendan Ramer 736

Women's high game (scratch) - Emily Thomas 211, Gail Sessler 195, Jessica Robinson 195

Women's high game (hdcp) - Dria Kuntz 265, Sarah Westphal 265, Stephanie Ramer 255

Women's high series (hdcp) - Stephanie Ramer 735, Dria Kuntz 730, Sarah Westphal 729

MENDOTA - Mendota hung close with Genoa-Kingston for a quarter and then the Cogs pulled away for a 50-23 win over the Lady Trojans in a non-conference varsity girls' basketball contest on Jan. 13 at the MHS gym.

Mendota scored more than half of its points in the first period and trailed by just a 15-12 count after the opening stanza. But the offense went cold after that as the Lady Trojans managed just 11 points over the final three frames.

Genoa-Kingston led 29-15 at intermission and 40-17 after three quarters.

"We actually led 11-8 at one point and then we just went too cold shooting the basketball," said Mendota coach John Hansen.

GENOA-K. 50, MENDOTA 23				
Genoa-Kingston (50)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Meyer	3	0-0	0	7
Hernandez	1	0-0	0	5
Bianchi	0	0-0	1	0
Boyles	2	0-0	1	4
Poegel	4	4-6	2	13
Creadon	4	2-2	3	11
Botterman	5	0-0	1	10
Totals	20	6-8	8	50

Mendota (23)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	2	1-2	2	6
Garcia	1	0-0	0	2
Reddin	0	0-0	1	0
Knaff	0	0-0	7	0
Coss	0	0-0	5	0
Martin	0	0-3	3	0
Denault	1	0-0	1	2
Gonzalez	3	1-1	6	7
Doyle	2	0-0	6	4
Strouss	1	0-0	0	2
Totals	10	2-6	31	23

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Genoa-K.	15	29	40	50
Mendota	12	15	17	23
Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 1; Genoa-Kingston - Meyer 1, Hernandez 1, Poegel 1, Creadon 1				

Cassie Gonzalez paced Mendota scorers with seven points and Kennedy Knaff led with seven rebounds. Gonzalez and Karson Doyle added six rebounds apiece, while Ava Eddy had six points and five steals.

The scenario was much the same in Mendota's 53-24 setback to Hall in Three Rivers Conference action on Jan. 16 at the MHS gym.

After trailing 15-4 at the conclusion of the opening stanza, the Lady Trojans were able to put 15 points on the board in the second period and remained within striking distance of Hall at halftime, trailing by a 29-19 count.

But then came the second half when Mendota managed just a single free throw in the

third quarter and four points in the fourth.

"We just got murdered on the boards," said Hansen, whose team had only 17 rebounds in the game. "We did

not get enough looks in the paint against Hall's packed in 2-3 zone."

Eddy dropped in 11 points, had five steals and collected four rebounds for

Mendota, while Ella Martin and Laylie Denault had four carons apiece.

Mendota fell to 3-18 overall and 0-7 in conference play.



Mendota's Ella Martin attempts to put up a shot while being defended by Hall's Ella Sterling, left, and Natalia Zamora during Three Rivers Conference varsity action on Jan. 16 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

ENTERTAINMENT

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pickle holders
5 Klutz
8 Pre-weekend yell
12 Layered cookie
13 School org.
14 Nozzle site
15 Complaint
16 Mahal pre-ceder
17 Memory method
18 Jungle trek
20 Apple product
22 "Lunch break is over!"
26 Sports bar fixture
29 "Mangia!"
30 Avril follower
31 Marsh plant
32 "Blue Bloods" ainer
33 Nov. honor-ees
34 401(k) alter-native
35 Notable time
36 Trig terms
37 Consecutive
40 Puerto —
41 Small apes
45 Help a hood
47 Fanatic
49 Aswan's river
50 Roster

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20	21			
			22			23					24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
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34					35				36			
37			38					39				
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44												
45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

- 51 Compass dir.
52 Radiate
53 — -bitty
54 Carried out
55 Lushes
- DOWN**
- 1 Want-ad list-ings
2 Region
3 Coral forma-tion
4 Sleeper
5 Eye-related
6 One-time link
7 Tex-Mex wraps
- 8 Toss
9 Favorable sign
10 Follower (Suff.)
11 Service charge
19 Squealer
21 Soup cooker
23 Skewered entree
24 Assess
25 Smooch
26 Chicago paper, briefly
27 Actress Farmiga
- 28 "American Idol" host Ryan
32 Sang softly
33 Minnesota footballers
35 Catchall abbr.
36 Learning ctr.
38 Poker pot
39 Played a part
42 Actor O'Shea
43 Conspiracy
44 Stitches
45 Boxing legend
46 Morsel
48 Numerical prefix

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Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I'm really enjoying the show "Silo" -- so much so that I went back and read the books that the show is based on in between seasons. Who is the actress who plays Juliette? -- *K.I.*



Ferguson

A: Swedish actress Rebecca Ferguson stars as engineer-turned-sheriff Juliette Nichols in the dystopian drama "Silo," which recently finished its second season on Apple TV+. It's based on a series of novels by author Hugh Howey. "Silo" has been renewed for a third season with Ferguson returning. If she looks familiar, it's because she's co-starred in several hit films, most notably the recent "Mission: Impossible" sequels with Tom Cruise as well as "Dune: Part One" and "Part Two" with Timothée Chalamet.

Ferguson honed her acting skills on a Swedish soap opera as a teen before eventually branching out into American productions. Cruise took note of her performance in the STARZ miniseries "The White Queen," resulting in her being cast in "Mission: Impossible" -- Rogue Na-

tion." Her talent eventually led to her snagging roles opposite Michael Fassbender in "The Snowman," Hugh Jackman in "The Greatest Showman," and Chris Hemsworth in "Men in Black: International."

Her future is bright. Next up for her is the untitled "Peaky Blinders" film with Cillian Murphy and the untitled Kathryn Bigelow-directed White House thriller with Idris Elba.

Q: What ever happened to The Weeknd after his show on HBO was canceled? Is he just going to concentrate on singing now? -- *K.K.*

A: Abel Tesfaye, also known as The Weeknd, hasn't quit acting, but it would be understandable if he got discouraged after his series "The Idol" was canceled by HBO after one season. Prior to this, he had a setback on stage where he had to cut his live concert in Los Angeles short after losing his voice. He says now in an interview with Entertainment Weekly that the voice loss was mental, a result of all the stress around filming "The Idol" while also touring.

He's ready to bounce back not only with a new album but with another starring role. His sixth studio album

"Hurry Up Tomorrow" will be released on Jan. 26, and a film of the same name will be released on May 16. Billed as a "musically driven psychological thriller," the film not only stars The Weeknd but also Barry Keoghan ("Saltburn") and Jenna Ortega ("Beetlejuice Beetlejuice").

Q: I thought Bill Maher was going to quit his TV show if President Trump was reelected, but it looks like it's coming back soon. Did he change his mind? -- *M.M.*

A: Bill Maher's weekly HBO talk show "Real Time" returned this January for its 23rd season, but he has no plans to quit. Nina Rosenstein from HBO Programming, Late Night and Specials told Deadline that Maher was "joking around," and his first love will always be "Real Time."

Where you won't find Maher anytime soon is on the road. He's confirmed that he's done touring as a stand-up comedian and that, after 40 years, he needs a break from it. However, as far as "Real Time" goes, HBO will have to drag him off for him to quit.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Prepare yourself for "Downton Abbey 3," which will pay homage to the "end of an era" due to the loss of the Dowager Countess. It has greater significance since the passing of Maggie Smith on Sept. 27, 2024. She was 89. The threequel is due to release in theaters on Sept. 12.



Smith

Executive producer Gareth Name says, "The fact that Dame Maggie herself has now passed away since that time, I do think, has given a real added poignancy to a story that we would have planned anyway. ... We will never see the like of Dame Maggie Smith ever again."

Tom Cruise's next film after "Mission: Impossible -- The Final Reckoning" (releasing May 23) will be the tentatively titled film "Judy" for five-time Oscar winner Alejandro González Iñárritu. Iñárritu won three Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay for "Birdman" (2014);

another Best Director Oscar for "The Revenant" (2015); and a special Oscar for his virtual reality installation "Flesh and Sand" (2017).

Of course, "Judy's" plot is shrouded in secrecy, but we've learned it follows the most powerful man in the world as he embarks on a frantic mission (there's that word again) to prove he's humanity's savior before the disaster he unleashed destroys the world. Could Cruise's hero complex be getting worse?

Aiding and abetting him is John Goodman, Jesse Plemons and Riz Ahmed. After Robert Pattinson's "The Batman" sequel was pushed back from October 2026 to October 2027, "Judy" was given its release date.

While there's been a lot of talk about "John Wick 5," again starring Keanu Reeves, Lionsgate (who produced the "Wick" franchise) doesn't have it on its upcoming calendar. This may be due to the knee accident Reeves had while shooting Aziz Ansari's comedy "Good Fortune," which opens on Oct. 17.

Reeves will be seen a few months earlier in "From the

World of John Wick: Ballerina" on June 6. He also stars in Apple TV+'s "Outcome," which was produced, written and directed by Jonah Hill (who co-stars as well). The black-comedy film includes Cameron Diaz, Matt Bomer, soap queen Susan Lucci, David Spade, Laverne Cox and Roy Wood Jr. (No release date has been announced yet.)

It turned out to be a really Happy New Year for Brad Pitt who, after eight years, is finally divorced from Angelina Jolie as of Dec. 30, 2024. In true Jolie fashion, she says she has focused on finding peace and healing for their family. Her lawyer claims this is just one part of the long ongoing process that started eight years ago -- and that Jolie is exhausted but relieved this part is over.

Jolie filed a claim that Pitt physically abused her, and he accused her of violating "contractual rights" when she sold off their Château Miraval winery without his knowledge! I wonder if the kids are still "The Pitts!"

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* Cheerleading was once an exclusively male sport, and the first cheers, copied from military chants, began at Princeton University around the Civil War era.

* Porsche's first car, in 1898, was electric.

* Motorola has developed an FDA-approved "edible password pill" which, once digested, is activated by the acid in your stomach and emits an 18-bit signal that is strong enough to communicate with and unlock all your devices.

* On Mars, no resource can be wasted -- not even our bodily waste. Urine will be recycled into drinking water and feces into fertilizer.

* Scientists can deduce information about a person's lifestyle, including their grooming products, food and medications, from the chemicals found on the surface of their mobile phone.

* The 1,400-page novel "War and Peace" was copied around seven times by Leo Tolstoy's wife, Sophia, by hand. Now, that's love!

* U.S. Marine John Kelly was the last person to be awarded two Medals of Honor. He ran 100 yards in advance of the front line and attacked an enemy machine gun nest, killed the gunner with a grenade, shot another man with his pistol, and returned with eight prisoners. He was 19.

* The only difference between a fog and a mist comes down to visibility: If you can't see farther than 100 meters, you're in a fog.

* As the planet heats up, flowers are emitting less scent.

* George Washington had one remaining tooth in his mouth when he was sworn in as the first American president in 1789.

* The sound of a Star Wars lightsaber was created by pairing the sound of an idle film projector and the buzz from an old TV set.

S	L	O	S		O	I	D		A	L	I	
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					X	O	V		O	L	K	O
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S	L	E	A		S	B	O		O	E	B	H
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Solution time: 25 mins.
Answers
King Crossword

Couch Theater

"Queer" (R) -- Former James Bond portrayer Daniel Craig took up quite an interesting role in this period romantic drama from director Luca Guadagnino ("Challengers"). Based on the novella by William S. Burroughs, the film takes place in 1950s Mexico City and follows American expatriate William Lee (Craig). While bar hopping one day, Lee comes across a young man named Eugene (Drew Starkey) and instantly becomes infatuated with him. The quiet Eugene attempts to reciprocate Lee's actions but only gives up so much of himself at a time when homophobia runs rampant throughout society. Out now to rent, "Queer" makes viewers feel like they happened upon a few diary entries about a man's greatest love affair. (VUDU)

"Kinds of Kindness" (R) -- Emma Stone ("Poor Things") and Jesse Plemons ("Civil War") lead this movie with three separate winding tales that will leave you at a bit of a loss, to be frank, not necessarily in a good or bad way. The first story centers around an employee named Robert Fletcher who lives his life exactly how his boss tells him to, including his meals, his house, and his relationship. It explores what happens to Robert when his boss suddenly refuses to dictate his life anymore. The second story's plot seems straight out of a "Black Mirror" episode, with a police officer convinced that his wife

has been replaced by a clone. The third and final story tells a tale about sex cult members who are looking for a woman with the ability to reawaken the dead. All of these stories are loosely connected, but it'll take some sleuthing to figure out exactly how. Out now. (Hulu)

"Small Things Like These" (PG-13) -- Oscar winner Cillian Murphy ("Oppenheimer") stars in this historical drama taking place in Ireland during Christmas 1985. He plays coal merchant Bill Furlong, who spends his days laboring and his nights at home with his wife and five daughters. Tortured by memories of his childhood, Bill often keeps to himself and rarely falls out of line with his routine. But one day, as he sets off for work early, he encounters a pregnant teenage girl who is locked in the coal shed of the local convent. His discovery of her subsequently leads to his planning to free her from the abusive nuns, and in turn, he is able to confront the ghosts of his past. This short 98-minute film is out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Prime Target" (TV-MA) -- Leo Woodall ("One Day") has clinched his second main role after getting his big break in the second season of "The White Lotus" as Jack. In this thriller miniseries, he stars as Edward, a brilliant mathematics student whose work will eventually enable him to access every computer in the world. The show premieres Jan. 22. (Apple TV+)

FLASHBACK

- Which artist released a cover of Don Gibson's "I Can't Stop Loving You" in 1962?
- Who had hits with "Return to Sender" and "Good Luck Charm"?
- What do "Little Green Bag" (by George Baker Selection), "Coconut" (by Harry Nilsson) and "Hooked on a Feeling" (by Blue Swede) all have in common?
- Which group released "Along Comes Mary"?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "People say that love's a game, A game you just can't win, If there's a way, I'll find it someday, And then this fool with rush in."

Answers

- Ray Charles. His version was a chart-topper and won him a Grammy Award for Best Rhythm & Blues Recording. The song even climbed the charts in Australia, Sweden and Finland.
- Elvis Presley, in 1962. The songs reached No. 2 and No. 1 on the charts. "Return to Sender" was featured in the soundtrack for the Elvis film "Girls! Girls! Girls!"
- They appeared on the soundtrack for the 1992 film "Reservoir Dogs."
- The Association, in 1966. The song was their first hit.
- "Put Your Head on My Shoulder," by Paul Anka, in 1959. Singer-songwriter Anka saw his popular song recorded in different languages around the world but only reaching No. 2 on the charts.

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• Trivia Test •

- TELEVISION: Who created the retro TV series "Stranger Things"?
- U.S. STATES: Which state is the home of Yellowstone National Park?
- ASTRONOMY: Which is the only planet in our solar system to rotate on its side?
- MOVIES: What is the given name of the large bird in the animated movie "Up"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which three zodiac signs are considered earth signs?
- LITERATURE: What is the name of Hagrid's half-brother in the "Harry Potter" book series?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital city of Australia?
- FOOD & DRINK: What type of nut is used in the chocolate spread Nutella?
- SPORTS: What kind of sports match is divided into 7-minute periods called chukkas?
- ADVERTISEMENTS: What type of horses often are used in Budweiser beer ads?

Answers

- The Duffer Brothers.
- Wyoming.
- Uranus.
- Kevin.
- Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn.
- Grawp.
- Canberra.
- Hazelnut.
- Polo.
- Clydesdale.
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Challenge yourself
by seeing how far
you can get with this
week's Crossword Puzzle!

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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Shelby Armstrong



Mia Barringer



Alex Becerra



Cooper Beetz



Abbie Botts



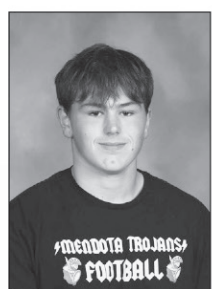
Isaac Caracheo



Lena Cardona



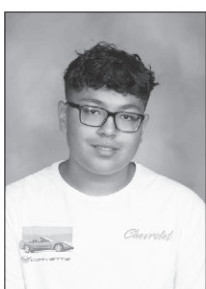
Tanya Cervantes



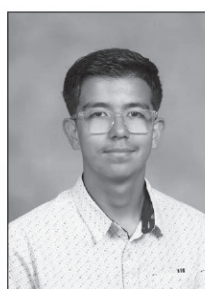
Cannon Chaon



Cruz Chavez



Christian Colin



Danny Correa



Olivia Corrigan



Hayden Cunefare



Charlee Dankenbring



Komen Denault



Diego Diaz



Hayley Diaz



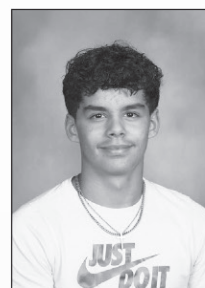
Corbin Doll



Karson Doyle



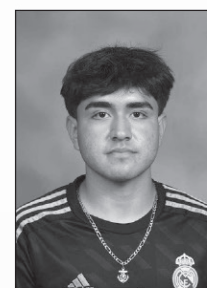
Riley Erlenborn



Ethan Escatel



Zariah Escatel



Hugo Falcon-Santoyo



Mackenzi Fultz



Dalton Gallagher



Giselle Gonzalez



Gage Griffith



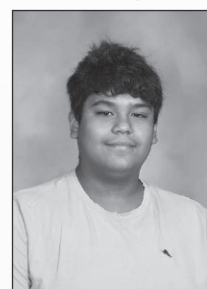
Daniel Guerrero



Leah Henkel



Andreaz Hensley



Cesar Hernandez



Kevin Herrera



Camryn Kirby



Klaire Knaff



Shea Kreiser



Savannah Lenert



Trevor Lengsfeld



Kaylee MacDonald



Abby Magallanes



Daisy Mendez-Santana



Joseph Muller



Abel Nanez



Omar Nanez



Alexis Nave



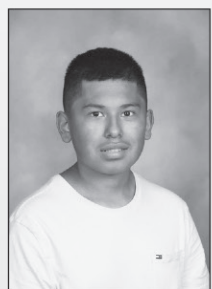
Sami Nelson



Norah Olson



Karlee Organ



Ignacio Ortega



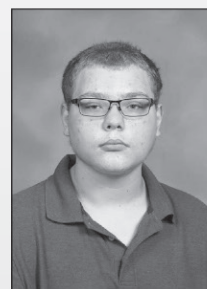
Anahi Perez



Kamilah Preciado



David Reyes



Mason Rich



Gage Richey



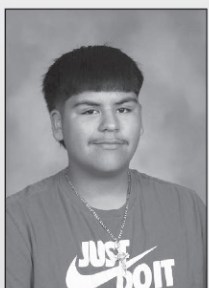
Maddox Rosales



Keromonii Sanders



Guadalupe Sandoval



Germain Serrano



Cora Sims



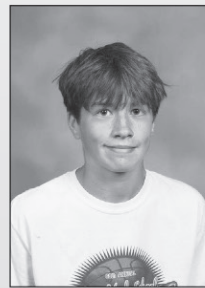
Paola Solorzano



Ross Sondgeroth



McKenzie Sproston



Ashtyn Stamberger



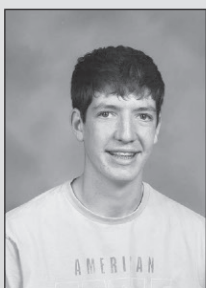
Tori Stevens



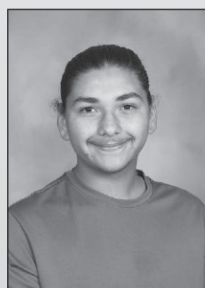
Kaya Taylor



Trinitie Thompson



Cole Tillman



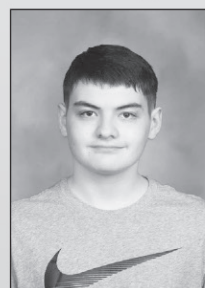
Adrian Trejo



Sam Tunk



Fernanda Valdes



Parker Waldron



Rylee Woods

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Karla Ascensio



Brooklyn Baxa



Drew Becker



Ivan Botello



Aby Buettner



Alexa Carlos



Melanie Carlos



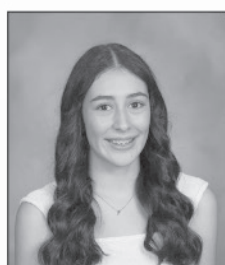
Cesar Casas



Briza Cervantes



Evelyn Cervantes



Monse Chavez



Ava Christmann



Lexi Cocanour



Jayden Coffey



Jenna Coffey



Julisa Coronel



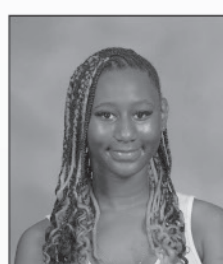
Bailey Corrigan



Michelle Cuevas



Emily Diaz



Reushawna Durr



Adan Estrada



Gianni Figueroa



Harlow Foltyniewicz



Karissa Freeman



Caleb Ganther



Berat Imeri



Celah Jackson



Phoenix Johnson



Jayleen Jordan



Delila Kent



Cole Kleckner



Elaina Koch



Abbie Kreiser



Ada Krull



Dawson McPheeters



Kara Miars



Madilyn Muller



Makenzie Mumm



Leticia Nunez



Sophia Orozco



Kashia Ortega-Jaramillo



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Ale Roman



Favian Romero



Brianna Russell



Bailey Ryan



Owen Schroeder



Hayden Senders



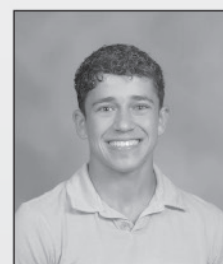
Faith Solis



Emily Sondgeroth



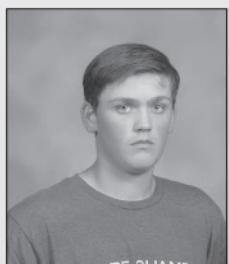
Parker Stavropoulos



Gavin Stevenson



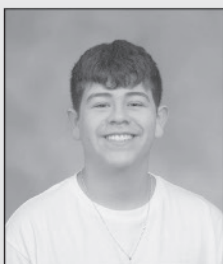
Kathryn Strouss



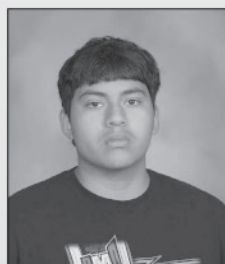
Karson Sundberg



Cayden Taliani



Aaron Torres Berumen



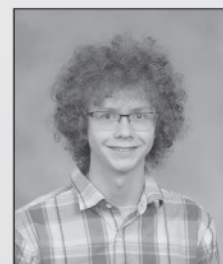
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RELIGION

Manage stress so it doesn't manage you

Today it seems as if everyone is under stress. It's become a normal part of our everyday lives. As long as we keep that stress at a reasonable limit, there's no problem. But when we allow it to exceed that limit, trouble begins.

For example, a chair is built to sit on. It's designed and constructed to bear a certain amount of weight. If used properly, it should last a very long time. But if it's overloaded beyond its capacity, it begins to wear out prematurely and eventually break down completely under the strain.

In the same way, you and I were designed and

created to bear a certain amount of physical, mental and emotional strain day after day. However, problems arise when we allow ourselves to be weighed down by more stress than we're capable of supporting.

A word we don't hear much about today is prudence. The Merriam-Webster definition says prudence means: "skill and good judgment in the use of resources." In the Bible, being prudent means to be a good steward or managers of the gifts God has given us to use. Those gifts include time, energy, strength, and health—even material possessions. They include our bodies,

as well as our minds and spirits.

Proverbs 14:8 (NIV) says, "The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception." We all need to "give thought to [our] ways" and know our limits—we need to know how much we can handle. We need to be able to recognize when we're reaching "full capacity" or "overload."

Instead of pushing ourselves into overload to please others or satisfy our own desires of reaching personal goals, we need to listen to and obey what God's telling us to do. We must follow His wisdom if we really want to enjoy the peaceful, joyful life He has planned for us.

Stress can be caused by just about anything. Stressors can be big or little things. In addition, what causes you stress may not bother someone else. And what bothers you today may not bother you tomorrow.

For example, let's say you're at the grocery store and the high prices create a stressor for you. Then the process of paying for your groceries (especially if money is tight) stresses you out. On top of that, the checker in your lane runs out of change and has to shut down temporarily. So you switch to a new lane and learn that five of your items don't have a price on them. The checker has to call for a price check on each one while you wait, and the line behind you grows.



These small, seemingly innocent circumstances pile up until you feel like you're going to explode from the pressure.

Nobody can remove all the big and little things that cause stress in our lives. That's why we must be prudent in identifying the stressors that affect us most and learn how to respond to them correctly. We must recognize our limits and learn to say no to ourselves and others.

Stressors, not managed properly, can mount up one by one, bringing us to our breaking point, but with God's help, we can learn how to manage or reduce their effects on us. We can't control all of our circumstances, but we can adjust our attitude and not let them pressure us.

It seems the very atmosphere of the world today is charged with stress and pressure. But the good news is, we don't have to operate in the world's system—reacting like people in the world who have no hope or peace in their lives. The world responds to difficulties by becoming upset and stressed, but our attitude

and approach should be entirely different.

You know, you can completely turn a situation around just by choosing the right attitude and approach when you're in a challenging situation. Instead of stressing out and tensing up, take a moment to pray for God to help you, just like the Bible says in Philippians 4:6 (NIV): "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Take a deep breath, calm down, and focus on getting His perspective on the situation.

In the midst of your daily life, you'll have many opportunities to be stressed. But you can refuse to allow your circumstances to dictate how you're going to feel if you will remember to ask God to help you. The truth is you may not be able to control the situation, but you can control how you respond to it.

When you know you're going to face a stressful situation, take an offensive approach and decide

beforehand what your attitude will be. Then the door will be opened for God to supernaturally help you to calm down and cheer up!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource Calm, Cool and Collected. 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 150 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life program, which is broadcast to millions in over 110 languages. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org

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LEGAL NOTICE

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)

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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FINANCIAL

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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

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2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTE Diesel, 42K Miles, Maroon.....\$45,900	2021 Chevy Blazer AWD Premier, Loaded, 44K Miles, Maroon.....\$33,900
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