

Mendota FFA Alumni & Supporters recognizes two MHS graduates as American FFA Degree recipients

Beetz, Schillinger earn highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization

MENDOTA – Two Mendota High School graduates recently earned the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, the American FFA Degree. The requirements to earn the American FFA Degree are set forth in the National FFA Constitution. To be eligible to receive the American FFA Degree, members must meet qualifications such as receiving a State FFA Degree, holding active membership for the past three years, completing secondary instruction in an agricultural education program and operating an outstanding supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program. Community service, leadership abilities and outstanding scholastic achievement are also required.

Elizabeth Schillinger (Class of 2022), daughter of Jeff and the late Cathy Schillinger, and Jack Beetz (Class of 2021), son of Brooke Beetz, both attended the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis, Ind., back in October where they received their degrees.



Jack Beetz, left, Mendota High School Agriculture Teacher/FFA Advisor Matthew Meyer, and Elizabeth Schillinger at the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind. (Photo contributed)

Schillinger started her supervised agricultural experience growing pumpkins and other fall produce and after graduating from MHS she continued her education at Purdue University. During her time at Purdue, she maintained SAE records on summer internships with

GRAINCOFA and Northern Partners.

Beetz’s supervised agricultural experience involved working for the family farming operation. He was the Illinois Association FFA candidate for American Star in Agricultural Placement. After graduating from MHS,

he attended Joliet Junior College before transferring to Iowa State University to pursue an agricultural degree.

The Mendota FFA Alumni and Supporters recog-

See FFA, Page A5

Northbrook’s Daley earns Principal of Year award

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA—Paula Daily feels fortunate.

The Northbrook Middle School principal enjoys coming to work every day to work with her staff, educate the fifth-through-eighth grade students, and improve or influence all she can, whether it’s the school building itself, the education inside of it, and the region.



Daley

Add being named the 2025 Starved Rock Region Middle School Principal of the Year to the mix and fortunate becomes an understatement.

“It’s amazing and it’s really an honor. It starts by getting nominated by your peers in the Illinois Principals Association,” Daley said. “They then seek out recommendations in each district. A Northbrook teacher, Sarah Henkel, the District 289 Superintendent, Brad Cox, and Elyssa Elbers, the principal at Lincoln Elementary who was the assistant principal at Northbrook last year, all

“I love coming to school every day. There is never a day where I don’t want to be at work. I feel I get to go to a really cool place and spend time with really cool people.”

– Paula Daley

wrote letters.

“Those get submitted and choices are made. They notified me about the award a couple of weeks ago. It’s a huge honor. I love the Illinois Principals Association. It is very supportive. It’s a great organization.”

Daley came to Northbrook 11 years ago as an assistant principal and ath-

letic director, was then an associate principal for two years, and has been the principal for the last eight years.

The Illinois Principals Association takes all of the region winners into consideration to select one middle school principal as the best

See Daley, Page A5

Polar plungers to get wet, wild...and probably pretty cold

Sign-up underway for Special Olympics fundraiser at Lake Mendota Feb. 22

MENDOTA – Special Olympics Illinois is proud to announce the return of the coolest event of the year, the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics Illinois athletes. The Polar Plunge will return for 26 in-person events throughout February and March across Illinois.

Plungers will converge on Mendota and the chilly waters of Lake Mendota for its eighth annual event on Saturday, Feb. 22. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. inside the Mendota Civic Center and participants will start submerging themselves into the lake at noon.

For 26 years, the Polar Plunge has become an iconic and exhilarating event, engaging the community on the importance of inclusion, and raising critical funds to support the life-changing pro-

gramming of Special Olympics Illinois. In 2024, the Polar Plunge raised more than \$2,400,000, providing thousands of Special Olympics Illinois athletes access to year-round sports competitions and training, health and wellness initiatives, and leadership and personal development opportunities.

“The Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Illinois has grown into an iconic celebration highlighting the values of our community and promoting the importance of inclusion,” said Pete Beale-DelVecchio, President & CEO,

Special Olympics Illinois. “This exhilarating event brings together warm-hearted plungers, dedicated local partners, generous sponsors, and selfless volunteers, all united in the mission to uplift and champion the exceptional athletes of Special Olympics Illinois.”

For more information on how to register or become involved in the 2025 Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge visit <https://plungeillinois.com>.

About Special Olympics Illinois

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit sports organization offering year-round training and competition in 18 sports to a community of more than 55,000 traditional athletes, Young

See Plunge, Page A5



Participants from a past polar plunge hit the waters of Lake Mendota in support of Special Olympics. This year’s Mendota Polar Plunge will take place on Saturday, Feb. 22 starting at noon. (Reporter photo)



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24/7 - We’re always on at www.mendotareporter.com



LOCAL AND AREA

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

The district’s final fundraiser of the year kicked off on Thursday, Jan. 23. Back by popular demand, we will be selling Nothing Bundt Cakes. Each cake is \$6 and they are very delicious! All orders will be due on Thursday, Feb. 6. Cakes will be delivered on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Blackstone School is raising money with this fundraiser to be able to provide fun activities for our students at the end of the school year. Last year our students enjoyed a cookout picnic lunch, bounce houses and many other fun activities. We appreciate your support with the Nothing Bundt Cake fundraiser!

Parents, please don’t forget to send your child to school each day with warm outerwear to be outside.

We still go outside in the winter to play and our students should come prepared each day with boots, snow pants, gloves and a hat. Sometimes we are not outside before school, but it does warm up enough for us to go outside for recess at lunch time. It’s also very important that parents label all outerwear with your child’s name or initials.

For our January kind deed at Blackstone, we are collecting boxes of Kleenex to 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!

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Ella Quijas, Ellie Hernandez-Delacruz, Adriel Preciado, Carter Shirley, Riley Foote, Camren Bucks, Hadley Kaufman and Gabe Wujek. The winners were Myles Wheeler, Armando Villarreal, William Bautista and Nova Dozard. Congratulations to all of you!

Don’t forget to access our district website at www.m289.org to see a wealth of information. You have access to district information and you can also click on each school for building information. Blackstone has teacher webpages, calendars, our monthly Bear Facts supply lists, principal award winners, etc. available. This is a great resource for parents!

Mendota blood drive held Jan. 7

MENDOTA – The American Red Cross held a blood drive on Jan. 7 at the Mendota Moose Family Center. There were 49 good units collected. There were 41 whole blood donations and eight power red donations.

Multi-gallon donors were Kevin McPheeters-two gallons, Tina Kittilson and Jamie Bromenschenkel-4 gallons, Scott McCoy-five gallons, Joseph Masini-six gallons, Brian Corrigan-10 gallons, Frank Kaltenecker-12 gallons, Ronald Henkel and Thomas Sondgeroth-19 gallons, and Michael DeLong-23 gallons. Congratulations on these milestones. There was also one first-time donor, Gloria

Hamer.

Volunteers for the day were Paddy Schwemlein, Sandy Schroeder, Kathi Stamberger, Margy Frey, Dawn Mathesius, Leesa Fitch and Lori Simon-ton. Black Brothers Co. sponsored the egg salad sandwiches, BBQ, and chips for the drive. Desserts were provided by Marlene Simon-ton, Paddy Schwemlein, Leann O’Brien, Margy Frey, Kathi Stamberger, and Lori Simon-ton.

The next bloodmobile will be held on Tuesday, March 4 at the Mendota Moose Family Center. If you would like to make an appointment or have questions, please call Lori at 815-866-3582.

Calling all frog enthusiasts; get involved in a citizen science project

OGLESBY – The University of Illinois Extension will be hosting an in-person watch party for the next Calling Frog Survey training on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 1-4 p.m. at the LaSalle County Extension Office.

The Calling Frog Survey is a citizen science project that invites community members to learn how to identify frog calls and contribute valuable data to amphibian conservation efforts. Before the Calling Frog Survey began, little was

known about the distribution and status of amphibians in our region. Now the survey is providing important information to scientists and land managers who can use the data to conduct management and research that benefits amphibian populations.

Participants will learn the unique calls of the 13 species of frogs and toads found in the Chicago wilderness region. Participants will then be invited back to the LaSalle County Extension Office on Friday, Feb. 14, from 6-7

p.m. to plan survey routes in LaSalle County.

“Last year was the first year of frog monitoring in LaSalle County,” said Chris Woeltje, Illinois Master Naturalist. “The goal is to identify areas where frogs are during the breeding season. The data from the survey is used to guide our local land management with conservation planning.”

For more information or to register visit go.illinois.edu/CallingFrogSurvey

If you are unable to

attend the in-person watch party on Feb. 8 but would still like to be involved in the LaSalle County survey, online training options are available on Feb. 1, Feb. 6, Feb. 8, and Feb. 10. For more information about online options visit frogsurvey.org.

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

How does chocolate taste so good? How are there so many different kinds of chocolate?

OTTAWA – Explore the beloved treat of chocolate. Many chocolates are considered indulgent, but some can offer health benefits when consumed mindfully.

Get the scoop on the science behind different types of chocolate and taste the difference. Join Illinois Extension’s Susan Glassman, Nutrition and Wellness Educator, and learn how chocolate can be part of your healthy lifestyle. The Health Benefits of Chocolate will be offered in February at the following locations:

- Tuesday, Feb. 4, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Utica Public Library; 224 Mill St., North Utica. Register at go.illinois.edu/uticachocolate
 - Thursday, Feb. 13, 6-7 p.m., Reddick Public Library, 1010 Canal St., Ottawa. Register at go.illinois.edu/ottawachocolate
 - Tuesday, Feb. 25, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Bureau County Senior Center, 16 W. Marion St., Princeton. Register at go.illinois.edu/bcschocolate
- You may also call 815-224-0894 to register.

Diabetes Support Group Meeting February 13 at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center in Mendota

MENDOTA – Learn diabetes prevention and management skills from University of Illinois Extension Nutrition and Wellness Educator Susan Glassman, MS Ed, CHES, and OSF HealthCare Clinical Dietitian Jennifer Scully, RD LDN CDCES.

Meet with your peers and share practical tips and advice

with others who are living with diabetes. This month’s theme is “Recipe swaps for healthier cooking.” Note, that there is a room change for our monthly meetings.

The Diabetes Support Group Meeting is offered on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 9-10:30 a.m. at OSF Health Care, Saint Paul Medical Center, Board Room, 1401 E. 12th St., Mendota.

Register at go.illinois.edu/diabetessupport or call 815-224-0894.

If you need an accommodation to participate, please contact Susan Glassman at susang@illinois.edu or 815-224-0889. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Only a few calories; healthy; not expensive; delicious; keep the sniffles away...with soup

OTTAWA – Chase away the winter chills with a bowl of soup.

Soup nourishes, comforts, hydrates, and might even keep the sniffles away. Soups are healthy, easy on the wallet, quick, and fill you up with fewer calories.

Learn to heighten the flavor with homemade garnishes and how to make a soup bar.

Join Illinois Extension Nutrition and Wellness Educator Susan Glassman in partnership with Bureau, Marshall-Putnam, and LaSalle County farm bureaus for their “Heart Healthy Soups, Stews & Slow Cookers Class.”

Learn how to create a soup bar and taste a sample of a delicious homemade slow cooker soup and take-home recipes. Get new ideas for family meals and make your next pot of soup something super special to serve.

This class is sponsored in part by the Illinois Farm Bureau Consumer Grant. Seating is limited. Call your Local Farm Bureau office to register. Classes will be offered at the following locations and dates:

- Monday, Feb. 10, 5:30-6:30 p.m., LaSalle County Farm Bureau, 1691 N. 31st Road, Ottawa. Call 815-433-0371; register by Feb. 3.

- Thursday, Feb. 20, 6-7 p.m., Bureau County Farm Bureau, 1407 N Main St, Princeton. Call 815-875-6468; register by Feb. 14.
- Monday, Feb. 24, 6-7 p.m., Marshall-Putnam Farm Bureau, 509 Front St., Henry. Call 309-364-2501; register by Feb. 18.

If you need reasonable accommodation to participate or need more information, please contact Susan Glassman, Extension Educator, Nutrition & Wellness, University of Illinois Extension at 815-224-0894. Extension offices are located in Princeton, Ottawa, Henry, and in Oglesby on the IVCC campus.

Stage 212 seeks directors for 2026

LaSALLE – Stage 212 in LaSalle is currently seeking submissions from directors for the 2026 season.

The organization is looking for a wide variety of well-known, highly recognizable musicals, dramas and comedies to fill the winter, spring, summer and fall slots, but will also entertain proposals for the 2026 “Off-Season” production, which is typically small cast, a little out of the ordinary, and runs in a slot outside of the regular season.

The organization is most interested in shows based on or inspired by real life events, but will consider all submissions, including repeats of past shows if they have not been performed in the last 15 years.

Anyone interested in submitting a show for consideration should visit the Stage 212 website at stage212.org for application information.

Visitors to stage212.org will find a reference list of all productions



Stage 212 has put on in their history, as well as links to a director’s resume and application in Google document form to be completed and submitted online.

Form links may also be found on Stage 212’s Facebook page. Applications are due by Feb. 10. A final selection will be made for recommendation to the Management Committee of Stage 212 in March of 2025.

Questions should be emailed to production-manager@stage212.org.

Stage 212 has been the Illinois Valley’s community theater since 1968 and welcomes anyone interested in participating in a stage production, regardless of previous experience.



Blackstone pizza lunch
Blackstone School recently held its Principal Award pizza lunch. Students attending the lunch, front row, left to right, are Ophelia Bronski, Zola Ybarra, Yulissa Escatel, Jayda Fielder, Wyatt Ward and Javy Rodriguez. Back row, Henry Schoepf, Ximenna Hermosillo, Addison Borelli, Brody Sellers, Victoria Lechuga and Kade Watson. (Photo contributed)

State representatives hosting Medicare 101 seminar

DIXON – State Representatives Brad Fritts (R-Dixon) and Ryan Spain (R-Peoria) will be hosting a free Medicare 101 Seminar for local seniors on Tuesday, Feb. 11 from 10-11:30 a.m. The event will take place at the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, located at 601 W. 10th St., Rock Falls.

“I invite all local seniors who have questions about Medicare to attend this free seminar,” said Rep. Fritts. “This

seminar is one way for us to remain proactive in assisting our senior population by ensuring they are able to fully utilize their Medicare benefits.”

“This event is intended to help residents navigate the complexities of Medicare and have their questions answered,” said Rep. Spain. “I am pleased to again offer this opportunity to ensure no one is left uncertain or unable to access healthcare.”

The seminars will be hosted by experts from the Illinois Department on Aging’s Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) who are able to offer information and guidance about the intricacies of Medicare. This information will assist Medicare recipients in making empowered decisions about their coverage options. Questions from attendees are encouraged.

For more information about Representative Fritts, visit RepFritts.com.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Richard J. Elam

MENDOTA – Richard Joseph “Joe” Elam, 72, of Mendota, passed away Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, at Allure of Mendota.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at Howe & Yockey Funeral Home, Shelbyville, with Pastor Debbie Hamilton officiating. Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Stewardson Cemetery, Stewardson, with a flag presentation by the Shelby County Honor Guard.

Joe was born on Oct. 15, 1952, in Effingham, the son of Richard Dwight and Mildred L. (Carroll) Elam. He married Carol Marlene Thomas on Sept. 24, 1977, and they were blessed with two children, Jennifer and Justin.

Joe is survived by his wife, Carol; son, Justin Elam (Nicki Lindenmier) of Austin, Texas; daughter, Jennifer Billingsley (Chris) of Yorkville; brother, Jeff Elam (Andrea) of Shelbyville; and three grandsons, James, Andrew, and Asher Billingsley.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Bub and Emily Thomas.

Joe graduated from Shelbyville High School in the Class of 1970 and earned his bachelor’s degree in business from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Joe served his country in the United States Army and was stationed in Korea during the Vietnam War. Joe’s professional career in Human Resource Management led him to work for Walgreens, Del Monte Foods and Bay Valley Foods. Joe was a member of the Mendota VFW Post #4079, where he served as Post Commander in 1997. He was a devoted fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Bears.

Memorials may be given to the Mendota Fire Department or the Shelbyville Memorial Sunken Garden.

Send condolences at www.howeandyockey.com.



Barbara A. Iversen

PAW PAW – Barbara Ann Iversen, 88, of Paw Paw, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025, at Prairie Crossing Nursing Home in Shabbona.

Memorial visitation will be held Friday, Jan. 31, from 4-7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 398 Chicago Road, Paw Paw. A memorial funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at the First Presbyterian Church with Pastor Ken Foster officiating followed by a graveside service at Wyoming Township Cemetery. The family invites Barbie’s friends and family to join us for a meal following the graveside service at the Paw Paw Community Building to celebrate her life.

Born on June 22, 1936, to Jay and Kate (VanBuren) Landers, she was a vibrant and passionate soul who had a zest for life. It was Oct. 13, 1956, that Barbie married the love of her life, Gilbert Iversen. They couldn’t wait to start a family of their own and their children meant the world to them. Family was the center of everything for Barbie. Barbie and Gibbie built a life full of love and laughter; the pair shared 68 beautiful years together.

Barbie is survived by her loving husband, Gib Iversen; daughters, Kim (Glenn) Fox of Paw Paw, and Gay (Don) Sellers of Earlville; son, Corey (Julie Todd) Iversen of Earlville; 10 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandson; brother, Jack (Carol) Landers of Earlville; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her loving parents; brother, Don (Thelma) Landers; brother, Willard Landers; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Arnold and Lauretta Iversen.

A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, Barbie was known for her infectious smile and spirit. To know her was to love her.

She was a 1954 graduate of Earlville High School. She pursued her passions and graduated from Rockford School of Beauty Culture in 1955. She worked in Ottawa before buying her own shop in Leland. After two years she opened one in her home in Paw Paw. She loved visiting with her clients and retired after 33 years behind the chair.

She was an active member of the Red Hatters, where her laughter and sense of humor brought joy to everyone around her. She cherished her time spent on the water with her husband, Gib, and made lasting memories boating with family and friends. Whether it was a morning coffee hour or vodka tonics (with a lemon of course) with those she loved, Barbie always knew how to make every moment special.

She was a super fan in every sense of the word, always showing unwavering support for her children and grandchildren. She could always be found in the bleachers for sporting events, graduations, and holiday programs. Her clap was the loudest and her smile the proudest. It didn’t matter if sports wasn’t her favorite, her family was.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Paw Paw Lions Club Youth Sports or the Paw Paw Fire Department in her memory. Barbie will be deeply missed but forever remembered in the hearts of those who loved her.

Please visit www.Tormanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guest book.



Eileen M. Dancey

LaSALLE – Eileen Mae Dancey, 89, of LaSalle, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, at her home in LaSalle.

Cremation care has been provided by Horner-Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota.

Eileen was born on April 1, 1935, in Milan, Mo., the daughter of John and Nellie (Chapman) Henry.

Eileen is survived by her son, Paul (Kathy) Bierwirth of Mendota; her daughter, Brenda (Cheryl Hazelton) Bierwirth of Weslaco, Texas; five grandchildren, Jennifer (Mark) Robinson, Nicole (Kevin) Kicinski, Christopher Bierwirth, Rodney Veith and Tammie Gagliardo; 12 great-grandchildren, Alex Griffith, Taylor Griffith, Brianna Bierwirth, Laura Kicinski, Justin Kicinski, McKensie Zink, Dackota Bierwirth, Seth Peterson, Katherine Marquiza, Kylie Marquiza, Hailey Dodd and Parker Veith.

Eileen was preceded in death by her parents, John and Nellie; three brothers, Orville Henry, Elmer Henry and Paul Henry; one daughter, Sherry Bierwirth Veith; granddaughter, Carrie Ann Brennen; and great-granddaughter, Caitlyn Veith. She was also preceded in death by her first husband, Richard Bierwirth, and second husband, Robert Dancey.

Visit www.horner-merritt.com.



Robert A. Dewey

AMBOY – Robert A. Dewey, 84, of Amboy, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Funeral services will be on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 11 a.m. at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Burial will follow at Prairie Repose Cemetery in Amboy.

He was born on Dec. 12, 1940, in Amboy, the son of Earl and Alice (Andrews) Dewey. Robert married Patricia A. Shaw on Jan. 11, 1964, in Amboy.

Robert is survived by his son, Rob (Linda Knoll) Dewey of Amboy; daughter, Roxanne Albers of Compton; four grandchildren, Amanda Wegstein, Chad (Suzy) Albers, Nick Dewey and Lindsey Dewey; six great-grandchildren, Lilly, Dillion, Tristan, Liam, Everlee, and Nathan.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia, on March 24, 2005; his parents; brothers, Clarence Dewey and Richard Dewey; sister, Betty Thompson; and son-in-law Paul Albers.

Robert worked for Dean’s Foods for 34 years in Amboy and Dixon prior to his retirement. He was a scoutmaster for Boy Scouts in Amboy, served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany for 34 months from 1960 to 1962. He was a member of East Grove Union Church and First Baptist Church in Amboy.

Memorial donations can be made to East Grove Union Church. Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com



William J. Kuczek

TOLUCA – William J. Kuczek, 56, of Toluca, formerly of Mendota, passed away on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, after a lengthy illness.

Public visitation was from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, at the Horner-Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota. Funeral Mass was held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Peterstown, with Father Greg Nelson officiating. Burial will follow at Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery.

He was born in Chicago on Jan. 8, 1969, to Edward and Jane (Bukala) Kuczek.

He is survived by his brother, Edward, of Mendota.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents.

He was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Peterstown. Bill attended Mendota schools, graduating in 1988.

Until his physical and mental handicaps didn’t allow him to work, he was employed at several local workplaces.

Memorials in Bills honor can be made to Sts. Peter & Paul or Holy Cross Catholic Church for mass offerings.

Visit www.horner-merritt.com for online guestbook.



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.

Please see more
Obituaries on
Page A5.

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LOCAL NEWS/OBITUARIES

District 280

Continued from Page A1

After discussion, the board authorized the FY 2024 final audit.

The committee also reviewed Bushue HR, Inc. human resources offerings. The company works with hundreds of small, rural school districts' HR departments. In addition to HR areas, the services provided also include risk-management and compliance issues. Several positive recommendations were gathered from local school districts.

Per the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the board approved a one-year agreement with re-evaluation.

Coss also shared the discussion had on funding for upcoming health life safety capital projects. The restricted TIF funds that may only be used for capital projects are \$496,817. The committee discussed the need to transfer working cash bond funds to capital projects. The Fire or Health Life Safety fund, 90, is a restricted fund for health life safety repairs. The district will use all \$417,000 of these funds for summer health life safety repairs.

The board authorized a resolution of transfer of funds from the Working Cash fund to the Capital Projects bond in the amount of \$400,000.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Joe Masini shared that the ACT, Pre-ACT 9 and Pre-ACT 10 will be administered on April 9 to grades 9, 10 and 11. Seniors will have the day off to make college or career planning visits. The School Improvement Committee has developed a plan in which all students 9-11 will be taking practice ACT tests during period 8.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Denise Aughenbaugh reported that the 2025-2026 Math Inter-governmental Agreement with Mendota District 289 and Holy Cross School was reviewed and it was approved by the board. The 2025-26 section of 8th grade Honors Algebra I will be taught at Northbrook School by a qualified teacher. The same placement criteria and curriculum will be used. High school credit will still be granted.

The board authorized the superintendent to prepare the FY 2026 District budget.

The board discussed the 2025-2026 proposed district calendar and approved the calendar as presented. The board established May 16, 2026, at 3 p.m., as the Class of 2026 graduation date and time. Due to the large amount of summer construction scheduled for mandatory health life safety projects, the first day of student attendance is Friday, Aug. 15. The last day of fall semester is Monday, Dec. 22. Winter break starts Dec. 23 with the teachers returning on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, and students attending on Jan. 6. The earliest last possible day of school is Thursday, May 21, and emergency days could extend the last day of school until May 29. The high school aligned early dismissal days where possible with the elementary schools.

Dr. Aughenbaugh gave a presentation on Vision 2030. After consideration, the board authorized the resolution to support Illinois Vision 2030. The Vision 2030 document consists of three main pillars – Future Focused Learning, Shared Accountability and Predictable Funding.

Woven throughout the three pillars are four key points. They are: keeping students and schools safe; attracting and retaining high-quality educators; enhancing post-secondary success; and more effectively measuring what is working well in schools in a timely, usable manner.

MHS District 280 is proud to support the Vision 2030 blueprint for excellence in K-12 public education through future-focused learning, shared accountability, and predictable funding. To learn more about how you can support policy, legislative, and fiscal solutions to advance this goal, visit IllinoisVision2030.com.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

After an executive/closed session, the board took the following action:

- Hired James Eustice as math teacher and head varsity football coach for the 2025-26 school year.
- Hired Christa Dean as cafeteria director for the 2025-26 school year.
- Hired Matthew Chism as school bus driver effective immediately.
- Authorized the district bookkeeper's rate of pay.

FFA

Continued from Page A1

izes the value of the hard work and dedication that is required to earn the American FFA Degree and has therefore created a \$1,000 endowment awarded to any Mendota FFA member who earns an American FFA Degree.

In addition to funding endowments for State and American FFA Degree the Mendota FFA Alumni & Supporters have funded improvements to the MHS Greenhouse, Waldorf Agricultural Education Center, and the purchase of a new John Deere tractor with loader. They also support FFA members' travel expenses to conference and conventions, as well as a grant to help students start and/or expand supervised agricultural experience projects.

Membership in the Mendota FFA Alumni & Supporters is open to anyone who wants to support agricultural education and FFA at Men-

dota High School. Tickets are currently available for the alumni's annual Draw Down fundraiser to be held on Saturday, March 29 at the Mendota Elks Lodge. For more information about FFA or the FFA Alumni, please contact Matthew Meyer, Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor at Mendota High School.

About National FFA Organization

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 1,027,200 student members as part of 9,235 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. For more, visit the National FFA Organization online at FFA.org and on Facebook and X.

education, leadership and personal development.

If you are interested in being a part of Special Olympics Illinois and its vision, contact your local region, call 800-394-0562 or visit its website at www.soill.org. Follow Special Olympics Illinois on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and X.

Daley

Continued from Page A1

in the state, which is awarded at the annual fall conference.

The Spartan principal was selected as a region principal of the year five years ago, but has never been chosen for the state recognition.

"When I saw the post this morning (Jan. 17) with all of us principals who won district awards, I know all of them and they're all wonderful," Daley said. "It's really a good community to be in. I've never been chosen as the Middle School Principal of the Year for the state. That would be a huge deal. It would be a kind of affirmation."

"It's not an easy position. It's a lot of decision making. People are not always happy with those decisions, but you have to have a global view. Part of it, as I look at the names on the list, is longevity as well. It's rare a principal stays anywhere more than five years. They're actually doing studies on the situation. Every time a principal leaves, there is such a huge shift. It's really difficult for districts to pick up from a principal leaving."

"They're really working on longevity. I think I already have it. I think it makes everything easier and more comfortable."

Writing the letter to recommend Daley for the Starved Rock Region recognition was easy for Cox.

He would write it twice if he could for each of his perspectives.

"In my seat, from being the superintendent to also being a parent with a son, Adam, at Northbrook, how great is it to know there is such a high-quality person leading the building with an environment of fifth-through eighth-grade students, which is full of challenges," Cox said. "Paula is a leader who is going to take care of the kids and adults, and do so in a thorough, compassionate, experienced way. I don't think you can put into words how remarkable and comforting that is, as a parent and an educator."

Henkel has taught at Northbrook for 25 years and has been through a few different administrators.

The eighth-grade social studies teacher appreciates Daley's overview look at every aspect of education.

"When I approach her with an initiative, such as working with Reimagine Mendota or local journalists presenting to my class, it's been backed," Henkel said. "Sometimes she pushes back a little bit and needs more information or reasoning to approve, but she greenlights

anything she thinks is beneficial to the students.

"She's very supportive and makes sure I cover all of my bases when I bring in outside organizations."

Henkel sees areas Daley has either directly improved Northbrook and the Starved Rock Region or by championing and advocating for change and improvement. When it comes to Northbrook, she points out extracurricular expansion and putting the right teachers in the right places to feed student interest and piloting the Regional Office of Education Mentor program, which spread to Mendota High School and schools in the surrounding area.

The teacher saw the principal push for updates on the building even if they were brought to the forefront by Cox, the Northbrook staff, or by the district such as the gymnasium, new paint, new lights, and secured entrance.

As Northbrook's athletic director, Heather Friedlein works hand-in-hand with Daley fairly often.

She feels the same way Henkel does about the principal.

"Ms. Daley is very deserving of this honor. She creates an environment where all students feel safe and can grow," Friedlein said. "She promotes new experiences and pushes our school forward giving the students opportunities they normally wouldn't have. Ms. Daley is a proud Spartan through and through."

Usually after an award in professional sports, the winner usually searches for perceived greener pastures.

Daley has no thought of going anywhere else but Northbrook.

"This is such a phenomenal community to be in because it's so supportive. The District 289 School Board, every year I've been here, the board has been so supportive," Daley said. "It's comprised of wonderful people who are super involved. The past few years have been lovely. The Superintendent, Cox, is amazing, very supportive, a great listener, and a great person to bounce ideas off of because he has a great perspective."

"My administrative team is amazing. We have a lot of fun. Anybody will pitch in for anyone. The staff and the students at Northbrook are the most incredible people I've ever worked with. I love coming to school every day. There is never a day where I don't want to be at work. I feel I get to go to a really cool place and spend time with really cool people."



City of Mendota winter weather ordinances

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

• Ordinance 41.38 – Parking After Snowfall

It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any public street in the city at any time after a snowfall of two inches or more has occurred, unless the snow has ceased and has been plowed off or otherwise removed from the street.

Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or association found violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$25 for each violation of this ordinance and may be subject to towing said vehicle away. The cost of said towing shall be the obligation and

expense of those violating this Section.

• Ordinance 6.21 – Depositing Snow in Streets

No person within the city shall remove any snow from his private property or from offstreet parking lots or right of way parking into any of the city streets or alleys. This Section does not apply to removal of snow from sidewalks. This Section is specifically directed to, but not limited to gasoline stations, medical and dental clinics, or any other business or corporation which has private parking on the property or in those areas where the berm of the city has been dedicated or given over for parking facilities.

The above ordinances are in place to assist the city of Mendota with snow removal from the city streets.

OBITUARIES

James M. Fritz

MENDOTA – James M. Fritz, 63, of Mendota, passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 25, 2025, at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford.

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at St. John's Lutheran Church. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 31 at St. John's Lutheran Church with Rev. Elise Rothfusz officiating. Cremation rites will follow after services and burial will be at a future date.

Jim was born in Mendota on Dec. 25, 1961, to Russell H. and Elsie (Simpson) Fritz. He graduated from Mendota High School in 1980. On Aug. 2, 1985, he married the love of his life, Alice Thompson, at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Jim will be forever missed by his loving wife, Alice, of Mendota; two sons, Jordan (Michaela) Fritz of Cherry Valley and Jared (Kady) Fritz of St. Louis, Mo.; granddaughter, Kate; his mother, Elsie Fritz; two sisters, Deb (Rich) Simkins and Connie (Mark) Myers, both of Mendota; and brother, Tim Fritz of Madison, Wis.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Russell.

He worked as a mechanic his entire career, starting at John Deere and continuing with Air Products for 34 years. Jim was a loving husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, son, and brother. He was the most giving, caring, thoughtful and hardworking man. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved hunting and fishing with his friends and his sons. When he wasn't fixing anything and everything, he could be found playing and laughing with his beautiful granddaughter, Kate. He loved his family dearly, including his grandpup, Dex. Our family is heartbroken, as a piece of us has left this world, but even at the end of his life he was giving to others. Jim was able to save lives with the Gift of Hope - donating many of his organs to those who needed them.

Memorials may be directed to St. John's Lutheran Church, Illinois Valley Animal Rescue (IVAR), or Living Lands and Water "Million Tree Project," 17624 Route 84, East Moline, IL 61244. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I shall fear no evil, for thou art with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Judith L. Svendsen

EARLVILLE – Judith Louise (Rider) Svendsen, 82, of Earlville, passed away peacefully Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025.

Visitation will be from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at the Rollo Congregational United Church of Christ. A funeral service will be held on Sunday, Feb. 2.

She was born March 28, 1942, in Mendota, to Ralph and Zelda (Kleckner) Rider. She met "Swede" Harold M. Svendsen in January 1958 at the Bub Dance in Triumph. They were married Aug. 24, 1958, and spent 66 wonderful years together.

Judy is survived by her husband of 66 years, Harold "Swede" Svendsen; her children, Jeff (Joetta) Svendsen of West Brooklyn, Char (Dean) Hawbaker of Mt. Dora, Fla., Larry (Carol) Svendsen of Shabbona, and Stacy Richardson of Earlville; sister, Barb Klatt; sisters-in-law, Paula Rider and Patricia Schou; brother-in-law, Charles (Anna) Svendsen; grandchildren, Ashley (Ron) Hawbaker, Jessica (Brent) Olson, Lucas Svendsen, Lindsay Svendsen, J. Adam (Alyssa) Svendsen, Kaylie (Jake) Pratt, and Joel Svendsen; great-grandchildren, Alexis, Madyson, Kora, and Benjamin; and many nieces and nephews.

Judy is preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Helen, Algieri and Peggy Fassig; brother, William "Bill" Rider; brothers-in-law, Jerry Klatt, Duane Fassig, and Howard Schou; and son-in-law, Ray Richardson.

Judy started working for Spurgeon's in Mendota in high school. She later worked as a bookkeeper for numerous area businesses, including Elizabeth Tax Service, Carmul of Shabbona, Schaeffer Grain of Lee, and the Rollo Elevator. She served as Paw Paw Township Supervisor for 44 years. Judy was a very social person. She enjoyed her flowers, reading, researching family genealogy, spending time with family, sitting on the porch, swimming, camping, playing the accordion in her younger years, riding a tandem bike with the blind friend, going to morning coffee with her friends and helping Swede farm for many years.

Judy was also very civic minded. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She organized the Rollo Park Board in 1979 and was a founding board member of the N.I.C.E. Center in Lee, organized the SLR Museum writing the first grant. She was a member of the Rollo Congregational United Church of Christ, where she was the Junior Choir Director, Pilgrim Fellowship group leader, involved in the young adults group, several church boards and was in charge of the turkey supper carryout department. Judy was also considered the "unofficial" mayor of Rollo for many years. She took many trips with Swede and the Corn Growers Association throughout the states. Judy also organized and wrote scripts for many of the first areas cemetery walks as fundraisers.

Memorials may be directed to Rollo Park, Rollo Church or the N.I.C.E. Center.

Please visit www.TormanFuneralHome.com to sign the online guest book.

Mendota Police Dept. gives winter weather driving tips


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

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

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



OPINION



The Mendota Reporter

Award-winning Newspaper IPA/NINA
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Kip Cheek, Managing Editor
Brandon LaChance, News Reporter
Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager
Brent Hatch, Account Executive

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

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

The easiest solution is...slow down

Over the last three months I've seen, read, or been told about numerous situations involving cars hitting people or coming very close to doing so as pedestrians are walking across the street.

In October 2024, a Northbrook student in Mendota was hit by a vehicle walking in the crosswalk across Guiles Avenue, the road the school is on, to 16th Street.

In September, a month earlier, a similar issue happened in Lafayette, Color., on two separate occasions with kids being hit while riding a bike or walking in crosswalks before or after school, near a school.

It also happened in May along a school in Cincinnati and in February on a Chicago roadway.

A middle-school male student suffered a broken leg and facial injuries after being struck by a vehicle while walking in an Ohio (the state) crosswalk at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 27, 2025.

I found more and read about each of the instances. Some didn't have a crossing guard.

One was at an intersection without working lights and no stop sign.

A couple were on straight intersections and others involved a curved street.

I even read one story where there was a cop a block away patrolling a street and he had to jump in his squad car and chase a driver after clipping a kid as the student was getting off a school bus and trying to transfer to another bus to get home.

Obviously, the one in Mendota at Northbrook hits closer to home, well, because it is home or the surrounding area. A situation where someone gets hurt affects all of us in some way.

It could be your kid. Or your sister's middle schooler. Or your brother's sixth-grade genius. Or the list could go on and on how we could be connected when something happens to anyone in a community the size of Mendota.

If you've heard it once, you've heard it a million times, "Everyone knows everyone or is connected in some way."

Which for the most part, is why a lot of Mendota residents stay in Mendota, because we know the people in the community.

At the same time, if we could know the student getting hit, we could also know the person driving the vehicle.

We could know the person driving too fast.
The driver not paying attention.
The individual being reckless.
The ignorant adult who could injure or kill an innocent young child.

In the stories I read or was told, there was blame put on police departments because there wasn't anyone patrolling the school crosswalks. There was also blame put on staff shortages and no one wanting to take on the job. Also, school administrators and teachers for not worrying about the student's safety.

There was blame put on the children for walking across the street when it wasn't their turn or when they shouldn't.

Responsibility was put on lack of volunteers or the lack of people wanting to get paid to be a crossing guard.

I didn't find many stories following the same narrative.

There was only one intangible in each story, which was the same...someone was driving too fast and hit a kid.

We all have places to go, people to see, missions to accomplish.

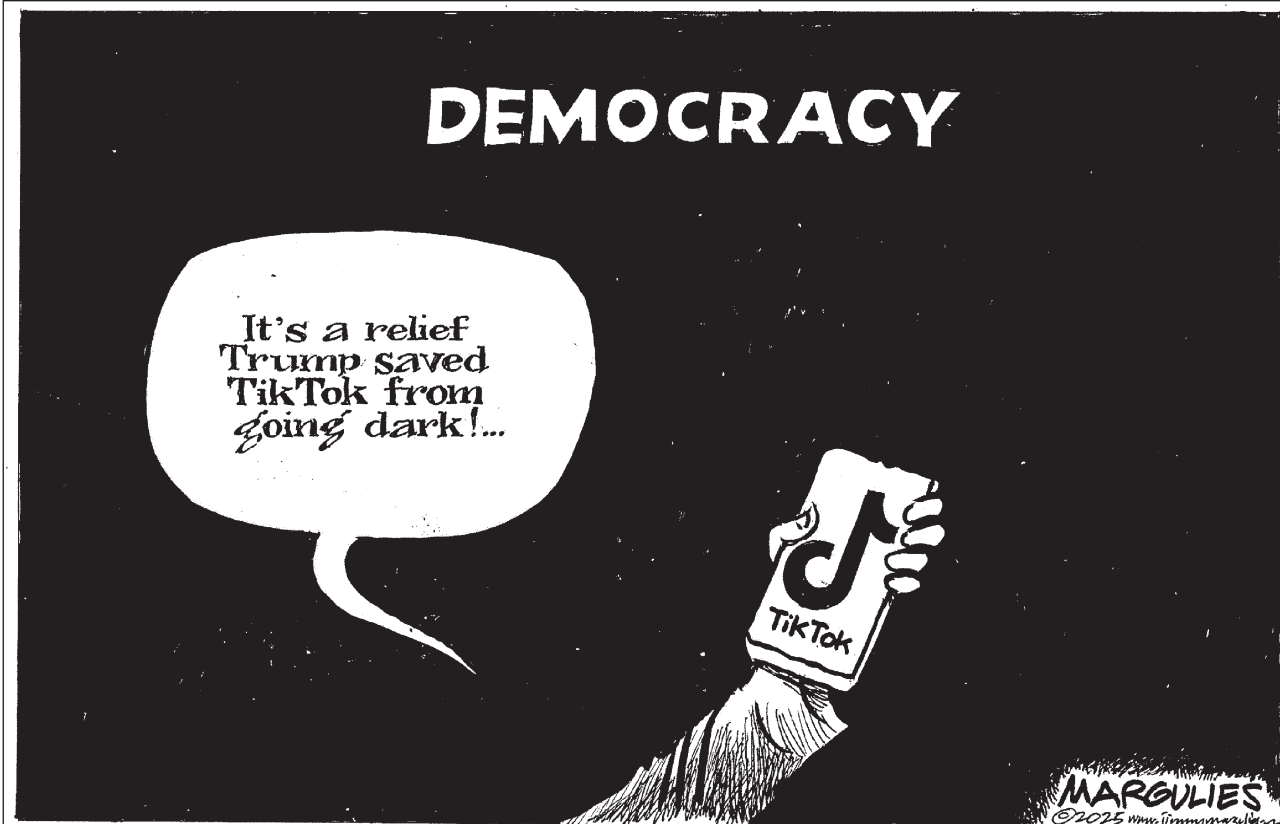
But the first one should always be to make sure the people are safe around us, which also includes the people who be crossing the street in front of you.

Slow down, keep your eyes on the road, be aware of students scurrying across streets, and be mindful of what could happen if you're not being a diligent driver and human being.

It's easy – slow down in school zones and the walkways.



Never the Last Chance
By Brandon LaChance



Izaak Walton League active - 1927

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks and Sidetracks* column, reprinted from Jan. 30, 2002.)
By Jessica Nashold

It was 75 years ago, on Jan. 26, 1927, that the Mendota chapter of the Izaak Walton League hosted a banquet at the Elks Club. Dr. Preston Bradley, pastor of the Peoples' Church in Chicago, was speaker. Dr. Bradley was well known through his Sunday morning sermons on radio.

This alone is worthy of coming many miles to hear.

Dr. Bradley had been one of the founders of the League and maintained a lively interest in its conservation goals.

At 1 o'clock in the afternoon, on the day of the banquet, the Izaak Walton League Gun Club sponsored a target shoot at Kakusha Park. An entire fee of \$7.50 was charged contestants and prizes were awarded to the top four scores. Fifteen men competed and the top scores were very close. Prentice of Paw Paw hit 78 out of 100 and won \$16.30. Harry Worsley, with 77, received \$13.22. Third prize was \$9.70 and there was a tie for fourth place, each man receiving \$4.72.

The Mendota Manufacturing & Transfer Co. sponsored a motion picture at the Elks on power farming equipment. The picture and instructive talks were free to farmers and their families.

In Sublette, Stephenitch & Burkhardt sponsored a free tractor school in Armory Hall.

Mendota was well represented at a meeting in Rochelle to discuss work on the Meridian Trail between Rochelle and Mendota. The Mendotans hoped the work would start at the Mendota end. Gov. Len Small attended the meeting and drew applause when he told men in the charge of the highway department to "get busy and complete the road." They, in turn, promised to secure the needed right-of-way.

Even if it goes through a man's yard.

The Hope Press, west of Mendota, had been completed and equipment was being installed. Operation of the plant was expected soon.

With the death of Theodore Fischer,

Backtracks & Sidetracks

the Fischer Grocery was purchased by a long time grocery man, M.J. Elsesser, on Jan. 17, 1927. The Reporter carried a brief synopsis of his years in the business. He started in 1879 as a clerk with Schmitz, Kuelgen & Bausman. That store was three doors north of Washington Street, on Main Street (now part of the First State Bank parking lot). In 1880, Mr. Kuelgen went into business for himself in a building one door south of Jefferson, on Main Street. Elsesser joined Kuelgen in 1885, and worked there until 1893. He then formed a partnership with Henry Roth, which continued for 30 years, two months. Elsesser & Roth sold to Moller & Kehm. Urged to take over the Fischer Grocery, Elsesser did so, but planned to keep the long-established Fischer name. He also planned to retain Fischer's valued assistant, John P. Schmitz.

The Herbert brothers - Rupert, Theodore and John - opened a meat market in the Hart building on Main Street (also a site now part of the bank parking lot). The Herberts installed an "ice machine" and were prepared to make deliveries as well as serve customers in their store.

For opening day, Feb. 5, 1927, they advertised a special.

A nice ham for only \$1.

Although they did not expect "all the business," they believed themselves deserving of "a share." They would carry "the very best home-killed beef" and would be in the market for "any butcher stock" that farmers had for sale.

A group of 35 men connected with the oil trade in Mendota met in the Legion rooms, on Feb. 1, 1927, to compare notes. Following a two-course supper, smokes were enjoyed, and singing was led by John Woods and Mahlon Worsley, with Bill Worsley on piano. D.L. Barnett, Martin Flagler, John Barth and Oscar Weitzel were among oil men relating their experiences. Forest Faber

was elected chairman of the Mendota Oil Men, in hope that such an organization would become a reality.

The 1926 Mendota Fair had experienced financial difficulty. On Feb. 5, 1927, a Community Supper at the Elks provided a strong effort to promote a fair in 1927. More than 800 tickets to the supper were sold, and in the course of the evening, diners were asked to pledge the number of tickets to a 1927 fair they would purchase.

The high school band, Girls' Glee Club and other students provided entertainment. A Grand March was led by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brown. A flag was passed among the marchers and each time the music stopped, whoever held the flag got a prize.

Dancing followed to music by Williams, Wynette and Charles Worsley, and Clifford Eggers.

W.R. Foster, county superintendent of schools, released figures showing that the cost of educating children in Mendota was the highest in LaSalle County. With 472 students and 23 teachers, the \$35,680 spent annually in Mendota was \$71.35 per student. In second place was Streator, at \$69.93, and LaSalle, at \$67.31, ranked third highest.

The Northern Illinois Service Co. Bus Line began carrying passengers between Dixon and LaSalle on Jan. 20, 1927, with a waiting room in the Hotel Faber for Mendota passengers. The line made stops at Amboy, Sublette, Henkel, Mendota and Peru. There were two trips daily each way, northbound and southbound.

Fares were not quoted.

Farmers, who feared being taxed if a drive for legislation to clean up the Fox River succeeded, organized to protest the movement.

Harold Lown, former manager of the Kroger Grocery store in Mendota, was hired by L.C. Mercantile Co. He was a popular player on local basketball teams.

A Hi-Y chapter was organized at MTHS with 24 members. They met in a classroom during the lunch hour. Webster Gilman was president.

They gave Trump the center, and he took it

By Rich Lowry

Donald Trump stood at the center of American politics -- in both senses -- when he was inaugurated in the U.S. Capitol. Pretty much everything of import in national affairs will revolve around Trump for the foreseeable future, and he's managed, in many respects, to occupy the political and cultural center.

Trump's critics have long insisted that he be shunned and not "normalized." Did someone tell Carrie Underwood, who performed "America the Beautiful" at the inauguration (spontaneously going a cappella when there was a snafu with the accompanying music)? Or the richest, most successful entrepreneurs in the country, who were on prominent display? Or, for the matter, did someone tell the Village People?

If someone had predicted that the group formed to appeal to gay disco fans in 1977 would, in the year of our lord 2025, be performing at a pre-inaugural rally for a Republican president-elect considered a troglodyte culture warrior by his enemies, he'd have been justifiably mocked and dismissed.

As it turns out, disco was never dead; it was just waiting for Trump to revive it (actually, disco-inspired music was already on the upswing before Trump came up with his trendy YMCA dance).

How did a Democratic Party that has long prided itself on its hipness and future-oriented attitude lose a coolness fight to Donald J. Trump?

Well, for one thing, the party's primary voters renominated an octogenarian who couldn't identify or align himself with a cultural trend if he were gently directed to it by a bevy of solicitous aides. He was then swapped out for his unimpressive vice president, who was the beneficiary of a manufactured campaign to make her fun and interesting that collapsed of its own weight by November.

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris had to sit awkwardly and listen in the Capitol as Trump excoriated their governing record. The harshness of his critique has led some observers to deride his inaugural address as American Carnage 2.0, a

reference to the famous phrase from his first inaugural. If Trump was unsparing in his description of the status quo, though, he was soaring in his promises of "a thrilling new era of national success."

He talked of bringing a "revolution of common sense," positioning that wouldn't be so easily available to him if the other side hadn't ceded so much ground.

Trump's urgency about securing the border wouldn't have nearly the same political salience if Biden hadn't been so heedless about a record-breaking influx of illegal immigrants.

Trump wouldn't get to speak of defeating "record inflation" if there hadn't been record inflation in the first place.

Trump's decision to make it official government policy to only recognize two genders would be irrelevant if the Democrats hadn't hitched themselves to gender insanity.

Trump's call for ending the efforts to insinuate race and gender into all aspects of American life would be meaningless if DEI hadn't become Democratic gospel.

The Democrats appeared to believe that it didn't matter how out of touch and radical they'd become, so long as they were running against a Donald Trump who could be ruled out of bounds. But if the public concluded that Trump made more sense than his adversaries, a campaign to render him ipso facto unacceptable was going to fail.

This is not to say that Trump is an anodyne centrist. His zeal for tariffs and apparent determination to retake the Panama Canal are hardly consensus positions, and he didn't mention his imminent Jan. 6 pardons in his address. No matter how much momentum Trump has now, controversies will pile up and events will take a hand. The current goodwill could prove quite transitory.

Still, it was Trump who was the focus of all the attention on Jan. 20, Trump who is setting the agenda and Trump who can plausibly define himself as closer to the middle than his opponents -- and they brought it on themselves.

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

MAYOR	
David Boelk, 803 Meadowview Drive,	815-538-3924
FIRST WARD ALDERMEN	
James Fitzpatrick, 807 Pennsylvania Ave.,	815-538-2474
John Hessenberger, 1406 Hillcrest Drive,	815-539-9934
SECOND WARD ALDERMEN	
John Holland, 902 West Lawn,	815-528-5367
Leo Hochstatter, 1102 S. Park Ave.,	630-841-1315
THIRD WARD ALDERMEN	
Kyle Kim, 504 First Ave.,	815-538-2414
Jay Miller, 702 First Ave.,	757-412-9374
FOURTH WARD ALDERMEN	
Mark Peasley, 2111 Cedar Ave.,	815-252-7243
Vicki Johnson, 206 Ninth St.,	815-866-5558

TRI-COUNTY NEWS

Paw Paw School student test scores get high marks

PAW PAW – The Paw Paw Community Unit School District 271 Board of Education met in regular session on Jan. 21.

Superintendent/Principal Jennifer DuBois presented December benchmark testing results, comparing those scores to August testing of literacy and math skills. Most scores went up or remained the same, pointing out which areas need to be strengthened. The grading is listed as year in school (1-8), and month

in school when tested, in this case “3.” It was hoped that eighth grade students would score 8.3 or above. The 12 eighth grade students scored an average of 12.5 in literacy, and 9.5 in math, above grade level in both categories.

The data breach through Power School did not include financial information. The Cyber insurance company was notified.

The district received a grant to pave the bus parking lot. The work will

take place this summer.

The school calendar for 2025-2026 was discussed; Winter and Spring breaks will match with Indian Creek’s schedule.

The Superintendent’s contract for school years 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028, was renewed.

Kadence Humblert-Hertner and Jessica Bivins were hired to be crossing guards at Chapman and Chicago Road, working 7:30-7:55 a.m. and 3-3:20 p.m. at \$15 per hour.

IVCC offers airplane pilot training class

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College’s Continuing Education Center offers a 12-session Private Pilot Ground Training course on Tuesdays from Feb. 4 through April 29.

Offered on IVCC’s main campus, the course prepares students for the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Exam (there is an additional fee for the test). Class meets 6 to 9

p.m. with instructor Joseph Nimee.

The course provides knowledge of flight controls and instruments, airport and airspace considerations, aircraft weight and balance, aircraft performance tables, basic weather meteorology, federal aviation regulations, flight psychology and emergency preparedness.

Students will tour Illinois

Valley Regional Airport and experience a flight simulator on Saturday, March 1, from 1-4 p.m. Class will not meet on Feb. 25 or March 11.

The cost of the class is \$359 and the course is open to ages 15 and older. Materials are included in the cost of the class. Class ID is 18269.

For information, visit www.ivcc.edu/enroll or call (815) 224-0427.

Stage 212 adds 2 ‘Tarzan’ shows

LaSALLE – Because of outstanding ticket requests, Stage 212 has added two performances of its winter musical, “Tarzan,” Thursday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8 at 2

p.m. These are the final added performances. No more performances will be added.

Tickets are \$22 each and may be purchased by visiting the box office Mon-

day 4-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon or by calling 815-224-3025 during the same hours. Tickets may also be purchased online by visiting www.stage212.org.

Bill payment assistance programs available to help Nicor Gas customers with their past due account balances

Applications now open to Nicor Gas’ Shield of Caring program

NAPERVILLE – Every family deserves reliable energy at a price they can afford, which is why Nicor Gas is ensuring that income-eligible residential customers have access to essential services and bill payment assistance through its 2025 energy assistance offerings.

This year, customers in need can benefit from the Shield of Caring program, which provides grants of up to \$250 annually, administered by The Salvation Army. Shield of Caring is designed to offer critical support for natural gas bill payments and other basic needs, such as housing and rental assistance, groceries and warm winter clothing items to help ensure their homes are warm and secure throughout the winter months

Nicor Gas established the emergency assistance and homelessness prevention program 2021 with an initial \$5 million contribution to assist its customers affected by global health and financial crises. In 2022, the company announced an additional \$5 million commitment to expand the Shield of Caring program. Since its inception, over 20,000 Nicor Gas customers have benefited from a Shield of Caring grant, and 35,464 have received essential support, including warm winter coats, food boxes and emergency disaster services

Residential customers with a household gross income below 400% of the federal poverty level in the last 30 days can apply for assistance at www.shieldofcaring.com. Customers eligible for financial assistance from other programs, such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), are encouraged to apply to these programs first to maximize their benefits.

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps low- and fixed-income families meet their energy needs. To qualify for LIHEAP, a household’s combined gross income for the 30 days prior to application must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level – for a family of four, that is \$62,400 annually, or \$5,200 monthly. For renters, heat must be included in the rent for eligibility consideration. For more information, visit www.LIHEAPIllinois.com or call 877-411-9276 (WARM).

In addition to Shield of Caring and LIHEAP, Nicor Gas offers several other resources to help customers manage and pay their natural gas bills and save on energy costs:

- Sharing Program: Provides one-time annual grants of up to \$400, with no repayment requirement, to qualified residential



customers who meet income guidelines. Seniors and veterans receive an additional \$150 grant. Administered by The Salvation Army, this program is funded through contributions from Nicor Gas customers and employees.

- Low-Income Discount Program: Residential customers receiving LIHEAP or Nicor Gas Sharing Program benefits will automatically be enrolled in the program that provides total bill discounts between 10% and 75%. All other customers can apply for the 5% discount, as well as waivers of deposits and late payment fees, through self-certification online or by calling 888. Nicor4u (888-642-6748).

- Energy Aide Program: Offers qualifying households a grant of up to \$250 towards their past-due balance, with no repayment required. Residential customers must be at or below 350% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines to qualify. Customers with non-heat accounts are eligible for this program as well.

- Payment Arrangements: Offers eligible customers extended time to pay past-due balances and bring their account current to avoid service disconnections. Eligibility can be checked at nicorgas.com/myaccount.

- Budget Plan: Helps customers with current accounts avoid unpredictable bills by evening out seasonal highs and lows through a monthly budgeted amount. Payments may be adjusted every four months based on actual usage and gas prices. Eligibility can be checked at nicorgas.com/budgetplan.

- Energy Efficiency Program: Provides free home assessments, energy-saving products and incentives to help save money and energy. Eligible income-qualified households may receive additional free services and equipment upgrades. For more information, call 877.866.4239 or visit nicorgas.com/saveathome.

The Nicor Gas Community Connection Center (C3) helps customers navigate all the above options, as well as basic need resources. Customers can contact the C3 team at nicorgas.com/CCC or receive customized recommendations online by answering a few anonymous questions via the Community Assistance Navigator.

For more information about bill payment assistance programs, visit nicorgas.com/energyassistance.

Keep up on the local and area news with a subscription to The Mendota Reporter. Call 815-539-9396 or stop by our office at 703 Illinois Ave. in downtown Mendota.



Community Calendar

FEBRUARY 2025

OCT. 1, 2024 - SEPT. 30, 2025

ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

Feik Senior Parlor –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Our goal for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$1000. Please help us reach our goal. Drop off cans at the northeast back door of the Civic Center.

FEB. 2025

BEGINNING CROCHET CLASS

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

Feik Senior Parlor –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

FEB. 2025

SENIOR LUNCHESES

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

11:30 AM

Monday - Friday

Feik Senior Parlor –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Meal Cost - \$4.00

Monthly menus are available on our website & Facebook page. Lunches are from OSF St. Paul Medical Center. Must register 24 hours in advance.

JAN. 14 - FEB. 18, 2025

MANAGING ANXIETY FOR

CAREGIVERS & KIDS

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library District

6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

FREE

For ages 6-11 and their caregivers. Six week course with Tricia Lockwood who is a Family Peer Specialist specializing in psycho-education that supports children/teens, parents and caregivers. Meet at the Library every Tuesday from 6-7 pm January 14 - February 18.

JAN. 21 - FEB. 18, 2025

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library District

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

FREE

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

FEB. 1

MENDOTA FIRE DEPT CARD PARTY

AND DANCE

Sponsored by Mendota Fire Dept.

6 PM - MIDNIGHT

Mendota ELKS

\$10 - Tickets available at the door. Theme: Vegas Night

FEB. 1

TEXAS HOLD ‘EM DEEP STACK

TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by Mendota Fire Dept.

1 PM

Mendota Moose

\$100 - Buy in.

FEB. 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, & 27

EXERCISE CLASS

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

8 AM

Feik Lounge –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Exercise at your own pace with an exercise video.

FEB. 3, 10, 17 & 24

TOPS CLUB

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

10 AM

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Anyone welcome.

FEB. 3, 10, 17 & 24

DOMINOES

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

All are welcome to join in the fun.

FEB. 4

CREATE ART AT THE LIBRARY

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

CHOOSE

1 PM or 6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

FREE

Registration is REQUIRED. ADULT crafters ONLY. Love yourself! Your home will smell divine with the potpourri we’ll make and the body scrub will refresh your skin.

FEB. 4, 11, 18 & 25

EUCHRE

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

12 PM (Noon)

Feik Senior Parlor –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

All are welcome!

FEB. 4, 11, 18 & 25

Wii BOWLING

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

10:30 AM

Feik Senior Parlor –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

All welcome to come and enjoy the fun!

FEB. 5

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ “LOVE”

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

11 AM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

Ages: Birth to 2 years old (siblings welcome).

Join us for books, music, and play.

FEB. 5

SMALL FRIES

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

4 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

Ages: 3 years old to Kindergarten. Book, crafts, and play.

FEB. 6

LEGO CLUB

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

4 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

Ages: Grades 1st - 8th. Come build LEGOs with friends.

FEB. 6, 13, 20 & 27

NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Bring your needlework or crafts to work on or just come for the friendship.

FEB. 6 & 20

HEARING SCREENINGS

Sponsored by Civic Center & M.A.S.S.

9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Hearing aid batteries available at M.A.S.S. to purchase. Bring in old batteries to recycle.

FEB. 6, 13, 20 & 27

POKENO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

12 PM (Noon)

Feik Senior Parlor –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

This game is a combination of Bingo & Poker. Pennies are used, so bring your penny jar. Call M.A.S.S. for more information @815-539-7700

FEB. 7

COMMUNITY BINGO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 538-5142 or 539-9673

Anyone 18 and older welcome to join the fun!

FEB. 7, 14, 21 & 28

BINGOCIZE

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

10 AM

Feik Lounge –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Open to anyone in the community.

FEB. 7, 14, 21 & 28

BINGO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge –

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

\$25 - Tickets available at the door.

FEB. 8

STEAK FRY

Sponsored by Mendota ELKS Lodge

5 PM - 7:30 PM

Mendota ELKS Lodge

For more info call

(815) 538-3557

\$25 - Tickets available at the door.

FEB. 11 & 25

BLOOD PRESSURE / BLOOD SUGAR

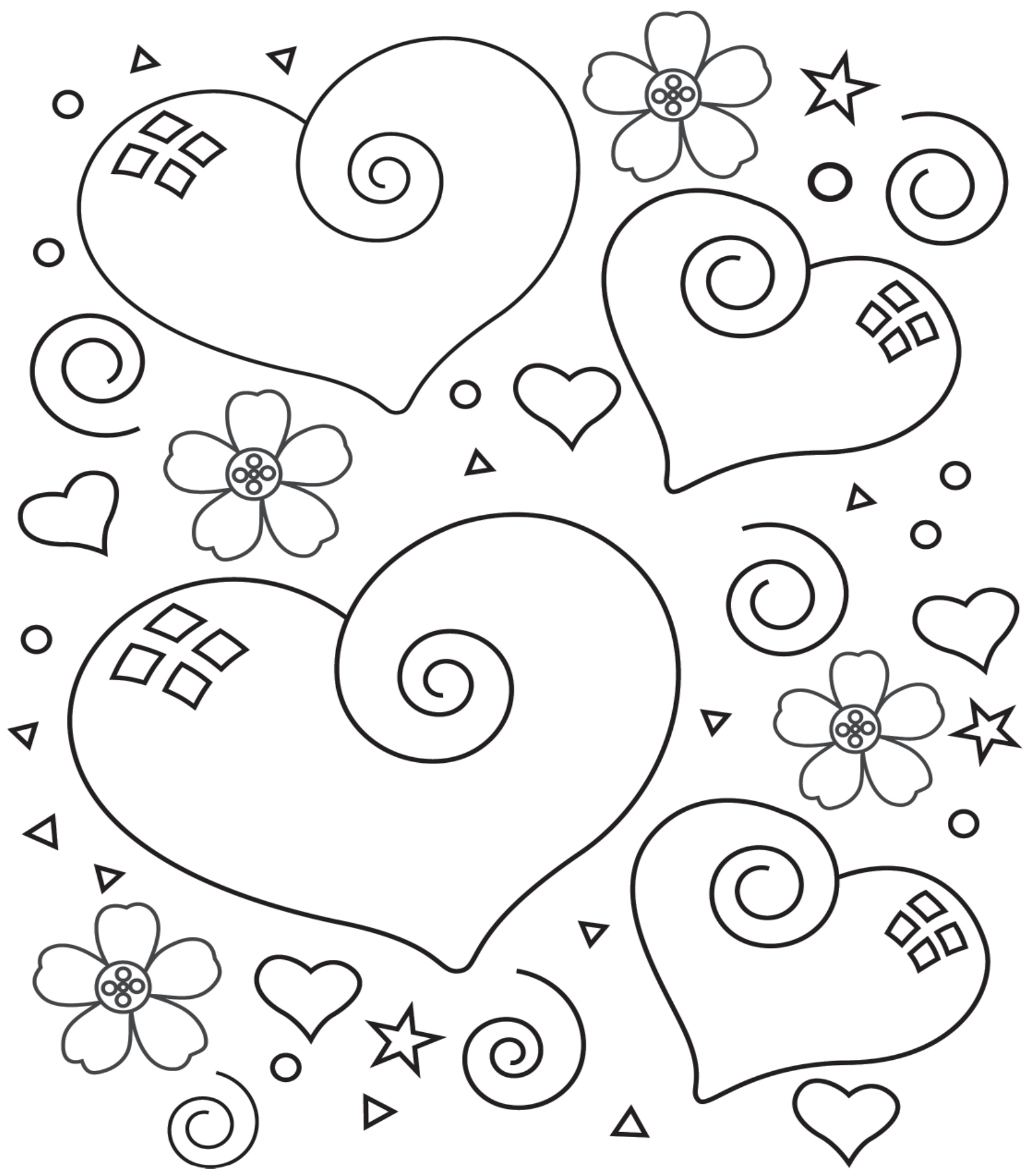
CHECKS

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

11 AM - 12 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –

ADULT COLORING CONTEST



NAME: _____

AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

All adults aged 55 and older are invited to color this scene shown here and submit to The Mendota Reporter for a chance to win a prize. Entries must be received at our office, 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, by Feb. 14, 2025. Winners will be notified.

Prizes awarded for:
1st Place & 2nd Place
Must be 55 or older to enter

Thanks to these sponsors for making this Adult Coloring Contest possible:

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708 Jefferson St • Mendota
815-539-6100



LOCAL AND AREA



Illinois farmers produced 688 million bushels of soybeans in 2024, surpassing the state's previous record of 666.75 million bushels, set in 2018.

Illinois soybean farmers achieve record-breaking harvest in 2024

BLOOMINGTON – The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) is proud to announce that Illinois farmers have set a new soybean production record.

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Illinois farmers produced 688 million bushels of soybeans in 2024, surpassing the state's previous record of 666.75 million bushels, set in 2018.

This achievement is driven by a combination of exceptional yields and record harvested acreage. The statewide average yield reached 64 bushels per acre, a slight increase from the 2023 average of 63 bushels per acre. Additionally, Illinois farmers harvested 10.75 million acres of soybeans in 2024, up

from 10.3 million acres the year before.

"We are proud to once again be the No. 1 soybean-producing state in the U.S., and this year's record-breaking harvest reflects the dedication of Illinois' high-quality soybean farmers. Despite facing the challenges of low prices and unfavorable weather conditions, Illinois farmers have risen to the occasion," said ISA Chairman Ron Kindred. "Checkoff investments in research and production have equipped farmers with the tools to unlock soybean yield potential, while the policy work by Illinois Soybean Growers has provided the framework for the success we enjoy here in Illinois. Together, we continue to set the standard for soybean production."

The record-breaking production

reinforces Illinois' standing as a leader in soybean farming, with the state consistently ranked among the top producers in the nation. Soybeans play a crucial role in Illinois' agricultural economy, serving as a key export commodity and a driver of innovation in the industry.

"The 2024 soybean harvest is a huge accomplishment for Illinois farmers and a reflection of their hard work and commitment to excellence," said Bryan Severs, ISA Soybean Production Committee Chairman. "Illinois continues to lead the way in soybean farming, setting the bar higher year after year."

For more information about Illinois soybean production or ISA's efforts to support farmers, visit www.ilsoy.org.

Singers invited to join IVCC Choir

OGLESBY – The Illinois Valley Community College choir invites singers from the community to join the group. The group meets from 6 to 8 p.m. on Mondays (except Feb. 17 and March 10) in Room D-223.

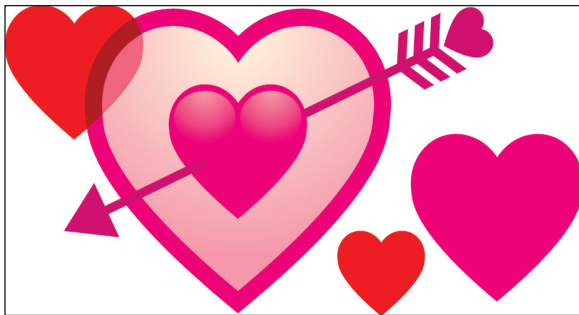
The choir is open to anyone 16 years old and older, and no experience is necessary. "Singing in a group is a proven way to improve your health and mood. Our choir is very welcoming of new singers, as



we are all here with the same goals in mind," said Choir Director Jenilyn Roether.

The spring semester will culminate with a Spring Vocal Concert on Monday,

April 28, at 7 p.m. For information or to join, email jenilyn_roether@ivcc.edu.



Sen. Arellano launches first "Valentines for Seniors" Card Drive

DIXON – Newly sworn-in State Senator Li Arellano, Jr. (R-Dixon) is excited to announce his Inaugural "Valentines for Seniors" Card Drive, an initiative encouraging community members across the 37th Senate District to create Valentine cards for residents of nursing homes and assisted-living facilities.

"Our senior citizens are incredibly important, and we're kicking off this event with the hope of strong support from constituents across the district to help put a smile on the faces of our senior citizens this Valentine's Day," said Senator Arellano.

Senator Arellano invites students, scout troops, churches, and other organizations to participate by purchasing or designing cards that then will be delivered by him and his team to nursing homes, assisted-living, and long-term care facilities throughout the district.

Cards can be dropped off or mailed by Feb. 7 to Senator Arellano's District Office at 86 S. Galena Ave., Suite 2, Dixon, IL 61021. If delivering in person, please contact Nancy Naylor at 779-251-5003.



Arellano

DINING & entertainment guide

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Valentine's Day Dinner!

Friday 2.14.25

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THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED

Kevin A. Banovz, 45, of 300 19th St., Mendota, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at Lincoln Avenue and 14th Street on Jan. 26. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Nicholas D. Spoerl, 37, of St. Charles, was arrested on Jan. 26 on a Kane County failure to appear warrant for driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street. The subject posted bond and was released with a Kane County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Bryan L. Weekly, 53, of 100 S. First Ave., Lot 10, Mendota, was arrested at 4:57 p.m. Jan. 27 on a LaSalle County failure to appear warrant for driving while license revoked. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

GARAGE SALE/ NOTICE DEADLINE

• Monday 10 a.m. to appear in Wednesday's Reporter.

2025 tax filing season starts as IRS begins accepting tax returns

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Internal Revenue Service opened the 2025 tax filing season Jan. 27 and is accepting and processing federal individual tax year 2024 returns.

During the first day opening, IRS systems have already received millions of tax returns from across the nation for processing.

The IRS expects more than 140 million individual tax returns for tax year 2024 to be filed ahead of the Tuesday, April 15 federal deadline. More than half of all tax returns are expected to be filed this year with the help of a tax professional, and the IRS urges people to use a trusted tax pro to avoid potential scams and schemes.

Taxpayers residing in a federally declared disaster area may have additional time to file and pay federal taxes.

Get free help preparing, filing taxes electronically

Taxpayers can visit IRS.gov to get answers to tax questions. IRS.gov is the quickest way for taxpayers to get help. The Interactive Tax Assistant (ITA) is a tool that provides answers to several tax law questions specific to individual circumstances. Based on input, it can determine a taxpayer's filing status, if a person should file a tax return, if

someone can be claimed as a dependent, if a type of income is taxable, if a filer is eligible to claim a credit or if an expense can be deducted.

The IRS encourages people to file their tax returns electronically and choose direct deposit for more secure and faster refunds.

Free tax filing options

The IRS offers free online and in-person tax preparation options for eligible taxpayers through IRS Free File, IRS Direct File and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs.

• **IRS Free File.** Taxpayers with income of \$84,000 or less last year can use IRS Free File Guided Tax Software now through Oct. 15. IRS Free File Fillable forms, a part of this program, is available at no cost to any income level and provides electronic forms that people fill out and e-file themselves, also at no cost.

• **Direct File.** Now open in 25 participating states, taxpayers can use Direct File to file online directly with the IRS for free. It is a free web-based service — available in English and Spanish — that works on mobile phones, laptops, tablets or desktop computers. It guides taxpayers through a series of questions to prepare their

federal tax return step-by-step. Direct File automatically guides taxpayers to state tools to complete their state taxes. Get help from IRS customer service representatives through a live chat feature in English and Spanish. Interested taxpayers can go to directfile.irs.gov, where they can determine if they are eligible.

• **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).** The VITA program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$67,000 or less, persons with disabilities and taxpayers whose preferred language is not English. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

In addition to VITA, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors.

• **MilTax.** This is a Department of Defense program available to members of the military and some veterans with no income limit. MilTax generally offers free return preparation and electronic filing software for federal income tax returns and up

to three state income tax returns.

Most refunds issued in less than 21 days

The easiest way to check a refund's status is by using "Where's My Refund?" on [IRS.gov](https://irs.gov) or the IRS2Go app.

Many factors can affect refund timing after the IRS receives a tax return. Although the IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days, the IRS cautions taxpayers not to rely on receiving a refund by a certain date, especially when making major purchases or paying bills. Some returns may require additional review and may take longer.

Under the federal Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act, the IRS cannot issue Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) refunds before mid-February. "Where's My Refund?" should show an updated status by Feb. 22 for most early EITC/ACTC filers. The IRS expects most EITC/

ACTC related refunds to be available in taxpayer bank accounts or on debit cards by March 3 if they chose direct deposit and there are no other issues with their tax return.

Report taxable income; don't file before receiving key documents

People should report all taxable income on their tax return and wait to file until they receive all of their income and informational documents.

Choose a trusted tax professional

More than half of taxpayers turn to a tax professional for help filing a tax return. While most tax preparers deliver exceptional and professional service, selecting the wrong preparer can lead to financial harm.

Taxpayers should review the tips for choosing a tax preparer and learn how to avoid unethical "ghost" return preparers who don't sign or include a valid preparer tax identification number (PTIN) on every tax return they prepare.



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SPORTS

Second half outburst keys Trojans' 75-57 triumph over Hall

□ MHS moves to 5-0 in Three Rivers

MENDOTA – The half-time speech by the Mendota coaches sure had a positive impact on the players. After a tight first half between Mendota and Hall, the Trojans took off like gangbusters in the third quarter and they ended up routing the Red Devils, 75-57, in a Three Rivers Conference varsity boys' basketball game on Jan. 24 at the MHS gym.

The win upped Mendota's records to 15-7 overall and 5-0 in league play.

The biggest lead by either team in the first half belonged to Hall, which held a six-point margin on two occasions. The Red Devils were up 18-16 after the opening stanza before the Trojans began heating up in the second period. Mendota took advantage of Hall fouls as it went to the charity stripe 12 times in the second quarter and converted 10 of them to take a 35-32 lead at intermission.

The third quarter proved to be the deciding factor in the contest as Mendota outscored Hall, 24-9, to take control. Cam Kelly and Dane Doyle scored back-to-back hoops to begin the second half to build the Trojan lead to seven (39-32). After a pair of Wyatt West free throws for Hall, Mendota's Aden Tillman and West exchanged three-pointers.

Aden Tillman came back with another three-ball and Cole Tillman added a two-pointer to give Mendota its first double-figure lead of the night, 47-37. After Mark Cissell's hoop for Hall cut the margin back to single-digits,

the Trojans closed out the third period on a 12-2 run to widen the gap to 18 points (59-41) with eight minutes to play. Kelly and Doyle each dropped in three-pointers, while Cole Tillman added a pair of conventional baskets and Braiden Freeman capped of the quarter with a hoop.

The Red Devils got as close as 11 on two occasions in the fourth frame, the final time being 64-53 with 4:38 to go, but consecutive baskets by Alex Beetz and Cole Tillman made it 68-53, and then a conventional three-point play by Kelly and another two-pointer by Beetz sealed the deal.

Cole Tillman led four Trojans in double figures with 21 points. Kelly, who knocked down three shots from three-point land, was next with 15 points, followed by Doyle with 12 and Aden Tillman with 10.

MENDOTA 75, HALL 57				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Bickett	0	0-0	4	0
West	6	4-4	0	17
Plym	2	0-0	2	5
Cissell	1	0-0	0	3
Jablonski	2	2-2	4	6
Sterling	3	0-0	3	6
B. Curran	9	1-2	2	20
Totals	23	7-8	15	57

Mendota (75)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Tillman	7	6-6	2	21
Kelly	5	2-3	4	15
A. Tillman	3	2-2	3	10
Freeman	3	0-0	1	6
Doyle	5	0-0	2	12
A. Beetz	2	0-0	2	4
Cortez	1	0-0	0	3
Becker	0	4-6	0	4
Totals	26	14-17	14	75

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Hall	18	32	41	57
Mendota	16	35	59	75
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Tillman 1, Kelly 3, Cortez 1, A. Tillman 2, Doyle 2; Hall - West 1, Plym 1, Cissell 1, B. Curran 1				



Mendota's Braiden Freeman drives in for a field goal try and gets stripped of the basketball by Hall's Braden Curran, right, while Jack Jablonski of the Red Devils also defends during Three Rivers Conference varsity action on Jan. 24 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

Hall stuns JV Trojans in overtime, 45-37

MENDOTA—Hall got a desperation three-pointer to send the game to overtime and then did most of the scoring in the extra session to down the Mendota junior varsity boys' basketball team, 45-37, in Three Rivers Conference action on Jan. 24 at the MHS gym.

Mendota held a three-point lead in the waning seconds of regulation until

Hall's Noah Plym threw in an off-balance three-pointer to tie the game at 35-all with five seconds to go. The Trojans could not convert a basket in the final seconds and the game went to overtime. In the extra session, Hall outscored Mendota, 10-2, to claim the win.

The Trojans held the lead throughout most of the contest. Mendota, which

was without two of its starters, was on top 10-6 after the first quarter and 20-17 at halftime. The Trojans took a narrow 23-22 advantage to the fourth.

Drew Becker had 15 points to pace the Trojans, while Cesar Casas added 10 tallies.

Mendota has a 14-7 overall record and a 4-1 conference slate.

MHS's Bauer qualifies for state bowling tournament

DIXON – Mendota High School bowler Paxton Bauer is headed to the IHSA Boys' State Bowling Tournament after qualifying out of the Oregon Sectional on Jan. 25. The sectional was held at the Plum Hollow Family Center in Dixon.

The top five individual bowlers not on a qualifying team earn a berth in the state tournament. Bauer finished in third place among

those top five individuals and was fourth overall.

The Mendota junior had a 224.8 average over six games, with a high game of 287. His six-game series

total was 1349.

Bauer was just 12 pins off the pace of the individual sectional champion, Wyatt Miller of Dixon, who had a 226.8 average, a high game of 277 and a six-game series of 1361.

Bauer's teammate, Alex Holland, also participated in the sectional but did not advance to the state tournament. He had a 198 average, a 217

high game and an 1188 series.

The top four teams in the sectional will advance to the state tournament. They are Machesney Park Harlem with a score of 6264, Dixon at 6197, Oregon at 6105 and Huntley at 6075.

The IHSA Boys' State Bowling Tournament will take place on Friday, Jan. 31 and Saturday, Feb. 1 at St. Clair Bowl in O'Fallon.



Mendota's Cam Kelly takes the ball to the basket as Hall's Wyatt West attempts to block his shot on Jan. 24 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

Princeton handles Mendota grapplers

PRINCETON – Mendota could only muster one match win in a 69-3 wrestling setback at Princeton on Jan. 23.

Gavin Evans was the only Trojan to come out on the winning side as he defeated Princeton's Brennen Emmett, 16-14, in the 157-pound weight class.

Jan. 23 @ Princeton

Princeton 69, Mendota 3

106 – Bickett (P) won forfeit; 113 – Paull (P) won forfeit; 120 – Swanson (P) won forfeit;

126 – Cooke (P) won forfeit; 132 – Dauber (P) pinned Komen Denault (M), 47; 138 – Brown (P) won forfeit; 144 – Christiansen (P) pinned Cole Kleckner (M), 0:24; 150 – double forfeit; 157- Gavin Evans (M) dec. Emmett (P), 16-14; 165 – Etheridge (P) won forfeit; 175 – Kurth (P) pinned Corbin Furar (M), 2:58; 190 – Berlin (P) pinned Zach Schmidt (M), 4:16; 215 – Morris (P) pinned Reese Lane (M), 1:27; 285 – Odell (P) dec. Angil Serrano (M), 4-0

Holland takes 2nd place in TRAC bowling tourney

MENDOTA – The Mendota girls' bowling team competed in the Three Rivers Conference Bowling Tournament on Jan. 22 at the Elks Lanes.



L. Holland

MHS had four bowlers in the tournament and Lauren Holland finished in second place overall with a 562 series. She rolled games of 202, 204 and 156. In addition, bowlers also competed in eight team baker games.

Also competing in the conference tournament for Mendota were Ashlynn Rickels (118, 137, 133 – 388), Madison Sproston (122, 138, 110 – 370) and McKenzie Sproston (92, 130, 59 – 281).

Kristina Armstrong of Kewanee was the individual champion in the three-game series with a 634 score. Rounding out the top five after Holland were Ysabella Hamm of Erie-Prophetstown (531), Jolene Wells of Erie-Prophetstown (453) and Lillian McWilliams of Erie-Prophetstown (447).

Erie-Prophetstown won the team title with a 2089, followed by Kewanee (1988), Mendota (1893) and Hall (1667).

Newman's sizzling shooting dooms MHS girls in setback

MENDOTA – Newman burned up the nets with its hot shooting the first time it played the Mendota girls in December, and the Lady Comets did it again the second time around.

Newman raced out to a huge first-quarter lead and never looked back enroute to a 65-18 victory over the Lady Trojans in a Three Rivers Conference varsity girls' basketball game on Jan. 23 at Sterling.

The Lady Comets built a 20-7 lead after the opening stanza, and then knocked down six three-pointers in the second quarter on their way to a 30-point outburst to seize a 50-13 halftime advantage. Newman outscored Mendota, 15-5, in the third period, and then neither team scored in the fourth.

"We 100 percent could've played better at both ends, but honestly, I thought we got outshot by a better team that shot the lights out," said Mendota coach John Hansen.

Kennedy Knaff's seven points paced Mendota,

while Ava Eddy added four markers. Ella Coss and Crystal Garcia each had four rebounds for MHS (3-19, 0-8).

Newman had 26 field goals, nine of which came from three-point range. Brooklyn Smith dropped in five of Newman's treys, including four in its 30-point second quarter.

NEWMAN 65, MENDOTA 18

	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	1	1-2	2	4
Knaff	2	1-3	0	7
Coss	1	1-2	4	3
Martin	0	0-0	2	0
Denault	0	0-0	3	0
Garcia	1	0-0	4	2
Gonzalez	1	0-0	1	2
Totals	6	3-7	16	18

Newman (65)

	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Papoccia	4	0-0	1	10
Williams	1	0-0	1	2
Allen	4	0-0	3	10
Smith	6	0-0	1	17
Oetting	2	2-3	1	6
Martin	7	0-1	1	14
Propheter	1	2-2	0	4
Haley	1	0-4	0	2
Totals	26	4-10	8	65

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Mendota	7	13	18	18
Newman	20	50	65	65
Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 1, Knaff 2; Newman - Papoccia 2, Allen 2, Smith 5				

SPORTS



Second in tournament

The Northbrook Middle School eighth grade volleyball team finished in second place overall in the Mendota Holy Cross Tournament on Jan. 17-18. Members of the team, front row, left to right, are Bella Bute, Ava Mahaffey, Laurali Thompson, Aileen Perez, Ember Castenada, Mia Arteaga and Nora Rhyndance. Back row, Livi Perryman, Averie Hazelwood, Mallory Beck, Lexie Saylor, Nevaeh Munoz, Aleeya Garcia and coach Kelly Knaff. (Photo contributed)



Third in tournament

The Northbrook Middle School seventh grade volleyball team finished in third place overall in the LaSalle Trinity Catholic Tournament on Jan. 10-11. Members of the team, front row, left to right, are Chloe Klein, Lila Coss, Elyse Waldron, Taylor Erlenborn, Karly Beetz and Kendra Milus. Back row, Addy Sondgeroth, Hannah Lopez, Raelynn Sundberg, Harper Stamberger, Aubri Gonzalez, Lyla Rodriguez, Kat Clark and Viri Perez. Not pictured: coach Allison Buettner. (Photo contributed)

BOWLING

Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Jan. 15
– 1. Black Brothers 12-4; 2. O'Donnell Excavating 11-5; 3. Man On! 9-7; 4. Maybe Next Week 8.5-7.5; 5. Novak Farms 4-12; 6. First State Bank 3.5-12.5

High team game (scratch)
– Man On! 1050, Black Brothers 1032, Novak Farms 958

High team game (hdcp)
– Black Brothers 1279, Man On! 1239, Novak Farms 1223

High team series (scratch)
– Man On! 2939, Black Brothers 2870, O'Donnell Excavating 2770

High team series (hdcp)
– Black Brothers 3611, Man On! 3506, Novak Farms 3488

High individual game (scratch)
– Mike Smith 277, Chris Eller 268, Kasen Novak 235

High individual game (hdcp)
– Mike Smith 307, Chris Eller 298, Kasen Novak 277

High individual series (scratch)
– Chris Eller 704, Mike Smith 642, Owen Wixom 636

High individual series (hdcp)
– Chris Eller 794, Walker Smith 758, Owen Wixom 744

Elks 11 Youth League

Standings as of Jan. 18 – 1. Team 1 22-6; 2. Team 4

15-13; 3. Team 2 15-13; 4. Team 3 4-24

High team game (scratch)
– Team 4 353, Team 1 313, Team 2 273

High team game (hdcp)
– Team 1 623, Team 4 616, Team 2 591

High team series (scratch)
– Team 4 1006, Team 1 853, Team 2 803

High team series (hdcp)
– Team 4 1795, Team 1 1783, Team 2 1757

Boys' high game (scratch)
– Parker Ramer 164, Jaxen Daley 119, Lyncoln Daley 119

Boys' high game (hdcp)
– Lyncoln Daley 227, Jaxen Daley 224, Parker Ramer 216

Boys' high series (scratch)
– Parker Ramer 478, Jaxen Daley 309, Billy Bromenschenkel 288

Boys' high series (hdcp)
– Billy Bromenschenkel 636, Parker Ramer 634, Jaxen Daley 624

Girls' high game (scratch)
– Catherine Moench 136, Eliana Eames 113

Girls' high game (hdcp)
– Catherine Moench 211

Girls' high series (scratch)
– Catherine Moench 366, Eliana Eames 284

Girls' high series (hdcp)
– Catherine Moench 591

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Jan. 21 – 1. Bad Kats 19-6; 2. The Struggle is Real 16.5-8.5; 3. Ramer Inc. 13-12; 4. Leagal Beagles

9.5-15.5; 5. CM Farm 9-16; 6. Split Happens 7-18

High team game (scratch)
– Split Happens 752, Ramer Inc. 700, Leagal Beagles 664

High team game (hdcp)
– Bad Kats 995, The Struggle is Real 984, Split Happens 968

High team series (scratch)
– Split Happens 2088, Ramer Inc. 1923, Leagal Beagles 1834

High team series (hdcp)
– Bad Kats 2876, The Struggle is Real 2740, Split Happens 2736

Men's high game (scratch)
– Matt Ramer 258, Ron Westphal 224, Raul Diaz Jr. 222

Men's high game (hdcp)
– Ron Westphal 293, Raul Diaz Jr. 286, Matt Ramer 282

Men's high series (scratch)
– Matt Ramer 687, Raul Diaz Jr. 620, Ron Westphal 509

Men's high series (hdcp)
– Raul Diaz Jr. 812, Matt Ramer 759, Ron Westphal 716

Women's high game (scratch)
– Gail Sessler 204, Emily Thomas 204, Jessica Robinson 201

Women's high game (hdcp)
– Connie Yost 286, Stephanie Ramer 275, Hannah Westphal 264

Women's high series (scratch)
– Gail Sessler 593, Hannah Westphal 558, Emily Thomas 556

Women's high series (hdcp)
– Hannah Westphal 780, Connie Yost 778, Gail Sessler 743

LaMoille H.S. basketball

Jan. 25 @ Orangeville
Orangeville 63, LaMoille 51
Stats: Brayden Klein 19 points, 7 rebounds; Tyler Billhorn 17 points, 10 rebounds, 3 assists; Braden Fischer 7 points; Cody Winn 6 rebounds; Connor Deering 5 rebounds;

• Did You Know? •

The National Football League (NFL) was formed in 1920 as the American Professional Football Association (APFA). The first-ever NFL game was played at Triangle Park in Dayton, Ohio, on October 3, 1920. In that contest, the hometown Dayton Triangles defeated the Columbus Panhandles, 14-0. Though the Dayton Triangles were eventually purchased by a Brooklyn-based syndicate and relocated to New York as a result of that transaction, the team's status as the host of the first NFL game continues to pay dividends for residents of the southwestern Ohio city where the franchise ushered in the now wildly popular league. In recognition of the place the city of Dayton holds in NFL history, the NFL Foundation, in partnership with FieldTurf & Vasco, pledged to fund the installment of a new artificial turf at the city's Kettering Park.

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The Mendota Reporter

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DAVID FURAR, Owner

9 Reasons to Shop Local

1

Shopping Local Creates Jobs:

The jobs created allow spending in the local economy and help create more jobs.

2

Local independent businesses invest more in our community:

They support local charities, schools and community events which financially impacts our community.

3

Local businesses sell a wide range of great products

at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.

4

Shopping Local saves you money and time!

Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items more.

5

Shopping Local retains our community:

Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.

6

Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:

Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.

7

Shopping Local encourages community growth.

By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Mendota's diversity, charm and appeal; which in turn, attracts new community members.

8

Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.

Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Mendota. When shopping locally, you create funds for more city and county services through sales tax. In turn, these funds are invested in neighborhood services including police, fire and ambulance as well as park and library improvements.

9

Local shops value you more:

Local businesses survive by their reputation and repeat business, which means you get a higher standard of service.

ENTERTAINMENT

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Dime portrait
4 "Phooey!"
8 Chow
12 Singer Reed
13 Aachen article
14 Russo of "The Intern"
15 Top floor cooler
17 Roman poet
18 Farm fraction
19 Corrodes
20 Monk's home
22 Raw minerals
24 Paint layer
25 Skillet with low sides
29 Gearwheel tooth
30 Prefix with "logical"
31 Bathroom, to a Londoner
32 Refuse holder
34 Lacking slack
35 New Mexico resort
36 Desert flora
37 Passe
40 Achy
41 Breakfast chain
42 Village People classic
46 Air-show stunt
47 Sneeze syllable
48 Latin 101 word

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- 49 Singer Lovett
50 Tools with teeth
51 Label
DOWN
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2 Speck
3 Yellow turnip
4 Belittle
5 Teeming
6 Political strategist Navarro
7 Hamilton bill
8 Complain
9 Guns the engine
10 One
11 Hotel furniture
16 "Cold As Ever" rapper
19 Seized vehicle
20 Bank statement no.
21 Rude dude
22 Killer whales
23 Check
25 Designer Chanel
26 Table protector
27 Summer month in Paris
28 Terse denial
30 Roe provider
33 Treeless tract
34 Poi base
36 Some Pacific salmon
37 Pickling herb
38 "Hi, sailor!"
39 Implement
40 Garbage barge
42 Roast VIPs
43 "Caught ya!"
44 "I — Rock"
45 Eggy quaff

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* There is a Guinness World Record for "most matchsticks extinguished with the tongue."
* Jimi Hendrix served as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army's elite 101st Airborne division, though an ankle injury allowed him to leave the service with a welcomed honorable discharge after one year of the three he'd signed up for.
* Medical students in 18th-century Scotland could pay their tuition fees in corpses.
* A statement in the end credits of the movie "Frozen" claims that Disney does not support the consumption of boogers.
* After Playboy founder Hugh Hefner funded some research in the 1980s that identified a subspecies of rabbit living in the Florida Keys, it was named for him: *sylvilagus palustris hefneri*.
* An IKEA in the Netherlands had to cancel its one-euro breakfast special because it attracted too many customers and caused highway traffic jams.
* Thomas Edison invented the tattoo pen.
* Rolex replaced, without charge, all the watches that had been seized by the Germans from shot-down Allied pilots during World War II.
* In its lifetime, the International Space Station will be hit by 100,000 meteoroids.
* During the Columbine High School massacre in 1999, two 20-pound propane bombs that were planted in the cafeteria failed to detonate. If they had, it is estimated that up to 488 students would have been seriously injured or killed.
* Every year, Iceland gets wider by 2 centimeters.
* The U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal, has guidelines on what to do if you should stumble across a yeti (and no, we are not talking about the cup!).

ANSWERS

1. Johnny Rivers, in 1966. The song has been covered widely by artists such as Al Wilson and Lynn Anderson.

2. DeBarge, which is their last name. In 1984 they netted a Grammy nom for Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal. El recently sang his signature "Who's Holding Donna Now" at David Foster's 75th birthday concert.

3. "Tired of Being Alone," in Season 4 of the show.

4. Rod Stewart.

5. "My Cup Runneth Over," by Ed Ames, in 1966. The song was written for the musical "I Do! I Do!"

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Couch Theater

"Nosferatu" (R) -- Director Robert Eggers first made plans to develop a remake of the 1922 silent film "Nosferatu" back in 2015, and it took some time for him to get his passion project off the ground. After being teased for so long, the gothic horror finally came to fruition and landed Bill Skarsgard ("It"), Nicholas Hoult ("Juror No. 2"), and Lily-Rose Depp ("The Idol") as its leads. Skarsgard's eerie transformation into Count Orlok is his best work yet, with the cast describing the palpable fear of his character while working on set. Willem Dafoe, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, and Emma Corrin co-star as other townspeople whose lives are suddenly connected through a chilling experience with the count. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)
"Paradise" (TV-MA) -- Premiering Jan. 28, this drama series starring Sterling K. Brown ("Atlas") seems so perfect for network television that it's surprising it was developed for streaming only. Brown plays secret service agent Xavier Collins, the righthand man to President Cal Bradford (James Marsden). A relentless agent who stops at nothing to defend the president, Xavier receives the shock of his life when, one day, he finds the president lifeless in his quarters. As an investigation commences, the president's sudden death is shrouded in secrecy and lies by the White House, leaving Xavier to reveal whether foul play is at work. (Hulu)
"Diddy: The Making of a Bad Boy" (TV-MA) -- It was only a matter of time until the documentaries would start following the arrest

of rapper/record executive Sean Combs (aka Diddy) for sexual misconduct. Peacock is the first with a documentary out now that details Combs' childhood, his rise into the music industry, and now the recent sexual abuse allegations. Guest interviews include past bodyguards, childhood friends, accusers, and former employees of Combs' label Bad Boy Records. The allegations started to be taken seriously after footage was released of Combs assaulting his ex-girlfriend Cassie Ventura in 2016, but people in the documentary maintain that his criminal behavior began well before Ventura was subjected to it. (Peacock)
In Case You Missed It
"Emilia Perez" (R) -- This musical-crime film out now has been a controversial subject during the 2025 award season, after bringing home four Golden Globes over films like "Wicked" and "The Substance." Best Supporting Actress winner Zoe Saldana plays Mexican lawyer Rita, who receives a hefty offer from cartel kingpin Juan "Manitas" Del Monte in exchange for help with getting gender-affirming surgery. On a journey to live a more authentic life, Juan leaves his old one behind to become Emilia; however, she quickly realizes that this new life doesn't excuse the sins of her old one. The controversy surrounding this film mostly consists of criticism about its lack of true Mexican representation, with Mexican actor Eugenio Derbez calling out Saldana Gomez for her atrocious acting -- I mean -- accent. (Netflix)
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FLASHBACK

- "Poor Side of Town" was the only No. 1 hit single penned by which artist?
- Who are Bunny, James, Bobby, El, Randy and Mark?
- Name the 1971 Al Green song that was used on the TV show "Nip/Tuck."
- Who wrote the 1976 song "Tonight's the Night"?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "Sometimes in the morning when shadows are deep, I lie here beside you just watching you sleep."

Answers

- Johnny Rivers, in 1966. The song has been covered widely by artists such as Al Wilson and Lynn Anderson.
 - DeBarge, which is their last name. In 1984 they netted a Grammy nom for Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal. El recently sang his signature "Who's Holding Donna Now" at David Foster's 75th birthday concert.
 - "Tired of Being Alone," in Season 4 of the show.
 - Rod Stewart.
 - "My Cup Runneth Over," by Ed Ames, in 1966. The song was written for the musical "I Do! I Do!"
- (c) 2025 King Features Syndicate

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Is Mark Wahlberg really bald in his new movie "Flight Risk," or is he wearing a bald cap? He looks like George Costanza from "Seinfeld."

-- N.W.



Wahlberg

A: That's no bald cap or special effects. Mark Wahlberg really did shave off the top of his hair for his latest movie role as a pilot who transports a prisoner (Tophér Grace) cross-country to testify against a mafia group. It was Wahlberg's idea to fully commit to the role with daily shavings and leaving "the horseshoe around the sides."

Wahlberg told People magazine that the best part about his temporary look was seeing his wife's face the first time he took off his hat. The movie, which was directed by Mel Gibson and also stars Michelle Dockery ("Downton Abbey"), was originally set for release in 2024 but got moved back to Jan. 24.

Q: I saw an ad for a new show that looks really good.

It's about prisoners breaking free, but I can't recall the name of it. When does it come out? -- B.F.

A: You're thinking of the upcoming NBC drama "The Hunting Party," which premiered on Jan. 19. The premise follows a group of prisoners who escape after their underground top-secret prison (known as The Pit) blows up. The hunters in this case are a small team of investigators assembled to "capture the most dangerous killers our country has ever seen."

The search team includes a former FBI profiler played by Melissa Roxburgh ("Manifest"), a prison guard played by Josh McKenzie ("La Brea"), and a CIA agent played by Patrick Sabongui ("The Flash"). Among the deadly escapees are a serial killer played by Tobias Jelinek ("Stranger Things"), who Roxburgh's character initially helped put away for his crimes.

JJ Bailey, one of the show's creators, explains that there's enough plot besides escaped prisoners to engage viewers for several seasons. He claims that by the end of the season, it "turns out there's much more going on."

He further explains, "We talk a lot about what was going on at the Pit as being sort of ... this octopus with many tentacles. In the end of season 1, we sort of chop one off only to realize there's more, and there definitely is someone behind the explosion at the Pit with an ulterior motive that we'll uncover hopefully seasons ... down the road."

Q: Will there be some kind of benefit concert to help the victims of the California Wildfires? -- K.K.

A: Yes, there is a concert in the works that is expected to air live on Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. PT (3 p.m. ET) from two different venues: the Kia Forum and the Intuit Dome. Details can be found at FireAidLA.org, but artists who are scheduled to perform include Olivia Rodrigo, Billie Eilish, No Doubt, P!nk, Sting, Stevie Nicks, Rod Stewart, Joni Mitchell, Lady Gaga, Jelly Roll, Earth, Wind & Fire, plus many more!

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFW5, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- All eyes are on the Blake Lively/Justin Baldoni lawsuits! Lively accused Baldoni of sexual harassment on the set of "It Ends with Us," then accused him of mounting a smear campaign to tarnish her reputation. He filed a \$250 million suit against the New York Times for running Lively's complaint against him. He also accuses her of a smear campaign. The "he said, she said" campaign drove the \$25 million film to a \$351 million gross in the box office.

Lively and husband Ryan Reynolds skipped the Golden Globes because they were unhappy that neither of them were nominated. She has since moved on to the sequel to her 2018 black-comedy/crime film "A Simple Favor," which is being directed by Paul Feig for Amazon MGM Studios. It co-stars Anna Kendrick, Henry Golding, Andrew Rannells and Allison Janney.

Meanwhile, Reynolds recently wrapped the live-action animated comedy "Animal Friends" in April 2024, as well as the action-adventure film "Mayday" with Kenneth Branagh and Maria

Bakalova, which wrapped in May 2024. How will this infighting affect their future images?

People are still talking about Demi Moore's wonderful speech at the Golden Globes after she won for "The Substance." I met Demi in 1982 when she was Jackie Templeton on "General Hospital" before she starred in "Blame It on Rio" (1984), "St. Elmo's Fire" (1985), "About Last Night" (1986), and her superstar-maker "Ghost" (1990).

During her speech for "The Substance" (which cost \$17.5 million and grossed \$76.5 million), she said "I've been doing this a long time -- over 45 years. This is the first time I've ever won anything as an actor." Next, she'll star in the sci-fi comedy "I Love Boosters" with "Password" host Keke Palmer and Will Poulter.

Sebastian Stan was another Globe winner for "A Different Man" (which he also produced), but the film only grossed \$1.3 million. He fared better with "The Apprentice" (yes, as TV host Donald Trump), which cost \$16 million and grossed

\$17.3 million because distributors were afraid to incur Trump's wrath! In fact, 83% of the 238 critic reviews on Rotten Tomatoes were favorable.

His next film should fare even better. It's the Marvel superhero film "Thunderbolts*" with Florence Pugh, Wyatt Russell (Kurt Russell's son), David Harbour, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus. It's due on May 2.

Imagine when I met George Clooney on the set of "The Facts of Life" in 1985 and talked him into an at-home photo shoot for TV Radio Mirror Magazine (because he was handsome, a nice guy, and had "TV star" written all over him). I never envisioned that he'd become the superstar icon he is today. His next film is the Netflix coming-of-age comedy "Jay Kelly" with Adam Sandler, Laura Dern, Billy Crudup, Riley Keough, Jim Broadbent, Isla Fisher and Greta Gerwig.

Who better to help "Jay Kelly" come of age than Clooney, who had four young girls teach him "The Facts of Life"?

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Trivia Test

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What year was the first Barbie doll released?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the island in the "Jurassic Park" film?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are baby rabbits called?
- U.S. STATES: Which state is the home of Mount Rushmore?
- INVENTIONS: When were emojis invented?
- TELEVISION: In the TV series "The Walking Dead," what was the character Rick Grimes' profession previously?
- CHEMISTRY: Which element is also known as quicksilver?
- SCIENCE: What is the name for the pivot on which a lever turns?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home to the ancient city of Petra?
- MUSIC: Which of Taylor Swift's songs was first to appear on the Billboard Hot 100?

Answers

- 1959.
 - Isla Nublar.
 - Kits.
 - South Dakota.
 - 1999.
 - Sheriff's deputy.
 - Mercury.
 - Fulcrum.
 - Jordan.
 - "Tim McGraw."
- (c) 2025 King Features

Find out information about the International Space Station in "Strange But True!"

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Math Blocks

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

14			23
1		5	15
	12	2	22
23	24	13	

2	12	8
5	6	1
6	3	14

Solution

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

FEBRUARY

5

62: An earthquake strikes in Pompeii, Italy.

1852: The New Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia, opens to the public.

1924: The Royal Greenwich Observatory begins broadcasting the hourly time signals.

Animal FACT:



This activity is a popular hobby that enables people to interact with and observe wildlife.

Answer: Bird feeding

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

B N S E L I B N O D S E E S

Answer: Nibbles on seeds

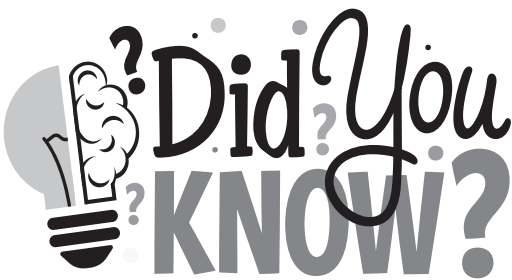
NEW WORD

FLEDGLING

a young bird that is learning to fly

How they say that in...

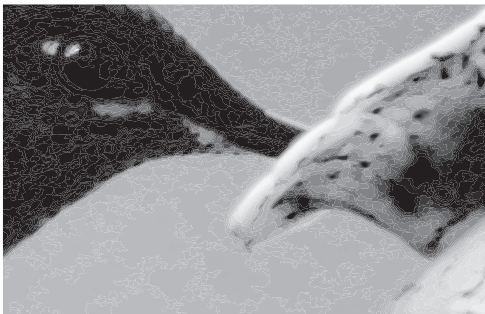
English: Seed
Spanish: Semilla
Italian: Seme
French: Graine
German: Samen



Bird feeders can be placed at different levels, including on the ground, on a table top or higher. This allows various birds to enjoy a meal.



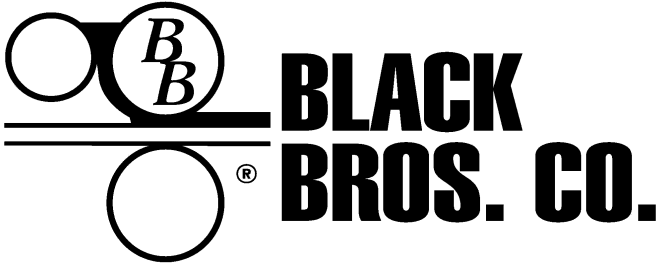
Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Hummingbird

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RELIGION

Have peace and keep calm in your daily life

Peace is an amazing gift God offers us. I know what it's like to live without peace—upset most of the time, anxious, fearful, and worried. It's miserable! Since I've discovered how to live with God's peace, I will do anything I need to do to have it.

We have to understand the value of peace if we're going to have it. Because if you think it's really no big deal to lose your temper, worry, or be stressed-out and upset all the time, you won't do what you need to do to live with peace.

I think it's interesting that one of the last things Jesus told His disciples before His crucifixion was about peace. John 14:27 (AMP) says, "Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]"

In John 20:19, "Peace to you!" is the first thing Jesus said to His disciples

after His resurrection. Verse 21 says, "Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you....'" Notice the word "again." He must have wanted them to realize how important it was to maintain their peace.

Take a moment to think about how much peace you have. Do you worry, get upset, or feel stressed-out often? Many people do...but that's not the way God wants us to live.

A lot of Christians pray for God to give them peace, but they need to realize that as believers in Christ, they already have His peace. We need to pray for God to help us learn how to walk in peace.

Philippians 4:6-7 (AMP) says: "Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours]."

We can learn a lot about how to pray powerful, effective prayers by studying Scripture. Instead of praying for peace, notice that in Philippians the apostle Paul is encouraging believers to trust God in every circumstance so



they can have His peace as they go through challenges.

If we don't have peace and we want it, we have to be ready to make some changes. The world around us probably isn't going to change, so we need to change our approach to life. We need to make a conscious decision to trust God in every area of our lives, every day.

We're called believers, and that's what we're supposed to do: Believe God! When we trust Him, we enter His rest and can enjoy our lives.

Years ago, I remember when God helped me to learn this lesson as I studied James 4. In verses 1-4, we see what causes quarrels, strife, and discontentment. Verse 2 (NLT) says, "You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it."

Wow! This is basically like God saying: "You want something, so you strive to get it your way

or make it happen on your own, but it doesn't work. If you would just ask Me, I would help you." It's important to point out here that God won't just give us anything we ask for. He loves us and wants what's best for us, and when we ask for things that are in His plan and purpose for us, He will give them to us.

I used to think I wanted a lot of things that ended up making me miserable after I managed to get them. But once I started giving up my will and asking God to do what He wants to do in my life, I experienced peace and contentment that I'd never known before.

It was so freeing for me to give up trying to run my own life and instead focus on seeking God and trusting Him to give me what He wants me to have. Psalm 37:4 (AMP) says, "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and petitions of your heart."

I want to strongly encourage you today to purposely choose to seek God and delight yourself in Him before anyone or

anything else in your life. He is the Source of love, joy, and peace. And you can calm down and cheer up as you live in Him!

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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101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE
LaSalle County
Probate Notice
State of Illinois**
**In The Circuit Court of
the Thirteenth
Judicial Circuit
LaSalle County -
In Probate**
In the matter of the
estate of DAWSON
WILLIAMS (Deceased)
Case No. 24PR200
Claim Notice
Notice is hereby given
of the death of DAW-
SON WILLIAMS, of
Ottawa, State of Illinois.
Letters of office were
issued on January 13,
2025, to Timothy L. Wil-
liams of Joliet, State of
Illinois, and Pamela L.
Sheetz of Plainfield,
State of Illinois, whose
attorney is T. Andrew
Coyle of 131 East 9th
Street, Lockport, IL
60441.
Claims against the es-
tate may be filed in the
office of the LaSalle
County Clerk of the Cir-
cuit Court, 119 W. Mad-
ison, Street, Ottawa,
Illinois 61350, or with
the representative, or
both, on or before July
31, 2025, which date is
not less than 6 months
from the date of the
first publication of this
notice and any claim
not filed within that pe-
riod is barred. Copies of
any claim filed with the
Clerk must be mailed
or delivered to the re-
presentative and to the
attorney within 10 days
after it has been filed.
/s/ T. Andrew Coyle
No. 0110
(Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 12,
2025)

**NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LASALLE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS**
IN RE THE FORFEI-
TURE OF \$1,435.00
USC
LASCO SEIZURE
2024-NJF-32
REPORT NO. #202414229
TO: Mark Krebsbach
908 E. Bridge St.
Streator, IL 61364
**DECLARATION OF
FORFEITURE**
Now comes JOSEPH
R. NAVARRO, State's
Attorney of LaSalle
County and hereby de-
clares that:
1. On November 27,
2024, the State's At-
torney received a Notice
of Seizure/Inventory of
Seized Property on the
below described prop-
erty from the Tri-Coun-
ty Drug Enforcement
Team, a law enforce-
ment agency and;
2. On December 5,
2024 a Notice of Pend-
ing Forfeiture was
mailed to the owner(s)
and/or interest holder(s)
of the above-captioned
property by certified
mail.
3. The statutory 45-day
period set forth in Sec-
tion 6(D) of the Drug
Asset Forfeiture Protec-
tive Act for responding
to the Notice of Pending
Forfeiture has passed
and;
4. No verified claim and
cost bond relating to the
below described prop-
erty has been filed with
the office of the State's
Attorney and;
5. Pursuant to Section
6(D) of the Drug Asset
Forfeiture Protection
Act, the following prop-
erty is hereby declared
forfeited:
\$1,435.00 USC
Dated 01/21/2025
Jason Goode
Assistant State's At-
torney
No. 0111
(Jan. 29, 2025)

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

IN RE THE FORFEI-
TURE OF \$1,142.00
USC
LASCO SEIZURE
2024-NJF-29
REPORT NO. #202412503
TO: Mark Krebsbach
**DECLARATION OF
FORFEITURE**
Now comes JOSEPH
R. NAVARRO, State's
Attorney of LaSalle
County and hereby de-
clares that:
1. On 10/15/2024,
the State's Attorney
received a Notice of
Seizure/Inventory of
Seized Property on
the below described
property from the La-
Salle County Sheriff's
Department, a law en-
forcement agency;
2. On 10/23/2024 a
Notice of Pending For-
feiture was mailed to
the owner(s) and/or in-
terest holder(s) of the
above-captioned prop-
erty by certified mail.
3. The statutory 45-day
period set forth in Sec-
tion 6(D) of the Drug
Asset Forfeiture Protec-
tive Act for responding
to the Notice of Pending
Forfeiture has passed
and;
4. No verified claim and
cost bond relating to the
below described prop-
erty has been filed with
the office of the State's
Attorney and;
5. Pursuant to Section
6(D) of the Drug Asset
Forfeiture Protection
Act, the following prop-
erty is hereby declared
forfeited:
\$1,142.00 USC
Dated 01/09/2025
Jason Goode
Assistant State's At-
torney
No. 0112
(Jan. 29, 2025)

**NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LASALLE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS**
IN RE THE FORFEI-
TURE OF \$300.00 USC
TRIDENT SEIZURE
2024-NJF-27
REPORT NO. #24-
0126
TO: Alicia Reeland
**DECLARATION OF
FORFEITURE**
Now comes JOSEPH
R. NAVARRO, State's
Attorney of LaSalle
County and hereby de-
clares that:
1. On 10/04/2024,
the State's Attorney
received a Notice of
Seizure/Inventory of
Seized Property on the
below described prop-
erty from the Tri-Coun-
ty Drug Enforcement
Team, a law enforce-
ment agency and;
2. On 10/11/2024 a
Notice of Pending For-
feiture was mailed to
the owner(s) and/or in-
terest holder(s) of the
above-captioned prop-
erty by certified mail.
3. The statutory 45-day
period set forth in Sec-
tion 6(D) of the Drug
Asset Forfeiture Protec-
tive Act for responding
to the Notice of Pending
Forfeiture has passed
and;
4. No verified claim and
cost bond relating to the
below described prop-
erty has been filed with
the office of the State's
Attorney and;
5. Pursuant to Section
6(D) of the Drug Asset
Forfeiture Protection
Act, the following prop-
erty is hereby declared
forfeited:
\$300.00 USC
Dated 01/09/2025
Jason Goode
Assistant State's At-
torney
No. 0113
(Jan. 29, 2025)

**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION
No: 2025-JA-01**
TO: Joseph McDonald,
Unknown Fathers, oth-
er interested parties,
and to All Whom It May
Concern:
Take notice that on the
21st day of January,
2025 a petition was
filed under the Juvenile

Court Act of 1987 by
Vicki L. Denny, in the
Circuit Court of LaSalle
County entitled 'In the
interest of Meadow Eliz-
abeth Stanley, a minor',
and that in the Criminal
Justice Center Court-
room 223 at Ottawa on
the 12th day of March,
2025, at the hour of
8:30 a.m., or as soon
thereafter as this cause
may be heard, an Adju-
dicatory Hearing will be
held upon the petition to
have the child declared
a ward of the court un-
der that Act. The Court
has authority in this
proceeding to take
from you the custody
and guardianship of
the minor, to terminate
your parental rights and
to appoint a guardian
with power to consent
to adoption. You may
lose all parental rights
to your child. If the pe-
tition requests the ter-
mination of your parental
rights and the appoint-
ment of a guardian with
power to consent to
adoption, you may lose
all parental rights to the
child.
You are entitled to have
an attorney represent
you at all stages of
these proceedings. If
you are financially un-
able to afford a private
attorney, the court will
appoint an attorney for
you.
Unless you appear you
will not be entitled to
further written notices
or publication notices of
the proceedings in this
case, including the filing
of an amended petition
or a motion to terminate
parental rights.
Now, unless you appear
at the hearing and show
cause against the peti-
tion, the allegations of
the petition may stand
admitted as against you
and an order or judge-
ment entered.
Dated January 22, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0114
(Jan. 29, 2025)

**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION
No: 2024-JA-15**
TO: Benjamin Burrell,
Unknown Fathers, oth-
er interested parties,
-and to All Whom It May
Concern:
Take notice that on the
26th day of January,
2025 a petition was
filed under the Juvenile
Court Act of 1987 by
Vicki L. Denny, in the
Circuit Court of LaSalle
County entitled 'In the
interest of Matthew Bur-
rell, a minor', and that
in the Criminal Justice
Center Courtroom 210
at Ottawa on the 2nd
day of April, 2025, at the
hour of 8:30 a.m., or as
soon thereafter as this
cause may be heard, an
Adjudicatory Hearing
will be held upon the
petition to have the
child declared a ward of
the court under that Act.
The Court has authori-
ty in this proceeding to
take from you the cus-
tody and guardianship
of the minor, to termi-
nate your parental rights
and to appoint a guardian
with power to consent
to adoption. You may
lose all parental rights
to your child. If the pe-
tition requests the ter-
mination of your parental
rights and the appoint-
ment of a guardian with
power to consent to
adoption, you may lose
all parental rights to the
child.
You are entitled to have
an attorney represent
you at all stages of
these proceedings. If
you are financially un-
able to afford a private
attorney, the court will
appoint an attorney for
you.
Unless you appear you
will not be entitled to
further written notices
or publication notices of
the proceedings in this
case, including the filing
of an amended petition
or a motion to terminate
parental rights.
Now, unless you appear
at the hearing and show
cause against the peti-
tion, the allegations of
the petition may stand
admitted as against you
and an order or judge-
ment entered.
Dated January 23, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0116
(Jan. 29, 2025)

**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION
No: 2024-JA-95**
TO: Sasha Sangston,
other interested parties,
and to All Whom It May
Concern:
Take notice that on the
5th day of January,
2024 a petition was
filed under the Juvenile
Court Act of 1987 by
David A. Greer, in the
Circuit Court of LaSalle
County entitled 'In the
interest of Studsin Kara,
a minor', and that in the
Criminal Justice Center
Courtroom 223 at Ot-
tawa on the 9th day of
April, 2025, at the hour
of 8:30 a.m., or as soon
thereafter as this cause
may be heard, an Adju-
dicatory Hearing will be
held upon the petition to
have the child declared
a ward of the court un-
der that Act. The Court
has authority in this
proceeding to take from
you the custody and
guardianship of the mi-
nor, to terminate your
parental rights and to
appoint a guardian with
power to consent to
adoption. You may lose
all parental rights to the
child.
You are entitled to have
an attorney represent
you at all stages of
these proceedings. If
you are financially un-
able to afford a private
attorney, the court will
appoint an attorney for
you.
Unless you appear you
will not be entitled to
further written notices
or publication notices of
the proceedings in this
case, including the filing
of an amended petition
or a motion to terminate
parental rights.
Now, unless you appear
at the hearing and show
cause against the peti-
tion, the allegations of
the petition may stand
admitted as against you
and an order or judge-
ment entered.

cause against the peti-
tion, the allegations of
the petition may stand
admitted as against you
and an order or judge-
ment entered.
Dated January 23, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0115
(Jan. 29, 2025)

**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION
No: 2024-JA-95**
TO: Albert Kara, Un-
known Fathers, other
interested parties, and
to All Whom It May Con-
cern:
Take notice that on the
5th day of January,
2024 a petition was
filed under the Juvenile
Court Act of 1987 by
David A. Greer, in the
Circuit Court of LaSalle
County entitled 'In the
interest of Studsin Kara,
a minor', and that in the
Criminal Justice Center
Courtroom 223 at Ot-
tawa on the 9th day of
April, 2025, at the hour
of 8:30 a.m., or as soon
thereafter as this cause
may be heard, an Adju-
dicatory Hearing will be
held upon the petition to
have the child declared
a ward of the court un-
der that Act. The Court
has authority in this
proceeding to take from
you the custody and
guardianship of the mi-
nor, to terminate your
parental rights and to
appoint a guardian with
power to consent to
adoption. You may lose
all parental rights to the
child.
You are entitled to have
an attorney represent
you at all stages of
these proceedings. If
you are financially un-
able to afford a private
attorney, the court will
appoint an attorney for
you.
Unless you appear you
will not be entitled to
further written notices
or publication notices of
the proceedings in this
case, including the filing
of an amended petition
or a motion to terminate
parental rights.
Now, unless you appear
at the hearing and show
cause against the peti-
tion, the allegations of
the petition may stand
admitted as against you
and an order or judge-
ment entered.
Dated January 23, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0117
(Jan. 29, 2025)

**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION
No: 2022-JA-34**
TO: Ashley Dippel, oth-
er interested parties,
and to All Whom It May
Concern:
Take notice that on the
5th day of January,
2024 a petition was
filed under the Juvenile
Court Act of 1987 by
David A. Greer, in the
Circuit Court of LaSalle
County entitled 'In the
interest of Studsin Kara,
a minor', and that in the
Criminal Justice Center
Courtroom 223 at Ot-
tawa on the 9th day of
April, 2025, at the hour
of 8:30 a.m., or as soon
thereafter as this cause
may be heard, an Adju-
dicatory Hearing will be
held upon the petition to
have the child declared
a ward of the court un-
der that Act. The Court
has authority in this
proceeding to take from
you the custody and
guardianship of the mi-
nor, to terminate your
parental rights and to
appoint a guardian with
power to consent to
adoption. You may lose
all parental rights to the
child.
You are entitled to have
an attorney represent
you at all stages of
these proceedings. If
you are financially un-
able to afford a private
attorney, the court will
appoint an attorney for
you.
Unless you appear you
will not be entitled to
further written notices
or publication notices of
the proceedings in this
case, including the filing
of an amended petition
or a motion to terminate
parental rights.
Now, unless you appear
at the hearing and show
cause against the peti-
tion, the allegations of
the petition may stand
admitted as against you
and an order or judge-
ment entered.
Dated January 23, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0118
(Jan. 29, 2025)

**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION
No: 2024-JA-95**
TO: Sasha Sangston,

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other interested parties,
and to All Whom It
May Concern:
Take notice that on the
5th day of January,
2024 a petition was
filed under the Juvenile
Court Act of 1987 by
David A. Greer, in the
Circuit Court of LaSalle
County entitled 'In the
interest of Studsin Kara,
a minor', and that in the
Criminal Justice Center
Courtroom 223 at Ot-
tawa on the 9th day of
April, 2025, at the hour
of 8:30 a.m., or as soon
thereafter as this cause
may be heard, an Adju-
dicatory Hearing will be
held upon the peti-
tion to have the child
declared a ward of the
court under that Act.
The Court has authori-
ty in this proceeding to
take from you the cus-
tody and guardianship
of the minor, to termi-
nate your parental rights
and to appoint a guardian
with power to consent
to adoption. You may
lose all parental rights
to your child. If the pe-
tition requests the ter-
mination of your parental
rights and the appoint-
ment of a guardian with
power to consent to
adoption, you may lose
all parental rights to the
child.
You are entitled to have
an attorney represent
you at all stages of
these proceedings. If
you are financially un-
able to afford a private
attorney, the court will
appoint an attorney for
you.
Unless you appear you
will not be entitled to
further written notices
or publication notices of
the proceedings in this
case, including the filing
of an amended petition
or a motion to terminate
parental rights.
Now, unless you appear
at the hearing and show
cause against the peti-
tion, the allegations of
the petition may stand
admitted as against you
and an order or judge-
ment entered.
Dated January 23, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0119
(Jan. 29, 2025)

**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION
No: 2022-JA-34**
TO: Ashley Dippel, oth-
er interested parties,
and to All Whom It May
Concern:
Take notice that on the
5th day of January,
2024 a petition was
filed under the Juvenile
Court Act of 1987 by
David A. Greer, in the
Circuit Court of LaSalle
County entitled 'In the
interest of Studsin Kara,
a minor', and that in the
Criminal Justice Center
Courtroom 223 at Ot-
tawa on the 9th day of
April, 2025, at the hour
of 8:30 a.m., or as soon
thereafter as this cause
may be heard, an Adju-
dicatory Hearing will be
held upon the petition to
have the child declared
a ward of the court un-
der that Act. The Court
has authority in this
proceeding to take from
you the custody and
guardianship of the mi-
nor, to terminate your
parental rights and to
appoint a guardian with
power to consent to
adoption. You may lose
all parental rights to the
child.
You are entitled to have
an attorney represent
you at all stages of
these proceedings. If
you are financially un-
able to afford a private
attorney, the court will
appoint an attorney for
you.
Unless you appear you
will not be entitled to
further written notices
or publication notices of
the proceedings in this
case, including the filing
of an amended petition
or a motion to terminate
parental rights.
Now, unless you appear
at the hearing and show
cause against the peti-
tion, the allegations of
the petition may stand
admitted as against you
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ment entered.
Dated January 23, 2025
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No. 0117
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Circuit Court of LaSalle
County entitled 'In the
interest of Huxley May,
a minor', and that in the
Criminal Justice Center
Courtroom 223 at Otta-
wa, Illinois on the 21st
day of May, 2025, at the
hour of 1:00 p.m., or as
soon thereafter as this
cause may be heard, a
Termination Hearing will
be held upon the peti-
tion to have the child
declared a ward of the
court under that Act.
The Court has authori-
ty in this proceeding to
take from you the cus-
tody and guardianship
of the minor, to termi-
nate your parental rights
and to appoint a guardian
with power to consent
to adoption. You may
lose all parental rights
to your child. If the pe-
tition requests the ter-
mination of your parental
rights and the appoint-
ment of a guardian with
power to consent to
adoption, you may lose
all parental rights to the
child.
You are entitled to have
an attorney represent
you at all stages of
these proceedings. If
you are financially un-
able to afford a private
attorney, the court will
appoint an attorney for
you.
Unless you appear you
will not be entitled to
further written notices
or publication notices of
the proceedings in this
case, including the filing
of an amended petition
or a motion to terminate
parental rights.
Now, unless you appear
at the hearing and show
cause against the peti-
tion, the allegations of
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admitted as against you
and an order or judge-
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Dated January 24, 2025
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