



For the 2024 Med D period, MASS saved 140 of its clients \$330,072.71. MASS is located in the Feik Senior Parlor at the Mendota Civic Center.

MASS saves clients big money during 2024 Med D enrollment

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – It’s well-known Mendota Area Senior Services assists Mendota and the surrounding area in many different ways.

Of course there is transportation, social aspects, events celebrated with gatherings, garage sales, card games, and plenty more.

However, one of the most important times for MASS is during the Medicare prescription drug coverage enrollment period of Oct. 15 through Dec. 7; better known as Med D enrollment.

For the 2024 Med D period, MASS saved 140 of its clients \$330,072.71.

“We get bombarded. We are so busy during that time because the plans change every year and if you enrolled before, you have to enroll again for a different plan otherwise you roll over into the same plan,” Mendota Area Senior Services Executive Director Rayanne Sester said. “Premiums, co-pays, everything, changes. The name of the game with the prescription drug plans is to

find the cheaper one for them for the next year.

“They come in, we have accounts set up for them, and then we do comparisons to help find the cheapest plan for the coming year. We can switch them to a new plan to help them save a ton of money.

“With our grant funds, we have to track the savings we have with each client. For an example, one company was charging \$9.90 a month for their premium during 2024. In 2025, the same company jumped up to \$44.90 for their premium.”

Sester and her staff not only helped the 140 people move their coverage plans, but they also aided 212 in their decision to stay with the plans they have with their comparisons.

Each person who did save money saved a different amount as Sester said she helped one client save \$6,000, while others saved \$80, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1,000, and so on.

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Blackstone first graders send kindness in Valentine’s Day cards

❑ Cards given to Mendota Area Senior Services to hand out to senior citizens

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – There is one word and sentiment first graders at Blackstone School will not forget during the school year – kindness.

Every month through the school year, Mrs. (Carrie) Klein’s first-grade class has completed a kind deed.

For February, the class decorated Valentine’s Day cards and then gave them to Mendota Area Senior Services to hand out to seniors.

“It makes me happy that they’re learning how kindness is important. Hopefully it carries on with them for the rest of their lives,” said Klein, who has taught at Blackstone for 25 years. “We really make an effort to instill it in them. We do something every month whether it’s a big thing like decorating Valentine’s Day cards for seniors or smaller things.

“As teachers in the state of Illinois we have standards we have to teach, and we have social-emotional standards now. The kindness fits in there. It makes me happy this is something they can take with them. A small act of kindness can change the world.”



Blackstone School first graders have fun while making Valentine’s Day cards after which James Hagy of Mendota Area Senior Services hands one out to a senior citizen. (Reporter photos by Brandon LaChance)



In September, the students made Grandparent’s Day cards, while they brought in snack and candy donations for the Mendota Fire Department in October, made bookmarks and Blackstone Principal Stacy Kelly brought word searches and cross words to the veteran’s home in November, completed a kindness light bulb activity for home during

December, and brought in boxes of tissues for the entire school in January.

If you ask the first graders what the rules of being kind are, they’ll sing them in unison.

“Be respectful, be responsible, be safe, be kind. Kindness begins with me.”

While the students were decorating the cards, they were surveyed of what

their favorite Valentine’s Day color was. Red won with a whopping two-thirds of the class, pink was the other third, and purple was voteless.

They know Mrs. Klein loves dogs and they’re going to get dog Valentine’s Day cards from her, they’re

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Conozca Sus Derechos – Know your rights

❑ Immigration attorney to give presentation Feb. 20 at Mendota H.S.

MENDOTA – BPAC de Mendota 289 en asociación con BPAC de Mendota High School está organizando una presentación de Sara Dady, abogada de inmigración regional. La presentación será sobre cómo entender y conocer sus derechos como inmigrante y será presentada en inglés y español. El evento también se transmitirá en vivo para aquellos que no puedan asistir en persona. El evento será el jueves 20 de febrero de 5:30 a 7 p.m. en el auditorio de la escuela secundaria Mendota. La dirección de la escuela secundaria es 2300 W. Main St., Mendota. Solo adultos - el

cuidado de niños no estará disponible. El enlace de la transmisión en vivo es: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKo00e9JhOqljoqMp2QnoKA> y será publicado nuevamente el día del evento.

Para obtener más información, llame a Mario al 815-261-4101.

Mendota 289’s BPAC in partnership with Mendota High School’s BPAC is hosting a presentation by Sara Dady, a regional immigration attorney. The presentation will be on understanding and knowing your rights as an immigrant and it will be

presented in English and Spanish. The event will also be live streamed for those unable to attend in person. The event is on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Mendota High School Auditorium. The high school’s address is 2300 W. Main St., Mendota. Adults only - childcare not available.

The livestream link is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKo00e9JhOqljoqMp2QnoKA> and it will be posted again the day of the event.

For more information, please call Mario at 815-261-4101.

IDOA launches ‘Illinois Grown’ to boost statewide agriculture producers

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois Grown, a new program from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), will make it easier to support local farmers and businesses. The Illinois Grown logo will soon appear on products across the state, signaling that items are either grown in Illinois or contain at least one ingredient sourced from the state.

The program is designed to connect consumers with products grown or produced in Illinois. The Illinois Grown logo helps consumers

identify local products, supporting the state’s agricultural industry and economy.

“The Illinois Grown initiative is not just about food – it’s about supporting local communities,” said IDOA Director Jerry Costello II. “Consumers who buy Illinois Grown products can feel good knowing their money is going directly to Illinois farmers and producers.”

The program also encourages consumers to pledge to spend \$10 of their weekly grocery budget on Illinois



Grown items, reinvesting millions into the local economy.

For Illinois farmers, food companies, and other agricultural businesses, the Illinois Grown logo provides a new opportunity to highlight their commitment to local sourcing.

Benefits to producers include:

- More Visibility: With the Illinois Grown logo, producers get exposure through the state’s marketing campaigns and promotional efforts.

- Targeted Reach: The program helps businesses connect with consumers who prioritize local and sustainable sourcing.

- No Extra Cost: Producers can take advantage of the state’s advertising initiatives without additional fees, boosting their return on investment.

Retailers can get involved in the Illinois Grown pro-

gram by signing up to showcase Illinois Grown products in their stores. Participating businesses will receive free in-store display materials to help promote the initiative. This is a great opportunity for retailers to engage customers with locally sourced products and highlight their commitment to supporting Illinois farmers and producers.

Consumers can show their support by taking the Illinois Grown pledge, committing to spend at least \$10 a week on locally produced

items. As a thank you, those who take the pledge will receive a free reusable bag or sticker. The pledge can be completed online at <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/logoprograms/pledge.html>.

The Illinois Grown program is an easy way for consumers to make a difference in their communities. By simply choosing local products, they can contribute to a stronger, more sustainable economy.

For more information, visit www.illinoisgrown.org.



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



LOCAL AND AREA

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

We recently announced our KIND KID winners for the month of January. The students chosen this past month were Myles Wheeler, Javy Rodriguez, Kinzie Higdon, Alani Gonzalez, Quinn Phillips, Mia Boege, Leon Breitbarth, Gus Eich, Viviana Moreno, Julie Taliani, Gabe Wujek and Tony Munoz. We are so proud of all of our kind kids at Blackstone!

Thank you to all of our families that ordered Nothing Bundt Cakes for our final fundraiser of the year. The pick-up date is Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 3:30-6 p.m. at Northbrook. We appreciate the support! Blackstone will use our funds to help support fun end-of-year activities for

all of our students.

Parent/Teacher conferences are coming up on Feb. 18 and 19 in Districts #289. All Blackstone teachers sent a note home to have parents choose some times that would work best for them. If you have not signed up for a time yet, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible. Our goal is to meet with all parents.

Our students are working hard to earn Paw Pride certificates when caught demonstrating good behavior throughout the building. Each trimester, we set a goal for classes to earn the end of trimester reward. The

reward for the second trimester is a glow dance party. We have a few more weeks left in the trimester, but we have several classes that have already earned the goal. The students from Miss Wilhelm, Mrs. Quintana, Mrs. Reuter, Mrs. Higdon and Mikolasek's classes have already reached their goal.

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Atlas Bugiynne, Nayeli Lopez, Emmanuel Esparaza, Luca Eich, Ryann Leavy, Leni Kromm, Brody Sellers and Lio Smith. The winners were Camden Weber, Emilio Magallanes, Maybell Godinez and Arianna Arteaga. Congratulations to all of you!



My Collections at museum, society

When Mendota Museum and Historical Society President Bryon Walters asked Brandon LaChance, a journalist with the Mendota Reporter, to share some of his memorabilia in part of the society's My Collections exhibit, he laughed. LaChance didn't think he had enough cool stuff to display. After he packed his boxes to bring to the giant case at the 909 Washington St. building, he reconsidered his first thoughts. LaChance didn't quite fill the case, but he unloaded plenty of history, nostalgia, and fun with wrestling figures from his childhood, autographed books, an autographed White Sox baseball (includes the John Hancock's of Frank Thomas, Ozzie Guillen, Ray Durham, and Robin Ventura), a plaqued printout of a text conversation with a former professional wrestler, tons of Funko Pop Dolls, and more. My Collections will change every 4-6 weeks, so check them out as soon as they're reshelved. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



Model Train Fair, Farm Toy Show in Princeton

The semi-annual Model Train Fair and Farm Toy Show will be held Saturday, Feb. 15 at Bureau County Fairgrounds in Princeton. Doors open at 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The two heated buildings will have working train layouts. Plus, there will be all kinds of farm toys, Hot Wheels, all scales of model railroad equipment from antique to new, model kits, airplanes, and more. Children and adults of all ages will enjoy all of the different toys. Admission is \$5 for adults and children are free. There will be a concession stand in the building. For additional information see <http://www.bureaucountyfair.com>. (Photo contributed)

History by the Dozen Tour at LaSalle County museums

LaSALLE COUNTY – Heritage Corridor Destinations and the LaSalle County Historical Society are launching the History by the Dozen Tour throughout 12 different museums in LaSalle County February 15-17.

The museum list includes the Mendota Historical Society, Earlville Community Historical Society, Hege-

ler Carus Mansion, LaSalle County Genealogy Guild, LaSalle County Historical Society, Norsk Museum, Ottawa Historical Scouting & Heritage Society, Reddick Mansion, Seneca Historical Guild, Sheridan Historical Society, Streatorland Historical Society, and Westclox Museum.

The price of the passport is \$1 per person and is valid for three days.



Mendota Business Women scholarships

Nightengales Thrift Shop and Trinity Health in Mendota recently donated \$1,500 to the Mendota Business and Professional Women to help fund the organization's college scholarships it offers to Mendota students. BPW President Monica Zimmerlein, center, received the donation from Jolie Pijanowski, left, and Scarlett Abel. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

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LOCAL AND AREA

LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation offers custom frozen BBQ catering

OTTAWA—The LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering delicious frozen food meals for a family of four to five people.

Custom BBQ Catering meals are made with fresh and delicious ingredients that everyone will love. The frozen meals include 10 family-sized dinners for only \$195 for Farm Bureau members and \$200 for non-members. Each meal comes with heating instructions.

The new menu for spring is Chicken and Biscuits, Cowboy Baked Beans, Hickory Smoked Pulled Pork, Hickory Smoked Pulled Chicken, Chicken Fajitas with Peppers and Onion, Beef Mostaccioli, Pulled Pork Mac & Cheese, Smoked Meatloaf, Soup (Flavor TBD), Cheesy Ham and Potatoes.

All orders are due in the Farm Bureau office via check by mail, credit card by phone or Venmo @LaSalleCounty-FarmBureau by Wednesday, Feb. 26. Meal pick-up will be at the LaSalle County Farm Bureau office on Monday, March 31 between 2:45 – 4:45 p.m. The office is located at 1691 N. 31st Road, Ottawa.

By purchasing these frozen meals, you are not only supporting LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation but also enjoying delicious food that's easy to prepare. All proceeds will go to the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation Ag in the Classroom programs that provides FREE hands-on agriculture lessons to 4th grade classrooms in LaSalle County.

Discover the vibrant world of winter birdwatching with Illinois Master Naturalists

OGLESBY – Nell's Woodland and the University of Illinois Extension invites the community to attend a Winter Birding event on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. at Nell's Woodland in Ottawa (2000 Alexis Ave.).

Attendees will learn about what birds we can see in our area during the winter and be guided on a short hike to put that knowledge into action. Hot cocoa and a special craft will be provided by LaSalle County 4-H.

Whether you're a seasoned birder or a curious beginner, this program offers a fun and informative way to connect with nature during the winter season. All ages are welcome. For more information or to register visit go.illinois.edu/WinterBirding

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



Northbrook January Students of Month

Northbrook Middle School has named its January Students of the Month. Front row, left to right, are Kaylynn Read, Roberto Lopez, Krew Knaff, Camden Phalen, Abel Diaz and Aiden Skaggs. Back row, Daniela Arteaga, Blaze Clark, Lila Bielema, Alana Melendez, Harper Stamberger, Brooklyn Russell, Alexander Rivera, Ari Gambrel and Giana Godina. Not pictured: Jacob Lengsfeld, Kyndra Higgins, and Parker Ramer. (Photo contributed)



Area youth learned about the various roles and responsibilities of being a 4-H officer, with a focus on leadership, learning parliamentary procedure, teamwork, and effective communication at a training event on Nov. 9 at IVCC. (Photo contributed)

Kish College to host Visit Day for prospective students, families

MALTA – Kishwaukee College in Malta will host Visit Day on Monday, Feb. 17, at the College for prospective students and their families.

"It is important to find the academic or career path that works best for you. Visit Day provides all the information necessary to help make that choice. By participating in Visit Day, you will see that Kish offers excellent academic programs, many

support opportunities, career services, flexible class options and much more," said Colleen Tumminaro, Director of Dual Credit & K-12 Partnerships.

Visit Day will have two sessions for students to choose from. The morning session is from 9 a.m.-noon and focuses on students pursuing a transfer degree. The afternoon session is from 1-4 p.m. and focuses on students pursuing career

technology or allied health programs. Both sessions provide campus tours and an information fair. The sessions will also cover getting started at Kish, financial aid and scholarships, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) assistance, student involvement, athletics, opportunities for homeschooled students, and more.

Register at Visit Day at kish.edu/visitday.

4-H leadership training shared by Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Counties

OGLESBY – 4-H members across Bureau, LaSalle, and Marshall-Putnam counties learned ways to improve as officers at the 2024 gameshow-themed 4-H Officer Training event held Nov. 9 at Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby.

Youth learned about the various roles and responsibilities of being a 4-H officer, with a focus on leader-

ship, learning parliamentary procedure, teamwork, and effective communication. Through hands-on games and activities, members developed skills to help them succeed in their leadership roles beyond 4-H.

"This was a great opportunity for youth to grow as leaders and take the knowledge gained back to their 4-H clubs," shared Bureau County 4-H and Youth

Development Program Coordinator, Sarah Poignant. Through such experiences, youth can contribute to the growth and success within their community.

To learn more about 4-H, contact your local University of Illinois Extension office – Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam. Extension offices are located in Princeton, Ottawa, Henry and in Oglesby on the IVCC campus.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Timothy M. Kromm

MENDOTA – Timothy Michael Kromm, 70, of Mendota, formerly of West Brooklyn, passed away on Jan. 29, 2025, in Mendota.

A Celebration of Life will be Sunday, Feb. 16 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Compton with Rev. Jeff Schlesinger officiating. Services will begin at 3:30 p.m. with burial of ashes immediately following in the church cemetery. Cremation rites have been accorded. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Born on Oct. 18, 1954, Timothy was known for his friendly, compassionate nature, and a strong work ethic, qualities that endeared him to all who knew him.

Timothy is survived by his son, Andy Kromm; daughter, Kelly Becker; son-in-law, Pat Becker; grandchildren, Bailey (Kyle) Pike, Madelyn Becker and Drew Becker; brothers, Steve Kromm, Bob Kromm, and Dave Kromm; and sisters-in-law, Pam Kromm, Luann Kromm, and Laurie Kromm.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dale and Geraldine Kromm.

Timothy dedicated many years of his life to his career as a Case Implement mechanic, a role that showcased his hard-working and loyal attributes. He was a graduate of Mendota High School, which laid the foundation for his professional achievements.

A man of faith, Timothy was an active member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Compton, where he also enjoyed socializing with fellow congregants. His hobbies included hanging out with friends, playing pool and euchre. He enjoyed listening to music and attending concerts. He enjoyed watching old westerns. He had a deep love for the Chicago Bears, but he most loved watching his grandchildren excel at life. These activities reflected his vibrant, sociable personality and his ability to enjoy life's simpler pleasures.

His memory will live on not only through his family and friends but also through the legacy of his kindness and dedication to helping others.

Memorials may be directed to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Compton. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



Darren M. Smith

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa – Darron Michael Smith, 56, of West Des Moines, Iowa, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Iowa Methodist Medical Center after a courageous battle with cancer.

Honoring his wishes, he will be cremated, and no formal services will be held.

Born on Jan. 4, 1969, in Peru, Darron faced life with resilience, humor, and an unwavering appreciation for the simple joys. His bravery throughout his battle with cancer inspired those around him, while his humor reminded everyone to appreciate life's joys without taking it too seriously.

A firm believer in the goodness of people and the importance of respect, Darron built meaningful connections in both his personal life and his career. As a valued member of the Service Excellence team at American Equity, his ability to empathize and connect with others was unmatched.

Above all, Darron took great pride in raising his daughter, Addison Smith. He was a devoted son to Sarah Parker, a loving brother to Kristen Smith and Kimberly (Smith) Menzel, and a cherished friend to many.

His memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.caldwellparrish.com.



National and State Soybean Boards seeking candidates

BLOOMINGTON – The Illinois Soybean Board (ISB) is looking for farmers interested in filling two of Illinois' director positions with the United Soybean Board (USB).

Any soybean producer who is engaged in the growing of soybeans in the United States who owns, or who shares the ownership and risk of loss of, is eligible. To be considered for the national leadership position, farmers must complete the required application and "Agreement to Serve" statement and return them to the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) office by Friday, March 7, 2025. Contact Dustin Scott, ISA Director of Operations, at 309-846-3673 or dustin.scott@ilsoy.org to receive a copy of the application and agreement to serve.

In addition, ISB is also seeking candidates for At-Large Directors. These individuals will be nominated by the majority of the Board sitting in a quorum at a meeting to be determined. There-

after, two of the nominated individuals will be elected by a majority of soybean producers in attendance at the ISB Meeting in July 2025. ISB members serve a term of three years and are eligible for up to three consecutive terms.

Any interested producer must notify the Board of their desire to become a candidate for an At-Large position by sending a letter of interest to Illinois Soybean Association, Attn: Director of Operations, 1108 Trinity Lane, Bloomington, IL, 61704. This letter of interest must be postmarked no later than Friday, Feb. 21, 2025. Letters of interest may also be sent via email to dustin.scott@ilsoy.org. The same deadline applies.

Once intent is expressed, candidates will be emailed a link to an online application. Online applications must be completed and submitted electronically no later than Friday, March 7, 2025. There is no write-in provision for At-Large director elections.

IVCC scholarship application window open until March 6th

OGLESBY – Current and incoming IVCC students can apply for nearly \$300,000 worth of scholarships now until March 6. The experience will be easier than ever thanks to a new online program that streamlines the process.

Scholarships will be awarded in June and applied to the 2025-2026 school year. Foundation Executive Director Tracy Beattie reminds students the application is only open once each year, so it is important to take time to apply now.

Beattie expects the number of applicants to grow this year as rising enrollment brings more students looking to finance their education, and she hopes the simplicity of the new software encourages more applicants. "The IVCC Foundation has invested in new software with the intention of creating a better experience for our students."

Scholarships are available in almost every area of study, but not all awards are tied to specific disciplines. More than 80 general scholarships are available to students who are undecided or in an area of study without a scholarship available. Students are not required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for an IVCC scholarship, but they are encouraged to do so to be considered for need-based scholarships. "Not all scholarships are need based. There are scholarships for every type of student and financial need, and a high GPA is not always required. Do not assume that you will not qualify for anything," Beattie said.

As a veteran at filling out forms, second-year student and scholarship recipient Emma Garretson appreciated IVCC's approach. "IVCC makes its process of applying straightforward and easy, compared to other scholarship applications I have

encountered. It is all about you. And you can apply once and be eligible for multiple scholarships."

Garretson anticipates several more years of schooling – and expenses – to become a physical therapist, so any assistance now is welcome. "I have a lot of school ahead of me and the debt is going to add up."

But Garretson said a scholarship's boost is not merely financial. "I know that people have confidence in my ability and are cheering me on. It is much more than financial support; it is a source of motivation to keep striving and a reassurance that your hard work is being recognized."

Recipient Yair Santiago is already looking beyond graduation to begin applying his automotive skills professionally. He advises prospective scholarship applicants not to be intimidated and not to rule out any options. "There are many scholarships that will give you a chance to achieve a career."

Last year when he prepared his application, Santiago sought the advice and guidance of his Project Success counselor, who he says was a huge help.

Echoing Santiago's advice, Beattie pointed to the IVCC Tutoring and Writing Center as another excellent resource for reviewing applications. Seeking that help gives students confidence in the application they submit, she added.

Applicants will create an account at ivcc.award-spring.com to begin. After providing identification and academic record information, they will move on to detail their educational and professional goals, community service and involvement, and financial need.


For more information about the Foundation scholarships, contact Donna Swiskoski, Scholarship Specialist for the IVCC Foundation at 815-224-0551.

DEATH NOTICES

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

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Where is it... in Mendota?

HOW TO ENTER:
If you know where this scene is located in Mendota, write the answer briefly and concisely on a slip of paper and drop it off or mail it to The Mendota Reporter Office. All entries must be received no later than noon on Monday. One correct answer will be drawn each week. Prizes must be picked up at the Mendota Reporter Office.

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Can you identify this photo?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:
Waller Bros./now Mendota Museum & Historical Society Building
Winner: Haydon Schmidt

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LOCAL AND AREA

ICC approves amended ComEd grid plan

CHICAGO – The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) approved Commonwealth Edison's refiled multi-year grid plan (2024-2027) with modifications. The Commission approved \$1.5 billion in investments and system improvements needed to strengthen power grid reliability and support the ongoing electrification of the state's power system. The decision cut the utility's proposed \$2.0 billion in spending by approximately 25 percent.

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) required the state's largest investor-owned electric utilities to file grid plans designed to accelerate progress toward Illinois' clean energy goals and hold electric companies accountable for their performance.

"After extensive review, the Commission is confident that both ComEd and Ameren have the tools necessary to make needed

investments to drive the clean energy transition and continue modernizing Illinois' electric grid. These plans are a key component to meeting



the goals of CEJA and represents significant improvement in meeting its requirements," said ICC Chairman Doug Scott. "The investments approved today will deliver significant benefits to the utilities' customers in an affordable, cost-effective manner."

ComEd was required to refile its grid plan earlier this year after the ICC rejected the utility's initial proposal in 2023, finding the original plan failed to comply with several consumer affordability and environmental justice components of CEJA.

"Grid planning is not a one-time task. It is a

dynamic, iterative process that will require continued refinement and adaptation in future grid plans," said ICC Commissioner Stacey Paradis. "The grid of the future will be shaped by emerging technologies, evolving regulatory review, and changing energy demands. To meet these challenges, the utilities, ICC staff, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders must continue to work together."

ComEd's grid plan is consolidated with its multi-year rate plan (2024-2027) to determine which system maintenance and upgrade costs can be passed on to ratepayers, at a reasonable cost. In accordance with the Public Utilities Act, these costs are only recoverable if the utility demonstrates they are reasonable and prudent.

The ICC's decision reduced ComEd's rate increase request for 2024-2027 by 11 percent for an overall

increase of \$606 million over four years. It does not modify the company's current 8.905 percent return on equity.

The impact of the decision on individual customers will vary based on service class and energy usage.

The ICC has issued its decision after closely scrutinizing ComEd's refiled grid plan and additional materials submitted by the utility, ICC staff, and various intervenors over a nine-month legal proceeding, as well as multiple stakeholder workshops. ComEd was required by CEJA to conduct a robust, transparent stakeholder process in the design of its grid plan. In preparation for its refiled plan, the utility held two additional public meetings and six stakeholder workshops prior to resubmission.

More information on ComEd's multi-year integrated grid plan can be found in Dockets No. 22-0486/24-0181.



Denise Holzner reads a Valentine's Day card given to her and created by a first grader at Blackstone School as the students' kindness act for February. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

IDFPR announces additional license types on new online licensing system

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) announced today that four additional professions are now available for licensure via the Department's new online licensing system, CORE (the Comprehensive Online Regulatory Environment). Introduced by IDFPR on October 30, 2024, the Department will transition all licensing procedures to CORE in a phased implementation process over the next two years. The four license types are:

- Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA)
- Licensed Assistant Behavior Analyst (LABA)
- Behavior Analyst Continuing Education Sponsor
- Licensed Certified Professional Midwife

"Today's announcement is yet another significant milestone achieved by the Pritzker Administration in the IDFPR success story," said IDFPR Secretary Mario Tretto, Jr. "My team will continue its hard work in ensuring all professions and services are successfully transitioned to CORE, which will help more professionals work in Illinois and provide their services to people across the state."

In addition to CORE's implementation, IDFPR also rebuilt and improved existing antiquated licensing processes in 2024. This successful revamp led to a record number of professionals (120,933) receiving their licenses in the past year. This represents an increase of almost 14% from the previous record of 106,196 issued in 2023. Licensing improvements made by IDFPR in the past year include streamlining its application review process, launching a pilot program

for applicants in select professions to submit online payments for paper applications, and sending deficiency notices to online applicants after learning its current online licensing system was not doing that.

"The previous year proved to be the most successful year ever for professional licensing in Illinois, and we're just getting started," said Acting Director of Professional Regulation Camile Lindsay. "As we make additional improvements, we look forward to welcoming even more licensed professionals to Illinois and further strengthening our great state's economy."

IDFPR will announce when additional professions are added to CORE, along with further improvements to its licensing processes. More information can be found on IDFPR's website: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/>.

MASS

Continued from Page A1

"That's a ton of money to save. That's just here at Mendota Area Senior Services between our staff of Laurie Moore, Jill Hartley, and myself. Jill used to work here but has retired. The last three years, Jill comes back to help us during the Med D enrollment to give as many of our clients' assistance as possible. Laurie and I couldn't have done it alone.

"The three of us working together was a pretty big thing when you look at how much money was saved by our clients."

Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging, the organization that oversees MASS, reported a 2024 Med D savings of over \$4 million throughout its 10 counties, which includes MASS in LaSalle County.

In Sester's 31 1/2 years

with MASS, it'll be 32 in July, the Med D process has proved over and over again it is the most challenging, but also, most joyful time of the work year.

"In the years that we've been with MASS, we've all felt this is what we're here for and why we do the job that we do," Sester said. "We want to help our clients, our seniors, our disabled. This is one way that we can do it, by assisting them through the Med D enrollment period.

"It's a good feeling to see how much money we saved them. It's a good feeling at night after you go home from work, and you feel like you did something positive for the day. That's why we come back and continue to work. There is never a dull moment. No two days are the same. You never know what's going to happen.

But, you go home with a good feeling because you've helped people."

Other Mendota Area Senior Service news:

Closed on Wednesdays
At the end of 2024, MASS made the tough decision to close the office and services one day a week, which became Wednesdays.

Although the office will stay closed, the MASS Board of Directors decided one service had to be un-suspended – transportation.

"People need to get to the doctors," Sester said. "Not offering transportation on Wednesdays was really putting a hurt on people, so the board made the decision to at least bring back transportation."

The reason MASS had to close on Wednesdays was because it was not receiving federal grant funds it was promised.

MASS has received funds through June and July 2024, but hasn't seen any of the funds owed from September through December, and nothing for 2025.

The missing funds is an estimated \$50,000, for 2024 alone.

Sester has received state grant funds of around \$11,000.

"The only thing that has kept us going is the generosity of people around here. People have been so generous with tremendous donations," Sester said. "We're so appreciative of the donations. We wouldn't be here, not just Mendota but the surrounding area if it wasn't for the kind residents.

"If it wasn't for the donations, the staff would be laid off and our seniors wouldn't get the transportation they need."

IDNR fisheries biologist to give pond clinic Feb. 22nd

PERU – The LaSalle County Soil & Water Conservation District along with the Bureau County Soil & Water Conservation District will be co-hosting a Pond Clinic from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Peru City Hall, in Peru.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist, David Wyffels, will discuss construction, stocking rates, weed control, aeration, and species suitability.

Contact the LaSalle County SWCD office at 815-433-0551 ext. 3 by Thursday, Feb. 20 for a reservation. Seating is limited.

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OPINION



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The more you look into it, the more questions

The title of this column could really mean a lot of things.

Doesn't every idea or research topic bring up more questions once you dive in?

Yes, but maybe not more than the sensitive subjects of health care, what's going to happen in President Donald Trump's second run, and are people going to be able to afford medicine.

Never the Last Chance



By Brandon LaChance

As Trinity Health volunteers Kim Abel, Nancy Champlin, and Mary McConville conversed at the 708 Jefferson St. in Mendota location last week, more and more head scratching was seen across the table.

"We don't know what's coming. People who are on medicines are very concerned. If you're an immigrant, you're very concerned," Abel said. "There are silos of people who are very concerned about different issues with the new government leadership."

"Health care is one of the biggest questions. We don't know how it's going to shake out with the meds. Some of these meds are \$800. It seems like Medicaid is going to be cut. We don't know by how much or how quickly it's going to happen. The Affordable Care Act is probably going to be taken away."

"It's not all bad. There are some legitimate changes. But it's going to be a huge change. Things are changing and we don't know what's going to happen. We just want people to know we're here."

Trinity, a health center which distributes medication with a doctor's or nurse practitioner's prescription, has been a place of salvation for residents who can't afford healthcare or insurance.

But with the possible changing of acts, rules, laws, and regulations, it may be difficult for Trinity Health and other like organizations to remain as helpful as they once were.

As of Feb. 4, according to MaynardNexsen.com, President Trump did rescind the Affordable Care Act in most states and granted additional funding for third parties aiding enrollment in ACA Insurance. While ACA enrollment nearly doubled under the Biden administration to approximately 24 million citizens, those gains are attributed primarily to government subsidies that lowered the cost of ACA premiums. The effect this recession will have on enrollment trends is going to be paid attention to throughout the next four years and beyond.

President Trump issued an order rolling back policies to limit drug spending by Medicaid and Medicare.

He rescinded an executive order that asked the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to consider new payment and healthcare models to limit drug spending. The former Biden-era order had prompted CMMI to announce in 2023 its intention to test three models aimed at lowering drug costs, none of which have fully gotten off the ground yet.

The intended plan for Trump is to facilitate better price negotiations with drug companies, as the second round of Medicare drug price negotiations are slated for 2025.

As of Feb. 4, 15 drugs have been added to the negotiation list, indicating the administration's intention to lower prices for those drugs, including Ozempic and Wegovy.

To not have this column extend further than I'd like, I'll stay away from the immigration subject and maybe, probably not, discuss it at another time.

The same can be said about abortion spending, gender affirming care, the regulatory freeze, which would have stopped the rulemaking process for 60 days, and the freeze on grants and loans.

If you ask a President Trump supporter what they think of the moves, there will be positive feedback.

If you ask Trump haters, they'll be decisively on the other side.

President Trump and his stance on what's best for members of the United States of America is met with love or hate, and very little between feelings.

The only thing we all agreed on was there was going to be change.

Hopefully those who need healthcare and medicine will still be able to do so without selling their vehicles, mortgaging their homes, or selling their possessions and pets.

If you need medications, don't forget about small centers like Trinity Health in Mendota and similar locations throughout the surrounding areas of both Mendota and Amboy.



Downtown restroom drive – 1969

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Feb. 9, 1994.)

By Jessica Nashold

Twenty-five years ago, former mayor L.J. Oester revived an effort to provide a public restroom in downtown Mendota. The Mendota Reporter joined in the drive, as did Bill Phalen, who supplied sketches of the proposed structure.

The Reporter published these sketches of an addition to the east side of the fire station, extending over the creek. The restroom was shown to be 23.5 feet wide and 18.5 feet deep. It was to be accessible both from the street and through the fire station. Phalen Steel Construction was willing to provide the shell at cost and it was estimated the total expenditure would be about \$10,000.

The project was endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis agreed to sponsor the drive, making an initial pledge of \$2,000.

In earlier drives for a public restroom, contributions were collected and deposited in Mendota banks. In the 1969 drive, only pledges were collected. Money would not be called for until "the total commitment was reached."

The Reporter published a letter from Oester in which he reminded the community of the underlying reasons for supporting a public restroom.

Mendota merchants must compete for business with shopping centers that provide such facilities. The present restroom facilities in Mendota available at restaurants and service stations are simply not satisfactory.

In the first few weeks there were substantial pledges. The Lions Club added a \$1,000 pledge to the Kiwanis \$2,000. The Civic Department of Mendota Woman's Club was prepared

Backtracks & Sidetracks

to contribute \$50 "provided the project gained the approval of other organizations." The Woman's Club also thought it important to provide two lounges.

By March 1969, about half the amount needed had been pledged. The Newcomer's Club said it would make a pledge provided some changes were made to the plans. However, in April the firemen went on record as opposed to the location. They said a restroom adjacent to the firehouse would make it impossible for them to expand if at some future time they needed space to house additional fire apparatus.

The following month it was announced that the effort to provide a public restroom in downtown Mendota would be discontinued. Although \$6,000 had been pledged, there appeared to be "a lack of interest by businessmen and residents."

As nothing had been collected, nothing had to be returned.

Clear glass windows at First United Methodist Church were replaced during February 1969.

The windows are made of many colored chunks of glass set in epoxy bond.

On the south side of the church, 16 windows carried themes from both the Old and New Testaments. On the north side, the windows depicted early patriachs, leaders and reformers.

The windows, made possible by a bequest in the will of Karl Erbes, were

formally dedicated Feb. 23, 1969.

At its annual meeting in February 1969, the Lutheran Home board heard a presentation of plans for expansion. Options had already been secured on two adjacent properties on Fifth Avenue and a resolution was adopted to work with the architect on this project.

Mendota High School debaters won the Sterling Invitational in which 16 teams competed. Mendota teams scored seven wins and one loss. The affirmative team was comprised of Kirby Boner and Steve Weiss. Brothers Christ and Jim Troupis upheld the negative.

A guidance program was approved for Mendota Elementary District 289, which featured a workshop to be held on eight consecutive Thursday evenings at Northbrook library. Dr. John Dal Santo, superintendent, James Basala, Northbrook principal, and Rosalie McLaughlin, counselor, put the program on track. It was attended by 30 teachers.

Boy Scouts in Methodist Troop 106 set up a campsite at Library. Park on Friday evening, Feb. 7. They spent all day Saturday there, demonstrating camping, cooking, knot-tying and crafts. Gilbert Crane was scoutmaster.

Ten Camp Fire girls appeared on Town Talk on Feb. 6 in order to qualify for their Woodgather's rank. Leaders were Mrs. James Rollins and Mrs. Harry Conkey.

Carl and Marion Skaggs advertised bus trips to the Ice Capades in Chicago. The cost was \$5.50-\$2.50 for bus fare and \$3 for the Ice Capades ticket.

Why can't we deport more white criminal aliens?

By Rich Lowry

The progressive response to President Donald Trump's deportations is just getting underway, and it's already dumb and hysterical.

According to MSNBC hosts Nicole Wallace and Joy Reid, we are potentially headed down the path of another Holocaust. "Similarities to what happened in Germany and what's happening now in America are just undeniable," Reid said the other day.

A common refrain is that the criminal illegal aliens who are being targeted are overwhelmingly Black and brown, proving that something nefarious is afoot. Leave it to progressives to see in these deportees not, first and foremost, violent offenders who represent a threat to the public, but people of color who are inherently victims.

Al Sharpton asserted on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that "we're looking for people of a certain Black or brown color." On "The View," Sunny Hostin explained that the Trump deportations are going out of their way to target "a certain group or type of immigrant." Hostin believes that there are a lot of Asian and European visa-overstayers who are getting off scot-free while the administration goes after immigrants coming over the border because of the color of their skin.

"So I think there's a very clear message as to what this president wants the look of a criminal migrant to look like," she said, adding, "I think that's racist," to the applause of the studio audience.

This is predictably ill-informed. According to the Migration Policy Institute, in 2022, 80% of all illegal immigrants in the United States were from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The top five countries of origin were Mexico (45% of illegals), Guatemala (7%), El Salvador (6%), Honduras (5%), and India (3%). No European country made the top 10. Altogether, illegal immigrants from Europe, Canada and Oceania were 7%.

The picture is overwhelmingly of non-white illegal immigrants, who are coming from poor countries with some geographical proximity to us. This is a fact. It has nothing

to do with how Trump "wants" illegal immigrants to look. If ICE undertakes entirely randomized raids, 80% of the people it finds are going to be Black and brown.

Now, the raids aren't random --they, at the moment, are largely, if not entirely, targeting criminal aliens.

As a general matter, criminal offending is associated with low levels of education and socioeconomic status. That doesn't mean that all poor people are criminals. But you are likelier to get entangled with the law if you are an immigrant who hasn't graduated high school, compared with one who has a medical degree. (The same is true of the U.S.-born population.)

So, why isn't ICE cuffing lots of, say, Indian illegal immigrants? If we assume that the demographic characteristics of Indian illegal immigrants are broadly consonant with --although not exactly the same as -- Indian immigrants generally, they'll have a different profile than other illegal immigrants.

The Migration Policy Institute notes, "On average, Indian immigrants are highly skilled and earn significant incomes: the vast majority hold a bachelor's degree or higher, their median income is more than double that of the U.S. -- and overall foreign-born populations, and their likelihood of living in poverty is half that of these groups."

Hostin cited visa-overstayers, and there are a fair amount from Canada. But, again, they are travelers and students coming from a relatively affluent, well-educated country and so are unlikely to be mixed up with, say, prison gangs. What's the French-Canadian equivalent of Tren de Aragua?

Of course, every illegal immigrant should be subject to deportation, but however we draw the line, the criminal migrant, as Hostin put it, is never going to look how she and fellow race-obsessed commentators want.

The logic of their view is that it's racist to keep out non-white illegal immigrants, racist to make them go, and, at the end of the day, racist to have a country that takes its borders seriously.

And they wonder why they are losing.
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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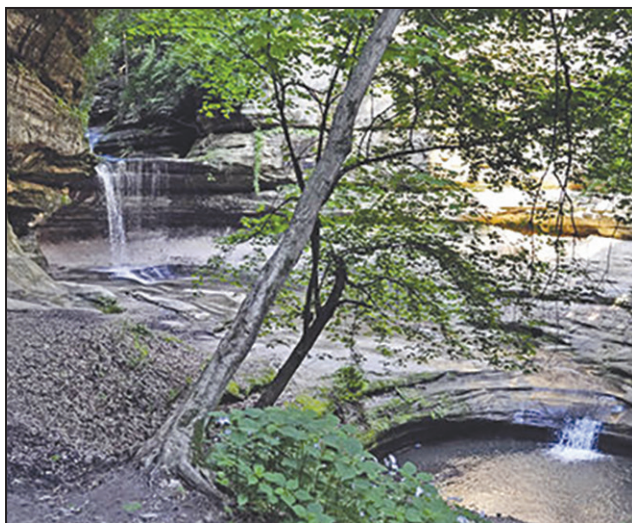
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SOCIAL NEWS

State makes \$33.8 million investment in Starved Rock State Park's infrastructure

SPRINGFIELD — After years of advocating for much-needed improvements at Starved Rock State Park, Illinois Senate Deputy Minority Leader Sue Rezin (R-Morris) is highlighting the recent announcement that the park will receive \$33.8 million in state funding for its wastewater treatment plant and trail improvements.

"Starved Rock is one of Illinois' most beloved natural treasures, which attracts millions of visitors each year," said Deputy Leader Rezin. "For years, I have been fighting for critical upgrades to the park's wastewater treatment facility, which is long overdue for improvements to meet environmental and safety standards. This funding is a major step forward in ensuring that Starved Rock remains a premier destination for out-



door recreation in Illinois."

The funding, announced by the Capital Development Board (CDB) and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), will support much-needed improvements to the park's wastewater

treatment system, ensuring it can effectively serve the high volume of visitors the park receives annually. Additionally, the investment will go toward trail enhancements to improve safety and accessibility.

"Modernizing the park's infrastructure is not just about maintaining its natural beauty, but also about protecting the health and safety of its visitors," continued Deputy Leader Rezin. "I'm proud to have been a strong advocate for securing these funds and will continue to fight for investments that protect our natural resources and enhance our local economy."

Deputy Leader Rezin has been a longtime champion for Starved Rock State Park, working with local officials and state agencies to push for infrastructure improvements. She remains committed to ensuring that the park receives the attention and resources it needs to properly accommodate its large number of visitors while preserving its unique landscape.

Camp Tuckabatchee, SRCCF partner for camp maintenance

OTTAWA — As it approaches its 100th anniversary, Camp Tuckabatchee has partnered with the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation to ensure its sustainability for generations.

The Camp Tuckabatchee Charitable Fund at SRCCF will support much-needed building and property maintenance on its 210-acres of wooded hills and creek valleys north of Ottawa.

"For generations, the camp has been enriching the lives of children through nature experiences in a technology-free environment. For many campers it's the first time they experience trail hiking, canoeing, storytelling and campfire cooking," said SRCCF President Fran Brolley.

"We are honored to play a small role in helping secure the camp's future. However, with aging cabins, lodges, roads, and bridges in dire need of renovation, it faces significant challenges," Brolley said.

"Public support is needed to preserve this beloved institution," he added. "By giving generously, donors will ensure 'Camp Tuck's' rich traditions endure."

To contribute to the fund, visit <https://srccf.org/fund/camp-tuckabatchee-agent>.



Camp Tuckabatchee is partnering with the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation to help fund much-needed building and property maintenance. Left to right, are Camp Tuckabatchee Executive Director RJ Swett, Camp Tuckabatchee Board President Adrienne Pike and SRCCF President Fran Brolley. (Photo contributed)

cy-charitable-fund.

Established in 1927 as a Camp Fire Girls site, it transitioned to a boys and girls summer youth camp in the late 1980s.

Camp Tuckabatchee Board President Adrienne

Pike said funding for the camp, a nonprofit 501(c)3, comes from donations, camp fees, rentals and fundraising events such as Haunted Camp and Comedy Night. A year-long series of events

are being planned for its centennial celebration in 2027.

For information, contact Executive Director RJ Swett at rjcampstuck@gmail.com or (815) 433-2984. For SRCCF information, contact Brolley at (815) 252-2906 or fran@srccf.org.

Weeks to mark milestone birthday on March 27th

90th Birthday
Marilyn (Meuser) Weeks will be celebrating her 90th birthday in sunny Florida. Her birthday is Thursday, March 27. Anyone wanting to give her birthday wishes may send a card to Marilyn Weeks, 2206 Chaney Drive, #327, Ruskin, FL 33570.



Submarines down the Illinois River program planned by Mendota Historical Society

□ Event scheduled for Sunday, March 22

MENDOTA — For its first program of 2025, The Mendota Historical Society is thrilled to welcome historian and Navy veteran Joe Tokarz to give a presentation on a unique slice of World War II history. The presentation is scheduled for 1-3 p.m. Saturday, March 22.

Tokarz will be telling the story of submarines that came down the Illinois River on their way to war after their construction in a Wisconsin boat yard.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be reserved on the historical society website: mendotamuseums.org/programs/, by email at mmhsmuseum@yahoo.com or, by calling 815-539-3373.

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BRIDAL GUIDE

7 reasons to hire a wedding planner

The average cost of a wedding in 2023 in the United States came out to roughly \$30,000, according to a survey of 12,000 couples compiled by wedding planning site The Knot. The survey also found New Jersey and Massachusetts topped the list of most costly states to tie the knot.

When committing to as significant a financial investment as a wedding, couples may want to do all they can to ensure their big day is a hit. There are many advantages to hiring a professional wedding planner, who can take the stress out of a process that should be fun.

1. Serves as a sounding board: Wedding planners can take couples' ideas and turn them into reality. Seasoned planners know how to help a couple's vision come alive.
2. Lightens the responsibility load: A wedding planner takes time-consuming responsibilities off couples' plates. These can include scheduling appointments, dealing with vendors, conducting walk-throughs of locations, and more. This can be a big asset to couples who work full-time.
3. Offers a wealth of knowledge: A good wedding planner has years of experience handling weddings and will know which aspects will work and which may not. Also, a wedding planner can likely handle tasks expeditiously, while couples with no experience planning a



There are many advantages to hiring a professional wedding planner, who can take the stress out of a process that should be fun.

wedding may not work so quickly.

4. Helps couples save money: Knowledge and experience also comes with contacts in the industry that can help couples save money. The planner likely knows where to get the best deals, and may be privy to insider pricing and other discounts.
5. Serves as a buffer: While everyone wants weddings to be incident-free, conflicts can and do arise. A wedding planner can serve as a mediator or run interference between challenging family members or even vendors.
6. Reduces overall stress levels: There's a measurable difference between the stress

experienced by couples who don't hire wedding planners and those who do. The main goal of a wedding is for it to be memorable and for couples and their guests to enjoy themselves. By leaving the planning to someone else, couples can arrive at the big day feeling more relaxed and ready to have fun.

7. There is an extra person around: Wedding planners can field questions or handle tipping and other tasks on the wedding day, freeing up time for couples to have fun.

Wedding planners can provide support, expertise, company, and industry contacts to make weddings go smoothly.

The responsibilities of bridal party members

A couple's wedding day is one they will never forget. Guests' focus is squarely on the happy couple on the day they're set to make their union official. However, happy couples are not the only ones with important roles to play during a wedding.

Being asked to be in a bridal party is a unique honor. With that honor comes responsibility, as each person in a bridal party can do their own part to ensure a couple's wedding day is a success.

Maid or matron of honor

A maid of honor and matron of honor perform the same functions. The terms are simply unique because a maid of honor refers to a person who has not yet gotten married, while the term matron of honor is used for a person who has gotten married. Brides also may choose a man to serve as man of honor. Whatever title is appropriate, the person who serves in this capacity will help the bride plan the wedding, including being there to offer insight when shopping for a wedding dress. This person also may coordinate the bachelorette party and periodically speak with bridesmaids to ensure everyone is on schedule. The maid of honor will typically give a bridal toast during the reception.

Best man

Don't let the title fool you, as many couples now choose to have a best woman. Like the maid of honor, the best man may be asked to help with wedding planning and is typically tasked with organizing the bachelor party and toasting the groom during the reception. The best man also can help to ensure grooms-men are on schedule with tuxedo fittings.

Bridesmaids/Groomsmen

Bridesmaids stand beside the bride during the wedding ceremony. They can help with planning and help to resolve any last-minute issues that may arise on the big day, such as a vendor arriving late.

Groomsmen stand next to the groom during the ceremony and may be asked to help the best man plan the bachelor party. Both bridesmaids and groomsmen also may be asked to help host events leading up to the big day, such as a shower or engagement party.

Ring bearer/flower girl

The roles of ring bearer



and flower girl are typically filled by young relatives of the couple, such as nieces, nephews or young cousins. The flower girl walks down the aisle in advance of the bride, spreading pedals as she goes. The ring bearer carries the wedding rings down the aisle.

Parents

If they choose to do so, parents of the happy couple can help to pay for the wedding. The custom of the bride's parents paying the entire bill has largely fallen by the wayside, as many modern couples now pay for their own weddings. Parents can offer to pay for the engagement party and/or rehearsal dinner, but such generosity is not expected of them.

Serving in a wedding party is a unique and humbling

honor. The roles of each person in the party vary, and party members who want to do their best for the couple can study up on their responsibilities in advance of the big day.

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Saving for a wedding can be challenging. But various strategies can help couples plan their dream weddings without breaking the bank.

Savings strategies for weddings

The question was popped; the engagement ring presented. What's the next step on the road to the wedding? Saving should definitely be on couples' minds.

A wedding is likely the most costly party couples will ever throw. According to The Knot's Real Weddings Study, the average cost of a wedding is \$33,900. There are many different costs associated with weddings. Some are predictable, while others are unexpected.

Investopedia says the vast majority of couples budget too little for their weddings and also end up spending more than they had planned. Various strategies can make it easier to save for a wedding and avoid a post-wedding financial hangover.

Get informed

It's impossible to budget for a wedding and ultimately save without knowledge of what services and items cost in the region where you live. A wedding in New York City will be expensive, while a wedding in Mississippi will cost a lot less, indicates SuperMoney's guide to wedding costs.

Conduct some research and find out what photographers, florists, transportation providers, reception halls, and wedding wardrobe vendors charge for common ser-

vices. This will paint a vivid picture of what a wedding may cost in your area.

Flesh out the budget

Once you have gathered estimates, you can then figure out a financial goal. This also is when you can determine where to rein in spending and where you might want to splurge. If having a video memory of the wedding is not a top priority, you can skip videography services. If you have a special flower that you like, you may want to budget more for that bloom even if it isn't in season.

Set up a dedicated savings account

One of the easiest ways to save for big-ticket items like a wedding, home purchase or other financial goals is to use an automatic savings account that may be available through your bank or employer. An automatic savings plan will pull a set amount from a personal checking account into a savings account through auto-draft. The bride and groom can link individual checking accounts to one savings account to contribute jointly.

Avoid overspending

An analysis of your spending habits will likely reveal areas where you can scale back so you can devote more funds to wedding savings. Do you need a takeout coffee in the morning or can you brew a pot at home? Might you be able to scale back on streaming services? Do you feel comfortable buying less expensive store brand groceries over name brands? Small cost savings can quickly add up.

Add up gifts

Factor in deduction of expenses that other people will commit to covering for wedding expenses, but only if you have concrete confirmation. A parent may host the rehearsal dinner. One's relative may offer to pass down an antique wedding gown to wear. But rather than simply removing these gifts from your savings calculations, keep them as a safety net to put toward unforeseen expenses.

Saving for a wedding can be challenging. But various strategies can help couples plan their dream weddings without breaking the bank.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Ashley N. Willoughby, 34, of 414 13th Ave. Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to the report of a disturbance in the 400 block of 13th Avenue at 2:04 a.m. Feb. 5. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

Bart W. Larsen, 54, of 309 Fourth Ave., Mendota, was arrested at 12:30 a.m. Feb. 6 on a Lee County warrant for failure to appear/trespassing. Larsen was transported to the Lee County jail to appear before a judge.

**MPD: Always
secure your
property**

MENDOTA – Help prevent yourself from being the victim of a burglary or theft. The Mendota Police Department would like to remind all citizens to secure their property. Always lock your vehicle when it's parked outside. Lock the doors to your home, garage and sheds even while you are home. Don't let yourself become a victim by being an easy target.

SPRINGFIELD - Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) are encouraging eligible Illinoisans to take advantage of savings offered by tax credits when filing their 2024 income tax returns this year.

"Depending on circumstances, taxpayers may be able to reduce the amount of taxes owed or receive larger refunds through tax credits," explained Illinois Department of Revenue Director David Harris. "I urge all taxpayers to double-check their eligibility status and take advantage of these benefits when filing their tax returns this year."

The Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a benefit for working people with low to moderate income. To claim an Illinois EITC for tax year 2024 (tax returns due in 2025), taxpayers must file an Illinois income tax return, even if they do not owe any tax and are not required to file and

- Have worked and earned income under \$66,819 (income amount is dependent upon filing status and number of qualifying children),
- Have investment income below \$11,600,
- Have a valid Social Security number (SSN) or

IRS-issued Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) by the due date of the 2024 return (including extensions).

- Are at least age 18 by the end of 2024. Note: This includes taxpayers ages 18-24 and 65 and older without a qualifying child,
- Are a U.S. citizen or a resident alien all year

Taxpayers eligible for the federal EITC automatically qualify for the Illinois EITC. Despite that, in tax year 2022 (the most recent IRS data available), approximately 8,274 taxpayers claimed the federal EITC but did not claim their Illinois EITC. This resulted in over \$4 million in unclaimed EITC in Illinois.

The Illinois Child Tax Credit (CTC) is a new tax credit for the 2024 tax year for taxpayers who qualify for the Illinois EITC and have at least one child that is their dependent and under the age of 12 years old. The credit is calculated this year as 20% of the Illinois EITC. For tax year 2025, the Child Tax Credit will increase to 40% of the Illinois EITC.

The Volunteer Emergency Worker Credit (VEW) is available to volunteer fire service emergency workers that applied, qualified, and

were awarded the credit – on a first come, first-served basis. The credit was expanded this year to include volunteers with county or municipal emergency services and disaster agencies. NOTE: Taxpayers must have a Voluntary Emergency Worker Credit Certificate to claim this credit. To obtain a certificate, taxpayers may visit MyTax Illinois, and scroll down to “Inquiries for Individuals” and select “Voluntary Emergency Worker Application.”

The Education Expense Credit allows parents or legal guardians of a full-time K-12 student under the age of 21, to take a 25% tax credit on qualified education expenses over \$250. The total credit may not exceed \$750, regardless of the number of qualifying students. Qualified educational expenses include tuition, book rental, and lab fees in excess of \$250 paid to the school where the student is enrolled on a full-time basis. For home schooled students - book rental and lab fees greater than \$250 are eligible when attending a qualified home school program.

The Illinois Property Tax Credit is a credit on an individual's income tax return.

equal to 5 percent of Illinois property tax (real estate tax) paid on a principal residence. A taxpayer must own and reside in his or her residence in order to take this credit.

For additional information regarding any of these tax benefits, taxpayers may visit <https://tax.illinois.gov/individuals/credits>.

IDOR's taxpayer assistance numbers are available for tax-related inquiries and include automated menus allowing taxpayers to check the status of a refund, identify an IL-PIN, or receive estimated payment information without having to wait for an agent. To receive assistance taxpayers may call 1-800-732-8866 or 217-782-3336. Free language assistance for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals is available. For additional information, forms, schedules, and instructions for the 2025 tax season, taxpayers may visit IDOR's website at tax.illinois.gov.

Winter driving safety tips

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

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

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

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A large, bright yellow smiley face with a thick orange border. It has a single large black eye on the right side and a simple black curved line for a smile. The left eye is represented by a small black arc, suggesting a wink. The smiley face is centered in the upper half of the advertisement.

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The logo for 'The Mendota Reporter' features a detailed black and white illustration of an eagle with its wings spread, perched on a branch. Below the eagle, the words 'The Mendota Reporter' are written in a red, stylized serif font. The word 'Mendota' is slightly smaller and positioned between 'The' and 'Reporter'.

SPORTS

Trojans qualify four wrestlers for Oregon Sectional

Two others advance as alternates

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

PERU—For the first time in some time, the Mendota wrestling team is sending four wrestlers to the sectional after advancing out of the IHSA Class 1A St. Bede Regional on Feb. 8.

Senior Angil Serrano finished second in the 285-weight class, freshman Komen Denault was third at 132, junior Gavin Evans earned third at 157, and junior 175-pounder Corbin Furar also took third.

Not only did those four advance to the Class 1A Oregon Sectional set for Feb. 14-15, but Mendota also has hopefuls in fourth-place finishers and sectional alternates, sophomore 120-pounder Gavin Stevenson and Rhett Watson, a senior at 165.

“We haven’t had four wrestlers advance to the sectional in quite a while,” said Mendota wrestling coach Dale Meyers. “We had success in 2017 and 2018 sending three to the sectional both years, but we haven’t had that many until now. I think all of my guys worked really hard this year. They wrestled very well and competed.”

Mendota finished sixth in the team results with 85 points. Sandwich won the regional with 209.5 points, while Princeton was second with 176.5, Marquette was third with 134.5, St. Bede scored 104.5 for fourth, and Amboy notched fifth with 93.5.

Serrano (23-9) won his first two matches by fall over Putnam County-Hall’s James Irwin and St. Bede’s Grady

Gillan before dropping the first-place match via a 10-3 decision to Princeton senior Cade Odell.

“This is the first time Angil wrested a full season in his high school career. He battled weight issues the last three seasons,” Meyers said. “He got a lot more experience this season. He got a little tougher on his feet. He’s made it to the sectional all four years now and hopefully he can make it to state for the first time.”

Denault (27-16) earned his third-place finish with a quarterfinal bye, a semifinal loss, and two pinfall victories in the consolation semifinal (1:36 over St. Bede’s Maks Niedzwiedz) and the third-place match (3:41) against Somonauk’s Owen Haggerty.

Meyers, who coached Denault’s father Kye throughout high school, said the freshman had club experience coming into the season and he built on to his craft along the way to the regional.

Evans (24-19), who transferred to Mendota as a freshman from the Chicago suburbs showed why he is a team leader during his third-place performance with a major decision in the quarterfinal, a pinfall victory in the consolation semifinals, and a major decision, 11-0, in the third-place match over Lisle’s Ibraheem Harb.

“He’s been with the team for the last three years. He’s very dedicated,” Meyers said. “When you tell him to do something, he goes and does it. He’s one of the captains of the team and he’s a workaholic.”

Furar (24-8) lost a semifinal match but bounced

“We haven’t had four wrestlers advance to the sectional in quite a while. We had success in 2017 and 2018 sending three to the sectional both years, but we haven’t had that many until now. I think all of my guys worked really hard this year. They wrestled very well and competed.”
—Coach Dale Meyers

back with a 1:50 pinfall victory over St. Bede’s Jack Maschmann.

“He’s naturally strong. He came out of the Mendota Mat Masters program. He missed two years because of COVID-19, but he’s come along real well. He’s one of my captains. He knows where his body is at, which makes a big difference.”

Finishing their seasons at St. Bede were Trayvon Rucker (14-13) at 138-pounds, Cole Kleckner (20-21) at 144, Zach Schmidt (2-10) at 190, and Reese Lane (14-17) at 215.

Now the Trojans strap their singlets for some of their toughest competition of the season.

“Most of the models for the IHSA State Tournament come from the Oregon Sectional,” Meyers said. “You might as well call it the state tournament because it is one of the toughest sectionals in the state. We get some top-ranked teams in there including Lena-Winslow, Stockton, Byron, and Oregon. It’s stacked with some of the best wrestlers in the state.

“You have to win your first two matches in Oregon to make life easier. If not, it’s a long way back. I’m hoping the guys believe in themselves. From here, it’s all mental. You have the tools, you just have to have the mental attitude to keep going, keep fighting.”



Mendota’s Angil Serrano, right, advanced out of the IHSA Class 1A St. Bede Regional with a second-place finish. A semifinal pinfall victory over St. Bede’s Grady Gillan, above, propelled the 285-pound senior into the first-place match. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



Gavin Stevenson, top, had lost to Amboy’s Ty Florschuetz four times in the regular season. The Mendota 120-pound sophomore made sure he took the win in a consolation semifinal at the IHSA Class 1A St. Bede Regional on Feb. 8. Stevenson is an alternate for the Class 1A Oregon Sectional on Feb. 14-15. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



Mendota’s Johan Cortez drives to the basket between Princeton defenders Jackson Mason, left, and Noah LaPorte during a Three Rivers Conference game on Feb. 7 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

Trojans rally past Hall; Princeton hands MHS first conference loss

Beating a team three times in a season is a difficult proposition. It’s even more of a challenge when the twice-beaten squad has its best player on the floor.

That was the task facing Mendota-handing Princeton a loss for the third time this season, but having to accomplish the feat with Tiger star Noah LaPorte back on the court after having missed the first two meetings between the teams in December with an injury.

As it turned out, the Trojans did not defeat Princeton for the third time, and LaPorte proved to be the difference-maker. After a slow start in the first half, the senior standout took matters into his own hands in the second half as the Tigers ran away with a 62-38 victory over Mendota in a Three Rivers Conference contest on Feb. 7 at the MHS gym.

The loss was Mendota’s first in the conference in eight games and made its overall record 17-8. The Trojans can win the conference title by defeating Kewanee and Erie in their final two league games.

Mendota and Princeton played to a 13-13 tie after the first eight-minute session, and they traded baskets to

start the second period to make it 15-15. But the pendulum swung to Princeton in a big way after that as it scored 15 of the next 19 points to forge ahead 30-19 late in the first half. Mendota managed to cut the deficit under double digits with the final two points of the half.

Jordan Reinhardt sparked the first-half surge by Princeton with 13 points, while LaPorte managed only five markers. The two Tigers then switched roles in the second half, as Reinhardt turned the offensive show over to LaPorte, who blasted off with 18 points over the final two

frames, including 12 in the fourth quarter.

Princeton scored the first five points of the third period on a three-pointer by Jayden Fulkerson and a basket by LaPorte to make it 35-21. A Cam Kelly three-pointer got the Trojans on the board in the second half, followed by a pair of rebound baskets by Cole Tillman to cut the deficit to seven (35-28). A conventional three-point play by Princeton’s Jackson Mason halted Mendota’s 7-0

See Trojans, Page B2

MENDOTA 50, HALL 47				
Mendota (50)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Tillman	5	4-7	2	14
Kelly	6	0-0	3	13
A. Tillman	1	0-0	2	3
Freeman	1	4-6	3	6
Doyle	1	1-2	1	3
A. Beetz	1	0-0	1	2
Becker	3	2-3	2	9
Totals	18	11-18	14	50

Hall (47)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Bickett	7	1-1	4	18
Plym	1	0-0	0	3
Bryant	2	1-2	1	6
Jablonski	3	0-1	4	6
Sterling	1	2-2	2	4
B. Curran	4	1-2	3	10
Totals	18	5-8	14	47

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	13	21	39	50
Hall	16	33	40	47
Three-point goals: Mendota - Kelly 1, A. Tillman 1, Becker 1; Hall - Bickett 3, Plym 1, Bryant 1, B. Curran 1				

PRINCETON 62, MENDOTA 38				
Princeton (62)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Fulkerson	3	0-0	1	8
Lanham	1	0-0	0	2
Gartin	3	0-0	2	6
Mason	2	1-1	1	6
LaPorte	10	2-3	1	23
Reinhardt	5	0-0	0	13
Borsch	1	0-0	0	2
Smith	1	0-0	2	2
Totals	26	3-4	7	62

Mendota (38)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Tillman	4	1-2	4	9
Kelly	3	1-3	0	8
A. Tillman	2	2-2	1	6
Freeman	3	1-2	1	8
A. Beetz	0	0-0	1	0
Cortez	2	0-0	0	5
Becker	1	0-0	1	2
Totals	15	5-9	8	38

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Princeton	13	30	42	62
Mendota	13	21	32	38
Three-point goals: Mendota - Kelly 1, Freeman 1, Cortez 1; Princeton - Fulkerson 2, Mason 1, LaPorte 1, Reinhardt 3				

Season ends for Mendota girls' bowlers

DIXON- The Mendota girls’ bowling team had its season come to a close after competing in the Dixon Regional on Feb. 7 at the Plum Hollow Family Center in Dixon.

Four girls participated for the Lady Trojans. Lauren Holland had the high series among the Mendota bowlers with a 1016. She

rolled games of 195, 137, 147, 157, 179 and 201.

Ashlynn Rickels had a 764 series with games of 145, 115, 139, 133, 105 and 127. Madison Sproston finished with a 685 series (102, 106, 108, 135, 91, 143), while McKenzie Sproston had a six-game total of 600 (96, 133, 90, 103, 78, 100).

Diem Beach of Freeport was the overall individual champion with a 1293 score.

The top four teams advancing to the Oregon Sectional include regional champion LaSalle-Peru with a score of 5648, Sterling at 5260, Freeport with a 5240 and Moline at 5123.



Mendota’s Aden Tillman and Princeton’s Jackson Mason battle for a rebound on Feb. 7 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

SPORTS

Trojans

Continued from Page B1

run and sent Cole Tillman to the bench with his fourth foul. A pair of LaPorte baskets sandwiched around a three-pointer by Mendota's Johan Cortez allowed the Tigers to carry a 38-28 advantage into the final period. Princeton put the game away early in the fourth when LaPorte scored the first seven points of the frame followed by a Fulkerson hoop to increase the margin to 51-32 with 5:29 left to play. The Trojans managed only six points in the fourth quarter. Cole Tillman was the high scorer for Mendota with nine points, while Kelly and Braiden Freeman had eight apiece. LaPorte, who is headed to Northwestern University in the fall to play football, finished with 23 tallies.

A furious second-half comeback propelled Mendota to a 50-47 win over Hall in a Three Rivers Conference varsity boys' basketball

game on Feb. 4 at Spring Valley.

The Trojans, who were down 16-13 after the first quarter, fell behind by as many as 14 points (33-19) in the second period before Hall took a 33-21 lead to the locker room.

The tide turned in the second half as Mendota outscored the Red Devils, 29-14. The rally began in the third quarter when the Trojans tallied 18 points and held Hall to seven. Mendota finally climbed even with Hall at 38-38 when Drew Becker converted a conventional three-point play.

Kelly dropped in seven third-quarter points and Mendota connected on seven of nine free throws.

Hall carried a narrow 40-39 advantage to the fourth quarter, but again managed only seven points while Mendota scored 11 to pull out the victory.

Cole Tillman had 14 points to pace the Trojans, while Kelly hit double-digits with 13 and Becker provided nine.

JV cagers win over Princeton

Mendota put together a solid second half to post a 47-39 triumph over Princeton in a Three Rivers Conference junior varsity boys' basketball game on Feb. 7 at the MHS gym. The Trojans improved their records to 15-9 overall and 5-3 in league play.

Mendota held a 10-9 lead after the first quarter and Princeton took a 16-15 advantage at intermission. Then the Trojans dominated the second half, scoring 20 points in the third quarter to forge in front, 35-24. Cayden Taliani scored eight points in the frame. He and Carter Wujek each knocked down a pair of three-pointers in the third period.

Mendota had a balanced scoring attack, led by Wujek with 14 points. He ended with three field goals from three-point land. Taliani and Drew Becker supplied 10 points apiece, while Cesar Casas chipped in with nine markers.

Mendota's junior varsity squad was beaten by Hall, 50-42, in a league contest on Feb. 4 at Spring Valley.

MHS girls in Princeton Regional; to open at Sandwich February 15

PRINCETON – The Mendota Lady Trojans will compete in the Princeton Class 2A Girls' Regional Basketball Tournament to be played Feb. 15, 18, 20.

Mendota will open with a play-in game at Sandwich on Saturday, Feb. 15. Tip time is 1 p.m. The winner of that game will advance to the semifinals to face Princeton at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18 at Prouty Gym in Princeton. The other semifinal-round game will pit the winner of the Somonauk-Bureau Valley play-in game against top-seeded Rock Island Alleman at 6 p.m. Feb. 18.

The regional championship game is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.

The winner of the Princeton Regional will move on to the Rock Falls Sectional

to face the winner of the Aurora Central Catholic Regional on Tuesday, Feb. 25. The other sectional contest will be between champions of the Stillman Valley and Erie regionals.

Princeton Class 2A Girls'

Regional Basketball Tournament

Saturday, Feb. 15

1 – (8) Somonauk [Coop] at (7) Manlius (Bureau Valley) – 3 p.m.

2 – (12) Mendota at (6) Sandwich – 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

3 – (1) Rock Island (Alleman) vs. Winner Game 1 – 6 p.m.

4 – (4) Princeton vs. Winner Game 2 – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 20

5 – Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4 – 7 p.m. (championship)

Lady Trojans fall to Rochelle, Erie-P.

Rochelle had a huge third quarter and glided past Mendota, 57-28, in a non-conference varsity girls' basketball game on Feb. 3 at the MHS gym.

Rochelle doubled up the Lady Trojans, 16-8, in the first quarter. Mendota hung tough in the second period and only trailed by 10 (27-17) at halftime.

The third quarter was the difference-maker as the Lady Hubs erupted for 28 points to take a commanding 55-24 advantage heading to the fourth frame.

"I thought we played really well in the first half, but just didn't finish as well as we'd like," said Mendota coach John Hansen. "The third quarter was the killer. We got smoked on the glass and let Rochelle loose for some three-pointers."

Ava Eddy led Mendota with six points and six rebounds, while Ella Coss also provided six markers. Kennedy Knaff helped out with five points and five rebounds.

Erie-Prophetstown outlasted Mendota, 34-27, in Three Rivers Conference action on Feb. 6 at the MHS gym.

Erie-P. built a 10-4 lead after opening stanza and was able to maintain the lead the rest of the way. The visitors were up 15-9 at halftime and 25-17 entering the fourth quarter.

"Erie had a 10-2 run in the first quarter and we basically traded buckets with them after that," said Hansen. "Our defense was solid overall, but we didn't shoot well enough again."

Mendota (3-23, 0-9) con-

ERIE-P. 34, MENDOTA 27

Erie-Prophetstown (34)

	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Huisman	2	3-6	3	7
Brown	0	0-0	3	0
Johnson	2	1-2	1	6
Abbott	4	4-4	1	14
Grawe	1	0-0	1	2
Johnston	0	0-0	2	0
Misfelst	1	1-2	0	3
Jensen	1	0-0	1	2
Slock	0	0-0	1	0
Klendwort	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	11	9-14	14	34

Mendota (28)

	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	2	3-5	3	8
Garcia	2	0-2	2	4
Knaff	1	0-0	4	2
Coss	2	0-0	3	5
Denault	0	0-2	3	0
Martin	0	0-4	1	0
Gonzalez	3	2-4	5	8
Totals	10	5-17	21	27

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Erie-P.	10	15	25	34
Mendota	4	9	17	27
Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 1, Coss 1; Erie-P. - Johnson 1, Abbott 2				

connected on just 10 of 55 field goal attempts and was five of 17 from the free throw line.

Eddy and Gonzalez had eight points apiece for the Lady Trojans. Gonzalez paced the club with five rebounds, Crystal Garcia had four assists and four steals, and Laylie Denault swiped four steals.

ROCHELLE 57, MENDOTA 28

Rochelle (57)

	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Bright	3	0-0	2	8
Ceserone	1	0-0	3	2
Rodriguez	5	1-2	3	11
Kissack	0	1-2	1	1
Metzger	3	2-2	0	8
Dickey	2	0-0	2	5
Darby	5	8-8	1	19
Doyle	1	0-2	0	2
Bozinovich	0	1-2	0	1
Totals	20	13-18	12	57

Mendota (28)

	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Eddy	2	1-2	6	6
Garcia	2	0-2	1	4
Knaff	2	0-0	5	5
Coss	2	1-2	2	6
Denault	1	0-0	4	2
Martin	0	0-0	1	0
Gonzalez	0	1-2	1	1
Baxa	0	2-3	1	2
Freeman	1	0-0	0	2
Elam	0	0-0	2	0
Sondgeroth	0	0-0	2	0
Diaz	0	0-0	1	0
Strouss	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	10	5-11	27	28

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Rochelle	16	27	55	57
Mendota	8	17	24	28
Three-point goals: Mendota - Eddy 1, Knaff 1, Coss 1; Rochelle - Bright 2, Dickey 1, Darby 1				

BOWLING

Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Jan. 29 – 1. Black Brothers 17-7; 2. O'Donnell Excavating 14-10; 3. Man On! 12-12; 4. Novak Farms 11-13; 5. Maybe Next Week 9.5-14.5; 6. First State Bank 8.5-15.5

High team game (scratch) – Man On! 1132, Novak Farms 953, First State Bank 916

High team game (hdcp) – Man On! 1285, Novak Farm 1210, First State Bank 1188

High team series (scratch) – Man On! 3149, O'Donnell Excavating 2655, Novak Farms 2604

High team series (hdcp) – Man On! 3608, Novak Farms 3375, First State Bank 3360

High individual game (scratch) – Nate Bradford 270, Tim Dessing 255, Mike Smith 254

High individual game (hdcp) – Tim Dessing 285, Nate Bradford 284, Mike Smith 284

High individual series (scratch) – Nate Bradford 733, Mike Smith 661, Drake O'Donnell 652

High individual series (hdcp) – Nate Bradford 775, Mike Smith 751, Mark Wixom 747

Elks 9

Youth League

Standings as of Feb. 1 – 1. Team 4 27-9; 2. Team 1 19-17; 3. Team 3 15-21; 4. Team 2 10-26

High team game (scratch) – Team 4 329, Team 1 275, Team 3 251

High team game (hdcp) – Team 4 656, Team 1 629, Team 2 603

High team series (scratch) – Team 4 929, Team 1 740, Team 3 719

High team series (hdcp) – Team 4 1907, Team 1 1802, Team 2 1782

Boys' high game (scratch) – Graham Phillips 127, Jaxon Stamberger 126, Michael Eames 108

Boys' high game (hdcp)

– Jaxon Stamberger 235, Graham Phillips 232, Henry Schoepf 223

Boys' high series (scratch) – Jaxon Stamberger 333, Graham Phillips 310, Michael Eames 283

Boys' high series (hdcp) – Jaxon Stamberger 660, Henry Schoepf 642, Graham Phillips 625

Girls' high game (scratch) – Lainey Ramer 111, Grace Piskie 99, Brooklyn Bejster 88

Girls' high game (hdcp) – Lainey Ramer 226, Grace Piskie 211, Addyson Fahr 206

Girls' high series (scratch) – Lainey Ramer 274, Grace Piskie 263, Brooklyn Bejster 248

Girls' high series (hdcp) – Lainey Ramer 619, Addyson Fahr 608, Grace Piskie 599

Elks 11

Youth League

Standings as of Feb. 1 – 1. Team 1 26-10; 2. Team 4 23-13; 3. Team 2 17-19; 4. Team 3 6-30

High team game (scratch) – Team 4 378, Team 1 311, Team 2 262

High team game (hdcp) – Team 4 634, Team 1 620, Team 3 600

High team series (scratch) – Team 4 1080, Team 1 871, Team 2 774

High team series (hdcp) – Team 4 1848, Team 1 1798, Team 3 1738

Boys' high game (scratch) – Parker Ramer 150, Jaxen Daley 144, Billy Bromenschenkel 130

Boys' high game (hdcp) – Jaxen Daley 248, Billy Bromenschenkel 241, Cooper Klein 220

Boys' high series (scratch) – Parker Ramer 435, Billy Bromenschenkel 331, Jaxen Daley 330

Boys' high series (hdcp) – Billy Bromenschenkel 664, Jaxen Daley 642, Gavin Stamberger 608

Girls' high game (scratch) – Eliana Eames 112, Catherine Moench 111

Girls' high game (hdcp)

– Eliana Eames 212, Catherine Moench 187

Girls' high series (scratch) – Catherine Moench 317, Eliana Eames 304

Girls' high series (hdcp) – Eliana Eames 604, Catherine Moench 545

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Feb. 3 – 1. The Struggle is Real 25.5-9.5; 2. Bad Kats 25-10; 3. CM Farm 16-19; 4. Ramer Inc. 15-20; 5. Leagal Beagles 13.5-21.5; 6. Split Happens 9-26

High team game (scratch) – Split Happens 711, Leagal Beagles 697, Ramer Inc. 692

High team game (hdcp) – Leagal Beagles 980, The Struggle is Real 959, Ramer Inc. 959

High team series (scratch) – Split Happens 2036, Leagal Beagles 2009, Ramer Inc. 2001

High team series (hdcp) – Leagal Beagles 2858, Ramer Inc. 2793, The Struggle is Real 2769

Men's high game (scratch) – Matt Ramer 237, Ron Westphal 235, Bob Thomas 220

Men's high game (hdcp) – Ron Westphal 299, Bob Thomas 282, Matt Ramer 261

Men's high series (scratch) – Matt Ramer 694, Ron Westphal 643, Mike Smith 605

Men's high series (hdcp) – Ron Westphal 835, Matt Ramer 766, Bob Thomas 742

Women's high game (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 205, Emily Thomas 202, Gail Sessler 195

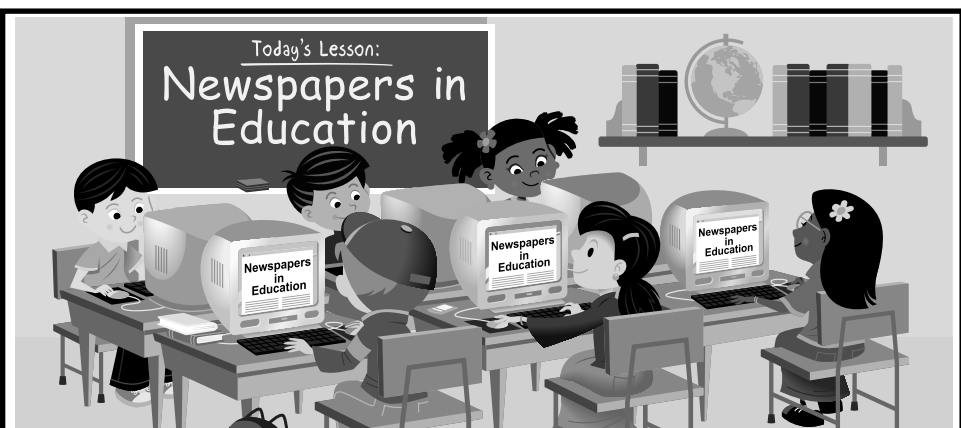
Women's high game (hdcp) – Kim Smith 257, Jessica Robinson 256, Stephanie Ramer 253

Women's high series (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 544, Emily Thomas 533, Drian Kuntz 475

Women's high series (hdcp) – Kim Smith 731, Stephanie Ramer 711, Drian Kuntz 700



Mendota's Cole Tillman puts up a finger-roll shot during basketball action against Princeton on Feb. 7 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)



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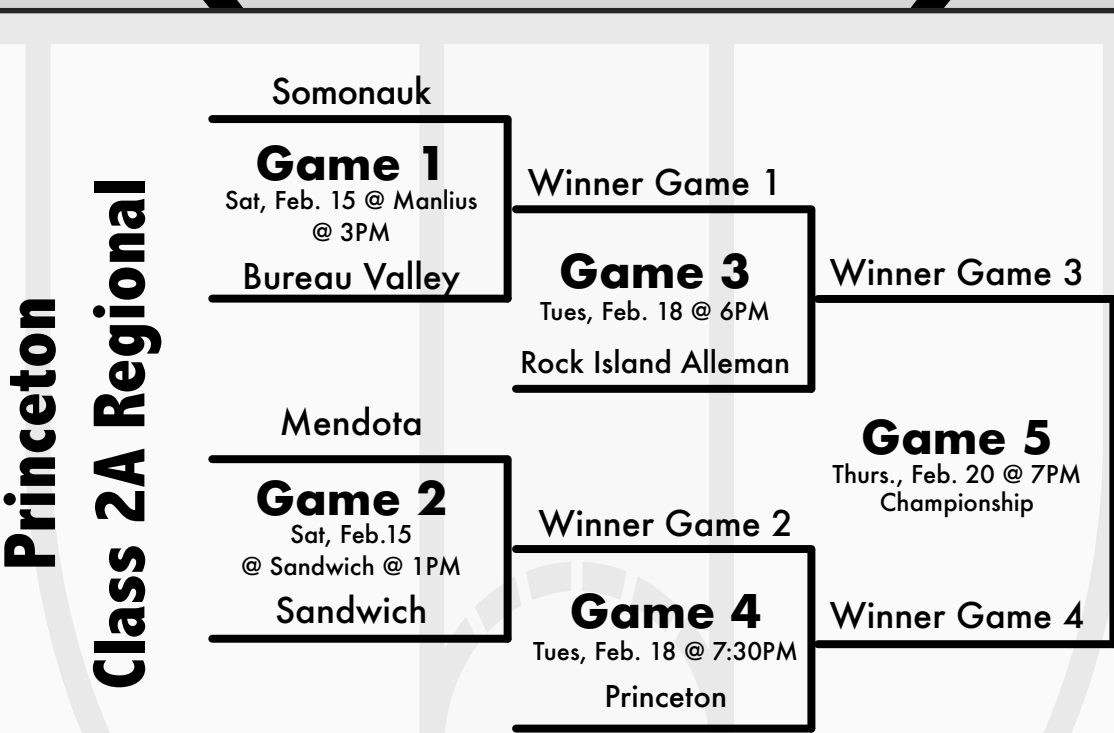
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Go Lady Trojans! Good Luck Down the Tournament Trail!



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RELIGION

The simple key to a healthier mind

Having an “attitude of gratitude” is vitally important in cultivating a healthy mindset in everyday life. I like to purposely take time to count my blessings and think about the goodness of God in my life. In fact, I keep a book of remembrance of special things God has done for me over the years to remind me of His goodness.

It’s easy sometimes to forget about all of the good things God has done for us, and this becomes a problem when we focus too much on what we don’t have and not enough on what we do have. Living with this negative mindset is dangerous because it leads us down the road of grumbling, complaining, and fault-finding.

A good example of this is the story of the Israelites and their 40 years journeying through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land God had for them. Now, it could have been an 11-day journey, but it took much longer because of their unhealthy mindsets.

God had done so many good things for them, such as delivering them from slavery in Egypt and miraculously parting the Red Sea so they could escape Pharaoh’s army. But they didn’t focus on what they should be thankful for, and when things were not going the way they wanted, they quickly became impatient and murmured and complained (Exodus Chapters 14-16).

It’s so easy to complain when our circumstances aren’t exactly what we want them to be—it’s what comes naturally if we don’t pay attention to what we’re thinking about. There are things that happen every day that we can murmur about, but they really aren’t worth the effort it takes to get upset and gripe about them.

We need to diligently resist the temptation to be negative because it can damage our relationship with God, our relationships with other people, and even our relationship with ourselves.

Philippians 2:14 (AMPC) clearly tells us, “Do all things without grumbling and fault-finding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves].”

Whenever you’re tempted to complain, just think how much better it would be to remain thankful and say, “God, I remember the good things You’ve done for me and I’m thankful for the breakthrough that I know is on the way.” It’s that mindset and attitude that will keep you moving forward, toward the good things God has in store.

Colossians 3:1-2 (NIV) says, “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things



above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

These verses direct us to get our mind on what is really important, rather than wasting our time thinking about things we can’t control or that don’t really matter. I firmly believe in setting my mind and keeping it set on God and His plan for my life every day.

It takes time and practice to develop a habit of right thinking. One of the ways I’ve found to interrupt wrong thinking and set my mind in the right direction is by saying something that the Bible says.

Many years ago, I was extremely negative. It seemed that if I thought two positive thoughts in a row, my mind would get in a cramp! But as I spent time in God’s Word, my mindset began to change, and instead of focusing on the negative, I found myself focusing on more positive things, like the promises God

had for me.

When you spend time studying the Word, renewing your mind with the truth, you can have a more peaceful, joyful, and positive life. As this new way of thinking gradually renews your mind, it will dilute the old thinking and transform your mindset and attitudes.

I want to encourage you to begin developing this habit of right thinking. Start your day by asking for God’s help. Even if you only have a few minutes, take some time each day to renew your mind with truth in His Word.

Psalms 100:4 (NIV) says, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.” So make it your goal each day to have an attitude of gratitude. Praise and thank God for who He is and all He’s done for you. By God’s grace, you can overcome complaining and live with a thankful heart.

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-part teaching resource Right and Wrong Mindsets. 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 (Faith Words). 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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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I really enjoyed the first two seasons of “The Recruit” on Netflix. It’s hard to tell if there will be a third one. Will there be? -- *K.W.*



Centineo

A: It’s too soon to tell, but after the first season of the spy-adventure series “The Recruit” debuted on Netflix, it was a big streaming success. The series stars Noah Centineo (“The Fosters”) as a rookie CIA lawyer. His first assignment involved Russia, but the second season that premiered on Jan. 30 led him to Seoul, South Korea, where he’s assigned to rescue the wife of a rogue NIS agent (Teo Yoo).

Showrunner Alexi Hawley, whose previous producing credits include “The Rookie,” views Centineo’s character, Owen, as “flawed, young and selfish.” Hawley further explains that “even though Owen had no business getting involved [in the Korean assignment] in the first place, this presented an opportunity for him to prove his worth -- not only to the CIA but to everyone

he disappointed last season, including himself.” The creative team really wanted to see him grow up this second time around and show that it’s “not all fun and games -- people get killed.”

As far as a season three renewal, the show’s fate isn’t known yet. According to Forbes, Netflix typically analyzes a show’s performance over several weeks to months before deciding. Unfortunately, the streamer has also developed a reputation for canceling shows too quickly after just one or two seasons, but hopefully with its strong initial numbers, “The Recruit” will be given the green light.

Q: When is the new “Outlander” spin-off coming out? Will it also be on Starz or somewhere else? -- *D.P.*

A: “Outlander: Blood of My Blood” is a prequel series to “Outlander,” which recently wrapped up its seventh season (the eighth will be its last) on Starz. The prequel will have 10 episodes in its debut season, but it won’t premiere until this summer. It did, however, drop a teaser just ahead of the “Outlander” finale a couple weeks ago.

According to Entertain-

ment Weekly, “Blood of My Blood” will tell the story of the parents of Jamie (Sam Heughan) and Claire (Caitriona Balfe), as well as their respective love stories in both 18th-century Scotland and World War I-era England. Matthew B. Roberts, one of the co-show-runners behind “Outlander,” will write and preside over the new series.

Q: What ever happened to Paula Patton? I remember she was married to Robin Thicke, but wasn’t she also an actress? -- *M.M.*

A: Paula Patton divorced her pop-star husband and high-school sweetheart Robin Thicke in 2015 and appears to be living a peaceful life if you follow her Instagram account. The terms of their divorce settlement are private, but she still does acting jobs to exercise her creativity and supplement her income.

Patton most recently guest-starred on the new drama “Murder in a Small Town,” but before this, she starred in the BET+ original series “Sacrifice” as well as “Somewhere Between” on ABC. She and Thicke share a 14-year-old son named Julian.

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Robert De Niro, now 81, never rests on his laurels, and what laurels they are: two Oscars, a Golden Globe, four Emmys, an AFI Lifetime Achievement Award, the Kennedy Center Honors, the Cecil B. DeMille Award, the Screen Actors Guild Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom! He also has three exciting films that are ready for release.

In the crime drama “The Alto Knights,” due on March 21, he plays a dual role of two 1950s crime bosses Vito Genovese and Frank Costello, with Debra Messing co-starring. Then De Niro stars opposite Jamie Foxx, Scott Eastwood, John Leguizamo and Rita Ora in the action thriller “Tin Soldier.” He’ll follow this with Netflix’s political-thriller series “Zero Day,” which also stars Jesse Plemons, Dan Allen, Connie Britton, Dan Stevens and Angela Bassett.

It was a funny thing when our two greatest actors, De Niro and Meryl Streep, made a movie together called “Fall-

ing in Love” (1984), along with Dianne Wiest, David Clennon, Jane Kaczmarek and Harvey Keitel. It cost \$12 million but only grossed \$11.1 million. It received 54% on Rotten Tomatoes based on 13 reviews. Their consolation? Streep and De Niro respectively won an Italian Oscar for Best Foreign Actress and Actor. I think it’s time for a rematch!

Ryan Gosling may be joining the “Star Wars” universe because “Deadpool & Wolverine” director Sean Levy wants him to! And judging from the \$1.33 billion grosses of “Deadpool & Wolverine,” Levy can probably have anything he wants. Disney’s been looking for new ways to invigorate their “Star Wars” franchise, and this untitled film that Levy has worked on for two years with Jonathan Tropper is the answer that they’ve been hoping for. Nevertheless, we won’t see it until it opens on Dec. 17, 2027.

Gosling’s next film is the epic sci-fi film “Project Hail Mary” with award-winning German actress Sandra

Hüller, and it is due sometime in March 2026.

What’s more glamorous than a movie premiere? (Except maybe the Academy Awards!) Red carpets, bright lights, screaming fans, and flashes illuminating the stars in their couture gowns and tuxedos as they arrive to thunderous applause! In London, they take their premieres very seriously, and on occasion, their royals even attend the festivities. So, imagine the shock when Timothée Chalamet pulled up to the London premiere of his Bob Dylan biopic not in a limo but on a Lime electric bicycle that he rented for the occasion.

While some fans went wild, others were shocked and dismayed, and the City of London Police reacted by giving him a \$79 fine (65 pounds) for not parking his bike properly. Sadly, his stunt only took the movie’s United Kingdom grosses to \$3.2 million, while the United States grosses were \$60 million against its \$50-\$70 million cost. There are many disadvantages to being “A Complete Unknown!”

• Trivia Test •

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the highest mountain in Canada?
2. TELEVISION: Who is the host of the long-running reality series “Survivor”?
3. LITERATURE: Which animals represent the Communist Party in “Animal Farm”?
4. U.S. STATES: Which state is the birthplace of the singer Elvis?
5. ASTRONOMY: How long does it take the moon to orbit the Earth?
6. MOVIES: What is the score Elle receives on her law school admission test in “Legally Blonde”?
7. AD SLOGANS: Which product’s slogan is “Is It In You?”?
8. LANGUAGE: What is an eraser called in the United Kingdom?
9. SCIENCE: What are the four primary precious metals?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Valentine’s Day arose from which Roman ritual?

Answers

1. Mount Logan.
 2. Jeff Probst.
 3. Pigs.
 4. Mississippi.
 5. 27.3 days.
 6. 179.
 7. Gatorade.
 8. A rubber.
 9. Gold, silver, platinum and palladium.
 10. Lupercalia.
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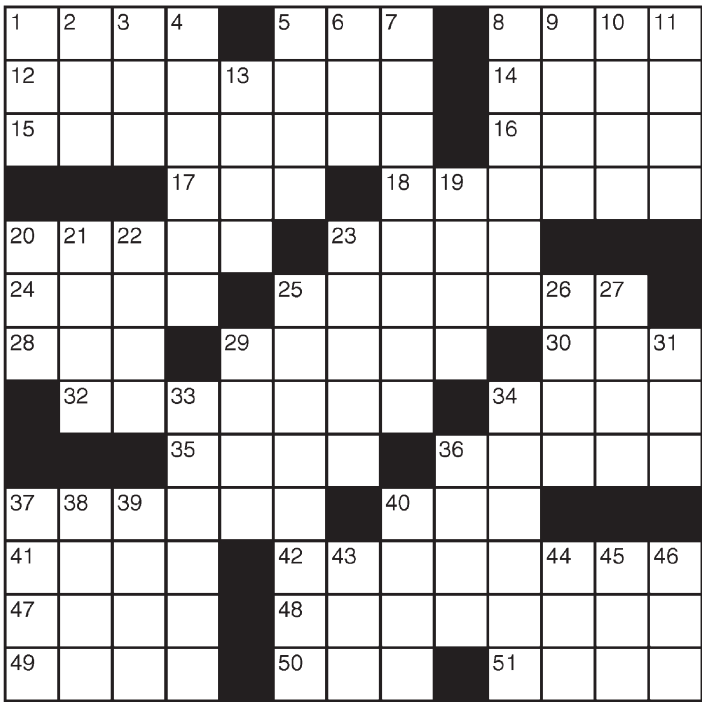
King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Water, in Mexico
- 5 Sprite
- 8 Pedestal
- 12 Like holiday decorations
- 14 Ogled
- 15 D.C. veteran
- 16 Ms. Moore
- 17 Pentagon gp.
- 18 Mild cheese
- 20 Singer Mann
- 23 “— Las Vegas”
- 24 Not that
- 25 Verbal attack
- 28 Yr. parts
- 29 Some latte sizes
- 30 Cut the lawn
- 32 Italian cornmeal recipe
- 34 Race finish
- 35 Raps callions
- 36 Word list, for short
- 37 Goldberg on “The View”
- 40 — Lingus
- 41 Honker
- 42 Refines
- 47 Duel tool
- 48 Investigates
- 49 Holler
- 50 “Mayday!”
- 51 Taxpayer IDs

DOWN

- 1 Venomous viper
- 2 Earth (Pref.)
- 3 “Friendly skies” co.
- 4 Stage comments
- 5 Oklahoma city
- 6 Fond du —
- 7 Fleet of ships
- 8 Pandemonium
- 9 Pro votes
- 10 Big rig
- 11 Tend texts
- 13 Oklahoma tribe
- 19 Currier’s partner
- 20 \$ dispenser



- 21 Denny’s rival
- 22 Japanese soup
- 23 Battery measures
- 25 Primitive flutes
- 26 Apple desktop
- 27 Club in a Manilow song
- 29 Office part-timer
- 31 Charlotte’s creation
- 33 Toy train maker
- 34 Sculpted trunks
- 36 Bridal cover
- 37 Curds’ partner
- 38 Great expectation
- 39 Hurler Hersher
- 40 Swiss peaks
- 43 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 44 Storefront sign abbr.
- 45 Poetic dusk
- 46 Hot wok sound

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Anya Taylor-Joy, left, and Miles Teller star in “The Gorge.”

Couch Theater

“Kinda Pregnant” (R) -- Rally your friends, get some snacks and adult beverages, then gather around for a proper girls’ night with this hysterical comedy film out now on streaming. Starring Amy Schumer (“Unfrosted”), who also co-wrote the script, the film centers around Lainy, who’s pretty much your average woman. And of course, it is sometimes natural for the average woman to experience jealousy after her best friend falls pregnant. What isn’t natural, however, is a woman putting on a fake belly to appease her envy. But this is exactly what Lainy does, and as she soon finds out when she meets the man of her dreams, her fake belly might not have been the best approach. Jillian Bell (“Reunion”), Will Forte (“That ‘90s Show”), and Brianne Howe (“Ginny & Georgia”) co-star. (Netflix)

“Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy” (R) -- “Bridget Jones” is the film franchise that keeps on giving, with an astonishing 24 years between the release of the original film and the fourth installment, which will shortly be available to stream on Feb. 13. Renee Zellweger reprises her role as the titular character, who now navigates life as a single mom. With people around her eager to get her back in the saddle when it comes to dating, Bridget finally decides to try her hand at it when a younger man named Roxster (Leo Woodall) shoots his shot. Although she attempts to get enveloped by this new love interest, memories of her former husband still fill her mind, leaving her to crave a more secure and stable man who could be a better match. Guess we’ll have to wait and see who Bridget Jones finally ends up with! Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, and Colin

Firth reprise their roles from the previous films as well. (Peacock)

“The Gorge” (PG-13) -- Miles Teller took a break from acting after an exciting 2022 with the release of “Top Gun: Maverick.” Now he’s back ahead of his role as John Branca in the upcoming biopic “Michael,” and he stars opposite Anya Taylor-Joy (“Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga”) in this film that has a taste of many genres -- sci-fi, horror, action, and a bit of romance! Out on Feb. 14, “The Gorge” follows two elite operatives named Levi (Teller) and Drasa (Taylor-Joy), who are tasked with guarding either side of a mysterious gorge. These two snipers must carry out their mission without contacting one another, but with the gorge being described as the “door to hell,” they are forced to work together when the evil inside of the gorge finally emerges. (Apple TV+)

“You’re Cordially Invited” (R) -- The romantic comedies are in full supply this week! Starring two A-list actors Will Ferrell and Reese Witherspoon, this movie is reminiscent of others like “Shotgun Wedding” (2022), where viewers just know they’re going to be taken on an unbelievably wild ride in a traditional wedding setting. Ferrell plays single father Jim, whose daughter plans to get married in a small inn; the catch is, Margot (Witherspoon) also booked the same inn on the same day for her sister and future brother-in-law. When the two parties show up on the same weekend, Jim and Margot start scrambling to figure out how to keep the peace. Lucky for us viewers, their plans backfire into buffoonery. Out now! (Amazon Prime)

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* Read a week’s worth of The New York Times and you’ll have absorbed more information than the average 17th-century citizen would have encountered in their lifetime.

* A 1972 plane crash that claimed the lives of 101 people occurred because the crew was distracted by a burned-out landing gear indicator light and failed to notice that the autopilot had inadvertently been disconnected.

* California was named for a fictional island in a 16th-century romance novel.

* Researchers testing insect repellents used Victoria Secret’s Bombshell perfume as a standard and accidentally discovered that it repels mosquitoes better than many repellents on the market.

* In 19th-century Maryland, it was illegal to sell mineral water on a Sunday.

* People’s body temperature drops when they watch videos of other folks putting their hands into cold water.

* Onychophagia is the technical term for biting your nails.

* A man who tattooed the word “Netflix” on his body and then tweeted a picture of the ink to the company was rewarded with a year’s worth of free service.

* In Wisconsin, the most frequently googled “how to spell” word is Wisconsin.

* When Prohibition started, alcohol could only be bought for medicinal and religious purposes, from a pharmacy or a doctor. “Medicinal whiskey” was prescribed for just about anything and used to treat conditions such as toothaches and the flu. With a prescription, a patient could legally purchase up to 1 pint of hard liquor every 10 days.

* It takes somewhere between 144 and 411 licks to reach the center of a Tootsie Pop.



Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Do you know what state Elvis Presley was born in? Check it out in Trivia Test!

Weekly SUDOKU

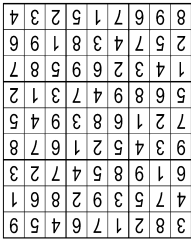
3		2	1	7	6	4	5	
						8		1
6		9	8		4	7		3
	3		5			6	7	
	2		6			9		5
		8				3		2
1		3		6		5		
	5	7		3			9	
	9			1	5			

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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VP, Mortgage Lending
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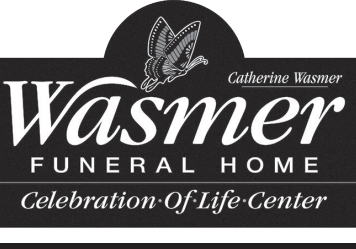


Cory Biers
Sr. Vice President
NMLS#477892

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Designated Managing Broker

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Nightengales Thrift Shop

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Open 12-3:30
Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat
1st and 3rd
Saturday -
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mainstreetrepair16@yahoo.com

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- Caregiver Support & Services
- Options Counseling
- Lending Closet
- Senior Health Insurance Program
- Educational Opportunities (Computer Lab & Resource Center)
- Advocacy
- Information & Assistance
- Congregate Meal Site
- Senior Center

1901 Tom Merwin Drive, Mendota, IL
815-539-7700 • mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com

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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 rep-
resentative 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 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
7th day of August, 2024
a petition to terminate
your parental rights was
filed under the Juvenile
Court Act of 1987 by
David A. Greer, in the
Circuit Court of LaSalle
County entitled 'In the
interest of 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 pe-
tition 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 custo-
dy 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 24, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk

No. 0118
(Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 12,
2025)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Mendota Township is
accepting bids for con-
struction of a 30'x48'
metal storage building
on the Mendota Town-
ship Restland Ceme-
tery grounds located
at Route 251 and 22nd
Street Mendota, IL.
61342.

Bid information can be
obtained through Sex-
ton, Dan McConville,
815-910-7331, Mendo-
ta, IL. Bids are to be in
written form and mailed,
post marked by March
3, 2025, to MTRC 206
11th Street Mendota,
IL. 61342. The bids will
be opened and read
aloud at the Mendota
Township office, 602 S.
Main Street Mendota,
IL. 61342 public meet-
ing on March 10, 2025
at 5:00 p.m.

Mendota Township re-
serves the right to reject
any or all bids, or to ac-
cept any bid, which in
its judgment, will be in
the best interest of the
public or to waive any
informalities in bidding.
No. 0201
(Feb. 12, 2025)

NOTICE
SENIOR HOMESTEAD
& OWNER-OCCUPIED
EXEMPTIONS

NEW APPLICANTS

This Notice is for per-
sons filing for the
Homestead Exemption
for the first time. All
senior citizens who are
or will be 65 years old
during 2025 and who
own and reside in their
own home, are eligible
for the \$5,000 Senior
Homestead Exemption
on the 2026 real estate
tax bill. A copy of the
deed and the owner's
driver's license and any
other persons listed
on the deed driver's
license(s) are needed
for the application. The
signature on this form
must be notarized.

EXISTING SENIOR
HOMESTEADS

Renewal forms for
existing Homesteads
were mailed out in early
February 2025. All re-
cipients should read the
form, answer all ques-
tions completely and re-
turn them to the Town-
ship Assessor's Office.
(See address below.) If
needed, one of our staff
members can help you
fill out the form.

ASSESSMENT
FREEZE

Renewal forms for the
Assessment Freeze
Exemption are includ-
ed in the mailing with
the regular Senior
Homestead Exemption.
Your total gross house-
hold income must be
\$65,000 or less. This
exemption freezes your
assessed valuation, not
your taxes. Forms must
be filled out, signed, no-
tarized, and returned to
the respective township
offices. Staff members
can assist you with all
of this. If your income
is \$65,000 or lower, we
will need a copy of your
2024 form 1040 and
any loss schedule. If
you do not file for fed-
eral income tax, we will
still need to see proof
of income in order to
qualify. For example,
such documents as IRS
Forms 1099, 1099 SSA,
W-2, etc.

NEW HOMEOWNERS

If you bought a new
home this past year and
were living in it by Jan-
uary 1, 2025, you will
need to fill out an own-
er-occupied exemption
form with your local as-
sessor. Your signature
on this form must be
notarized.

VETERANS

Exemptions for Veter-
ans were created by
House Bill 664 - one
for disabled veterans
and one for returning
servicemen. Forms are
available at our office.
ALL NEW EXEMPTION
APPLICATIONS
All New Exemption Ap-

plications must be No-
tarized. There are (3)
Notaries in the Mendota
Township Assessor's
Office.

OWNER-OCCUPIED
EXEMPTION

Home Owners have to
file an Owner-Occupied
Exemption Form to get
this Exemption. These
forms are available at
the Mendota Township
Assessor's Office. This
form must be Notarized.

CHANGE OF MAILING
ADDRESS

If the tax bill is to be
mailed to a different
address, a Change of
Address Form must be
filled out. These are
available at the Mendo-
ta Township Assessor's
Office. This form must
be Notarized.

MENDOTA TOWNSHIP
OFFICE ADDRESS,
HOURS AND PHONE
NUMBER

The Mendota Township
Assessor's Office is lo-
cated at the Mendota
Township Offices at 602
S. Main St. Office hours
are Monday, Tuesday,
& Wednesday, 9am-12pm
& 1:30pm to 3 pm or by
appointment. Complet-
ed forms may be mailed
to Mendota Township
Assessor, PO Box 465,
Mendota, IL 61342.
Staff members can
make home visits for
homebound individuals.
Bilingual assistance is
available by appoint-
ment. If you have any
questions, call the office
at 815-539-3201.
Susan Hochstatter
Mendota Township As-
sessor
Mendota Township As-
sessor's Office
602 S Main St - Mendo-
ta IL 61342
Phone: (815) 539 3201
No. 0202
(Feb. 5, 12, and 19,
2025)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LA SALLE COUNTY,
OTTAWA, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
John Reeder, Jr., De-
ceased
Case No. 2025-PR-7
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to credi-
tors of the death of John
Reeder, Jr. of Mendota,
Illinois. Letters of Office
were issued on Jan-
uary 14, 2025 to Jac-
quelyn Reeder of 307
6th Avenue, Mendota,
IL 61342, and James
Reeder, 22026 1950
E. Street, Princeton,
IL 61356, as Indepen-
dent Co-Administrators,
whose Attorneys of
record are Guilfoyle &
Stevenson, LLP, 1316
Meriden Street, Mendo-
ta, IL 61342.

Claims against the es-
tate may be e-filed in
the Office of the Circuit
Clerk, Probate Divi-
sion, LaSalle County
Courthouse, 119 W.
Madison Street, Otta-
wa, IL 61350, or with
the Representative, or
both, within 6 months
from the date of the first
publication of this No-
tice. If the claim notice
is personally mailed or
delivered to a creditor
of the above estate,
the claim must be filed
in the above entitled
cause within 3 months
from the date of mailing
or delivery, whichever
is later. Any claims not
filed within the above
periods are barred.
E-filing is now manda-
tory for documents in
civil cases with limited
exceptions. To e-file,
you must first create an
account with an e-filing
service provider.
Visit https://efile.illinois-
courts.gov/service-pro-
viders.htm to learn
more and to select a
service provider. If you
need additional help or
have trouble e-filing,
visit https://www.illinois-
courts.gov/FAQ/geth-
elp.asp.
Copies of a claim filed
with the Clerk must be
mailed or delivered to

the Representative and
to the Attorney within 10
days after it has been
filed.

The estate will be ad-
ministered without court
supervision, unless
under Section 5/28-4
of the Probate Act (Ill.
Compiled Stat. 1992,
Ch. 758, par. 5/28-4)
any interested person
terminates independent
administration at any
time by mailing or deliv-
ering a petition to termi-
nate to the Circuit Clerk.
Claims against the es-
tate may be filed with
the Office of the Circuit
Clerk, Probate Division,
LaSalle County Court-
house, 119 W. Mad-
ison Street, Ottawa, IL
61350, or with the rep-
resentative, or both, or,
if mailing or delivery of
a notice from the rep-
resentative is required
by Section 5/18-3 of the
Probate Act, the date
stated in that notice.
Any claims not filed on
or before 6 months from
the first publication of
this notice are barred.
No. 0203
(Feb. 5, 12 and 19,
2025)

NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby
given that on January
17, 2025 a certificate
was filed in the Office
of the County Clerk of
LaSalle County, Illinois,
setting forth the names
and post-office ad-
dresses of all persons
owning, conducting and
transacting the busi-
ness known as Wal-
ters Painting located at
1004 5th Avenue Men-
dota, IL. 61342.
Dated: January 17,
2025. Austin Walters
Applicant.
No. 0204
(Feb. 5, 12 and 19,
2025)

**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION**
No: 2025-JA-03, 2025-
JA-04

TO: Heather Vickrey,
other interested parties,
and to All Whom It May
Concern:

Take notice that on the
3rd day of February,
2025 a petition was
filed under the Juvenile
Court Act of 1987 by
Vicki L. Denny, in the
Circuit Court of LaSal-
le County entitled 'In
the interest of Kaylee
McLain and Karsen Mc-
Lain, minors, and that
in the Criminal Justice
Center Courtroom 210
at Ottawa on the 19th
day of March, 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 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 February 4, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0205
(February 12, 2025)

**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION**
No: 2024-JA-80

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

Take notice that on the
24th day of September,
2024 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 Ava Ramon,
a minor', and that in the
Criminal Justice Center
Courtroom 210 at
Ottawa on the 5th day
of March, 2025, at the
hour of 8:30 a.m., or as
soon thereafter as this
cause may be heard,
an Adjudicatory Hear-
ing 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 custo-
dy 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 February 5, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0206
(February 12, 2025)

NOTICE

The Meriden-Ophir-Troy
Grove Township
Multi-Township Assess-
ment District 2025 reg-
ular meeting dates and
times are as follows:
February 18 6:00 p.m.
June 17 7:00 p.m.
August 19 7:00 p.m.
November 18 6:00 p.m.
December 16 6:00 p.m.
All Meetings to be held
at the Troy Grove Town-
ship Offices.
Bill Pakenham
M.T.A.D. Clerk
No. 0207
(February 12, 2025)

**101
LEGAL NOTICE**

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

**105
BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**113
FINANCIAL**

NOTICE Advance
Fee Loans or Credit

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

**119
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**201
DOMESTIC/CHILD
CARE**

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless
licensed or holding a
permit as a childcare
facility, may cause
to be published any
advertisement solicit-
ing a child care service.
A childcare facility that
is licensed or operating
under a permit issued
by the Illinois Depart-
ment of Children and
Family Services may
publish advertisements
of the services for which
it is specifically licensed
or issued a permit. Your
Hometown Newspaper
strongly urges any
parent or guardian to
verify the validity of the
license of any facility
before placing a child in
its care.

**301
ANTIQUES**

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

**307
MISCELLANEOUS
FOR SALE**

SPLIT Firewood For Sale.
Contact 779-251-0254

**309
PETS AND SUPPLIES**

Friendly
cats
looking for good
& loving forever
homes!
Call
815-615-1171

GUSMANE

**405
HOUSES FOR SALE**

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

Recycle

**511
STORAGE UNITS**

MENDOTA STORAGE UNITS
210 N 4099th Rd., Mendota, IL. 61342
Available:
20X20 \$195 / 10X10 \$100
Call
ADAM 815-830-4422 Janko Realty
TRACY 815-791-4582 Advantage Property Mgmt
Reserve online at www.apm4rent.com

Place an Ad:
Mendota Reporter
815-539-9396
Browse & Buy
Subscribe:
Mendota Reporter
815-539-9396
All in the
Classifieds!

**601
VEHICLES FOR SALE**

2023 Chevy 1500 LTZ 4x4 Crew Cab

2023 Chevy 1500 LTZ 4x4 Crew Cab 73K Miles, Pearl White,
GM Certified, 1-owner, local trade, leather interior, heated /
cooled seats, running boards & More!
\$39,900

**CERTIFIED
PRE-OWNED**

- 2-Year/24,000-Mile Standard CPO Maintenance Plan
- 12-Month/12,000-Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty
- 6-Year/100,000-Mile Powertrain Limited Warranty
- 24/7 Roadside Assistance
- 172-Point Vehicle Inspection and Reconditioning Process
- 3-Day/150-Mile Customer Satisfaction Guarantee

2024 Chevy Equinox AWD RS, 24K Miles, Blue.....	\$28,900	2021 Chevy Blazer AWD Premier, Loaded, 44K Miles, Maroon.....	\$33,900
2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ, 74K Miles, White.....\$39,900			

QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2021 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 Z71 LT Diesel, 82K Miles, Gray.....	\$29,900	2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, Z71 4x4, 6.2L, 95K Miles, Maroon.....	\$31,900
2021 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 Z71 RST Diesel, 123K Miles, Gray.....	\$28,900	2018 Chevy 1500 Double Cab LTZ 4x4, 88K Miles, Maroon.....	\$26,900
2021 Chevy Traverse LT, AWD, Silver, 102K Miles	\$23,900	2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ, 95K Miles, Gray.....	\$26,900
2020 Chevy Traverse LT AWD, Leather, 93K Miles, Silver.....	\$21,900	2015 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4 Z71 Longbox, 6.0L gas, 77K Miles, Red.....	\$33,900
2019 Chevy Traverse Premier AWD, Loaded, 1 - owner, 66K Miles, White.....	\$25,900		

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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.



COMMUNITY MATTERS

ACCURATE TITLE & LICENSE

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 6th St. • Mendota
815-539-9311

ASSISTED/INDEPENDENT LIVING

Stonecroft Village
1700 Burlington St.
815-538-5300
stonecroftvillage.com

AUCTIONEERS

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

AUTO BODY REPAIR

Furar's Body Shop
306 Plaza Dr.
815-539-6075

AUTO REPAIR

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

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

ATTORNEY

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

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

AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

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

Schimmer, Inc. Buick • Chevy
Rt. 251 S.
815-539-9343
www.schimmergm.com

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

CABINETRY

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

CABINETRY AND STAIRS

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

CARPET & FLOORING

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

CONTRACTORS - GENERAL

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

DENTISTS

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

ELECTRICAL

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

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

ELECTRICAL/CONTRACTING

Carriage House Electric
105 12th St.
815-538-5598

EXCAVATING AND SEWER

TJS Excavating
815-228-9845
Tjsexcavating.com

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Financial Plus Credit Union
1905 13th Ave.
815-539-3444
Member NCUA-ESI

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

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

First State Bank of Van Orin
200 N Main St., Van Orin
815-638-2111
Member FDIC

Malden Banking Center
302 N Main St.
815-643-2121
Member FDIC

NuMark Credit Union
Earlville • Paw Paw • Sublette
NUMARKCU.ORG
Member NCUA-ESI

FIREPLACES

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

FITNESS

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

FLORISTS

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

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Tacos Guzman
815-503-0839
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Wasmer Funeral Home
2112 W. Main St.
815-539-8500

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815-539-6263

GROCERY STORES

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710 Jefferson St.
815-539-6871

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

HEALTH CARE CLINIC

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

HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS

Correa Heating and Air Conditioning
815-910-9876

Malley Plumbing & Heating
123 South Ottawa Street, Earlville
815-246-6011
IL License #055-009898

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

HOME HEALTH/HOSPICE

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

HOUSE CLEANING

Illinois Valley Clean Team
815-228-5273

ICE CREAM SHOP

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

IDOT INSPECTIONS

RC Service Co. – Haun Inc.
904 Main St.
815-538-6311

INSURANCE

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

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

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

KITCHEN & BATH

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Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

SITK
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www.somekitchen.com

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815-538-7799
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srwoodproducts.com

LIBRARY

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

LIQUOR STORE

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

MUSEUMS

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

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

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

OPTOMETRIST

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

PET GROOMING

Dirty Dawgs
1111 Main St.
815-538-2550

PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

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POST FRAME BUILDERS

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Homestead Realty
1316 Lakewood Plaza, #5
815-539-3811

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

RESTAURANTS

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

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

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

SEAMLESS ROOFING

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

SOCIAL CLUB

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

TAX PREPARATION

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

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

THRIFT STORES

Nightengales Thrift Shop
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TRANSPORTATION

Mendota Area Senior Services
1901 Tom Merwin Drive
815-539-7700
mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com

TOWING

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

VAPE/SMOKE SHOP

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

VETERINARIANS

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

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

WINDOWS & DECKING

Maze Lumber
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815-223-1742



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