



Fairs • Festivals & Summer Fun



The Mendota Reporter & The Amboy News
Wednesday, May 31, 2023



SUMMER FUN
at
**Graves-Hume
Public Library**
1401 W. Main Street
Mendota
815-538-5142

Friday, July 7 @ 6 PM Summer Reading Kick-Off Celebration

Come celebrate a fun-packed summer with us while we host local dance and cultural group "Ballet Folklorico De Colores", stay for sounds from DJ Good Vybe Entertainment and grab some food catered by Taco Guzman food truck! Cool off with ice cream provided by La Esquinita de Oro!

Friday, July 14 @ 6 PM "Hugo's Elvis: Tribute Artist"

For the enjoyment of life-long Elvis admirers and to introduce the music legend to a brand new generation of fans! Grab a chair or blanket and enjoy the musical talents of Hugo.

Saturday, July 15 @ 4 PM "Animals Around the World"

The Library is closed...but not for you! Come to this special Saturday program of "Animals Around the World" showcasing real bats, a sloth and an armadillo.

Friday, July 21 @ 6 PM "Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles"

This is their 3rd time back and a crowd favorite. Their up-close and personal showing of reptiles is one you don't want to miss! You'll see a tarantula, a tortoise, snakes, bull frog and more!

Friday, July 28 @ 6 PM "Pre Civil War Quilts: Secret Codes to Freedom from the Underground Railroad"

This program is one for the adults or older children. Learn how quilts played an important historical part during the ages of the Underground Railroad as Connie Martin tells the stories passed down to her Great Grandmother, Lizzie, of how her family survived the Anti-bellum period through trials and tribulation.

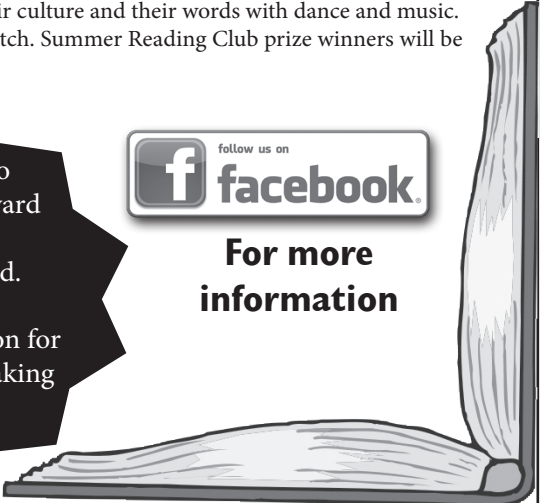
Saturday, July 29 @ 6 PM Summer Reading Finale with "Halau Hula O Puanani" Hawaiian Entertainment

Everything must come to an end and we sure enjoyed our summer with you. Join us one last time as we watch hula dancers share their culture and their words with dance and music. Enjoy a nice ice cream treat while we watch. Summer Reading Club prize winners will be announced at this event.

Programs are for free to attend and are geared toward all ages.
No Library card required.
No registration.
The community's destination for discovery, learning and making connections.



For more information



Railroad Crossing & Heritage Day offers full day of fun in Mendota

MENDOTA – The Annual Railroad Crossing & Heritage Day will be held on Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both sides of Eighth Street on the grounds of Union Depot Railroad Museum and the Breaking the Prairie Museum. The Mendota Museum & Historical Society is planning a fun day with displays and activities for all ages.

Tours include two museums and vintage rail cars including the Milwaukee Combine Car, the IL Central Bulk Mail & Express Car, the Golden Trencher Dining car,



the 4978 Steam Locomotive and the CB&Q Caboose. The volunteers work hard to keep the rail cars and museum in great shape! Remember to visit the agricultural artifacts and reminisce the days of long ago while viewing the

Phaeton horse drawn buggy or the 100-year-old horse drawn sleigh.

Children can ride the rails on a vintage Speeder Car and/or the "Union Depot Express" barrel street train. Stroll the event while listening to Ray Tutaj Jr. on guitar and playing outdoor games from an earlier time.

Lunch will be served beginning at 11 a.m. with proceeds going to the Historical Society. BPW group will serve delicious homemade desserts in the Dining Car. The winning 50/50 raffle ticket will be drawn at 3 p.m.

Petunia Festival has something for everyone

DIXON – The annual Dixon Petunia Festival will take place June 30-July 4 in downtown Dixon and on the riverfront.

The festival promises to have something for the entire family. Among the events at this year's festival are a bags tournament, Bingo, Cruise In Style Car Show, carnival, lots of musical entertainment, Family Fun Night, fireworks, parade, volleyball tournament, Art in the Park, craft and vendor show, Dixon Athletic Boosters pancakes in the park, Elks fishing derby, ice cream social/municipal band concert, tennis tournament, Old Settlers Log Cabin, Reagan 5K run/walk, Disc Golf, Community Worship, service and tours of the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home and Visitor Center.

It all began in the late 1950s when a combination of Dutch Elm disease and major highway expansion caused the removal of all trees along the community's major roadways. The Dixon Men's Garden Club, which for several years had worked

on small flower beds scattered throughout the city, decided to do something about the barren look of the highway approaches. In 1960 and 1961, the club planted 4,000 petunias along both sides of about one-half mile of the principal north-south route, South Galena Avenue. The next year, the club members put 6,000 more petunias on the

three-quarters of a mile of North Galena Avenue.

Today, the plantings have spread out to other approaches to the city and now extend along principal streets. Most of Dixon's 15,000 residents have taken part in one way or another.

For more specific information about this year's festival, log on to www.petuniasfestival.org.



Mendota's 76th Annual Sweet Corn Festival

August 10-13, 2023



FREE ADMISSION!

FREE PARKING! FREE ENTERTAINMENT!

Carnival Mega Pass - Ride All Day, Every Day! Ride Thursday through Sunday from open until close with a Mega Pass!

Saturday and Sunday

Crafter's Marketplace & Flea Market -

Lots of vendors in two locations. Veteran's Park on Rt. 34 in downtown Mendota and the Elks Club parking lot on Indiana Ave. & Jefferson St. just 1/2 block north of Veteran's Park.

Grand Parade at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 13

Tons of FREE Hot, Buttered, Delicious Sweet Corn Served Sunday, Aug. 13 at 2 p.m., at the intersection of Illinois Ave. & Jefferson St.

Sweet Corn 50/50 Raffle

Sweet Corn Festival 50/50 Tickets for the 2023

festival go on sale starting June 1!

In 2022 we had a pot of \$42,240 and the winner took home \$21,120.

On site sales will conclude on Sunday, Aug. 13, at 4pm.

The winner will be drawn live on Sunday, Aug. 13.

Buffalo burgers & more are on menu at LaMoille Buffalo Days

LaMOILLE - LaMoille Buffalo Days is scheduled for June 9-11, and the famous buffalo burgers are back.

The celebration will kick off with a paint-the-town event from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, June 8.

The activities will ramp up on Friday, June 9 with food vendors and the beer tent opening at 4 p.m. Baby Buff winners will be announced at 5:30 and the Prairie Princess will take place at 6 p.m., as well as the 5K Stampede. Music by 'Abbynormal' will be provided from 8 p.m.-midnight in the beer tent. There will also be plenty of activities for the



children.

A tractor show will start the day at 8 a.m. Saturday. Other highlights of the day will be the parade at 11 a.m., adult waterfights at noon, and a kids' fun fair from 1-3 p.m. Many

other children's events will take place, including a tractor pull in the park at 12:30 p.m. Stephen Bores will perform in the beer tent from 4-7 p.m. and the sounds of 'Wise Guys' can be heard from 8-midnight.

Among the events on the final day of Buffalo Days on Sunday will be a bags tournament at 11 a.m. and kiddie waterfights at 11:30. Music by 'Burn N Bush' will be provided from 1-6 p.m. in the beer tent. The festivities will wrap up with the announcement of the 50/50 drawing winner at 5:30.

A complete listing of events is available at www.lamoillebuffalodays.org.

Country music artists to perform at Sublette's Hops + Harmony

SUBLETTE – Hosted by Sublette 365, Hops + Harmony is back for its third year on Saturday, Sept. 2 for an exciting line up of more than 15 craft breweries from all over Northern Illinois and Chicago. Several of these craft brews are made with locally grown hops made right here in the Sublette area at Live Wire Hops.

Sublette 365 is expecting this year to be the largest yet. Taking the stage at 8 p.m. are two artists straight from Nashville, Tenn. – Drew Parker, who has garnered over 50 million global streams

as well as Shane Proffitt, whose debut single, "How It Oughta Be," is currently No. 20 at country radio, cracking the Top 20 in just 16 weeks.

Beer-tasting tickets include tastings, as well as party pit tickets to the concert. The party pit is the section closest to the stage. Party pit tickets are also sold separately. The event will start at 6 p.m. at Centennial Park in Sublette and the music will start at 8 p.m. with Proffitt.

Tickets for the tastings as well as the party pit are on sale now at www.sublette365.com.



The Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival in Rochelle will have food, fun and entertainment Aug. 18-20.

Rochelle to celebrate 'Hometown Spirit'

ROCHELLE – The annual Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival is planned for the weekend of Aug. 18-20 in downtown Rochelle.

The event is celebrating its 26th anniversary, and this year's theme is "Hometown Spirit."

There will be a carnival and beer garden for all three days of the event. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, a vendor basket raffle, craft, vendor and business booths, a food court and various local talents performing each day.

Friday, Aug 18 will feature the Little Miss Peanut competition from 6-7 p.m.

and Nauti Nauti from 8-10 p.m., featuring Rochelle's own Scott Herrmann.

On Saturday, Aug. 19, the Hub City Cruisers Car and Motorcycle Show will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Magic Matt's Family Fun Show will be strolling through the festival grounds from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Rise Up Dance Co., will perform from 10 – 11 a.m. Lynx will perform from noon – 1 p.m. Blue Steam will perform from 2-4 p.m. Jerry Criss Band will take the stage from 5-7 p.m., and The Neverly Brothers will finish the night from 8-10 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 20 will start with First General Baptist church service from 9:30-10:30 a.m. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Magic Matt's Family Fun Show will be strolling the festival grounds. Studio C Dance will be on the main stage from 11 to 11:45 a.m. There will be an old-fashioned ice cream social. The parade will begin at 1 p.m. Neil Woolbright Music with John Brown will be on the stage from 1-3 p.m. After the parade, hacky sack world record holder Andy Linder will be strolling the festival grounds. The Vodka Boys will perform from 4-6 p.m.

July 27-30

Lee Co. Fairgrounds,
1196 Franklin Rd.,
Amboy



Lee Co. Fair & 4-H Show

the true county fair experience



leecounty4hcenter.com

(815) 857-2603

Lee County 4-H Fair & Junior Show returns

AMBOY – It's the end of July in Lee County.

This means one thing – it's time for the Lee County Fair and 4-H Show.

It's a great throwback to the old-fashioned county fairs. Youth come and display their talents whether it be showing livestock, small animals, or general projects in visual arts, robotics, gardening, flower arranging, or community service and citizenship, just to name a few of the categories.

The fair runs from Thursday, July 27 to Sunday, July 30 at the Lee County 4-H Fairgrounds located at 1196 Franklin Road, just north of Amboy.

Gates open at noon on Thursday as judging for general projects and livestock start immediately. The Starlight Dance Studio out of Amboy will perform, Bingo will be played, the Garden Tractor, Tractor and Truck Pull will roar at 7 p.m. on the track.

Friday's fun begins with gates

opening at 7 a.m.

The judges return for the swine show, creative arts, creative stem, poultry, and the dairy show. The Midway opens at 1 p.m., as does the petting zoo. Pony rides will open at 4 p.m. A pie sale will be held in the auditorium from 4 – 7 p.m. Magic by Cory Show will be held at 4 p.m. in the auditorium. Whoop Your Axe throwing will be from 4 – 8 p.m., on the Midway. Lee County Pork Producers will host a pork chop dinner from 5 – 7 p.m., on the patio. Quality meats and baked goods auction will be held at 6 p.m. in the auditorium.

The Lee County Fair and Illini State Pullers Tractor & Truck Pull is at 6:30 p.m., and the kid favorite Pin Dodgeball, where the goal is to hit bowling pins instead of opponents, will be in the show barn at 8 p.m.

The Junior Show also encompasses youth that comes from surrounding counties. They have participants show their projects from counties

such as Winnebago, Stevenson, Whiteside, Carol, Bureau, La Salle, DeKalb, and Ogle.

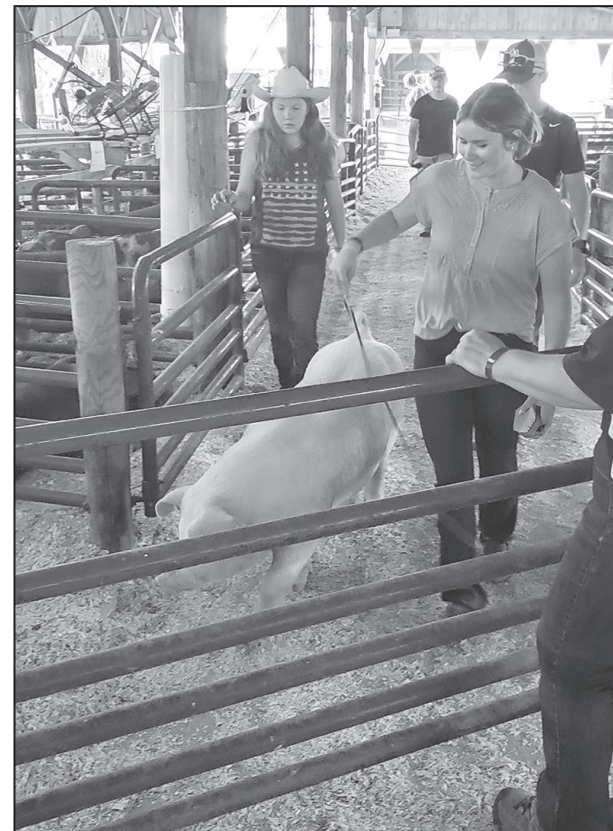
Saturday will be the first day of the horse show, plus the beef show, the Midway opens at 1 p.m. bringing back pony rides, petting zoo, and ax throwing. The Cincinnati Circus Show will be held on the Midway from 4 – 5 p.m. The Lee County Farm Bureau Young Leaders will be serving up steak sandwiches from 5 – 7 p.m. on the patio.

Rodeo with T & A Bucking Bulls will be on the track starting at 7 p.m.

The horse show will conclude on Sunday as well as the Marketplace Vendor Fair 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Pedal Pull, and the Midway opens at 11 a.m.

The grandstands will have a new fair attraction at 1 p.m. with the Cincinnati Circus Thrill Show.

Every year the Lee County 4-H Fair and Junior Show features something new or attracts a different, bigger crowd.



"More in Bureau County" set June 16-17

PRINCETON – If you love to bargain shop, Father's Day weekend will be a great time to come to Bureau County. "More in Bureau County" (formerly More on 34) Garage Sales will be held Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17. The sales aren't just on Route 34 anymore. Townwide garage sales will be held in the Village of Ladd, Princeton, and Wyandot. Plus, you will find sales in Sheffield, Dover and LaMoille. There will be a two-day garage sale at Bureau County Fairgrounds Friday and Saturday. There will be food and restrooms available there both days.

A list of sales is being compiled by the Bureau County Tourism committee. If you would like your sale shown on the sale list, email your address and the days you will be open to kathy-bctourism@yahoo.com by June 5. The sale lists will be available at the Prouty



building in Princeton and in the local gas stations in the towns on June 14. They can also be picked up at the fairgrounds on June 16.

Along with the Garage Sales, there will be many other activities happening around Bureau County. You will probably want to stay overnight to take all of the fun events in. A cookout will be held at the Wyandot Locker on June 17. Psycho Silo near Sheffield will have its sixth annual Car and Motorcycle Swap meet both days with gates opening at 7 a.m. Stop back out later for some cold

drinks and great music. The Old Wheels Car show will be held Saturday at the First Lutheran Church, 116 N Pleasant St., Princeton, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Friday night, June 16, bring your lawn chair to Main Street in Princeton for the first night of the summer concert series featuring Rockland Road band. Food trucks and fun begin at 6 p.m. The Princeton Farmer's Market will be held Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Soldiers & Sailors Park. The Beef & Ag Day celebration will also be held Saturday with great music by both Jake Mauer and the Pork Tornadoes and ribeye steaks on the grill at Soldiers & Sailors Park in Princeton. Festivities start at 11 a.m. and go through 10 p.m.

See the Bureau County Tourism or Princeton Chamber of Commerce Facebook pages for more information.

LAMOILLE BUFFALO DAYS

June 9-11, 2023

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

4-7 Tropical Sno Two Rivers(\$)
5:00-7:00 Paint the Town(\$5)
Gurney street (behind bank)
Hot Dogs and Chips included
(Rae 910-7711/Ashley 878-7909)

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

4:00 Food-Taco/Special/
Beer Tent Opens
4-8 Airtime Inflatables (Wristbands \$10)
Tropical Sno Two Rivers(\$)
Axetreme Throwing
5:30 Baby Buff Winners Announced-
Allen School
6:00 Prairie Princess- Allen School
(Mara 579-1833)
5K Stampede-High School
(Stacy 878-6962)
8-12 Music By ABBYNORMAL
Beer Tent
11:00 Egg Sandwiches
Parade Registration will be at the
High School parking lot. Parade
Route will go North this year on Main
Street, starting at Burnett Street,
ending at the Park.

Congratulations
2023 Grand Marshal:
Harlem & Alice Ehmen

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

8:00 Tractor Show (Munro 303-1960)
10:00 Food/Beer Tent Opens
Parade Registration – HS Parking Lot
10-4 Vendor Fair (Julie Cromwell
303-2295 | Kelly Frost 763-568-6169)
11:00 Parade-Main Street
(Jeremy 343-6848/Brian 200-2899)
The Jesse White Tumblers will be
performing!
12:00 Adult Waterfights Registration-
Sheldon Street by Park
12 -4 Silent Auction
12-8 Airtime Inflatables (Wristbands
\$20)

Tropical Sno Two Rivers(\$)
Axetreme Throwing
12:30 Kiddie Tractor Pull-Park
1:00 Adult WaterFights Begins
Measner Magic Show-Park
1-3 Kids Fun fair
2-6 AMJ Amusement Extreme Ride/
Game (included in wristband)
2:30-4:30 Foam Party -
included in wristband)
3:00 Measner Magic Show-Park
4-7 Music By STEPHEN BORES
Beer Tent
8-12 Music by WISE GUYS
Beer Tent
11:00 Egg Sandwiches

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

9:00-10:30 Community Church
Service by: Churches of
LaMoille-Park Pavilion
10:30 Sign Up Bags Tournament -
Beer Tent
11:00 Food/Beer Tent Opens
Bags Tournament begins
Kiddie Waterfights Registration
– Sheldon Street
11:30 Kiddie WaterFights begins –
Sheldon Street
1-6 Music by BURN N BUSH -
Beer Tent
2:00 Live Auction – Beer Tent
5:30 50/50 Drawing

Complete listing of events:
www.lamoillebuffalodays.org
Or call 815-878-5858



Amboy Depot Days has 4 days of family-filled entertainment

AMBOY — The 2023 annual Amboy Depot Days offers something for everyone. This year's festival runs Aug. 24-27.

The annual festival kicks off on Thursday night in downtown Amboy with the opening of the food stand and carnival. Thursday night is family night and arm bands are \$30 for unlimited rides for this special night. The Depot Days Little Dancers will take the Main Stage at 6:30 p.m. The Miss Amboy and Little Miss Amboy pageant will begin at 7 p.m. with the crowning of the new Miss Amboy at 8:30 p.m.

On Friday at 8 a.m., the community wide garage sales and the vendor booths downtown open for business. The food stands open at 10 a.m. and the carnival

will open at 6 p.m. The carnival special for Friday night is \$30 bands for unlimited rides. The free concert on the Main Stage is Snapshot, sponsored by Shell Oil, from 9:30 p.m. – 1 a.m. The Knights of Columbus is again hosting a beer garden, where Class Trip will be performing.

Saturday morning kicks off bright and early at 8 a.m., when the annual Amboy Education Foundation Sylvan Shuffle Adult 5K Run/Walk begins. The Amboy Farm Tractor Show and Semi Big Rig Show will be held in downtown Amboy from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Also open in downtown Amboy at 8 a.m. will be the vendor booths. The community wide garage sales will open at 8 a.m. The food stands open at 11 a.m. and the KC Beer Garden

opens at 11 a.m.

Kids will have a chance to meet and greet LOL Doll and Mario Luigi at the Pankhurst Memorial Library from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The carnival opens at noon on Saturday and from noon to 3 p.m., they will offer an arm band special of \$30 for unlimited rides. A dinosaur show will be held on the Main Stage in the Depot Museum parking lot from at 1 p.m. Whimsey Face Painting will be on hand in the Depot Parking lot decorating faces for free from 2 – 4 p.m.

The annual Amboy Lions Depot Days parade will step off at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

The annual Teen Turf Donkey Drop will be held at 5 p.m., near Amboy Sporting Goods.

Journey Tribute Band

will take the Main Stage for a free concert from 7-9 p.m., sponsored by KSB Hospital. The final act of the evening is live music of Kirkland in the KC Beer Garden from 9 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Sunday morning begins at 6 a.m. with the opening of registration for the 32nd annual Depot Days Car, Truck

and Motorcycle Show.

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a pancake breakfast from 6:30 – 10 a.m., at the beer garden.

At 8 a.m., the downtown vendors and community wide garage sales open for business. The food stands open at 11 a.m.

Judging for the annual

car show begins at 11:30 a.m.

At noon, the KC Beer Garden opens and the carnival will offer an arm band special of \$30 for unlimited rides from noon to 4 p.m.

The Depot Days car show awards will be presented at 3 p.m., followed by the 50/50 raffle winner drawn.



Friday, Aug. 18
Saturday, Aug. 19
Sunday, Aug. 20

HOMETOWN SPIRIT



MEGA BANDS AVAILABLE AT R.M.U., ROCHELLE CITY HALL, ROCHELLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, COLONIAL FLOWER SHOPPE, QUINN'S JEWELRY, AND A.L.M. FINE CABINETRY

50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS PLUS OTHER PRIZES

CRAFT, VENDORS, & BUSINESS BOOTHS

SATURDAY 10AM - 5PM **SUNDAY 10:30AM - 4PM**

AMUSEMENTS

(BY A&A AMUSEMENTS)

FRIDAY 4PM - 10PM **SATURDAY 11AM - 10PM**

SUNDAY 11AM - 6PM

FOOD COURT

FRIDAY 4PM - 10PM **SATURDAY 11AM - 10PM**

SUNDAY 11AM - 6PM

BEER GARDEN

SPONSORED BY VFW POST 3878

FRIDAY 6PM - 10PM **SATURDAY 2PM - 10PM**

SUNDAY 2PM - 6PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023

6-7 PM LITTLE MISS PEANUT

8-10 PM - NAUTI NAUTI

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023

11 AM - 8 PM - MAGIC MATT'S FAMILY FUN SHOW

NOON - 1 PM - LYNX

2-4 PM - BLUE STEAM

5-7 PM - JERRY CRISS BAND

8-10 PM - NEVERLY BROTHERS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023

11 AM - 6 PM - MAGIC MATT'S FAMILY FUN SHOW

1-3 PM - NEAL WOOLBRIGHT - MUSIC WITH JOHN BROWN

4-6 PM - VODKA BOYS

CAR SHOW - SATURDAY 8AM-3PM

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SUNDAY 3PM - 6PM

HAUNTED MAZE AT MOOSE LODGE

SATURDAY 4PM - 9PM

SUNDAY 2PM - 5PM

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SATURDAY 7:30AM - 11AM

SUNDAY 7:30AM - 11AM

KID ZONE

SATURDAY 11AM - 3PM

CHURCH SERVICE FIRST GENERAL BAPTIST

SUNDAY 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

PARADE

SUNDAY 1PM



Corn, tons of entertainment on deck for Mendota Sweet Corn Festival

MENDOTA—Tons of free, hot, buttered, delicious sweet corn will be the highlight of the 76th annual Sweet Corn Festival to be held in Mendota on Aug. 10-13.

The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce is preparing for the gigantic undertaking of hosting over 60,000 visitors, who consume over 50 tons of sweet corn during the festival weekend.

Don't miss the excitement as the festival offers a variety of entertainment events for the entire family. The events take place primarily in the downtown area, and with the exception of the beer garden, have no admission fees or parking fees.

Free musical entertainment is in abundance. The Crafters Market Place and Flea Market features dealers in hand-made crafts

and unique merchandise. There is a Queen Pageant, beer garden with live bands, grand parade and a carnival with rides and games for both adults and children, plus much more.

The midways are lined with food booths, featuring a multitude of ethnic, regional and festival foods, but the "BIG EVENT" is the serving of the free sweet corn on Sunday afternoon. For over 70 years, it has been cooked to its golden goodness with the help of a vintage steam engine.

The good times are waiting, the welcome mat is out, come to Mendota for one of the Midwest's oldest and largest harvest festivals, the 76th annual Sweet Corn Festival.

For more information, visit www.sweet-cornfestival.com.

SO MUCH TO SEE! SO MUCH TO DO!

★ TOO MUCH FUN! ★

Tracy Byrd with The Feudin' Hillbillys on Sat. Two Demo Derbies Sunday

Queen Pageant Tuesday **Next Level Pro Bull Riding Friday** **Truck & Tractor Pulls Weds & Thursday**

Season Tickets Only \$25 on Sale starting July 8

Kids 10 & Under Free Admission Daily

BOONE COUNTY FAIR

BELOVEDERE that's the ticket ILLINOIS

★ AUGUST 8-13, 2023 ★

8847 RT. 76 BELVIDERE
www.boonecountyfair.com
Like us on Facebook: @TheBooneFair

Owned and operated by Boone County Grange Members Since 1957

1963-2023 60th Anniversary
at our Rt 76 location
www.boonecountyfair.com

Tracy Byrd

with special guests
The Feudin' Hillbillys

LIVE! IN CONCERT!
SAT., AUG 12TH, 6:45PM

Saturday Show Tickets are on sale online only at boonecountyfair.com

All Show & Season Tickets go on sale at the main gate ticket office starting Sat., July 8th at 8am to 12noon.

Starting July 10th ticket office hours at Gate 1 are:
Mon & Tues 9-2
Thurs & Fri 12-6
Closed Weds, Sat & Sun
Phone orders taken during office hours at 815-547-4503

Major Credit Cards accepted
Additional Ticket Office Hours:
Sat, Aug 5, 9-4*Sun, Aug 6, 8-4* Aug 7, 8-8



Amboy Depot Days

AUGUST 24, 25, 26 & 27

Amboy, IL • depotdays.com

Thursday, August 24 - "Family Night"

5pm-10pm Food Stands open
5 pm - Bags Tournament - downtown East Ave - 6
pm tournament starts
6pm-10pm Carnival on Depot Museum Grounds
"Family Night Special" Arm bands
\$30.00 for unlimited rides
6:30pm Depot Days Little Dancers-on Main
Stage
7pm Miss Amboy Pageant & Little Miss
Amboy
8:30pm Announcement of Miss Amboy of
2023

Friday, August 25

8am-4pm Community Wide Garage Sales
8am-5pm Craft Booths - Downtown
10am-10pm Food Stands open - Depot Museum
Grounds
6pm-10pm Carnival on Depot Museum Grounds.
Arm bands \$30.00 for unlimited rides.
7pm-9pm Snapshot on Main Stage. FREE.
Sponsored by Shell Oil
9pm - 1am K.C.'s Beer Garden: Class Field Trip

Saturday, August 26

8:00am Sylvan Shuffle Adult 5K Run/Walk
sponsored by Amboy Education
Foundation. Register at www.amboy.net
8am-1pm Semi Big Rig Show and Amboy Farm
Tractor. Downtown Amboy.
8am-5pm Community Wide Garage Sales
8am-5pm Craft Booths - Downtown
11am-10pm Food Stands open - Depot Museum
Grounds
11am Kids' meet and greet is LOL Doll and
Mario Luigi, Pankhurst Memorial
Library

11am-1am K.C. Beer Garden: South of Bandstand
Noon-3pm Carnival on Depot Museum Grounds
Arm bands \$30.00 for unlimited rides
1 pm Dinosaur Show, Main Stage-Depot
Museum Parking Lot
2pm-4pm Whimsy Face Painting. Free Kids
Event (Depot Parking Lot)
3pm Depot Days Parade
Sponsored by the Amboy Area Lions
Club
www.amboylionsclub.com to sign up
5pm Teen Turf Donkey Drop-Chance to win
\$\$
857-4800 (located by Amboy Sporting
Goods)
7pm-9pm Journey Tribute Band, Main Stage.
FREE. Sponsored by KSB Hospital
9pm-1am K.C. Beer Garden: Kirkland

Sunday, August 27

6am-3pm 32nd Annual Depot Days Car, Truck
& Motorcycle Show — Downtown
Amboy.
6:30-10am Pancake Breakfast: Knights of
Columbus, at the Beer Garden
8am-4pm Crafts - Downtown Streets
8am-4pm Community Wide Garage Sales
11am-4pm Food Stands Open
11:30am Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show
Judging
Downtown Amboy
Noon-5pm K.C. Beer Garden: South of the
Bandstand
Noon-4pm Carnival on Depot Museum Grounds.
Arm bands \$30.00 for unlimited rides.
3pm Depot Days Car, Truck & Motorcycle
Show Awards Presentation & 50/50
Drawing. Main Stage by Depot
Museum

INFORMATION BOOTHS
On West Main St. in front of First Federal.

DAILY INFORMATION

FREE SHUTTLE on Sunday. Park
at Amboy School, 11 E. Hawley St.

First Aid & Cooling Center at the
Lee County Farm Bureau, 37 S. East Avenue.

Food Stands & Restrooms are open
all weekend on Depot Grounds.

Community-Wide Garage Sales:
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
8am-5pm. Garage sale maps available
at City Hall or the information booth.

Museums open for viewing. Stop in and enjoy a little of
Amboy's history. The Gift Shop will be open.

Car Show Registration and information - Contact Garth
Dallam 815/857-2946. www.amboycarshow.com

NO PETS ALLOWED

**Thank you to our Event
Sponsors**
Johnson Oil Company
KSB

Amboy's Depot Days is presented to benefit the Amboy
Depot Museum. Your support is greatly appreciated. The
Depot Days Committee wishes to give a special thank you
to the many people who volunteer their time, energy and
funds to ensure the success of Depot Days.

Carnival sponsored by
Amboy Area Chamber of Commerce

**Plenty of FREE parking
is available!**
Thank you for joining us!

Country star Byrd featured at '23 Boone County Fair

BELVIDERE – It all started in March of 1963 when the Boone County Pomona Grange members decided to keep the Boone County Fair alive and purchased 80 acres of bare farmland on Route 76 one mile north of Belvidere.

This leap of faith by area Grange members 60 years ago kept the Boone County Fair going and growing. Sixty years later, the fair has expanded to 183 acres with many buildings, barns, stages, a 2000-seat grandstand, paved roadways, modern restrooms, dining hall, permanent food stands, gazebos, half-mile dirt track, extensive lighting and sound, 200 permanent benches along with a year-round administration building and grounds maintenance shop. It's a great venue for a wide variety of activities from mid-April to Nov. 1 including the biggest of them all – the Boone County Fair, voted the number one festival/fair in the Rock River Valley for 2021 and 2022 in the 'What Rocks' Community Choice Awards.

The Boone County Fair is the largest county fair in the state of Illinois, averaging 213,000 fair-goers attending each of the last five fairs. This year should be no exception with six big days of too much fun being planned for Aug. 8-13.

This year's grandstand show features country great Tracy Byrd on Saturday, Aug. 12. Opening for Byrd will be the regional band from Champaign, the highly entertaining 'Feudin' Hillbillies.'

Grandstand entertainment kicks off on Tuesday, Aug. 8 with the annual Miss Boone County Fair Queen and Little Miss Pageant.

Other grandstand features include gas and diesel pickup truck pulls along with super stock garden tractor pulls on Wednesday, Aug. 9; tractor and truck pulls all day on Thursday, Aug. 10; professional bull riding on Friday, Aug. 11; and two demolition derbies on Sunday, Aug. 13.

The fair features some of the best livestock shows in the state for draft horses, ponies, goats, beef & dairy cattle, sheep, rabbits, poultry and swine. There are thousands of home ec, ag and art exhibits; acres of vendors and exhibits inside three large commercial buildings and also spread throughout the grounds; a wide variety of delicious fair food; giant and exciting Skinner's Midway and Carnival with new expanded kiddie ride section; free entertainment and attractions throughout the grounds daily including the large free entertainment pavilion; a restored one-room schoolhouse; huge antique tractor display; the Grange Hall & Museum; and the 4-H Wee Farm Petting Zoo.

Free shows include the Pork Chop Revue, the Rhinestone Roper, the Cincinnati Circus Aerial Acrobatics, Mr. D's House of Magic & Illusion, chainsaw wood carving, a glass blower, alpaca exhibit, Magic Mike along with a stilt walker roaming the grounds daily.

For ticket prices, fair schedule and information on entering the livestock or non-livestock competitions, go to www.boonecountyfair.com. Like the fair Facebook page at @TheBooneFair. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at 8847 IL Route 76, Belvidere. Call 815-544-2900.



Summer Adventure Camp

June 12 - July 14
Mon-Thurs 8:30-11:30am

Strouss Park (Purple Park)

\$90 Member
\$120 Non Member
*Scholarships Available



AGES 4 - 12

REGISTER NOW
Mendota YMCA 815-538-2900



Nature Camp



JULY 24TH - JULY 27TH
9:30am - 11:30am
MENDOTA LAKE / LAKE KAKUSHA

Ages 8-14

Nature Camp focuses on helping the youth develop an appreciation for nature and awareness of natural environments and their inhabitants.

\$35 Member
\$50 Non Member

Register at the Mendota YMCA or by calling 815-538-2900



Design & Build



JULY 31ST - AUGUST 3RD
9:30am - 11:30am
MENDOTA YMCA

Ages 10-15
Maximum of 25 participants

An engineering camp where kids learn to design and build a wooden model land yacht through woodworking.

\$35 Member
\$50 Non Member

Register at the Mendota YMCA or by calling 815-538-2900

2023 SUMMER FUN FEST

June 15-18



All Entertainment and Parking Is FREE

Thursday, June 15th

4 to 11 p.m.
Carnival and Midway
Unlimited ride wristbands just \$30

5 to 11 p.m.
Food Booths - Beer Garden
50/50 tickets on sale



6:30-8:30 p.m.
She's a Maybe

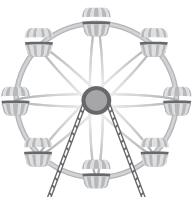
9 - 11 p.m.
Rok Brigade



Friday, June 16th

8 a.m.
City wide Yard sales
Maps available at Oglesby City Hall

4 to 11 p.m.
Carnival and Midway
Unlimited ride wristbands just \$30



5 to 11 p.m.
Food Booths - Beer Garden
50/50 tickets on sale

5 to 9 p.m.
Craft & Vender Show
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
80s Mixtape



9 - 11 p.m.
Slippery When Wet

Saturday, June 17th

8 a.m.
City wide Yard sales
Maps available at Oglesby City Hall

11 a.m.
Red, White and Bike

12 to 6 p.m.
Craft & Vender Show

1 to 11 p.m.
Food Booths - Beer Garden



50/50 tickets on sale

1 to 11 p.m.
Carnival and Midway
Unlimited ride wristbands just \$30

3 - 5 p.m.
Ladd Sound Machine



5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Killing Me Smalls

8-11 p.m.
Foz Fighters



1 - 3 p.m.
Ladd Sound Machine

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
River Road Trio

6 - 9 p.m.
Brushville

9 p.m.
50/50 Drawing
Support Oglesby's special events and have a chance at a huge cash jackpot!

9:30 p.m.
Fireworks Show

Sunday, June 18th

12 to 6 p.m.
Craft & Vendor Show

1 to 9 p.m.
Carnival and Midway
Unlimited ride wristbands just \$30

1 to close
Food Booths - Beer Garden
50/50 tickets on sale



oglesbyfunfest.com

Parking is Free and Plentiful! Unless otherwise noted, all activities are held on the grounds surrounding the municipal pool. No gate or entry fee required. Bring lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy our free entertainment. Due to the nature of theatrical acts, attractions are subject to change.

Like us on **facebook**



Plenty of youth activities are available at the Mendota Area YMCA, including four camps scheduled for this summer.

Mendota YMCA offering more than before

MENDOTA – The Mendota Area YMCA is offering more than ever before this summer with four camps on the schedule. The organization is offering camps focused on summer fun, science, and engineering.

Summer Adventure Camp runs for five weeks from June 12 to July 14 from 8:30-11:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday with Fridays used for rain days. The camp is for youth ages 4-12 years of age. The cost of the camp comes out to \$1.50 per hour for Mendota YMCA members and \$2.00 per hour for non-members, and offer activities, arts and crafts, and snacks for the campers. Scholarships are available for those in financial need. There will be a Camp Pool Party on Friday, July 14 from 10 a.m. to noon free of charge.

The YMCA is offering two additional camps this summer. Nature Camp will be held at Lakes Mendota and Kakusha, July 24-27 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for ages 8-13. The camp will focus on helping youth to



explore nature and develop an appreciation for the natural environments and their inhabitants. The cost is \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members.

Youth ages 13-15 years of age can develop their skills in engineering at the Design and Build Camp, July 31 to Aug. 3. This camp will be held at the Mendota YMCA from 9:30-11:30 a.m. where the campers will learn to design, draft, and complete a land yacht. They will test their designs in a race at the end of camp. The cost is \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members. There is a limit of 25 participants for this program.

The Mendota YMCA is launching a pilot program for computer coding and web design. The program will be for middle school, high school, and adults,

partnering with Treehouse Online Coding, PC Tech, and Surf Internet to run the program. It will be a five-week program, meeting three hours per week, July 3 – Aug. 3 at the Mendota YMCA. Levels and times will be announced shortly. The cost of the program is \$100 for members and \$120 for non-members.

YMCA NFL Flag Football will be partnering again with Mendota High School football this summer for a flag football camp July 24 and 26 from 8-9 a.m. at the MHS Football Field. This camp will teach the basics for beginners and further develop fundamentals for the more experienced players. It is free of charge and is for youth kindergarten to 6th grade.

The summer is packed full of fun and learning at the Mendota YMCA. From sports to engineering, there is something for youth of all ages. Financial assistance is available for those in need. Call the Mendota YMCA at 815-538-2900 to get registered for camp today.

New Open Show at Lee Co. Fair

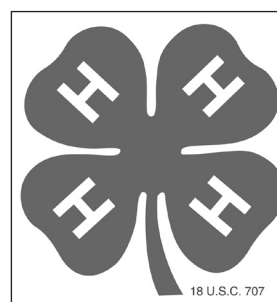
AMBOY – The 2023 Lee Co. Fair & 4-H Show is July 27-30 at the Lee Co. 4-H Center & Fairgrounds, 1196 Franklin Road, Amboy. The four-day event is a throwback to the old-time county fair with petting zoo, pony rides, midway of games, bounce houses, a barrel train, axe throwing and the County Fair Speedway.

The Lee County Fair Association is now accepting entries for the 2023 Jr. Show and the new Open Show.

“An open show is another avenue to welcome more people to the fair experience by exhibiting projects in a few non-livestock, general project departments,” said Katie Pratt, secretary.

Pratt said the Lee Co. Fair Association choose to start small, opening entries in three departments: Cooking / Baking; Floral / Gardening; and Fibers / Arts.

The Open Show is open to any resident from any county of any age. 4-H members and jr. show participants may enter the open show with projects not already entered in the 4-H show or jr. show. Entries must be submitted by July 1. Fee per entry is \$2.00 with a limit of two entries per class. In the Cooking/Baking department pies, yeast breads and sweets (cookies, candies) can be entered. In Floral / Gardening, participants can enter vegetables, flowers, and floral arrangements with a retro theme. In Fibers / Arts, quilts, sewing projects, photography and other art displays are welcome. A professional and amateur category are available in the Floral Arrangement and Photog-



raphy categories.

All rules, details and entry information can be found at www.leecounty4hcenter.com under Lee Co. Open Show.

The jr. show is open to youth ages 8 to 20, as of September 1, 2022. Project departments include all livestock and small animals, as well as visual arts, mechanical sciences and crops. Visual arts projects can be any art project created using paper, fiber, metal, mixed media, cake decorating, natural materials, etc. Mechanical sciences projects include model rocketry, electricity projects, woodworking and computer work. Youth

need not be 4-H members to participate. Visit www.leecounty4hcenter.com to find the online entry form and department and class descriptions. Entries are due July 1.

Grandstand events include tractor, garden tractor and truck pulls and a rodeo. New this year is the Cincinnati Circus Thrill Show, Sunday, July 30, 1 p.m. Entrance is free.

Returning to the fair schedule on Sunday, July 30 is the Marketplace featuring local crafters, artisans, farmer’s market vendors, and home-based business products. The Marketplace is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spaces are available. Contact the fair office via Facebook or at (815) 857-2603.

A full fair schedule and more information about other great fair activities and events is posted at www.leecounty4hcenter.com or like “Lee Co. Fair & 4-H Show” on facebook or Instagram for the latest information.




**OPTIMIST CLUB
OF MENDOTA**

FISHING RODEO

Kids ages 3-15 are welcome. Every child wins a prize, and receives a hot dog, chips and a drink for lunch.

Sunday, June 11th
Lake Mendota

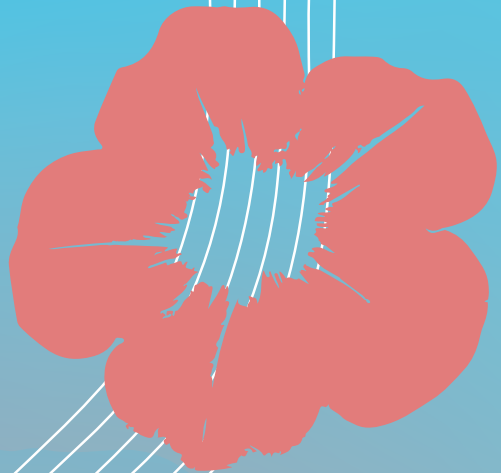
Registration
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Fishing
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Serving area youth for over 37 years!

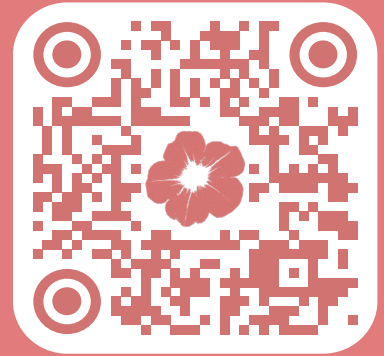


59TH ANNUAL DIXON



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FOR SCHEDULES
AND EVENTS



JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023



MUSIC
FIREWORKS
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
CARNIVAL

ARTS AND CRAFTS
PARADE
DIXON DISH FOOD TRAIL
CAR SHOW
AND MUCH MORE

www.petuniasfestival.org

