

THE ROAD TO *Recovery*

SECTION 3

FEATURING:

- Erbes Realty, LLC
- First State Insurance
- Illinois Valley Community College
 - Jurassic Bark Pet Grooming
 - Maze Lumber
 - McDonald's
- Mendota Area Churches
- Mendota Elementary District 289
 - Pioneer State Bank
- Services & Organizations
- Specialty Body & Paint
- State Farm Insurance - Kurt Bruno



Wednesday, February 24, 2021



Specialty Body & Paint operates a very modern shop with the latest technology. The paint department has two paint booths, one of which is a bake booth that dries a car's finish in 15 minutes. They use environmentally friendly, water-based paint with the latest clear coat products. Their paint shop is very clean and efficient.



The staff at Specialty Body & Paint includes, left to right, Jennifer Bauer, office manager; Dennis Bodmer, owner; and Joe Arteaga, body tech.

Specialty BODY & PAINT

At Specialty Body & Paint, we pride ourselves on doing quality repairs in an efficient and timely manner. We do it right the first time, every time! We use only quality parts and materials, and now using water born paint, which produces less hazardous waste, helps us do our part for the environment. Our services include auto, truck, and motorcycle collision and restoration. We also enjoy restoring antiques, such as pop machines, toys, bicycles, tractors, etc... Also we refinish residential interior and exterior doors, steel or fiberglass. Other services include exhaust replacement and repair, complete auto detailing, and cloudy headlight restoration. All of our staff is always happy to see you, and will help to make your collision repair experience quick and painless as possible.

1503 W. Washington Street, Mendota
815-539-7801

MPROG2019

Specialty Body & Paint is a modern collision repair facility

Dennis Bodmer started Specialty Body & Paint in 1983 after the shop he was employed at (Mendota Custom) was destroyed by fire. He opened a shop in West Brooklyn in an old, two-lane bowling alley. With the help of his father, Mick Bodmer, they turned that bowling alley into a body shop.

Specialty Body & Paint stayed there until 1991 when Dennis went into partnership with Scott Grobe on First Avenue, Mendota. The shop was there one year when Don Schimmer offered to sell them their present location, the old Schimmer Pontiac property at 1503 Washington St. In 1996, they tore down the old Schimmer building and built their current facility in its place. In 2016, Scott

Grobe left the business and Dennis Bodmer is now the sole owner of Specialty Body & Paint.

Specialty Body & Paint operates a very modern shop with the latest technology. The paint department has two paint booths, one of which is a bake booth that dries a car's finish in 15 minutes. They use environmentally friendly, water-based paint with the latest clear coat products. Their paint shop is very clean and efficient.

The body repair department includes a Kansas Jack frame repair rack with laser measuring system. In 2005, they became a blue flame muffler center and have the equipment in-house to fabricate exhaust systems for any vehicle,

at very reasonable prices. They use set procedures for every operation in the shop to assure quality and speed throughout the entire repair process. Our mission is to work as a team with your insurance company to give you a high quality, trouble-free, collision repair in a timely manner.

Specialty Body & Paint has two employees including Jennifer Bauer, office manager, and Joe Arteaga, body tech.

Specialty Body & Paint's office is very modern, clean and comfortable. They are very proud of their facility and welcome anyone at any time. The business is conveniently located at 1503 Washington St., Mendota, so stop in to see them for a cup of coffee and a free estimate.

Pioneer State Bank continuing to meet needs of its customers

Pioneer State Bank is a reliable and innovative financial institution that emphasizes customer service with a personal touch to the communities it serves. The bank is a subsidiary of NBE Bancshares, Inc. and has served the community and surrounding areas since 1938 with full service branching locations located at 137 S. Main St., in Earlville, 235 Chicago Road in Paw Paw and in Sublette at 303 Pennsylvania Ave. and 3 E. Woodhaven Drive.

The bank has worked to grow by continuing to add new products and services to better meet the needs of its customers. While offering all of the traditional banking services, Pioneer State Bank continues to bring new banking technology to its customers.

Pioneer State Bank has updated their website and added a FREE mobile check deposit application for smart phone users. This allows you to deposit a check anytime, anywhere.

In addition to the internet and mobile banking options, Pioneer State Bank offers checking customers a free Visa Debit card for use at most retailers as well as our seven convenient ATM locations.

Pioneer State Bank has the expertise to meet all of your loan needs with an experienced team of lenders specializing in agricultural, commercial, residential,

and consumer loans. They provide local decision making, prompt attentive service and highly competitive rates. Please feel free to contact Quint Harmon, President/CLO; Suli Gazafer, SR VP/Commercial Lender; Mark Govednik, VP/AG Lender; Jody Helgesen, AVP/Consumer Loan Officer or Torie Campbell, Consumer Lender for all of your lending needs.

Present members of the board include Michael R. Stevens, Chairman of the Board & CEO of Pioneer State Bank; Quint T. Harmon President & CLO of Pioneer State Bank; Mark E. Anderson; Robert J. Gast; Neva J. Ikler; John D. Anderson; and John A. Landers.

Pioneer State Bank, your community bank, wants you to know that we are a strong, stable financial institution dedicated to doing what is best for our customers, community and surrounding areas. You can trust us with the safekeeping of your hard-earned money and have peace of mind knowing that your deposits are secure. We help hard-working Americans every day invest in their future and borrow for what they need. Our mission has always been to work with you and to provide exceptional customer service with a personal touch. Pioneer State Bank – Building the Path to Your Success!



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Building the Path to Your Success

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• Sublette •
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• Paw Paw •
235 Chicago Rd
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Mendota District 289 gets creative in challenging school year

By DR. KRISTEN SCHOOL
Superintendent

Mendota Elementary #289

This year has been challenging. This year has been exciting. This year has been tough. This year has been filled with educators reaching into the depths of their creativity to find ways to teach - and reach - and motivate their students. Mendota Elementary District #289 is no exception. Preschool - 8th grade students in Mendota have received their core curriculum (Math, Reading, Writing, Science, and Social Studies) via remote learning, in person learning, and/or our hybrid model. In addition to the core curriculum, we have creatively offered our students music, art, steam, library and physical education too. Our Road to Recovery in these courses looks different, but amazing.

Here are a few examples of creativity at its best:

ART: The main focus in art this year has been on the use of materials students may be able to find at their homes. Projects were created on a much smaller scale than in the past, using mainly colored pencils, crayons and paper. Due to the fact that materials were very limited, the actual projects focused more on basic fundamentals of art as well. Examples of current projects include: bouquet drawings influenced by artist Heather Galler, a poster design on an environmental issue that our world currently faces, drawings in one point perspective, and concepts of graphic design used in the creation of a logo for a company students themselves made up.

MUSIC: (Band) Due to limitations on space and student numbers, most band lessons and activities became more individualized or small group focused. Lessons were both in person and virtual, and the music book being used (Essential Elements) includes an online platform that allows the director to assign specific materials to each student. Students could record themselves and send their work to the director. The learning curve allowed creativity to blossom and we can likely look forward to video productions by our band and choral students in the future.

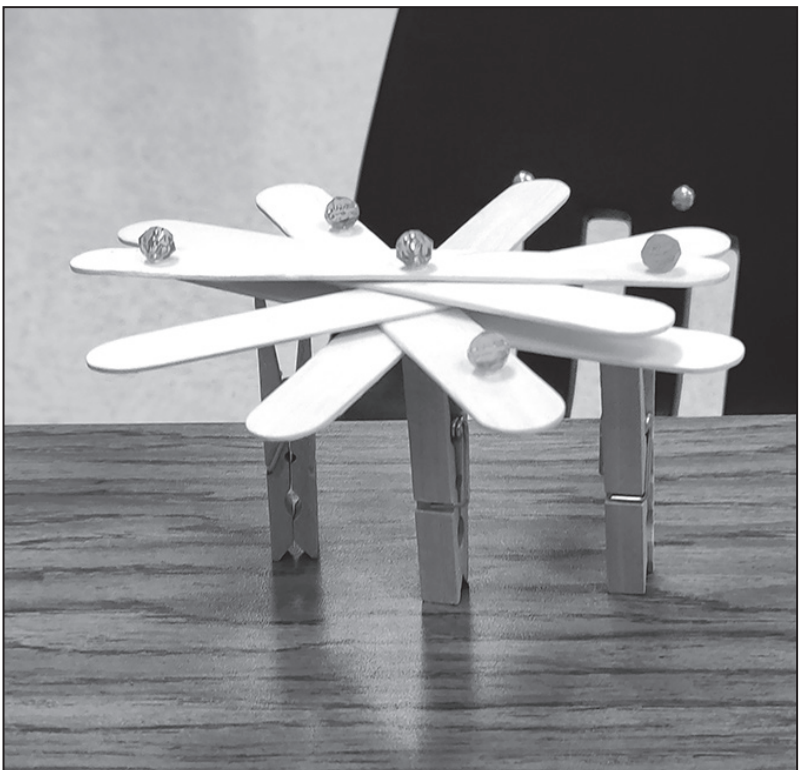
(General Music): One example of general music this year was creating a lesson on musical form using "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson. Students learned how composers create patterns (form) in music by having different sounding sections of music. To help students understand this a plastic cup was used that "played" different patterns for each section. Students were encouraged to learn and play along with the music teacher in the video. Students were also provided a visual sound map on a google slide with music so students could practice on their own.

PE: Physical Education has always been a very active, moving, and fast-paced learning environment with a mix of games, activities, and skill-learning opportunities and much more. This year in PE, across all grade levels, has been something new and challenging for both the teachers and the students. With equipment being used sparingly or not at all, the PE department throughout District #289 has implemented a FOCUS on FITNESS!

PE K & 1st Grade - At Blackstone our Kindergarten and 1st Grade students are learning new and fun ways to move and be active. Our students have daily PE class and this opportunity is used to promote physical activity to all students, both in-person and remote learners. We have done a lot of fitness activities including superhero workouts, yoga, fitness days, and activities that use items from around the house during Remote Learning. The sock



Due to limitations on space and student numbers, most band lessons and activities became more individualized or small group focused.



K-1 students were read "5 Little Pumpkins Sitting on the Fence" and they had to recreate it using orange beads, craft sticks, and clothespins.

ball activities and paper plate workouts were a few of the ways found to get students active using what they have at home. Researching and learning new ways to do activities with adaptations and limited equipment has been a challenging but rewarding part of teaching PE this school year. Despite the limited equipment use and social distancing, we have had a lot of fun learning to be physically active!

PE 2nd & 3rd Grade - At Lincoln our 2nd and 3rd Graders have done an amazing job of adapting to everything that has been thrown their way. They come in with a great attitude which makes the job easier. Our focus this year has been on health and fitness and really trying and teach the basics in a way that makes students want to be healthy and active. Whether it be in the gym or in our google classroom we are building the foundation for all students to get involved in living a healthier lifestyle. When in person, there is one fitness lesson a week to start students getting a general idea on how to lead a healthy lifestyle. Over google classroom we've also been able to talk about nutrition, fitness, and even mental health.

PE 4th & 5th Grade - As a PE department, we have made daily activity and life-long wellness the focus this year by practicing a variety of fitness skills, exploring new, nontraditional ways to stay active (especially for remote learners), and discussing how to make healthy lifestyle choices. While the use of equipment is extremely limited, it has been a lot of fun finding different ways to adapt our normal games and seeing the students excel with it. For example, during tag games (which are some of our favorite games to play and a great way to improve cardiovascular endurance!) we have adapted by using hula hoops to tag. Students slide the hoops on the floor using their feet to tag classmates instead of the typical hand to shoulder contact. Our most recent unit, juggling, also looks much different than an average year but has been a great success so far. Students were supplied with scrap/extra paper from their classroom teachers (or asked to find two sheets of scrap paper at home) to create juggling balls of their own. Then, using their own personal equipment, students were able to practice a variety of tossing and catching skills and juggling patterns, working on both hand eye coordination and fine motor skills.

PE 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade - At the middle school level we have taken fitness and broken it down, focusing on specific components, then implementing these into fun and challenging activities. We have focused specifically on Core, Cardio/Endurance, Flexibility, High-Intensity Interval-Training, and Strength training. All of these

have been enriched with discussions to learn about heart-rate, healthy eating / nutrition, goal setting, and more. We as a team, teachers and students, are focusing on life-long fitness and healthy lifestyle techniques that the youth of today can implement tomorrow.

K & 1 STORYBOOK STEAM: Mrs. Kleckner, librarian reads a story to students during library time. Then, students are asked to solve a problem from the story to help the characters or complete an art activity that goes along

with the story during their STEAM class. Students are able to use materials they have at home to complete these projects.

GRADES 2-4 STEAM: The focus this year at Lincoln has been mainly on Science. Generation Genius and Mystery Science have been great resources. Students are able to watch a short video that includes an experiment to try at home. All grade levels have participated in some fun science experiments that can be completed at home as a family. Examples of

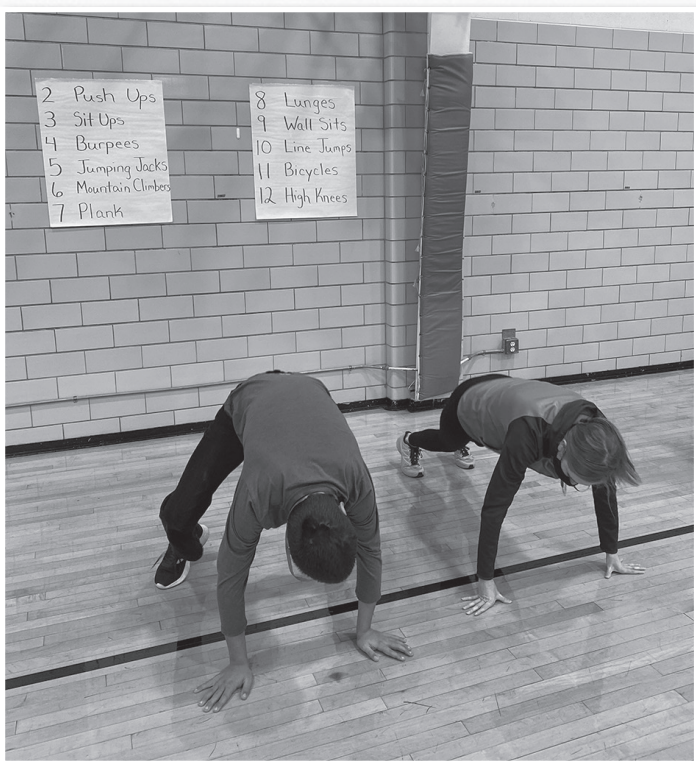
experiments include: Scattering germs experiment using pepper, water and dish soap; melting candy canes experiment with different liquids; what melts ice the fastest using hot water, salt, baking soda, vinegar, and sugar. The main goal is to pique curiosity and encourage critical thinking. At M289, we are on the Road to Recovery. We have taken some unique paths this year, but as you can see, creativity paired with resourcefulness have provided our students with great experiences.



Mystery Science - Robots made in 2nd-4th grade.

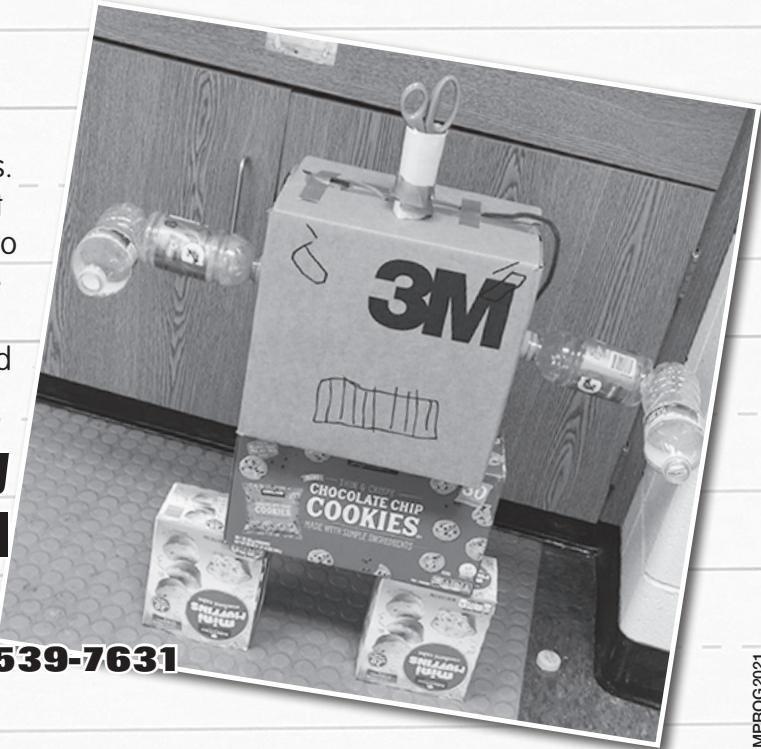
The Road to Recovery for
Mendota Elementary District #289
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Mendota Community Consolidated School District #289
1806 Guiles Ave. • 815-539-7631
www.mendota289.org



IVCC prepares Rodrigues to excel at NIU

IVCC graduate Lillian Rodrigues of Mendota is in her second semester of Northern Illinois University's School of Nursing and will graduate in December 2022 with a BSN.

A decorated scholar at IVCC, Rodrigues has made the Dean's list each semester at NIU. Outside the classroom at NIU, she is fundraising chair for the multicultural sorority Sigma Lambda Gamma.

She is undecided what her nursing specialty will be but plans to work in rural medicine for a few years before attending graduate school to earn the MSN.

"IVCC's curriculum prepared me well for NIU," said Rodrigues.

At IVCC, Rodrigues won two of the college's most prestigious academic honors: the Foundation's 21st Century Scholars Society Award and Frederick W. Matthiessen Award.



Lillian Rodrigues and Paxton Kennedy of Mendota are among more than 150 IVCC graduates now attending Northern Illinois University. Rodrigues is in NIU's nursing program and Kennedy is majoring in ag finance.

Make it Happen at IVCC like Lillian!

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IVCC Summer registration begins April 2. Fall registration opens April 8.



Illinois Valley Community College
815 N. Orlando Smith Road, Oglesby, IL 61348
815-224-0447



Video conferencing security tips

In the future, when the world reflects on 2020, the word "Zoom" will no doubt come to mind. Though Zoom first launched its video conferencing software in 2013, that software did not become a fabric of many people's daily lives until 2020, when a global pandemic was declared and the world suddenly shifted to remote working and virtual learning en masse.

Video conferencing apps like Zoom helped people of all ages maintain connections with their families, friends and professional colleagues throughout the pandemic. In the rush to maintain those connections, security might have been placed on the back burner. But the Federal Trade Commission urges video conferencing users to implement some basic safety strategies so they can protect their personal information when speaking with their friends, families and coworkers via apps like Zoom.

- Make each conferencing session unique. The FTC notes that some conferencing services allow users to use unique passwords and/or identification numbers for each conferencing session. These features are typically set up by session hosts and can reduce the likelihood of strangers entering meetings and accessing users' personal information. If you are not hosting sessions, urge hosts to utilize features that make passwords unique for each session.
- Install conferencing app updates the

moment they become available. Updates are typically designed in response to vulnerabilities discovered since the most recent version of a software was made available. Installing updates when they become available is a good way for video conference users to protect themselves against cyber criminals.

- Don't open invitations you don't recognize. The FTC notes that hackers are sending emails that mimic video conferencing invitations. When clicking on such invitations, users may unknowingly be downloading malware that can make their computers and personal information vulnerable to cyber criminals. If you receive an unexpected video conferencing invitation, contact the host separately before opening the invite. In addition, hosts can urge users to contact them directly if they receive an invitation but are hesitant to open it.
- Protect your privacy at all times. Before using a video conferencing app, familiarize yourself with its privacy policies to determine how your information will be handled. Some apps may record conferencing sessions, so it's imperative that users read privacy policies prior to using an app.

Video conferencing apps helped people stay in touch during the pandemic. When utilizing such apps, users must prioritize security to avoid being victimized by cyber criminals.



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Explaining cloud storage

Technology advances at such a rapid pace that it can be hard for consumers to keep up. Something that maybe didn't exist as recently as a few years ago may already be considered obsolete, while some solutions that were on the periphery for years may suddenly become vital to how individuals and businesses operate.

Cloud storage likely qualifies as something that, though it's been available for many years, figures to become a bigger part of people's daily lives in the coming years. That likelihood means now is as good a time as any for consumers to familiarize themselves with cloud storage.

What is cloud storage?

According to Amazon Web Services, cloud storage is a computing model that

See Cloud, Page A5

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021



❖ McDonald's – 1503 13th Ave.



❖ McDonald's – 2701 E. 12th St.



McDonald's offers two Mendota locations

Whether it is their freshly made coffee or a tasty frappe, a classic burger, sandwich or other delicious menu item, or breakfast all day long, McDonald's has something guaranteed to make your day. McDonald's offers two locations in Mendota to serve you, 1503 13th Ave. and U.S. Route 34 near I-39.

Cloud

Continued from Page A4

stores data on the internet through a cloud computing provider who manages and operates data storage as a service. Items stored on cloud storage services can be accessed on demand and access is available anytime, anywhere.

How does cloud storage work?

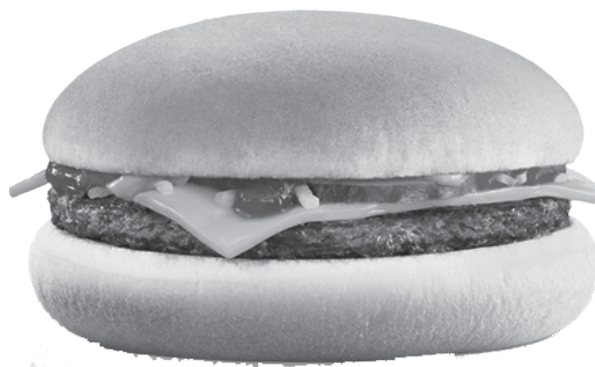
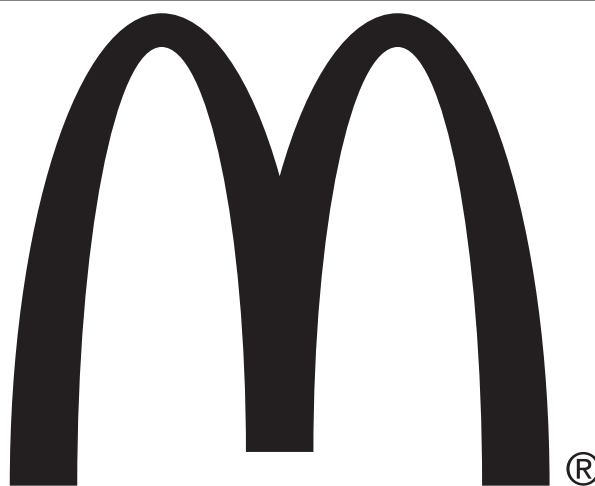
Third party cloud vendors sell and manage storage capacity. So the relationship between cloud storage customer and vendor is not all that dissimilar than the customer-proprietor relationship when renting a physical storage unit to store items people can't or don't want to store in their homes. In return for a fee, cloud storage vendors manage data storage infrastructure, including security and durability. But unlike physical storage units, cloud storage customers won't have to drive to the outskirts of town to access their data like they might if they want to bring that old couch back into their homes. Rather, cloud storage enables convenient, instant access to data. All users need to do is log in.

How does cloud storage benefit businesses?

Cloud storage is convenient for individuals, but its most substantial impact will likely be seen in the business sector. According to AWS, businesses that choose to store their data on the cloud won't have to purchase any hardware and they'll be able to add or remove storage capacity on demand.

Is cloud storage secure?

According to SearchStorage.com, a website designed by the B2B marketing services vendor TechTarget, cloud storage security has concerned users since the early days of the technology. However, as cloud storage technology has advanced, so, too, have its security capabilities.



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Erbes Realty welcomes new broker

Buying or selling a home is one of the biggest decisions a person will make in their life. Erbes Realty, LLC, in Sublette, is the area's leading real estate agency serving Lee, LaSalle and Bureau counties and surrounding areas.

Lori Erbes of Erbes Realty has more than 30 years experience and a long history of success. The realty company is dedicated, hardworking, and skilled in all facets of real estate sales. It is passionate about providing exceptional care to all of its customers.

Erbes welcomed new Broker, Abigail Vaessen, to the team in 2020. Vaessen is a Sublette native and loves being part of such a small and close knit community. Through her comprehensive education at Eureka College she has a great amount of experience with Marketing, Communication, and Digital Media Design. She strives to bring out the creative side in real estate and provide top notch results through professional videography and photography services. Her goal is to ensure that all of her clients have a fun, exciting, and stress free real estate transaction. She cannot wait to jump in and start servicing our area. Give her a call of all of your Real Estate needs at 815-508-9715.

Stop by or call today and let Erbes Realty help you find your dream home or seasonal vacation spot at Woodhaven Lakes camping resort.

Erbes Realty specializes in commercial, residential and farmland real estate. For all your real estate needs, stop by and see the friendly and honest staff.

Erbes Realty is located at 1922 Tower Road, Sublette, and is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except for Tuesday, which is by appointment only.

Call Lori Erbes at 815-535-6295 or visit Erbes Realty online at www.erbes-realty.com.



Lori Erbes, GRI - Designated Managing Broker



Abigail Vaessen - Broker

Come See Us for ALL Your Real Estate Needs!

Residential • Agricultural • Commercial • Recreation Properties

Looking for a place to getaway? Look no further than Woodhaven Lakes! Call us to see the properties listed below!



Sec 5, Lot 419 \$85,000

Lake views are calling your name! Take a look at this cozy park model overlooking Sunset Lake with a unique room addition, roofed deck, shed, and a fire-pit. Features a stunning and spacious bedroom with large windows for lake views and beautiful natural light. Park model has central air and heat as well as window units in the room addition. All appliances and furniture stay, so it's all ready for you! It's much more than meets the eye, schedule an appointment to view this gem today!



Sec 2, Lots 207 & 208 \$52,900

Two peaceful and spacious lots located in a cul de sac. This incredible package includes a 2007 Crossroads Trailer with two bedrooms, a room addition, a screen room, and a deck. Also includes a 2011 Gulfstream Innsbruck Series Trailer with 1 bedroom and slide out. Both trailers have ramps for accessibility. Buyer is willing to sell the 2011 Gulfstream separately, please inquire with listing broker for information. Lots also have a fire-pit and (2) storage sheds. Something special about this property is that it has a bridge to the rear that leads to the general store and Pool #1. All furniture included.



Sec 22, Lot 124 \$58,900

Are you ready to enjoy camping in a luxurious way? Take a look at this 2011 Keystone Sprinter with a jaw-dropping room addition that was built in 2018. Room addition is equipped with the top of the line fixtures, has a BRAND NEW electric fireplace, a fridge, a 60 inch TV and a like-new couch. Addition also has a spacious loft area, so there is plenty of sleeping room for everybody. Lot is pie shaped and has 2 gravel driveways, a storage shed, a deck, fire pit, and is sewered. New rubber roof coating was JUST put on. Please note that the seller is still completing some updates within the property, see broker comments.



Sec 16, Lot 87 \$24,000

2010 Wildwood trailer situated on a nice sewer lot that borders common property. Lot features an in-ground fire-pit, patio, and a nice gravel driveway. Trailer is well maintained and has a full sized bed, kitchen, bunk area, and bathroom. Close to Mikes Pond and only a short drive to Pool #1, the RecPlex, and the General Store with a restaurant! Enjoy the hot Illinois Summers at Woodhaven Lakes, call today to schedule an appointment.

Sec 1, Lot 56	\$69,900	Sec 26, Lot 154	\$24,500
Sec 2, Lot 69	\$65,000	Sec 26, Lot 231	\$20,000
Sec 2, Lots 207 & 208	\$52,900	Sec 27, Lot 100	\$17,500
Sec 5, Lot 419	\$85,000	BUILDING LOTS	
Sec 13, Lot 110	\$4,500	109 W MAIN ST., SUBLETTE	\$20,000
Sec 14, Lot 68	\$15,500	25 W MILTON ST., AMBOY	
Sec 16, Lot 87	\$24,000	5 LOTS	\$28,500
Sec 16, Lot 144 SOLD	\$43,000	919 MISSOURI DR., DIXON	
Sec 22, Lot 41 & 42	\$20,000	LOST NATION LOT	\$25,000
Sec 22, Lot 73	\$9,900	1953 STRAW LANE, DIXON	
Sec 22, Lot 124	\$58,900	SOLD	\$18,500
Sec 24, Lot 74	\$30,000		
Sec 24, Lot 75 SOLD	\$7,500		

MPROG2021



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Jurassic Bark offers convenient way to get your pet groomed

Looking for a more convenient way to get your pet groomed? Jurassic Bark Pet Grooming is a new, mobile pet grooming service now available to Mendota area pet owners.

Owner Tiffany Aska, who worked from her home grooming salon for several years, made the switch to a mobile unit in January. Aska explained that mobile grooming offers her clients a much more convenient option.

"I come to their home, so they don't have to put their dog in the car, get hair all over the car, and then drive the dog somewhere," she said. "Some dogs don't like riding in the car, and some don't like being in a strange setting where there are other dogs. It also takes less time out of the owner's day."

A lifelong dog lover, Aska says grooming is a really fun job for her.

"I feel like they're all my own dogs and

they're always happy to see me, which makes me feel good because I know they enjoy it when I groom them," she said. "I'm also very artistic, and I am able to use that creativity through the accessories I put on the dogs. I always add a fun item after they've been groomed - bows, ties, scarves or even temporary color - as long as the dogs are agreeable to it."

Aska can also do hair dying for dogs, using dye that is specific for dogs and only if the dog is agreeable. "But most dogs just sit there and don't mind at all," she noted.

Jurassic Bark Pet Grooming is based in Mendota and Aska will also travel to towns within a 15-mile radius. Appointments are available Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, Jurassic Bark Pet Grooming may be contacted by phone or text at (815) 200-3326, or send a message on their Facebook page.



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You can trust the professionals at First State Insurance to handle all of your insurance needs. Members of the team, left to right, are Jenny Hendren, Tony Ayala, Jennie Smith, Gary Safranek, Erica Escatel, Mike Wasmer, Mary Ann Baughan, Tyler Full, Jackie Near, Brandon Pezanoski.

First State Insurance has comprehensive choices

First State Insurance, a wholly owned subsidiary of First State Bank, is located in downtown Mendota. First State Insurance includes three locations - Mendota, Earlville and Paw Paw.

The agency, celebrating its 22nd year of operations, offers a comprehensive choice of services and companies. Because FSI is an independent insurance outlet, there are many choices available to the agency's customer base.

"Our main purpose is to provide the highest level of personalized service and insurance expertise possible," said Mike Wasmer, the agency's manager for the past 21 years. "In order to provide a high level of service, we must be both knowledgeable and caring. Our agency's goal is to provide our customers with special attention for their needs." A total of five licensed agents currently service the Mendota First State Insurance policies: Mike Wasmer, Jackie Near, Tyler

Full, Mary Ann Baughan and Brandon Pezanoski.

As an independent insurance agency, First State Insurance represents many excellent companies. Various coverage options as well as premium requirements are considered for each customer. Several of the property companies represented by First State are Auto-Owners, LaPrairie Mutual, Travelers, Mendota Mutual, Safeco, Met Life and Kemper.

Automobile insurance companies represented are Auto-Owners, IMT, Progressive, Travelers, Grinnell Mutual, Kemper, Met Life, Safeco and Rockford Mutual. First State Insurance has several outstanding outlets for farm insurance needs, including Auto Owners, Bradford Mutual, LaPrairie Mutual and Mendota Mutual. First State Insurance also offers life and health insurance through several sources.

Wasmer stated, "Although not all of the companies with whom we contract

are well known companies, they deliver excellent service to our customers, or we would not represent them. As independent agents with a choice of different companies, we do our best to identify the best coverages with the best company for each customer.

"It's important to have a lot of choices," Wasmer added. "Our experienced staff can take the guess work out of our customer's insurance needs. Farmers, business owners, commercial customers and individuals can depend on us to find the right policies at the right price when they turn to First State Insurance."

First State Insurance Agency is located at 715 Washington St. in Mendota, 114 W. Railroad St. in Earlville, and 385 Chicago Road in Paw Paw. They can be contacted at (815) 539-5651, (815) 246-8261 and (815) 627-8552. Visit them at firststateinsurance.biz or on Facebook.



Left to right: Tyler Full, Jackie Near, Mike Wasmer, Mary Ann Baughan, Brandon Pezanoski



FIRST STATE INSURANCE

First State Insurance, Mendota is located right across the street from First State Bank. It offers the following insurance products:

- Home
- Auto
- Health
- Medicare Supplements
- Commercial
- Farm
- Crop Hail
- Multi Peril
- Life
- Annuities



Mendota 539-5651
Earlville 246-8261
Paw Paw • 627-8552

"The More Than One Company Agency"

MPROC2021



People can try various strategies to make more efficient use of the 24 hours they do have each day.

Tips on being more efficient with your time

A time crunch is no stranger to many adults. Busy professionals balancing work and their personal lives often wish there was more time in the day. Though it might be impossible to create more minutes in the day, adults can take steps to be more efficient with their time. The more efficient people can be with their time, the more that time should begin to feel like their own.

- Audit yourself. It's hard to be more efficient with your time if you're not certain about where you're being inefficient. Audit how you're spending time each day, jotting down everything you do during the day and how much time you spend on each individual task. Audits can be made easier by utilizing time tracking apps on a smartphone, some of which are free. The app need not provide a bunch of bells and whistles (such apps are generally designed to help businesses track employees' production). A simple app that lets you track each activity and the time it takes to perform it is all you need to conduct a successful audit.

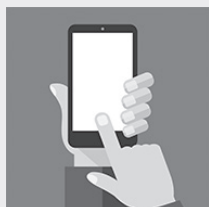
- Categorize tasks. Tasks can be categorized so those that are absolutely necessary are never given a lower

✓ Audit yourself

✓ Categorize tasks

✓ Don't hesitate to delegate

✓ Turn devices off



priority than nonessential tasks. In addition, tasks can be categorized according to how much time each one figures to take. Once tasks have been categorized, choose distraction-free times of day to perform high-priority, time-consuming tasks. The ability to focus on such tasks free from distraction should cut down on the time it takes to complete them, potentially freeing up more time in your day.

- Don't hesitate to delegate. When categorizing tasks, create a category for tasks that can be delegated. Parents may want to delegate meal prep to children who are old enough to hold their own in the kitchen, while adult partners can divide up household chores so no one person is doing the bulk of the work around the house.

- Turn devices off. Devices are distracting, and various surveys and studies have proven that. Research from RescueTime, an iOS- and Android-supported app created to monitor phone use, found that people spend an average of three hours and 15 minutes per day on their phones. Adults who are pressed for time may benefit by turning their devices off during the work day and/or when trying to tackle tasks at home. In fact, turning a smartphone or other device off when you don't need it to perform a given task may be the simplest and most effective way to make more efficient use of your time.

Finding a 25th hour in the day may not be possible, but people can try various strategies to make more efficient use of the 24 hours they do have each day.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1855
1003 Fifth St. • Mendota
Rev. Susan Presley, Pastor
Services: 10 a.m. Sunday
Phone: 815-538-5603
Email: mendotafirstpres@gmail.com
www.fpcmendota.com
Livestreamed Services: www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Established 1858
607 10th Ave. • Mendota
Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor
In-Person and Online Worship – 9 a.m. Sundays
(Zoom and Facebook Live)
Church Phone: 815-539-5626
Handicapped Accessible
www.stjohnsmendota.org
Find us on Facebook!

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Established 1858 • Catholic Diocese of Peoria
1010 Jefferson St. • Mendota
Pastor Fr. Peter A. Pilon
Services:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8 a.m.
Tuesday, Thursday – 7 a.m.
Saturday – 4 p.m.
Sunday – 9 a.m. & Noon in Spanish
Adoration – Sunday 2-3 p.m.; Tuesday 6:45-7:45 p.m. (3rd Tuesday of month)
(Closed on funeral days and holidays)
815-538-6151
All Masses are available for viewing live on Zoom.
mendotacatholic.org

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Established 1864
398 Church Road • Compton
Pastor Jeff Schlesinger, Pastor
Services: Available weekly on-line, accessed through:
Website: www.ilccompton.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/ilccompton](https://www.facebook.com/ilccompton)
You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxhbzUMEeE1C2SIsP-YI65A>
Check our website and Facebook page for more information as we transition back to in-person worship
815-539-6567

SERVING ONE LORD

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

These fine service organizations support the Mendota area by focusing on the future of our community and its people. Please support them as they support us.

MENDOTA OPTIMIST CLUB

39th
Anniversary

FRIEND OF YOUTH

Meetings every
2nd & 4th
Tuesday of the
Month at V.F.W.
Building, 610 6th
Street, Mendota

P.O. Box 602, Mendota, IL 61342 *New members always welcome!*



Mendota Booster Club

Supporting the Students and Athletes of
M.H.S. for more than 70 years!

Meetings on the first Wednesday of the month,
7:00 p.m. at Mendota High School

This club is comprised of parents and community working together to support and raise funds for the extra curricular activities at Mendota High School.
Membership Open.

MENDOTA ELKS LODGE 1212, B.P.O.E.

Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks
707 Indiana Ave
815-538-3557

- Bar open 7 days a week
- League bowling & open bowling on request

Meetings: First and Third Thursdays at 8 p.m.



Mendota Lions Club

“We Serve Our Local Community”

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
at the Lions Den, Tri-County Fairgrounds, Mendota
President: Catherine Wasmer • Secretary/Treasurer: Betsy Westrick

Corn Dogs - OUR Specialty!

Maze Lumber is the go-to place for your building product needs

For over 173 years, Maze Lumber has been providing the best building materials available to the Illinois Valley.

From the first time lumber was sent down the Illinois & Michigan Canal to a bustling Illinois Valley, Maze Lumber has been servicing customers with quality building products to meet every need. Whether it's kitchens or fireplaces, siding or Marvin windows and doors, decks or stone veneers, hardwood flooring or tile, Maze Lumber has exactly what you are looking for. The modern Maze Lumber Yard is located in a 14,863-square-foot office and display building. Maze Lumber's "Hall of Flame" has the area's largest burning gas and wood fireplace displays in Central Illinois, featuring units from Lopi, Kozy Heat, Fireplace Extraordinaire, Jotul, and White Mountain Hearth.

Maze offers such do-it-yourself materials as ply-

wood, dimensional lumber, molding and millwork, hardwoods, and has the ability to special order almost anything. Maze Lumber also handles a full line of major-brand plumbing products featuring Kohler, Moen, Delta, Cultured Marble of Arthur, The Onyx Collection, Tere-Stone, Aker, Maax and Sterling. Sagehill, Ronbow, and custom vanities help to complete the package. Along with Maze Lumber's extensive line of bathroom fixtures, Maze features Woodharbor, Haas, and Breeze cabinetry, as well as an extensive line of countertop options including Cambria, Zodiaq, Silestone, Laminate, Corian, and natural stone.

To help finish up the projects in your home, Maze is a "World Class" Marvin window dealer with a full line of working displays as well as offering onsite measuring and quoting for your window renovations. Maze Lumber General Man-

ager Peter M. Loveland and Operations Manager David Munson oversee the yard operation, which is staffed with a professional group of sales associates readily identified by their bright yellow shirts. Chad Errio specializes in stove and fireplace products. Once employed in the HVAC industry, Chad has the knowledge and background to assist with any hearth products. Andrew Kreofsky is the expert and salesman for natural and manufactured stone veneers and brick, along with offering product and sales support of all Maze departments.

Maze Lumber is the exclusive IV dealer for Natural Stone Veneer, Eden Stone, Boral Cultured Stone, ProVia Stone, Montana Rockworks, Glacier Stone, and RealStone Systems.

Patty Hennessey and Nicole Warren provide a true designer's eye in the kitchen and bath departments. They

have created some of the most elegant kitchens in the area, and have years of combined experience to assist you. Whether you're just remodeling, or designing your dream kitchen and bath, new showroom is your perfect starting point. Heather Maze is our kitchen and bath showroom assistant, keeping things stocked, organized, and cleaned.

Joe Salz provides expertise as our outside salesman, always available to answer the needs of contractor and industrial accounts as well as homeowners.

Chuck Loebach works in our sales office manning the counters at all times, providing assistance on all products on our showroom floor.

Jim Kreiser works in our sales office with homeowners and contractors, dealing with all types of sales.

Jennifer Smith is the office administrator, handling all computer and accounting responsibilities.

Craig Justi is the outside yard manager, coordinating activities of the driver and yard crew with the help of Jim Tipton, Bob Toner, Rick Roth, Sam Loveland, and Matt Lightle. Maze Lumber also provides a full-time delivery service with a fleet of vehicles including two boom trucks and two box vans to expedite hard-to-handle loads.

The Maze Lumber crew prides itself on providing customer service in a speedy and efficient manner and

looks forward to your business. Maze Lumber is always updating their showroom to offer the most current products on the market, allowing customers to visualize our products on and in their homes.

We are open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and even Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to noon. We have been providing top-quality building materials for over seven generations and are ready to help you with your next project. Stop on down the next time you're in the area, and see what we can do for you!

For more information, go to mazelumber.com or "Maze Lumber" on Facebook.



The team at Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance includes, left to right, Jim Bruno, Emily Stanley, Teresa King, Alyson Contreras, Kristin Campbell and Kurt Bruno. Not pictured: Mary Bruno.

State Farm offers a full line of insurance

The Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance Team includes Teresa King, office manager; Kristin Campbell, senior staff representative; Alyson Contreras, bilingual and staff representative; Emily Stanley, property casualty representative; James Bruno, staff assistant; and Mary Bruno, marketing and accounting specialist.

The Kurt Bruno State Farm Agency Team is here to assist you in tailoring an individual insurance plan to help you protect what's important to you. The team has over 90 years of collective experience in the insurance business and is confident that it can help you prepare for life's unexpected challenges.

Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance offers State Farm auto, home, farm, life, contractor and small business insurance, worker's compensation and Medicare Supplement insurance.

The agency's office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Weekend and evening appointments are available upon request.

Claim service is provided by State Farm 24 hours a day, seven days a week by simply

calling the office at 815-539-3878. You can also go online to www.kurtbruno.com.

We protect it. You live it.

Kurt Bruno, Agent
1103 Main Street
Mendota, IL 61342
Bus: 815-539-3878
kurt.bruno.gtoz@statefarm.com
Se habla español

I'm here to help life go right" – so you can enjoy it, while I help protect it. Let's talk about your life insurance options. CALL ME TODAY.

State Farm

State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in MA, NY or WI)
State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI)
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Since 1848

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