

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

MENDOTA PROGRESS 2020

SECTION I

FEATURING:

- Black Bros. Co.
- City of Mendota
- Eureka Savings Bank
- Financial Plus Credit Union
- Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Mendota Civic Center
- Mendota High School District 280
- Schimmer Chevrolet Buick, Inc.
 - Sullivan's Foods



Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Black Bros. Co. is a world-renowned manufacturer

Black Bros. Co., the oldest manufacturing firm in Mendota, can trace its roots in the area back to the turn of the 20th century, although the company history goes even farther back than that. Founded in 1882 in Lanark, Scotland, by the five original Black brothers – William, John, James, Walter and David, as well as their father, William Sr. – the business was relocated in the late 1880s to Chicago before the five brothers, their father, and their families ultimately settled in Mendota in 1899.

Over the next 120 years, Black Bros. Co. has transformed from a small woodworking shop into a world-renowned manufacturer of roll coating and laminating equipment. Originally used for wood only, Black Bros. Co. has expanded over the years into a wide variety of other industries and applications including metals, plastics, foam and electronics.

Black Bros. associates have designed, built and tested more than 30,000 machines and delivered them across the globe to every continent except Antarctica, earning them an international reputation for innovative engineering, quality manufacturing and dedicated support.

The manufacturers who use Black Bros. Co.'s equipment include producers of furniture, kitchen cabinets, doors, windows, wall paneling, ceiling and floor tile, insulation, rubber flooring, plastic containers and RVs, to name a few.

The people at Black Bros. are not only committed to producing quality machines, but also to the city of Mendota. Black Bros. employees can be found volunteering for many area organizations,



Black Bros. sales team exhibited at the AWFS Fair in July. The fair is a semi-annual tradeshow in Las Vegas for American woodworking and furnishing suppliers. Black Bros. had equipment on display and live demonstrations during the fair.

including the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, Mendota Optimist Club, Mendota Lions Club, Mendota Elks Lodge #1212, Mendota Moose Lodge and the Mendota Area YMCA. Youth sports organizations and the United Way are also benefactors of Black Bros. and its people.

Matt Carroll, current

Chief Executive Officer and great-grandson of original founder John Black, represents the fifth generation of family ownership. Matt's son, Evan, the sixth generation of family ownership, currently serves the company in the role of Lab Manager.

Times and technology may change, but Black Bros. Co. continues to adhere to the

values that have separated it from the competition and allowed the company to grow into the sixth-generation of family ownership: impeccable quality, unmatched durability, and dedicated service.

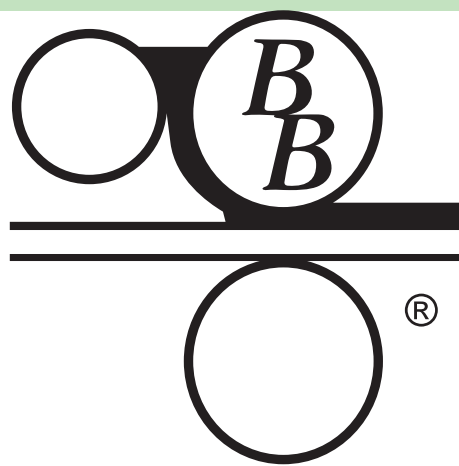
Laminating and Coating Technology

At the forefront of Laminating and Roll Coating technology for over a century,

Black Bros. has developed an international reputation for innovative engineering, quality manufacturing and dedicated support. Since 1882, the Black Bros. emblem has proudly identified equipment as the most durable and highest quality available. The primary reason for our continued success is our valued customers, many of

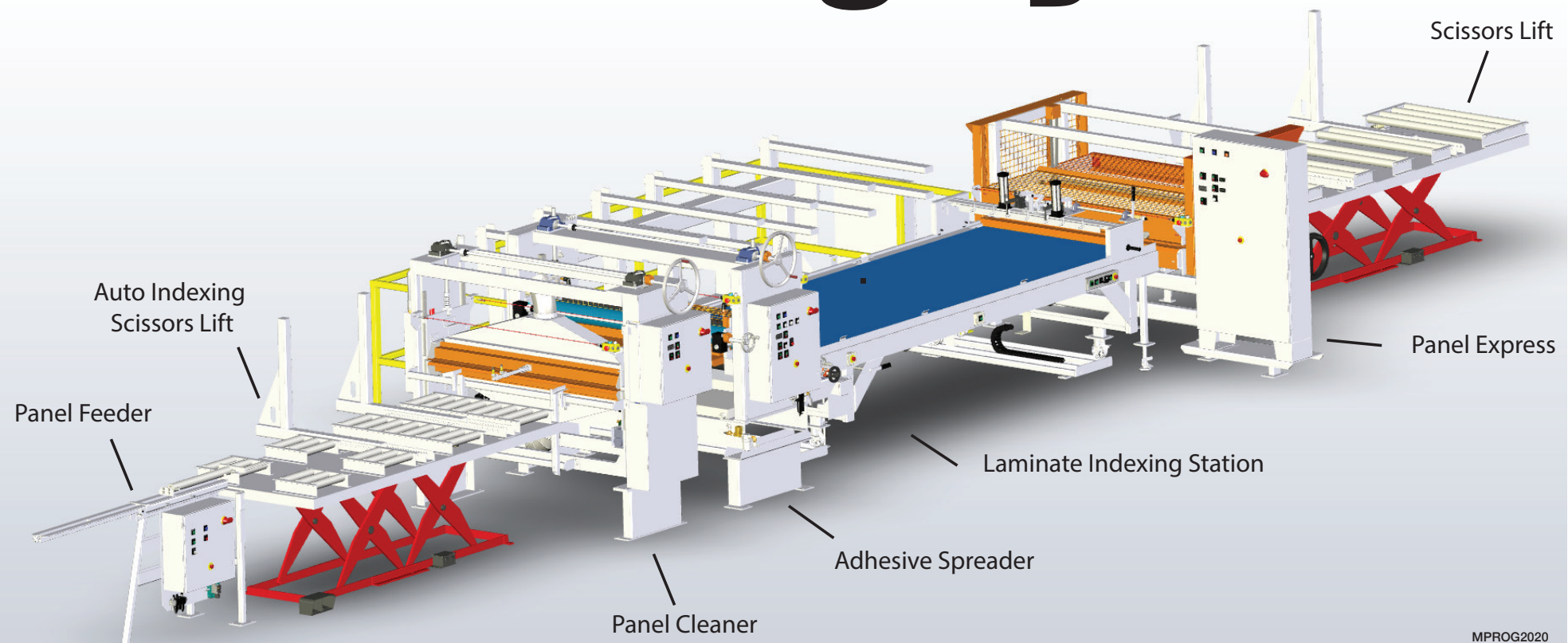
whom have trusted Black Bros. machinery for generations. Times and technology may change, but Black Bros. continues to adhere to the values that have separated us from the competition and allowed us to grow into our sixth-generation of family ownership: impeccable quality, unmatched durability, and dedicated service.

The Black Bros. Panel Express Heat-Assisted Rotary Laminator is designed to laminate all types of HPL, decorative plastics, and other sheet products to plywood, or MDF. When used in conjunctions with "fast tack" (high solids) PVA adhesives, the Panel Express Laminating System allows you to move from laminating into production without the need for additional press time.



BLACK BROS. CO.

Panel Express Laminating System



MPROG2020

www.blackbros.com | 800-252-2568

Chamber offers many benefits to members, community

The Mendota Chamber of Commerce benefits its members – and the community – in many ways. The Chamber provides an up-to-date website, sponsorship of the annual Sweet Corn Festival and many other events and programs that help to enhance business and community life in Mendota.

President and CEO, Kate Fox, oversees the day-to-day operations of the Chamber along with the programs and policies of the board of directors and ambassador club. Responsibilities include public relations, fiscal oversight and the task of marketing Mendota. Fox is assisted by Shelby Weide who has served as the Executive Assistant since 2018. Together, they work to plan promotional events and carry out the directions of the chamber board.

The Chamber's website, www.mendotachamber.com, is a premier benefit for Chamber members and is an important tool for connecting businesses. The site includes a directory that lists all Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce members and provides links to members' websites. The website includes members' job listings and coupons, as well as an updated Calendar of Events listing members' events.

Every year, the Chamber's largest project is to coordinate the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival, which celebrates our community and the importance that agriculture and corn have played in Mendota's history. Always an impressive event, this year's Mendota Sweet Corn Festival will be no exception as it marks 73 years. The 2020 celebration is scheduled for Aug. 6-9. The Chamber's Sweet Corn Festival website, www.sweetcornfestival.com, will show the 2020 calendar of events by late spring. The Chamber also compiles and distributes a brochure highlighting festival event sponsors and promoting member restaurants and motels. In 2017 was the first year brought a new carnival to town, which helped draw a record-breaking crowd of between 60,000-65,000 in attendance.

Some of the other benefits of Chamber membership are mailings, which keep members informed of upcoming events and programs; an e-newsletter broadcasting Chamber news, member events, and new members; advertising opportunities on the Chamber's double-sided LED sign located at the Mendota Civic Center; referrals of Chamber members; the Chamber ambassador's club, which welcomes new businesses and assists with grand openings and ribbon cutting; free participation in the Mendota Gift Certificate program; Chamber sponsored events and networking opportunities; free seminars and workshops on topics of interest and concern to members; community events and tourism; opportunity to post job listings and coupons on the Chamber website; a Prescription Discount Card, and the Mendota Community Calendar published monthly in The Mendota Reporter and free listing of Chamber members as monthly sponsors. All Chamber Members are also included in the Mendota Community Profile Book, which highlights different aspects of Mendota including City Government, School System, Industry, Health Care options, Tourism, etc.

This publication is available in the Chamber Office or at www.mendotachamber.com. The Chamber once again sponsored the Shop Local program this holiday season. The program ran from Nov. 16 through Dec. 31. For every \$10 spent in one of the over 40 participating businesses, customers received a sticker for their Shop Local card.



Shelby Weide, administrative assistant, left, and Kate Fox, Chamber president and chief executive officer, lead the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce.

Once cards were filled, they were turned into the Chamber office. The grand prize winner was Cathy Burke of Mendota, who received over \$1,000 in gift certificates and merchandise donated by participating businesses. This holiday season the chamber had 1,036 Shop Local cards turned in, which is a grand total of \$259,000 spent in Mendota this holiday season.

The Mendota Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner/Awards Banquet, held at

the Mendota Civic Center, recognizes the accomplishments of several area individuals and businesses with a number of special awards. The recipient of the H.D. Hume Outstanding Service Award for 2019 was Lee Stocking, the 2019 Tom Merwin Gold Star Employee Award went to Mendota Companion Animal Centre employee Sidney Engels, and the 2019 Sweet Corn Festival Volunteer of the Year went to Tony Troyer. The



Festival-goers stroll through the Midway at the Sweet Corn Festival in downtown Mendota. A wide variety of activities helped attract large crowds to the four-day event. The 73rd Annual Sweet Corn Festival will be held Aug. 6-9.

Beautification awards were presented to Triple Service, Inc., Rosati's Pizza Pub of Mendota, the Optimist Club of Mendota and the Mendota Lions Club.

Other events sponsored by the Chamber include the Valentine Baby Contest, The Chamber Games, Sweet Corn Festival Golf Classic, Fly In Breakfast, Mendota's 4th of July Celebration, A Mendota Christmas, Operation Elf Action, and the Chamber Playday golf outing. In addition, the Chamber partners with The Mendota Reporter in co-sponsoring the Mendota Community Calendar, which appears monthly in The Reporter.

The Chamber also serves to support and assist Mendota retailers in their promotions such as the Mrs. Santa Cookie Sales, Sidewalk Sales and

the "Woodhaven" and "Hi Neighbor" coupon books. The Chamber is also busy writing Chamber Gift Certificates throughout the year. Chamber Gift Certificates make wonderful gifts for the hard-to-buy-for person because they can be used at more than 60 businesses.

The Chamber Ambassadors are another important part of the Chamber of Commerce serving as hosts for the annual Chamber Playday golf outing and annual dinner. The Ambassadors conduct Operation Elf Action during the holidays, which involves roughly 250 children annually. The Chamber Ambassadors also serve as a welcoming committee for new businesses in town for grand openings, ribbon cuttings, and Chamber After Hour events.

The Chamber office is

located in the Mendota Municipal Building at 800 Washington St. in downtown Mendota. The building houses the city clerk's office and the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber office has long been an information center for visitors and residents providing answers to the many questions that are asked each day. The Chamber with telephone books, information on Chamber members' businesses and gives out maps of the city, county and state.

Tourism is also a Chamber priority and the office provides a comprehensive list of activities and events. The Chamber continues to focus on the marketing of Mendota and the business interests of its members. They hope you will "Make Mendota a Destination!"



MENDOTA 800 Washington Street • [815] 539-6507 • www.mendotachamber.com

Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce

...Serving Your Community And YOU!

2019-2020 CHAMBER MEMBERS:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-D Sound Company 4M Graphix ABC Construction Abigail Women's Clinic Adkins Towing LLC ADM Grain Co. Advanced Drainage Systems Advanced Engineering Associates, Inc. Aimee Holland Al Bonnell American Cancer Society American Machine, Inc. Ancare Veterinary Clinic ARS Auto Repair Services Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services Inc. August Hill Winery B & C Sales Barkman Concrete Construction Inc. Basil Construction Becker Chiropractic Beck's BP Beck's I-39 Auto/Truck Plaza Black Brothers Co. Boelk Truck Lines Bowers Corner Tap Buckman Iron & Metal Business Employment Skills Team Carriage House Electric Casey's General Store Cathy Schwingille Central Bank Illinois Cindy's On 34 City of Mendota Commonwealth Edison Community Health Partnership of Illinois Company Name Country Financial- Michael J. Organ, Agent Cross Body Shop Crossroads Coffee House DBP LLC (Dependable Business Products) De La O Restaurant & Bar Del Monte Foods Delbert Knowlton DeLong's Auto Body Designs & Signs By Anderson Diamond Bros. Insurance Diversifood Products E&M Consulting, Inc. Edward Jones Ekana Nursery & Landscaping El Rey 102.9FM WMKB El Rey Del Taco 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> El Zarape Mexican/American Restaurant Eucleid Beverage LTD. Eureka Savings Bank Financial Plus Credit Union First Federal Savings Bank First Presbyterian Church First State Bank First State Insurance First United Methodist Church Floralcrest Florist & Greenhouse Frank Kobilek G & M Distributors Ganz Goy CPA's, Ltd. Ganz Electric Graves-Hume Public Library Greg Vaccaro Guilfoyle Law Firm H & H Builders, Inc. H & H Custom Firearms & Gunsmithing H.D. Hume Company HCC, Inc. Head Hunter Salon & Day Spa Heritage Health Therapy and Senior Care Holland & Sons, Inc. Holy Cross School Homestead Realty Horizon House IH Lawn Care Illinois Valley Community College Illinois Valley Counseling Services, LLC Impact Networking, LLC J J & L Carpentry James Fitzpatrick Janelaine Boutique John Elston Jones Home Improvement Judge Troy Holland Kaleel Law Office Kara Sellers Karls Krusaders Ken Otterbach Excavating & Demolition Kindermusik with Laura Kiwanis Club of Mendota Knights of Columbus Krenz Dental Corp. Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance L.I.F.E. Connections Ministry La Salle NewsTribune Lakeside Liquors & Tobacco LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Lee Stocking Lilja Tiling & Excavating LLC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lucille's Helping Hands Cleaning Service M S Electric M.J.B. CPA & Assoc., Ltd. Main Street Station Makeup Eraser by Denise Manpower Martin Law Office Martin Leonard Farm, LLC Mauch Carpentry, Inc. McConville Realty & Auctioneering McDonald's McDonald's MCS Advertising Mendota Agri-Products Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Mendota Area Senior Services Mendota Area Y Mendota Business & Professional Women Mendota Civic Center Mendota Community Theatre Mendota Companion Animal Centre P.C. Mendota Elementary School Dist. 289 Mendota Elks Lodge Mendota FFA Alumni Mendota Fire Department Mendota Ford, Inc. Mendota Golf Club Mendota Lions Club Mendota Lutheran Home Mendota Museum Family Center Mendota Museum and Historical Society Mendota Mutual Insurance Company Mendota Optimist Club Mendota Police Dept. Mendota Township High School Mendota VFW Post 4079 Merritt Funeral Home Midland States Bank Moore Tires Nicor Gas Nightengales Thrift Shop North Central Area Transit Northern Illinois Ambulance Billing, Inc. Northern Illinois Seamless Roofing Northern Partners Cooperative Northwestern Medicine NRG Media 1430AM WCMY & 95.3 JACK FM Office of Representative Adam Kinzinger OSF St. Paul Medical Center Painting Parties & Crafts with Lucy Phalen Steel Construction Company Photo Line Up, Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pizzas by Marchelloni Pohl's Office Supply Prairie Land Millwright, Inc. Prescott Brothers, Inc. Purpose Nutrition Quality Inn & Suites Rainbow Travel Randy Morris Ridley Feed Ingredients Rosati's Pizza Pub Rose Concrete Schimmer GM Schwans Home Service Schwarz Funeral Home Senator Sue Rezin Setchell Studio Special Olympics Illinois - Region A Specialty Body & Paint, Inc. Sports-N-Stock, Inc. Starved Rock Country Community Foundation Starved Rock Media Starved Rock Wood Products, LLC Stephenitch Do It Best Hardware Stoncroft Village Studstill Media Subway Sullivan's Foods T2 Enterprises Tara N. VanDeWyngaerde, OD, PC The Mendota Reporter Tiffany's Pet Grooming Town & Country Realty Travel To You, Inc. Tri County Cleaning & Repair Tri-County Fair Association Triple Service Plumbing Heating & Cooling Uncle Joe's Gaming Cafe United Way of Illinois Valley Victory Baptist Church Walter Brothers Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Walter Weiland Walther's Club Wassmer Funeral Home, Inc. West Side Family Dentistry Western Sand & Gravel Co., LLC Windy City Amusements Inc. Wipfli LLP Woodhaven Association Xpress Clinic Mendota Xyngular Distributor - Peggy Younglove Yeakel's Piano Service Ziggie's Family Restaurant
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The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, established in 1945, is a not-for-profit organization of businesses, representing industry, retail service, professionals and agriculture in partnership with tourism and government to further promote economic growth and quality of life in Mendota and the surrounding area. The strength of the Chamber lies in the active involvement of its membership. The Chamber office makes referrals of its members, and promotes them through a variety of activities, making the public aware of the goods and services available here in Mendota from its membership. The Mendota Chamber is a voice for business and is devoted to strengthening the business community and maintaining the exceptional characteristics of life here in Mendota.

CHAMBER OFFICERS

Taylor Olsen - Chair of the Board
 Jennifer Masini - Vice Chair
 Isaac Hebert - Secretary
 Jamie Rodriguez - Treasurer

CHAMBER STAFF

Kate Fox - President & CEO
 Shelby Weide - Administrative Assistant

Schimmer Chevrolet Buick celebrating 75th anniversary in 2020

Schimmer Chevrolet Buick, Inc., part of the Schimmer Automotive Family, is excited to be celebrating our 75th Anniversary serving LaSalle County and the surrounding areas! Beginning in 1945, this third generation owned and operated automobile dealership is proud to offer Chevrolet and Buick cars, trucks and SUVs as well as a large selection of quality pre-owned vehicles.

As we begin our 75th Anniversary year we are excited to announce some new changes happening here at Schimmer's. Our dealership is growing with the addition of Chevrolet's medium duty truck line, and we now sell, service and upfit 4500HD, 5500HD and 6500HD trucks. With this you will see a large expansion to our current location allowing us to better serve our customers. We are very excited and incredibly thankful for the support of our family, employees, customers and community who have made this all possible.

With an already great selection of GM vehicles, we are proud to offer two of the best-selling and hottest on the market: The 2020 Chevrolet Silverado Heavy Duty (2500HD and 3500HD) and the 2020 Chevrolet Blazer.

Built in the Flint, Mich., assembly plant, the all-new Silverado HD has been completely re-engineered from the ground up. GM has set the goal to make the best HD trucks in the market and they have succeeded beautifully.

Bursting with options the New 2020 Silverado HD is longer, wider and taller than previous models. The wheelbase has been stretched 5.2 inches on the crew cab model and with five different trim levels to choose from (Work Truck, Custom, LT, LTZ, and High Country) there is something for every HD customer.

The Chevy Silverado HD also offers two powertrain options. The New 6.6L V-8 gas engine, with direct injection making 401HP and 464 FP of torque. With an 11% increase in horsepower and 22% increase in torque; that equals 18% more towing capacity! Another option is the Duramax 6.6L Turbo-Diesel V-8, making 445HP and 910 FP of torque with the all new Allison 10-speed automatic transmission. In addition, every component between the transmission and the wheels has been upgraded to enable an available 52% increase in max towing capacity.

The Blazer is back in 2020 for the second year and is already the hottest crossover yet. Offering four different trim levels (L, LT, RS and Premier) and available in FWD or AWD, and with seating for five passengers and plenty of rear cargo space. The new Blazer is sure to fit your needs.

The Blazer offers an upscale look and feel with a sleek, stream-lined interior. Packed with options from a panoramic sunroof, heated and cooled seats, heated steering wheel, premium detailed leather, wireless charging, six USB ports and so much more, the Blazer is sure to enhance your driving experience.

Schimmer Chevrolet Buick offers sales, service, parts and vehicle reconditioning. Meet our team and some of the amazing options available to our customers.

Our Sales Department is headed up by General Manager, Nick Organ; Business Manager, Scott Jackson; and Customer Relations Manager, Erin Lauer. Our Sales Team includes Rich Duke, Chad Edwards, Jeff Fisher, and John McGraw.

Our second-to-none Service Department is led by



Members of the Schimmer Chevrolet Buick family, front row, left to right, are Jason Kidd, Chase Stremlau, Shane Allen, Matt Sondgeroth, Eric Rebholz, Glen Fagerman, Rich Lampson and Raul Diaz Sr. Middle row, Erin Lauer, Nicole Grinka, Erik Bodmer, Jeff Schimmer, Nick Organ, Kim Schimmer, Trish Matas, Maria Guzman and Mario Magallanes. Back row, Elias Preciado, Chad Edwards, Chad Ensor, Scott Jackson, Uvaldo Escatel, Christian Maldonado, Carlos Moreno, Amy Aldenhoff and Brandi Organ.

Service Manager, Erik Bodmer, and assisted by Service Advisors, Nicole Grinka and Chad Ensor. Our GM Certified Technicians include Uvaldo Escatel, Glen Fagerman, Chase Stremlau, Doug Klein, Rich Lampson, Eric Rebholz, Shane Allen, Jason Kidd and Matt Sondgeroth.

Schimmer's Service Department has been repeatedly recognized by General Motors as being top notch. We offer free pickup and delivery for customers within city limits. With our Price Match Guarantee, our tire prices will not be beat! Bring in your tire quote, and we will meet or beat that price. We offer tires by Michelin, Goodyear, BF Goodrich, Firestone, Bridgestone, General and Cooper and

more. Along with pricing, our customers have the confidence of knowing their tires are being installed by a highly-trained, certified automobile technician in a place where we stand by our customers.

Want your vehicle to look and smell like new again? Call and speak to Erik, Nicole or Chad, and have your vehicle detailed professionally by our outstanding Vehicle Reconditioning Department. Schimmer's Vehicle Reconditioning Department is led Carlos Moreno and his team members Raul Diaz Sr., Maria Guzman and Juan Maldonado. From a clean-up to a full detail, Carlos and his team are sure to have your vehicle shining.

Schimmer's Parts Department is run by Parts Manager, Scott Wise, and Parts Specialist, Christian Maldonado. Whatever vehicle you drive, our parts department is sure to keep you going.

Our Accounting Department keeping the day-to-day operations flowing is directed by Comptroller, Trish Matas; and includes Car Biller, Brandi Organ, and Office Manager, Julie Rhodes.

The Schimmer auto business began in 1945 as a Pontiac store ran by Harry Schimmer and his son Don. Don's son Jeff joined his father in dealership operation in 1984. Don's daughter Dona joined the operation from 1988 to 2011. Cur-

rently, Jeff's wife Kim acts as Executive Manager overseeing the four stores in the Schimmer Automotive Family.

While 2019 was a busy and exciting year for Schimmer Chevrolet Buick, 2020 is going to be huge with our 75th Anniversary and all of the changes and additions we have going on. Please stop out and see our friendly staff and take a look at all the changes. We are all here to assist you with any of your vehicle purchase, lease, parts or service needs!! You can also find us online at www.schimmergm.com or give us a call at (815) 539-9343. Here's to another great year of serving our customers and community!

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MPROGE2020



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The Mendota Reporter

Mendota Civic Center



For more than 30 years, the Mendota Civic Center has offered accommodating, consistent services to become a north central Illinois leader in event planning. The Mendota Civic Center offers a landscaped patio, outdoor wedding pergola, and several indoor areas that provide a perfect venue for weddings, receptions, meetings and events, accommodating 4-400 guests. The friendly staff will assist you in choosing the space that best suits your needs and provides the perfect guest experience. With on-site catering, event planning and never been easier or more stress free. For more information, availability, pricing and catering options, contact the Mendota Civic Center at (815) 539-3411 or info@mendotaciviccenter.com. The Mendota Civic Center is conveniently located on Illinois Route 251, on the north edge of Mendota, adjacent to Lake Mendota. Let Rachel or Cathy help plan your next event.



Clean-up has begun at the site of an old manufactured gas plant on the Black Bros. Co. property in Mendota.

ADM flour mill opening, park improvements happen in 2019

Some exciting things happened in Mendota in 2019 and more are in store for 2020.

One of the major occurrences in 2019 was the opening of the Archer Daniels Midland Company's (ADM) new state-of-the-art flour mill in Mendota. It is the largest mill ever built from the ground up in North America.

"Our growth investment to design and build a cutting-edge production facility from the ground up highlights our commitment to growth for our customers, our shareholders and the state of Illinois," said Kevin Like, president of ADM Milling. "This high-tech mill offers unparalleled advantages, including the most up-to-date monitoring and quality control equipment, swift and efficient packing and transportation options, and the ability to mill a wide array of wheat varieties to ensure we are meeting the needs of all of our customers across the Midwest."

The new 30,000 cwt mill can mill spring, winter and soft wheat varieties plus two types of whole wheat. The mill features:

- A loop track with 110-car shuttle rail unloading capacity.
- Three milling units with centralized monitoring to ensure performance, consistency and security of supply.
- Three bulk truck load-out and rail load-out capability.
- A brand new lab with the most up-to-date quality-control equipment.
- An onsite transportation

company, including a truck wash and an advanced truck facility utilizing RFID technology to ensure efficiency and accuracy.

"ADM has a long history of leading edge innovation," said Chris Cuddy, ADM senior vice president and president, Carbohydrate Solutions. "We are committed to setting the standard for technological innovation in our industry, from our unparalleled food and beverage ingredient portfolio, to our array of probiotics and other health-supporting ingredient offerings, to our growth investments in efficient, sustainable production facilities like the one in Mendota."

A noticeable addition and improvement to Strouss Park, also known as Purple Park, was made in the summer of 2019.

The basketball court area at Strouss Park now has a new playing surface and four basketball hoops. There are two full-size courts measuring 90x98 with an all-weather outdoor surface made of plastic squares interlocked with holes to allow for drainage. The removable court can also be used in the winter for ice skating. A liner has been purchased and can be placed over the top of the court and then filled with water that then freezes and is available for skating. Also, lighting for the area has been completed to allow for more usability. The Optimist Club and the Mendota Lions Club partnered with the city of Mendota to make the project a reality.

Clean-up of the site of an old manufactured gas plant is a large project on the docket

for 2020.

The gas plant was located where what is now the north parking lot of Black Bros. Co., at the southeast corner of Ninth Avenue and Fifth Street. When natural gas came into play in the 1930s and 1940s, manufactured gas plants (MGP) shut down.

Linda Josupait, senior project manager with Nicor Gas, said that Nicor and ComEd are partnering to clean up MGPs under the oversight of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Josupait said clean-up of the property began in November 2019 and they are hoping to be done in the fall of 2021. A majority of the work will be done in the parking lot, with some work planned in the adjacent creek.

Josupait explained that the brick building in the parking lot along with five warehouses at the east end of the lot will be torn down. The soil will be excavated, hauled out and taken to a landfill, and the area will be backfilled with clean soil.

Josupait said that during the process, a temporary fabric enclosure will be put up over the entire area to cut down on noise and any odor that may come from the soil. She said one of the main residuals of soil from an MGP is tar, which gives off an odor. She said that extensive air monitoring samples will be conducted during the process. An air filtration system will be utilized during the work to filter the air before it is emitted back out.

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The friendly and helpful staff at Financial Plus Credit Union in Mendota includes, front row, left to right, Celina Garza, Rose Bonnell, Trisha Watkins; back row, Alejandra Hernandez, Laurie Eich, Audrey McConville, Jennifer Truckenbrod.

Financial Plus Credit Union offers financial strength, exceptional service

In May of this year, Financial Plus Credit Union will celebrate 69 years of service to members. Membership has expanded to 10 counties. With offices in Mendota, Ottawa, Peru, Morris and Diamond they are a member-owned, federally insured cooperative that offers financial strength and exceptional service to members. The Credit Union insures members' deposits up to \$500,000 through the NCUA (National Credit Union Association) and ESI, (Excess Share Insurance Corp).

Financial Plus members are part-owners who share in Credit Union profits and enjoy competitive or higher dividends on savings, reduced loan rates and minimal or no fees. Financial Plus offers services such as free checking, low-cost loans, savings certificates, a VISA Credit Card with a rewards program, convenient payroll deduction, direct deposit, online banking, mobile banking, tablet banking, online check deposits, smart watch banking, mobile payment solutions, youth savings clubs and more.

Financial Plus also offers a safe mortgage loan program with money to lend from traditional mortgage loans to the Ownership Advantage Mortgage Loan allowing you to finance up to 95 percent of the purchase price. The mortgage loans are kept in-house and you can save thousands of dollars over the life of the loan by paying weekly.

Over the past 69 years Financial Plus has served its members, it has catered to young members, offering

a Wiley Wabbit Savings Club for children ages 9 and younger and a Tweens n' Teens Club for ages 10 through 19. Through these clubs, children learn about savings, the fundamentals of finance and how to manage their money. Financial Plus offers these kids fun contests throughout the year, an annual pool party, financial literacy in the local schools, their first debit card, their first auto loan, and much more.

Isn't time you joined? A \$1 savings account entitles you to a lifetime membership. Membership is open to anyone living or working in Bureau, De Kalb, Grundy, Lee, Kankakee, Kendall, LaSalle, Livingston, Putnam, and Will counties. For more information, log onto www.financialplus.org, call (815) 539-3444 or visit their Mendota facility at 1905 13th Ave. "We Belong to You. . .and That's the PLUS!"



Mendota Civic Center

Here's to Always!

Mendota Civic Center
1901 Tom Merwin Drive

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www.mendotaciviccenter.com



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www.financialplus.org

*APR - Annual Percentage Rate. This offer is available to FPCU members. Rates, terms, and conditions are subject to change and based on credit worthiness, qualifications and collateral conditions. Loans subject to approval.

Mendota High School constantly evolving to meet students' needs

Mendota High School is constantly moving forward to meet the educational needs of all Mendota Township High School students. Many of our programs and teachers are working on improving instructional and curricular needs of our students. Join us in celebrating the Trojan Progress!

MHS has expanded its offerings to students. One new program is the MHS Trojan Transitions. The MHS Trojan Transitions Program focuses on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Students receive daily instruction of school-wide behavioral expectations and social emotional skills. Students needing additional supports may receive small group or individualized supports. All staff receive ongoing training in Nonviolent Crisis Prevention Intervention. Keegan Hill and other staff provide intensive daily instruction in both academics and social emotional skills. Ongoing current behavioral data is analyzed regularly to assess student progress in the Trojan Transitions Program. Once a student's individual data indicates consistent success, a meeting is held to discuss a transition to a lesser restrictive setting within the high school.

The CHOICES Program is designed to teach independent living skills, including vocational skills, to students receiving special education services. Program activities take place in a variety of community settings, school, and work environments. The goal of the Transition Program is to help students become as independent as possible, including securing competitive integrated employment.

Choices students learn to budget earnings, make purchases, behave appropriately, follow directions, and more. This is a tiered program and



Isaira Cerros, left, and Kassey Rupp show some of the hats MHS students made as a vocational and service project. The hats were then donated.

students have the opportunity to advance through levels of instruction. As they make progress, students fine-tune their work abilities, determine job preferences, and learn to work and live with growing independence.

Kellie Hochstatter is the instructor in the Choices Program. She also partners students with student-leaders as mentors and general education teachers. One partnership area is in the Physical Education Department.

Robert Nunn and Kaitlyn Rippentrop incorporate an adaptive physical education curriculum into their classrooms. Students are partnered in almost all content areas, such as Art, Choir, Band, Agriculture, Family and Consumer Science, and Industrial Arts. All MHS students learn, grow, and enjoy this collaborative learning experience.

Nunn has also partnered with Western Illinois University to have MHS students at-

tend a Motor Clinic. Children are engaged in activity in Western Illinois University's Brophy Hall Gym several days during the semester. About 60 school-age kids from the West Central Illinois Special Education Cooperative (WCISEC) are engaged in physical activity with WIU students from three different disciplines—kinesiology, special education, and communication services disorders (CSD). Faculty and alumni are also

involved. MHS students who are interested in a future career are invited to attend the Motor Clinic under the supervision of Mr. Nunn. It has been a great opportunity for our students!

Another new addition to the Mendota High School student opportunities is the full-time School Resource Officer, Officer Chad Hochstatter. Officer Hochstatter is a licensed Special Education

teacher and School Resource Officer. His interaction with students is both positive and educational. He is responsible for working with school administrators and faculty on developing comprehensive safety plans to ensure MHS is safe places for students to learn.

Thank you, Mendota Township Community, for your continued support of all of our Trojans—both inside the classroom and outside the classroom.



Excellence in Education

MISSION STATEMENT:

The learning environment of Mendota Township High School offers educational opportunities for the individual to develop a personally satisfying life, to function as an intelligent and responsible member of our society, and to achieve what is necessary to become a productive citizen.



MENDOTA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

"Home of the Trojans"

2300 W. Main St. • Mendota • (815) 539-7446



Nick Escatel makes a sign as Choices Program instructor Kellie Hochstatter looks on.

Mendota

Continued from Page A5

Josupait noted that the fabric enclosure will begin to be built in March 2020.

More detailed information about the project can be obtained online at <https://mendotasite.info/about-the-site/> or by contacting Bernie Anderson of Nicor Gas at info@mendotasite.info or by calling (309) 261-4155.

An ongoing endeavor is the Illinois Avenue Project, which is a grassroots group spearheaded by city alder-

man Bill Hunt. The plan is to revitalize Illinois Avenue in downtown Mendota with a new street, sidewalks and more improvements in an effort to reenergize the downtown area. The bidding process for street and sidewalk work began in February and it is hoped that work can begin on the project this April.

City clerk Emily McConville said much work needs to be done to see this project through to fruition, and the process will take time.

"We don't want to rush things, we want to make sure we do this right the first time so we don't complete the project and then realize there was something else we wanted or needed to do," said McConville.

The city improved its look in 2019 and made way for possible redevelopment of property with the demolition of unsightly and abandoned buildings, and the clean-up process will likely continue in 2020.



The ADM flour mill facility dominates the skyline on the east side of I-39.

Sullivan's Foods-Mendota



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manager

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Christina Testa,
manager



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Jeff Chandler,
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manager



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Made in Walnut!

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Brewed in Ottawa by Tangled Roots Brewing Co.!

Many other Illinois-based products can be found at Sullivan's Foods!



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Building Inspector

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Jason Phalen

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