

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

MENDOTA PROGRESS 2020

SECTION 3

FEATURING:

- Erbes Realty, LLC
- First Federal Savings Bank
- First State Insurance
- Illinois Valley Community College
- Illinois Valley Community Hospital
 - Maze Lumber
 - McDonald's
- Mendota Area Churches
- Mendota Elementary District 289
 - Pioneer State Bank
 - Services & Organizations
 - Specialty Body & Paint
 - Starved Rock Lodge
- State Farm Insurance-Kurt Bruno



Wednesday, February 26, 2020

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.



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

Special Body has latest in technology

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 proce-

dures 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 four employees including David Arteaga, paint tech; Jennifer Bauer, office manager; Victor Muro, body tech; 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 offers great customer service with personal touch

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 branch 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.

Last year, Pioneer State Bank opened their very first Pioneer Ag Lending Center located in Leland. Our Pioneer Ag Lending Center is a place for you to meet with other area farmers along with Mark Govednik, our Ag Lender, and other members of our team to discuss your operation as we navigate the ups and downs of agriculture together.

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 James R. Bann, Chairman of the Board; Michael R. Stevens, 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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A community effort: The business of taking care of kids

Without a doubt, middle-school years are difficult, for a whole range of reasons. Transitioning from an elementary classroom, struggling with more challenging content, navigating new social situations and exploring new opportunities prove IT IS DIFFICULT. Northbrook staff are daily witnesses to the difficulties students face, but Mendota's middle school students are developing coping skills and strategies that will help them manage these challenges throughout life.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING LESSONS

Northbrook began the process of teaching coping skills and strategies by piloting a social-emotional learning curriculum in the 2018-19 school year. Thanks to the Mendota Education Foundation, counselor Megan Gatz and social worker Emily Pearson were awarded a mini-grant to fund the initial purchase of grade-level specific lessons in emotion management, situational awareness, and academic achievement. Periodic assessments and anecdotal evidence validated the efficacy of the curriculum, and as a result, District 289 renewed it for the 2019-2020 school year. Due to its initial success and impact schoolwide, a subsequent MEF grant purchased supplemental materials to make lessons even more meaningful through interactive activities.

This past year, 8th grade teachers Kristi Barajas and Sarah Gehant, having co-taught social studies together for several years, saw the opportunity to combine their intervention groups for these weekly social-emotional learning lessons. What has resulted over the course of this year, the Northbrook School Spirit Clothing Closet, has been a greater success than they could have anticipated. "The Closet" was a natural extension from the social-emotional lessons, becoming an ideal way to relate classroom lessons to real-world needs within Northbrook. Lessons on understanding identity, making a difference in the community, and implementing goals led to the concept of purchasing school-spirit clothing for students in need.

The initial lesson, understanding your personal identity, resulted in students identifying themselves as introverts/extroverts, artists/athletes, and as Spartans or Trojans. Follow-up lessons addressed the topic of making an impact within your community, and because it timed well with MHS homecoming, through guided discussion students were able to identify a need within their building. During homecoming dress-up days, specifically purple and gold days, the economic disparity between students was evident: name-brand purple and gold clothing and shoes on some students while others had little to no MHS colors.

The solution: a Northbrook School Spirit Clothing Closet, stocked with Spartan and Trojan spirit wear, which could become a resource to support inclusion and community pride in students. Goal-setting was the next logical step and again, aligned perfectly with the social-emotional learning lessons. Topics such as funding, identifying the target audience, and establishing a reasonable timeframe put the concepts of the goal-setting lesson into action. Throughout the project development, Mendota High School social worker Tammy Guerrero served as a mentor for Barajas and Gehant. Having already implemented a similar concept for MHS students, Guerrero provided guidance and suggestions on how to undertake this challenge.

With sound fundamentals established, it was time for implementation.



Continuing the theme of inclusion and school pride, every month the students are responsible for creating and updating the themes and content on a wall-sized monthly calendar. Every student and staff member's birthdays are displayed, as are school events and after school clubs.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Students realized in order to maximize the effect of this project, they needed community support. They produced a list of local businesses and organizations to contact and working in teams of three, began a writing campaign seeking assistance. Once letters were mailed, students anxiously waited. Every positive response was celebrated, motivating students even further.

As a result of their writing efforts, the Mendota Optimist Club and Mendota Elks Lodge #1212 both generously provided monetary donations, which in turn were used to purchase spirit wear from local businesses. Sports-N-Stuff not only provided donated items but discounted custom items as well. Twenty-four Northbrook students were subsequently provided with new Spartan or Trojan gear this past December. To start 2020 with additional items on hand, Sports-n-Stuff fulfilled a new order, and 4M Graphix discounted items as well. Both businesses have also pledged to partner with The Closet in the future.

Nightengales Thrift Store and the Mendota High School Student Council are a few more of the local resources contributing to the project's success, helping to sustain it long term. Gently-used school spirit wear items are being set aside by Nightengales and, in turn, donated to Northbrook, and the MHS Student Council has already conducted a clothing drive with another planned to correlate with graduation. These partnerships allow the clothing closet to take in items at no cost, further building a surplus for future use.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Additional funds have been earned by collaborating with the Northbrook Student Council. The Council manages the concession stand at school events and allows school organizations the opportunity to volunteer to operate the concessions and profit from the sales. Intervention students, supported by Mrs. Barajas and Mrs. Gehant, reserved two events and in advance, used their intervention periods to develop marketing techniques to promote sales. The group anticipates scheduling additional concessions during the spring track season to build more reserve funds.

To date, the most significant contribution to the School Spirit Clothing Closet is a \$1000 Illinois Education Association Foundation grant that was awarded to Mrs. Barajas and Mrs. Gehant just this past week. This newest source of funding will ensure the 2020-21 school year will be off to a strong start.

LOOKING AHEAD

Funds from the IEA grant are going to be used next year to not only restock The Closet but to also create welcome bags for students new to the district. Consisting of

a Spartan or Trojan t-shirt and a lanyard, the goal is for students to start the very first day feeling invested in Northbrook School.

A school spirit store will also be created as a result of the grant, with intervention students selling items during homecoming week. Current students researched items they felt their peers would purchase and also took into consideration the investment, determining the best deals to minimize expense and maximize profit. It is a win-win proposition as items will be affordable to the student population and increase school spirit while producing

revenue to sustain future purchases for The Closet.

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

Intervention students participating in the creation of The Closet had to share:

"I like how we're helping kids who can't get spirit wear. It feels good to help others," said 8th grader Emma Clark, and classmate Bria Frey stated, "The idea behind the clothing closet is really amazing. With this we could make a lot more students feel accepted at a very important time in their life."

Recipients of school spirit wear also had to say, "I was excited and wanted to wear

it right away. I was very grateful to get that shirt," and another commented, "I know someone cares."

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION

Donations of gently-used Spartan or Trojan gear are appreciated and can be delivered to the main office at Northbrook Middle School, located at 1804 Guiles Avenue. Students are encouraged by the few items already received from community members. To see updates and news related to what this amazing group of students is accomplishing, please follow Mendota District #289 on Facebook. You can also

sponsor a new T-shirt (\$12) or hoodie (\$25) for a Northbrook student by giving a monetary donation. Cash or checks can be made payable to Clothing Closet-289 and dropped off at Northbrook as well.

As the title of the article states, it really is a community effort to provide for the needs of Mendota's students. Mrs. Barajas, Mrs. Gehant, and all of their 8th grade intervention students are genuinely thankful for the outpouring of support in making their social-emotional learning project truly impactful.

#Mendotapride #support-local #IEAhelpout

NORTHBROOK SCHOOL SPIRIT CLOTHING CLOSET

Donations of gently-used Spartan or Trojan gear are appreciated and can be delivered to the main office at Northbrook Middle School, located at 1804 Guiles Avenue. Students are encouraged by the few items already received from community members. To see updates and news related to what this amazing group of students is accomplishing, please follow Mendota District #289 on Facebook. You can also sponsor a new t-shirt (\$12) or hoodie (\$25) for a Northbrook student by giving a monetary donation. Cash or checks can be made payable to Clothing Closet-289 and dropped off at Northbrook as well.

Mrs. Gehant and Mrs. Barajas stop for a quick picture with the first delivery of spiritwear that was gifted to 24 students.

Ella Betz and Angela Figueroa fold spiritwear to place in welcome bags for new students.

Mendota Community Consolidated School District #289
 1806 Guiles Ave. • 815-539-7631
www.mendota289.org

IVCC student Adrian Espinoza inspired by mother's example

A young Adrian Espinoza of Mendota didn't have to look far for inspiration.

While in elementary school, he watched his mother, then in her mid-30s, attend IVCC while raising three children. She successfully juggled college and family demands and will graduate from Northern Illinois University in May with a degree in psychology.

"She showed me no matter the circumstances—as long as you have the willpower, you can do whatever you want," Espinoza said. Adrian has his mother Jennie's drive. He was a three-sport athlete

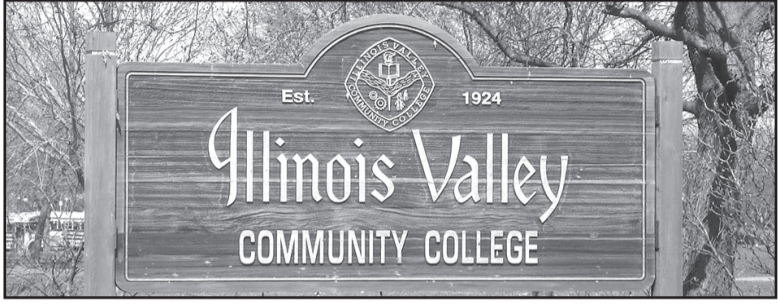
at Mendota High School while also serving as band president and drumline section leader. At IVCC, he played soccer, coached two youth teams, worked part-time and maintained a 3.8 GPA.

A molecular and cellular biology major, Adrian will transfer to the University of Illinois next fall before applying to medical schools. He plans to one day be an oncologist.

Aside from saving him significant money, "IVCC created a lot of wonderful memories for me — from the soccer field to the classroom — and helped me forge new friendships."



Adrian Espinoza, right, with siblings Bianca and Isaac. The IVCC sophomore hopes to one day become an oncologist.



THE PLAN: IVCC sophomore Adrian Espinoza of Mendota is studying molecular and cellular biology. The 2018 Mendota High School graduate plans to become an oncologist.



At MHS, Adrian, right, played the baritone saxophone, was a section leader, band president and played three sports. He played soccer at IVCC and coached two youth teams.



ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Adrian Espinoza will save tens of thousands by attending IVCC first. He will transfer to the U of I and eventually enroll in medical school.

IVCC summer registration begins April 3. Fall registration opens April 10.



The Espinoza family includes Adrian, left, Bianca, father Rene, Isaac and mother Jennie. Adrian was inspired by his mother attending IVCC in her mid-30s while raising three children. She will earn a bachelor's degree in psychology from Northern Illinois University in May.



Trails and bridges at Starved Rock State Park have fallen into disrepair and eroded to the point where they are now closed.

For the Love of Starved Rock

Your help is needed. Team up. Help out. Enjoy.

By Kathy Casstevens
Starved Rock Lodge

If you haven't been to Starved Rock Lodge lately, this could be the year to visit. The Lodge has expanded its activity roster to include a wonderful variety of musical tribute shows, a delicious Sunday Brunch, historic trolley tours, guided hikes and water cruises aboard the Eagle I on the scenic Illinois River.

Last year, Starved Rock welcomed nearly 2.5 million visitors, yet the park does not have a single wheelchair accessible trail and there is nowhere to view a canyon without having to hike into it. But, that could soon change. As one of the State of Illinois' major attractions, the need for improvement continues to increase over time. Trails and bridges have fallen into disrepair and eroded to the point where they are now closed.

So, Starved Rock Lodge, the Starved Rock Foundation, the Starved Rock Walkers Club, and the Starved Rock Clean Up Crew along



with guidance from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at Starved Rock State Park have teamed up and created an ongoing fundraising campaign called "For the Love of Starved Rock" to generate support and monetary donations to improve park trails, create a wheelchair and stroller-friendly trail and overlooking Starved Rock State Park for future generations.

The kickoff event for the campaign will be a fundraising dinner set for Sunday, April 5, in the Great Hall of Starved Rock Lodge. Tickets, which are \$50 per person, include appetizers, dinner, dessert and three tasting tickets to sample drinks from Tangled Roots Brewing Company, August Hill Winery and Star Union Spirits. There will also be a 50/50

drawing and entertainment, plus silent and live auctions.

"One hundred percent of the ticket price will be donated to the fundraising efforts," said Amy Trimble, CEO of Starved Rock Lodge. "While the State of Illinois and its taxpayers do provide money for the maintenance of Starved Rock State Park, it is simply not enough to cover the continued maintenance needs of the most highly visited park in the state. It is our understanding that some funding has already been set aside for the ADA accessible project but much more is needed to complete this project and the others outlined in our plan of action. That is why we need help beyond what the state can do for us."

With the full approval of Campaign leadership, donations to the campaign will be managed on behalf of the Starved Rock Foundation by the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation. The SRCCF has the experience, expertise and resources to process and acknowledge donations, with accurate accounting and distribution of funds during the "For the Love of the Rock Campaign." Donations are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines. The SRCCF serves LaSalle, Bureau and Putnam counties, and is located nearby in Ottawa. For more information about making a financial contribution to the Campaign fund, contact Pamela Beckett at 815-252-2906 or by email at pamela@srcf.org. Donations can be made online at <https://fortheloveofstarvedrock.com>. Checks may be made payable to the SRCCF, with Starved Rock Campaign in the memo line, and mailed to 718 Columbus St., Ottawa, IL 61350.

If you would like to donate a basket for the silent auction, contact Kathy Casstevens at Starved Rock Lodge (kcasstevens@starvedrocklodge.com) or call 815-220-7363.



1939-2020
Where the past is always present

- Take a Trolley Tour.
- Join us Sunday Brunch.
- Book a room or cabin in the woods.
- Enjoy Artisan Ice Cream from the Café.
- Get married at the Sunrise Shelter.
- Try a pint of Starved Rock Signature Ale.
- Find all the woodcarvings in "Art in the Park".
- Dance to live music on the Veranda.
- Have lunch in the Back Door Lounge.
- Take a guided hike to LaSalle Canyon!



Learn more at:
www.starvedrocklodge.com
(815) 220-7386
Starved Rock Lodge

STARVED ROCK
LODGE & CONFERENCE CENTER

One Lodge Lane,
Oglesby, IL

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



❖ 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.



The Erbes Realty office is located at 1922 Tower Road, Sublette.

Erbes Realty has experience & success to help sell your house

Buying or selling a home is one of the biggest decisions a person will make in their life.

and is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except for Sunday and Tuesdays, which is by appointment only.

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

Erbes Realty, LLC, in Sublette, is the area's leading real estate agency serving Lee, LaSalle and Bureau counties and surrounding areas.



Lori Erbes

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.

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. Lori Jean and Lori are here to help with all your real estate needs.



Kurt Bruno, Agent
1103 Main Street
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Bus: 815-539-3878
kurt.bruno.gtoz@statefarm.com
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Tech careers continue to boom in U.S.

Technology has changed the world in numerous ways, including creating entirely new industries and a vast array of career options that didn't exist as recently as two decades ago.

In its Cyberstates™ report, CompTIA, which publishes a steady stream of new research on IT topics, recently shared some key findings that's news for those who work in tech.

- Around 11.8 million people are employed in tech in the United States, and 261,000 new jobs were added in the past year.

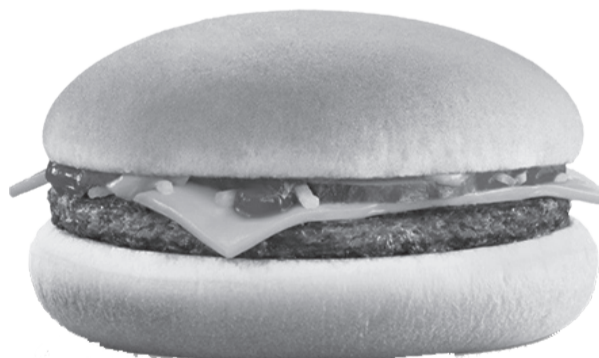
- Software and web developers make up the largest and fastest-growing segment of tech jobs.

- The estimated direct economic output of the tech industry equals \$1.8 trillion.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts technology careers are on the rise, with expected growth of 12 percent between 2014 and 2024. Specific fields within the tech industry are expected to experience even stronger growth, as high as 27 percent.

There's never been a better time to work in tech, particularly for those who have a knack or affinity for computer operations and networks. Here's a look at some of the promising tech careers, including some of the more lucrative, courtesy of U.S. News' "Best Technology Jobs of 2019" report. These jobs boast low employment rates and high salaries.

- 5. Database administrator: A database administrator sets up databases. These highly trained individuals use specialized software to store and organize data. Some key roles include planning, installation, configuration, design, as well



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MPROG2020

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 2, Lot 12 \$91,500
Unique property, close to pool, store, and three lakes. 2016 Woodland Park Model with 1 bdr. with escape window, 1 1/2 lofts. Finished room with wall a/c & heat, attic storage and c-fan.



Sec 5, Lots 459 & 460 \$84,000
2 lake lots on Sunset Lake. Enjoy entertaining on the large deck that over looks the water. 1998 Breckenridge Park Model with a new steel roof and Room addition (all furniture and appliances included). Lot 459 has a shed/Room addition, gravel pad for a trailer.



Sec 10, Lot 192 \$39,900
Lake front site, great fishing, 1998 Sports-master camper with all amenities to enjoy time away.



Sec 10, Lot 241 \$52,000
Amazing Lakefront overlooks Bass Lake, 1989 Trophy Park Model, 1 bdr., patio door leading to deck with a trellis roof, 8x12 shed, LP tank, central a/c/heat



Sec 13, Lot 118 \$19,500
2 Bedroom, Salem Trailer, Nice Corner sewerd lot with Deck/Overhead roof. Lot addition to rear, close to comfort station



Sec 23, Lot 8 \$52,500
Super large pie shaped lot in cul-de-sac, 2002 Breckenridge double loft park model, 400 sq ft. finished room addition, 400 sq ft deck, sleeps 12

Sec 1, Lot 125\$19,900	Sec 10, Lot 192\$39,900	Sec 19, Lot 57\$19,900
Sec 2, Lot 12\$91,500	Sec 10, Lot 240\$33,500	Sec 19, Lot 88\$44,900
Sec 3, Lot 198\$15,000	Sec 10, Lot 241\$52,000	Sec 19, Lot 89\$7,000
Sec 3, Lot 199\$45,000	Sec 11, Lot 95\$4,200	Sec 19, Lot 90\$46,900
Sec 5, Lots 459 & 460.....\$84,000	Sec 12, Lot 24\$24,500	Sec 21, Lot 154\$16,000
Sec 5, Lot 483\$38,900	Sec 12, Lot 61\$8,200	Sec 22, Lot 152\$55,000
Sec 6, Lots 20 & 21.....\$24,900	Sec 13, Lot 118\$19,500	Sec 23, Lot 8\$52,500
Sec 6, Lot 163 & 164\$53,000	Sec 13, Lot 129\$12,000	Sec 23, Lot 75\$24,000
Sec 7, Lot 61 & 62\$18,900	Sec 15, Lot 30\$11,000	Sec 24, Lot 23\$32,000
Sec 7, Lot 191\$8,900	Sec 15, Lot 59\$35,000	Sec 24, Lot 108\$53,900
Sec 8, Lot 140\$27,000	Sec 15, Lot 74\$5,500	Sec 27, Lot 34\$21,500
Sec 9, Lot 22\$58,500	Sec 16, Lot 15\$3,500	
Sec 10, Lot 106\$8,500	Sec 16, Lot 209\$62,500	

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LORI ERBES, GRI
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lorierbes@gmail.com



815-535-6295



LORI JEAN MUNSON
Broker Associate
815-228-4852
lorimunson@erbesrealty.com

www.Erbes-Realty.com





You can trust the professionals at First State Insurance in Mendota, Paw Paw and Earlville to handle all of your insurance needs. Members of the entire 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.

Choices abundant at First State Insurance

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

The agency, celebrating its 21st 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 20 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.



Dr. Connor Kasik treats a patient at Illinois Valley Orthopedics.

Dr. Kasik joins Illinois Valley Orthopedics

The newest doctor at Illinois Valley Community Hospital is an orthopedic surgeon and Illinois Valley native who returned home to begin his medical career.

Dr. Connor Kasik joined the Illinois Valley Orthopedics medical practice in September. At IVO, he works with Dr. Robert Mitchell and physician assistants Catherine Renk and Debra Pyszka.

Both physicians got their starts at area high schools. Dr. Kasik is a graduate of St. Bede Academy in Peru and Dr. Mitchell—who has been a member of the IVCH medical staff for 20 years—graduated from LaSalle-Peru High School.

"I am very excited to return to practice orthopedic surgery in my hometown," says Dr. Kasik. "I enjoy working in a close-knit community where I can build strong, trusting relationships with my patients."

Dr. Kasik earned a degree in molecular and

cellular biology at the University of Illinois before receiving a medical degree from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, Fla.

He completed his orthopedic surgery residency at McLaren Greater Lansing, a hospital in Lansing, Mich., associated with Michigan State University. He went on to complete a fellowship in orthopedic surgery sports medicine at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Treated pro athletes

While at Allegheny General, Dr. Kasik had the opportunity to provide orthopedic care for several professional sports teams, including the Pittsburgh Pirates major league baseball team, USA Men's Rugby National Team, and the Pittsburgh Riverhounds (United Soccer League). He also provided medical services to Team USA Olympic athletes through the U.S. Olympic Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Kasik says his inter-

est in orthopedic surgery started with his passion for playing sports.

"After sustaining multiple injuries while playing sports as a kid, I began to think about the importance of being able to return to play after injury, and that intrigued me," he says. "The chance to provide quality patient care also had a tremendous influence on my career choice. It means a lot to me to be able to change a patient's life for the better."

Make an appointment

Both Dr. Kasik and Dr. Mitchell treat a broad spectrum of orthopedic injuries and issues. Both doctors use Mako™ robotic arm-assisted technology when performing joint replacement surgery.

To make an appointment with Dr. Kasik or Dr. Mitchell, call Illinois Valley Orthopedics at 815-223-2143. The IVO office is located on the second floor of the medical building across West Street from IVCH.



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



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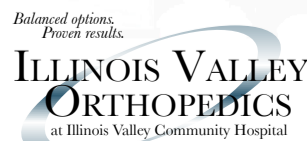
Mako Robotic-Arm Assisted Technology

Mako Robotic-Arm Assisted Surgery is a new approach to joint replacement that offers the potential for a higher level of patient-specific implant alignment and positioning.

Drs. Robert Mitchell and Connor Kasik are excited about using this new technology for total knee, total hip and partial knee replacements. Mako is changing the way these joint replacement surgeries are performed. Using a virtual 3D model, the Mako System allows surgeons to personalize each patient's surgical plan pre-operatively, so there is a clear plan for how the surgeon will position the implant before entering the operating room. During surgery, adjustments can be made to assure the best possible outcome.

Dr. Connor Kasik
Orthopedic Surgeon

Dr. Robert J. Mitchell
Orthopedic Surgeon



815-223-2143 • 920 West St., Suite 211 • Peru, IL
ivch.org/orthopedics

How local businesses give back to their communities

Small businesses are booming. Information from the Small Business Administration and the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs says that small businesses, or firms with fewer than 500 workers, accounted for 99.7 percent of businesses in 2016, the most recent year for data. Firms with fewer than 100 workers accounted for 98.2 percent of companies.

Thanks to their influence and reach, small businesses have the potential to impact local communities in numerous ways.

- Small businesses employ local residents. According to the SBA's Office of Advocacy, small businesses accounted for 61.8 percent of net new jobs in the United States between 1993 and 2016.

- Small businesses are innovative. The SBA notes that small businesses represent about 96 percent of employer firms in high-potential manufacturing industries. That suggests that small businesses are full of new ideas.

- Small businesses support local charities. Many local businesses give to charity, particularly local charities. Some donate money while others may offer their professional

services or event spaces, each of which can be particularly helpful to local communities.

- Small businesses contribute to community identity. Small businesses contribute to the charm and character of a town or city. Many local businesses make up the fabric of Main Street, and towns are known and loved for the businesses that have endured.

- Small businesses help the environment. Shopping locally means consumers do not have to travel far to get their goods and services. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's research report on walkable downtown centers found small businesses encourage walking and cycling, helping to reduce air pollution from vehicles.

- Small businesses keep money in communities. Local businesses keep disposable income and tax money within their communities. Business tax money remains local and can support schools, roads and municipal services.

Local small businesses are the life force that keeps cities and towns prosperous and humming along. Such establishments help build a sense of community and forge lasting relationships.



Tech

Continued from Page A5

3. Database migration. DBAs also will troubleshoot and enhance database security. Median pay is \$87,020.

4. Information security analyst: Concerns about security breaches continue to grow as criminals become ever more savvy. Information security analysts find the best security solutions and carry out measures to protect a company's networks and systems. The professionals maintain systems by updating software and recommending security updates to management. Median pay is \$95,510.

3. IT manager: IT managers are in high demand thanks to increasingly digital workplaces. These individuals coordinate all computer-related activities for an organization. Some jobs include recommending software and hardware needs, securing networks, and searching for new technologies. Median salary is \$139,220.

2. Computer systems analyst: A computer systems



No matter the position, working with technology involves finding creative solutions in a fast-paced, ever-growing environment.

analyst helps organizations utilize computer technology efficiently and effectively. They make suggestions on new technology. Sometimes called systems architects, computer systems analysts often study existing computer systems and design more efficient options. Median salary is \$88,270, lower than some other IT jobs, but there are 54,400 projected jobs in this area.

1. Software developer: A software developer has the highest rate of projected

new jobs, and at a median salary of \$101,790, it can be a secure career in the tech field. These developers write new code, fix software bugs, find solutions to outdated programs, and must be both creative and technical. Some developers may specialize in one area of computers or serve as generalists who write code for various types of software.

No matter the position, working with technology involves finding creative solutions in a fast-paced, ever-growing environment.

your guide to area CHURCHES

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Established 1854

100 East 6th St. • Mendota

Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

Praise Worship: Sunday - 9am

Traditional Services: Sunday - 10:30am

Sunday School - 9am

Handicapped Accessible

815-538-5587

facebook.com/MendotaFirstUMC

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Established 1864

398 Church Rd. • Compton

Pastor Jeff Schlesinger, Pastor

Services: Sunday - 8:30am Worship

Holy Communion every Sunday

Fellowship - 9:45am

Wheelchair accessible

815-539-6567

www.ilccompton.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MENDOTA

Established 1855

1003 Fifth Street • Mendota

Rev. Susan Presley - Pastor

Services: Worship - 10:00 am - 11:00 a.m. Sunday

Fellowship following 10 a.m. worship

Church phone - 815-538-5603

www.fpcmendota.com

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Established 1858 • Catholic Diocese of Peoria

1010 Jefferson St. • Mendota

Pastor Fr. Peter A. Pilon

Services:

Mon 6:30 p.m., Tues. 7 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. at the Hospital

Wed. 8 a.m., Thurs. 7a.m., Fri. 8 a.m., Sat. 8 a.m. & 4 p.m.,

Sun. 6:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. in Spanish

Adoration Chapel Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m

(Closed on funeral days and holidays)

815-538-6151

www.holycrosscongregation.weebly.com

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 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!


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 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 OPTIMIST CLUB

38th

Anniversary

FRIEND OF YOUTH

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

Mendota Optimist Club

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

Maze Lumber providing best building materials for nearly two centuries

For over 172 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 plywood, 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 Manager 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 Newman 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 cultured stone veneers and brick, along with tile and

wood flooring.

Maze Lumber is the exclusive IV dealer for Natural Stone Veneer, Eden Stone, Boral Cultured Stone, ProVia Stone, Montana Rockworks, 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, Patty and Nicole's brand new showroom is your perfect starting point.

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, and Sam Loveland. 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.

State Farm can tailor an insurance plan to fit your individual needs

Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance in Mendota offers insurance products for all your personal insurance needs. Auto, Home, Life, Health and Medicare Supplement, along with Commercial and Workers Compensation for the Contractor Business owner, Contract and Farm operator.

Kurt and his staff have over 90 years insurance experience allowing them to help you tailor an insurance protection plan to fit your individual needs.

Kurt and his Team - Teresa King, Kristin Campbell and his bilingual team members Alyson Contreras and Jake Leoni - have been trained to assist you in developing an insurance plan to maximize your protection, based on your individual needs and eliminate potential gaps in coverage.

Additionally, Kurt and his Team are certified to provide you with the financial services offered by State Farm Bank such as Deposit Products, Loan Products and Credit Cards.

Kurt and his Team take pride in providing the best possible service to their policyholders. The office remodel done several years ago provides for more customer privacy when they are discussing their insurance needs with a State Farm professional. If you would like a free review of your insurance plan, give Kurt Bruno State Farm a call, or stop by his office to review your current policies and make sure they fit your needs.



The Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance team includes, left to right, Alyson Contreras, bilingual representative; Jake Leoni, bilingual representative; Kurt Bruno, agent; Kristin Campbell; and Teresa King, office manager. Not pictured: Mary Bruno, marketing.

Kurt Bruno State Farm 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.

Kurt's office provides their customers with 24 Hour Claim Service by simply calling his office at (815) 539-3878. You can also find information about his agency at www.kurtbruno.com.



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Kurt Bruno, Agent
State Farm Agent
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Mendota, IL 61342
Bus: 815-539-3878
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