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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

ONE DOLLAR, 25 CENTS



Illinois Eats program reinstated...for now

By BRANDON LaCHANCE Staff writer

MENDOTA – After The Mendota Reporter went to press with the March 26 edition featuring a story on the Trump Administration's program cuts affecting the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry, the Illinois Department of Human Services sent a notification to lead agencies.

The notification stated the Illinois Equitable Access Towards Sustainable Systems program (Illinois Eats) was reinstated on Thursday, March 20 after it was cut on March 4. The program was shut down for 16 days.

The IDHS also notified it is in partnership with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the determined funding to reinstate the program is directly coming from the United States Department of Agriculture, which is responsible for establishing the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program, the umbrella for Illinois Eats.

"It was a huge relief for me, the clients, and for the food pantry's board of directors," said MACFPExecutive Director, Tracy Cooper. "From what I understand, they're bringing it back under a different funding. It will now be funded by the USDA without federal assistance. This is also a good sign they are not going to take away the USDA program we use for other food purchased for the pantry. bringing Illinois Eats back until the end of the fiscal year, which is actually July 1. We don't know if it will be done again at the end of June. It depends on whether they find funding or not."

"They're only

–Tracy Cooper Mendota Food Pantry

"They're only bringing Illinois Eats back until the end of the fiscal year, which is actually July 1. We don't know if it will be done again at the end of June. It depends on whether they find funding or not. So, we're still up in the air when it comes to June because the program could still end."

With the Illinois Eats service off the table for those 16 days, Cooper couldn't get meat from Midwest Food Bank where she used the free program.

Instead, she placed an order on March 11 with River Bend Food Bank, which means the pantry has to pay and the order form looks different from month to month, meaning hamburger may not always be an option.

See Eats, Page A5

ICC's Crossing Safety plan outlines rail infrastructure improvements

□ Eighth Street and First Avenue crossings in Mendota on the list for upgrades

MENDOTA-The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) approved its annual five-year Crossing Safety Improvement Program (FY 2026-2030) to implement life-saving safety upgrades at highway-rail crossings across Illinois. Over \$400 million from the Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) and Rebuild Illinois (RBI) will help local communities pay for much-needed improvements at over 900 crossing locations.

Two rail crossings in Mendota are planned for improvement during the FY 2027-2030 projects phase. The First Avenue crossing will have reconstruction of the automatic flashing light signals and gates at an estimated cost of \$375,000. The Eighth Street crossing will have installation of pedestrian gates and reconstruction of the automatic flashing light signals and gates at an estimated cost of \$525,000.

"Illinois' rail system is made up of more than 10,000 public crossings. The ICC's Crossing Safety Improvement Plan is an essential tool for improving our state's rail infrastructure and reducing the risk of collisions," said ICC Commissioner Michael T. Carrigan.

In 2024, preliminary Federal Railroad Administration data indicates there were 80 collisions at public crossings in Illinois, down from 89 in 2023.

State funding from the GCPF and RBI provide Illinois communities the ability to address longstanding safety concerns and increasing project costs. The five-year plan proposes GCPF dollars to help cover 26 highway bridges, eight pedestrian projects, 358 warning device upgrades, and 571 lowcost improvements at 963 crossing locations. Among the projects are upgrades to lighting, gates, and automatic warning devices; grade separation construction and reconstruction; pedestrian gate installation; and the separation of pedestrian crossings from rail tracks.

"Track tragedies are preventable tragedies. Knowing how to make safe decisions around train tracks can be lifesaving information. In an emergency, always get off the tracks, then look for the blue and white sign," said ICC Rail Safety Specialist Aisha Jackson.

The ICC prioritizes proj-

ects based on several factors including, safety of the existing crossing, collision history, traffic volume, engineering requirements, and geographical location. The ICC also promotes "The Three E's" of railroad safety: Education through Operation Lifesaver Illinois; Enforcement of existing laws to ensure motorists and pedestrians obey rail safety laws; and Engineering necessary to make crossings as physically and operationally

safe as possible. About the Illinois

Commerce Commission The Illinois Commerce

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission

oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient, and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses, and repossession agencies. The Commission's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities, and equipment in the state.



The Eighth Street crossing in Mendota will have installation of pedestrian gates and reconstruction of the automatic flashing light signals and gates at an estimated cost of \$525,000. (Reporter photo)

Potawatomi to reclaim tribal land in DeKalb County

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signs bill authorizing the transfer of Shabbona Lake State Park

By PETER HANCOCK

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – More than 175 years after their reservation in Illinois was illegally sold at auction, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is now in line to get their land back. Gov. JB Pritzker signed legislation on

March 21 authorizing the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to hand over to the tribe the ownership title to Shabbona Lake State Park, a 1,500-acre tract in southern DeKalb County that largely overlaps the tribe's original reservation.

"This moment reflects the power of collaboration and

the shared desire to build a future rooted in justice and respect," Prairie Band Potawatomi Chairman Joseph 'Zeke" Rupnick said in a statement. "Illinois has shown true courage and vision by leading the way in the Land



Back movement, demonstrating that healing and reconciliation are possible."

Although ownership of the land will revert back to the tribe, visitors to the park should not notice any difference, at least not for now. Senate Bill 867, sponsored by Sen. Mark

Walker, D-Arlington Heights, also requires

the tribe and DNR to enter into a land management agreement that will keep the land open for public recreation.

Prairie Band Potawatomi officials have said publicly they have no plans to develop the property for a casino or any other commercial use. They also point to a 2005 Illinois statute that requires the

governor to seek legislative approval before entering into a compact authorizing a tribe to conduct gambling in Illinois.

"This legislation puts Illinois on the right side of history — fostering a partnership with Prairie Band Potawatomi officials have said publicly they have no plans to develop the property for a casino or any other commercial use.

indigenous communities and returning what was wrongfully acquired," Walker said in a statement. "I have worked with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation on this bill since 2018, and today we celebrate this achievement together."

In a 2024 podcast interview with Capitol News Illinois, Rupnick described the tribe's history in the area. He noted that before European settlement, the Potawatomi people occupied much of the Great Lakes region. But as settlement occurred, they were gradually pushed into smaller enclaves.

In the 1829 Treaty of Prairie Du Chien, Prairie Band Chief Shab-eh-nay was granted two square miles of land, or 1,280 acres, in what is now DeKalb County that was intended to stay in his family's possession in perpetuity. But the following year, President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, which authorized the president to grant land west of the Mississippi River to tribes that agreed to give up their lands in the east.

That led to the 1833 Treaty of Chicago, in which the Potawatomi, Chippewa and Ottawa tribes ceded 5 million acres in present-day Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin in exchange for land west of the Mississippi. Many of the Potawatomi eventually resettled in what is now northeast Kansas.

That treaty, however, did not include the 1,280 acres that had been granted to Chief Shab-eh-nay, Rupnick said, and Shab-eh-nay continued to live on that land for several years.

Around 1849, Shab-eh-nay went to visit the rest of the tribe at their new reservation in Kansas, a trip that would take several

See Land, Page A5



Local News Pages A2,A3	3,A5,A7,A8,A9
Obituaries	Page A4
Opinion	Page A6
The Back Page	Page A10
Sports	. Pages B1,B2
Spring Car Care	Page B2
Oral Health Month	Page B3
Entertainment	Page B4
Church Page	Page B7
Classifieds/Legals	Page B8



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LOCAL AND AREA 'It'll be a memory forever'

Richard Zinke, Ken Olson were honored on the Honor Flight

By BRANDON LaCHANCE Staff writer

MENDOTA - Throughout the year there are many national holidays focused on veterans thanking them for their service in the United States military.

Honor Flight of the Quad Cities has added to the appreciation and respect with three flights per year sending veterans to Washington D.C. to see all of the monuments and memorials created to forever enshrine their heroics.

Mendota residents Richard Zinke and Ken Olson were aboard Flight No. 61 for the organization on October 29, 2024.

Although they were on a bus in the Blain's Farm & Fleet parking lot in Ottawa at 3 a.m. and didn't return until almost midnight, the long trip was one neither of them regret.

"It was a very memorable experience. It can be emotional. I found a classmate of mine, Amboy High School Class of 1969, on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall and I took a photo of his

name," said Zinke, who served in the Army from 1972-74 and was stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado during Vietnam after being part of the last group to be drafted. "We went to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where we saw the changing of the guard. It was the most emotional part of the trip for me. They did the changing of the wreath also at the Arlington Cemetery.

"It'll be a memory forever."

Zinke, like Olson, were thankful for the great caretakers and enjoyed all of the sights.

It was well worth it after Zinke was on the waiting list for 1 1/2 years and Olson was on it for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years.

"It was an amazing honor to be part of the flight and the entire experience. The people that were there to great us were exceptional," said Olson, who served in the Navy from 1971-75 and was deployed to Vietnam and Guam. "Elementary school musicians were playing songs. It was quite impressive. We were escorted by the



Ken Olson, left, and Richard Zinke took part in the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities' one-day trip to Washington D.C. The October 29, 2024 adventure was all they hoped for and more. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

park police through Washington D.C. They stopped traffic at intersections for us and our buses went right on through. We were given red carpet treatment. It was

really something.

"My wife and I went to Washington D.C. about five years ago. We spent more time at the Smithsonian National Air and

Space Museum. It was amazing how much has changed in those five years. With the Honor Flight, we went to the new Air Force Memorial and the Pentagon.

"We were bused directly to each monument or memorial including the Vietnam Memorial. The Abraham Lincoln Memorial was under construction, so we didn't walk up. We also saw the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the World War II Memorial."

With their trip just days before the presidential election on November 5, they witnessed a few more helicopters and extra security than normal.

Then-Vice President, who was running for president against Donald Trump, Kamala Harris gave a speech outside of the White House the same evening Zinke and Olson were at Washington D.C., but they were back in the air before she spoke.

"They call it the Honor Flight and I really felt honored to be able to go on the flight," Olson said. "The

way we were treated both in Washington D.C. and at the Ouad Cities International Airport in Moline, was very nice. There were some military memories of hurry up and waiting. It was alright, enjoyable.

"We had two Korean veterans and three women vets who were honored at the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington. It's not new, but relatively new."

At the airport, the 2024 Miss Illinois Teen USA, Arianna Thompson, was present to show her appreciation to the veterans.

With emotions on an almost all-time high, seeing the monuments, meeting veterans from all over the state, meeting people in Washington D.C. the honor felt through the welcoming and friendly greetings, and the overall excitement of a full day, Zinke and Olson had a day they didn't realize would impact them the way it did.

"I got a lot more out of the trip than I was expecting. It's something I'll never forget," Zinke said. "It brought back memories."

Blackstone School Report Stacy Kelly, Principal

The Best

Inter-State Studios was recently at Blackstone for spring pictures. The students had their pictures taken in a more fun and non-traditional pose. If parents ordered pictures, they should be delivered by the end of April.

The students nominated

this past week included Mayson Garza, Azariyah Durbin, Owen Hansen, Jieanna Porter, Armani Aguilar, Victoria Lechuga, Sophia Moore and William

Colin. The winners were Alani Gonzalez, Nova Escatel, Riley Foote and Jayce Woods. Congratulations to all of you.

We celebrated the March principal award winners with a pizza lunch on March 28. The students invited to attend the lunch were Tate Scheppers, Julius Rodriguez, Odin Stohr, Keiton

Blanton, Audrey Dewey, Azalayah Pratt, Alani Gonzalez, Nova Escatel, Nash Albers, Evalynn Kordick, Gabe Dykstra, Josue Guzman, Julie Taliani, Bella Frey, Riley Foote and Jayce Woods. The students enjoyed their pizza lunch. They will be pictured in an upcoming issue of The Mendota Reporter.

We have parents starting to call asking about registration for the 2025-2026 school year. All current District #289 students will bring home information after spring break in April with directions on how to register. For all new students who will be registering for kindergarten next year, we will have dates at the end of April and beginning of

May for parents to stop in and pick up registration information. You can check back to these newspaper articles, look on our District website or on our Facebook page for more details within the next few weeks.

Looking ahead at the calendar, don't forget that District #289 will have spring break on April 14-21.



for the principal award





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Northbrook School's February Students of Month

Northbrook Middle School has named its Students of the Month for February. Front row, left to right, are Giana Morano, Kaylee McLain, Maddie Strait, Olivia Jomant, Evelyn Quintana, and Sophia Dunley. Back row, Brayden Piller, Mason Fielder. Tyler Skaggs, Aubri Gonzalez, Cruz Arteaga, Gavin Stamberger, Jayden Figueroa, Mia Arteaga, Isaac Espinoza, and Leighton Davis. Not pictured: Jacqueline Bryson. (Photo contributed)

Utica to host Art Fair April 11-13 featuring many artistic styles

UTICA – Heritage Corridor Destinations is excited to announce the inaugural Utica Art Fair, set to take place at the Starved Rock Country Welcome Center, 248 W. Canal St., North Utica. The event will be held from Friday, April 11, through Sunday, April 13, with daily hours from noon to 6 p.m.

"Whether you're looking for your first piece of artwork or hoping to add to your current collection, you'll find a wide variety of unique and captivating pieces," said Debyjo Ericksen of Heritage Corridor Destinations.

The event will showcase

a vibrant mix of artistic styles and mediums, including watercolors, acrylic paintings, photography, metal sculptures, stained glass, and more. Featured works will be presented by True North and NCI ARTworks, offering visitors a chance to connect with local artists and discover truly distinctive creations.

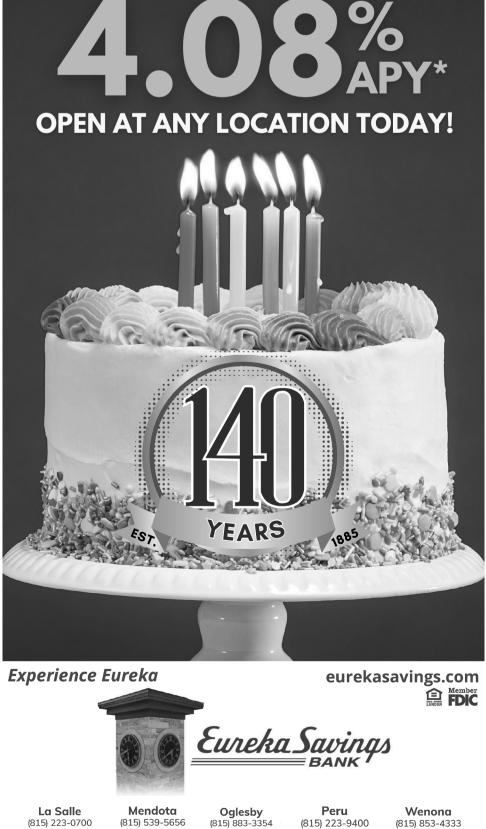
Art enthusiasts of all levels are invited to explore a stunning array of original artwork from talented local and regional artists. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to celebrate art in the heart of Starved Rock Country.



Scholastic Bowl Eighth Grade Night Northbrook Middle School celebrated its Eighth Grade Night for

Northbrook Middle School celebrated its Eighth Grade Night for Scholastic Bowl on March 18. Left to right, are coach Angie Nondorf, Liam Strait, Mikayla McLain, Gio Goy, Brad Fultz and coach Casey Nance. Not pictured: coach Emlee Dooley. (Photo contributed)





140 WEEK CD SPECIAL

The 140 week CD will be opened as a 980 Day CD. 140 Weeks is the same term as 980 Days. *Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is based on daily compounding. Minimum to open \$1,000. Interest penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal and fees may reduce earnings. APY stated is accurate as of 03/18/2025.

Eddie W. DeSpain

PAW PAW – It is with great sad-

Eddie "Ed" W. DeSpain, 84, of Paw

Paw, who left us on March 29, 2025,

a.m. Saturday, April 5, at Paw Paw

United Methodist Church, followed

church. Burial will take place immediately afterwards at Wyoming Cem-

etery in Paw Paw. Fellowship and

lunch will be at the church following the graveside services.

son of Sam and Eva (Clopton) DeSpain of Buffalo, Ky. He

was raised in Paw Paw and graduated from Paw Paw High

School. Eddie was a resident of Paw Paw for nearly 75 years. He married Judy M. Vincent on June 30, 1962, at Paw Paw

Ed is survived by his wife Judy; sons, Travis (Alyssa)

DeSpain of Montgomery and Terry (Valerie Sams) DeSpain

of Cincinnati, Ohio; grandchildren, Joe DeSpain, Amanda DeSpain and Hannah DeSpain; sisters, Helen (Emmett)

Perkins of Buffalo, Ky., Stella "Gertrude" Atwell of Jack-

son, Tenn., Phyllis Becker of Buffalo, Ky., Sue Hoelzer of

Jackson, Tenn., and Barb (Jim) Wilkinson of Jackson, Tenn.

Shofner and Mary DeSpain (1941); his brother at birth, Sam

DeSpain Jr. (1939); brothers-in-law, Grady Shofner, Gary

Hoelzer, Shelby-Jim Atwell, Butch Becker, Jim Bickford;

high school. He took his strong work ethic to Wurlitzer Piano

Factory, Swift, Impact Industries, and ended his career at

Northern Illinois University working in custodial services.

He was a lifetime member of the Paw Paw Lions Club, a

two-time president and over time was the chair of many

different committees. For his achievements he was honored

as Grand Marshal in the 2016 Paw Paw Labor Day Parade

and was also honored with the 2018 Melvin Jones Fellow

Award for dedicated humanitarian services by the Lions Club

international Foundation. He also spent time mentoring local

youth as a coach for Little League baseball and umpired for

Paw United Methodist Church or Paw Paw Fire Department.

In lieu of flowers or other gifts, please donate to the Paw

Please visit www.TormanFuneralHome.com to sign the

Ed's work history started at Safranek's grocery store in

and his grandson at birth, Jeffery DeSpain (1993).

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Ruby

Baptist Church. Ed and Judy were married for 62 years.

Eddie was born Feb. 18, 1941, in Hodgenville, Ky., the

Visitation will be held from 9-11

surrounded by his loving family.

OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Johnny L. Clines

TONTITOWN, Ark. - With his loving family present, Johnny Lee Clines, 80, of Tontitown, Ark., passed away March 2, 2025, at Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville, Ark.

A private service will be held at Bluff Cemetery in Springdale.

Johnny was born July 12, 1944 at the family home on Shirey Bay of the Black River in Lawrence County, Ark., to Sidney Franklin and Ruby

Margeret Clines (Counts). The doctor traveled by boat to reach the home and delivered Johnny. He was the third born of seven children.

The family sold the farm in 1952 and moved to town. They lived in Walnut Ridge for eight years before relocating to Mendota, where Johnny graduated from Mendota High School in 1964.

Johnny is survived by his three brothers, Boyd, Jimmy (Susan), Franklin (Tammy); four daughters, Kimberly Bersi (Brian), Angela Slaton, Tracie Harrop (Shannon) and Dana Clines; 12 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his terrier, Angel.

Johnny was preceded in death by his beloved wife and partner of 52 years, Carolyn; father, Sidney; mother, Ruby; sisters, Martha and Carolyn; brother, Buford; and sister-inlaw, Deidre (wife of Boyd).

After graduating from high school, he found his way back to Arkansas and followed his future wife, Carolyn Jones, to Springdale. They were married in Tahlequah, Okla., in 1967. Johnny and Carolyn moved back to Illinois where Johnny started barber school in Moline in 1971. After graduating in 1972, they returned to Springdale and ultimately settled in Tontitown where they raised their four daughters, Kimberly, Angela, Tracie and Dana.

Many knew Johnny from his nearly 40-year career as a barber, much of which was at Clines' Barber Shop in Rogers with his brother Frankie, and later at Oak Plaza Barber Shop in Fayetteville. Johnny was an accomplished self-taught musician and renowned story-teller, often recounting details of his storied life of adventures and misadventures.

Michael Thompson

PAW PAW – Michael "Mike" Thompson, 79, of Paw Paw, passed away Sunday, March 30, 2025, at Allure of Mendota.

Cremation care was provided by Torman Funeral Home, Paw Paw. A private family burial will take place in Precinct Cemetery in Earlville at a later date.

He was born Dec. 25, 1945, in Aurora, the son of Samuel and Mildred (Wright) Thompson. He married Pat Davy on Jan. 31, 1970, in Earlville.

CHOOSING A

Mike is survived by his wife, Pat; sister, Shelly Hampton; children, Roger (Ida) Davy and Mike (Sue) Davy; six grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Mike is preceded in death by his father, Samuel Thompson; mother, Mildred Randall; daughter, Lisa Bittel; and son, Brian Davy.

Please visit www.TormanFuneralHome.com to sign the online guest book.

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Colleen Zinke -

MENDOTA-Colleen Zinke, 96, of Mendota, passed away March 30, 2025, at Stonecroft Village in Mendota.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 4 at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Compton with Pastor Jeff Schlesinger officiating. Visitation will be at 9 a.m. prior to the service. Burial will be at Restland Cemetery in Mendota.

Colleen was born Sept. 24, 1928,

in Jefferson County, Ill., to Newton and Anna (Jones, Lee) Boykin. Colleen's faith began at a very early age listening to her father read Bible stories and attending the local Baptist church every Sunday. She married Harold W. Zinke on Feb. 5, 1950, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, where she was a member for over 75 years.

She is survived by her daughter, Sheila (Bruce) Bradley of Gordon, Wis.; son, Michael (Linda) of Amboy; four grandchildren, Douglas (Lisa) Smith, Joshua Zinke, Lance Smith and Marci Zinke; four great-grandchildren, Hunter and Hannah Smith, and Nathan and Isabella (Ivy) Schoditsch.

Colleen was preceded in death by her husband; infant daughter, Marsha; and brothers, Eldred (Bud) Lee of Greeley, Colo., and Glenn Boykin of Hampton, Va.

Colleen loved spending time with her family, making clothes for her children and grandchildren, mowing the lawn, enjoying the beautiful fall colors, watching sunrises and sunsets. She also loved working in the fields, which she did beside her husband until her son, Mike, and his wife, Linda, took over. She loved to travel across the United States with her family and later enjoyed trips with her husband, including two trips to Europe.

Colleen worked at Westclox in LaSalle, Holdenrid's Shoes in Mendota and as a receptionist at R&R Ford in Mendota. She volunteered 20 years at Mendota Community Hospital (OSF Medical Center) on the floor, gift shop and immunization clinic.

She was actively involved at Immanuel teaching Sunday School, Bible School, Church Council, president and treasurer of mission action in WERCA, quilting group, Northern Illinois Synod Women Central Conference. Colleen founded the Windfarm Red Hatters with women from Compton, Paw Paw and Mendota area. She was an active member of the PTA and the Canteen Board.

Memorials may be directed to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Compton, Ill.

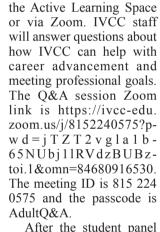
Explore IVCC open house set for April 8

OGLESBY-Prospective students can Explore IVCC at the spring open house on Tuesday, April 8, where they will meet potential classmates, tour the campus, and learn more about the College's programs and resources.

"Explore is a great event for students to discover their future and see what IVCC is all about! It is a chance for students to talk to someone in the fields of study they are interested in and to get a feel for the campus," said Tom Quigley, Director of Enrollment Services. "Anyone considering enrolling for summer or fall courses is encouraged to attend."

Explore IVCC begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg Cultural Centre, where a panel of students will share their experiences with academics and campus life and provide advice for success. "You will be able to see IVCC from a student's perspective," Quigley said.

An adult student Q&A session will also take place at 5:30 p.m. with two atten-



dance options: in-person in

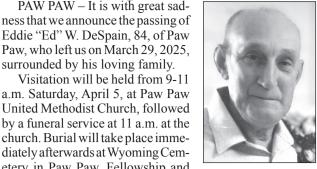
many years after coaching.

online guest book.

After the student panel session, a resource fair will

be set up with program coordinators, faculty, and student services representatives to answer questions about majors and services, including resources for Spanish speakers.

To pre-register to attend Explore IVCC, visit https:// admissions.ivcc.edu/register/ ExploreIVCCSpring2025 or you can register at the event. Registration for summer and fall classes will begin April 3 with summer classes beginning May 19 and June 11 and fall classes beginning Aug. 18.









Leak-Proof..

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Registration for IVCC summer and fall classes opens April 3

OGLESBY – Registration for summer and fall classes at Illinois Valley Community College opens on April 3 at 9 a.m. online and at 10 a.m. in person.

Director of Enrollment Services Tom Quigley recommends students register without delay so they secure their choice of classes, avoid last-minute stress, and set themselves up for success.

Course offerings can be viewed in the IVCC Self-Service system, but students will not be able to lock in their schedule until registration opens. New students should first apply for enrollment and schedule an appointment to meet with a counselor to register and schedule any necessary placement tests. Now is a good time to get a financial aid application underway, too.

Tuition is due May 7 for summer classes that begin May 19 and June 11. Fall tuition is due July 30 for classes that begin August 18. Students can pay in full or set up a payment plan, both of which can be done through IVCC Self-Service, by calling (815) 224-0213, or in person at the Cashier's Office, CTC 101. Students receiving financial aid or scholarships should contact the cashier to hold their classes.

In addition to registration, IVCC will be hosting two more activities to get to know the College better.

First, the Explore IVCC open house on April 8 beginning at 5:30 p.m. is a chance to learn more about

the College's programs. A gallery of academic programs and resources will be set up, including resources geared to Spanish-language speakers and adult students.

Then, before fall classes start, a Fall Preview will give students a chance to become familiar with the campus and resources as well as find their classrooms.

Besides course schedules, IVCC's Self-Service system is used to process payments and manage academic profiles. It can be accessed at https:// ivcc-ss.colleague.elluciancloud.com/ Student/Courses.

For registration questions, please call (815) 224-0447. For billing inquiries, contact (815) 224-0213.

Applications being taken for Taylor/NIU scholarships for IVCC students

OGLESBY – Applications are now available for two scholarships to be awarded to Illinois Valley CommunityCollegestudents who will transfer to Northern Illinois University to study accounting or STEM coursework.

IVCC students have until Monday, April 14, to submit the application, essay and required documents to the IVCC Foundation office to be considered for these significant scholarship awards. The accountancy scholarship is awarded to an IVCC student graduating this spring or transferring who will begin studying junior level accountancy at NIU this fall. Applicants must demonstrate a desire to pursue a professional, non-teaching career. The award covers full tuition and required fees for the first year at NIU and may be renewed for the student's senior year.

A \$5,000 STEM scholarship is awarded to an IVCC student graduating this spring or transferring to NIU to begin junior level science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) major coursework this fall. The scholarship is renewable for senior year. Students participating in the NIU Honors Program may qualify for full tuition and required fees support. Applicants must demonstrate a desire to pursue a non-teaching career.

For information on how

to apply for both of these scholarships, contact the IVCC Foundation Office, Room C-202, donna_swiskoski@ivcc.edu or call(815) 224-0551.

The scholarships were established by Bill and Dian Taylor, who are alumni of both IVCC and NIU. In 2013, IVCC honored their philanthropy by naming its new counseling complex The William and Dian Taylor Student Development Commons.

Trump Administration slashes pledged funding that would help protect Illinoisans from infectious disease outbreaks

SPRINGFIELD – The Trump Administration notified the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) that it is terminating federal grants nationwide that had been already awarded to support the ongoing work to protect the public from infectious diseases. The termination pulls back \$125 million in funding for IDPH and 97 local public health departments, which had been allocated by IDPH for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Disease (ELC) program and other uses.

The funding was awarded to Illinois through 14 separate budget lines in the federal bipartisan CARES

Act passed during the first Trump Administration. In addition to rescinding \$125 million in previously approved investments, this TrumpAdministration is also blocking \$324 million for future work to prevent and treat infectious disease in Illinois. As originally passed, the bill would have provided up to \$449 million in direct long-term support for the state's disease surveillance and vaccination activities. However, with the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, IDPH intended to rely on \$125 million of the remaining funds to strength-

IDPH allocated the targeted funds for technology to track the spread of diseases, invest in labs that test samples for infectious diseases, surveil wastewater, build the public health workforce, and strengthen local health departments.

"This decision to terminate already awarded federal funding will cause immeasurable harm and disruption to the health and safety of the people of Illinois and generate larger expenses in the longer run," said Governor JB Pritzker. "The State of Illinois will do everything in our power to restore this vital federal funding and continue to invest in common sense public health solutions to keep our state safe and healthy."

"While IDPH has been preparing for anticipated federal budget cuts, the termination of this awarded funding will have a debilitating impact on our efforts to protect the health of Illinoisans," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "If allowed to stand, this funding cut will set back critical upgrades to our public health labs, technology used to track infectious diseases like H5N1 avian flu and measles, vaccination efforts, and our ongoing work to better prepare for the next public health emergency."

The funding cut affects IDPH and 97 local health department operations not only in the current fiscal year ending June 30, but well into the next two state fiscal years.

Eats

per month.

Continued from Page A1

Usually, the MACFP uses 120 pounds of ground hamburger and ground pork per month to serve its average of 170 families in Mendota and the surrounding area. On the latest order, Cooper ordered 150 pounds (thinking she was buying for the whole month and not knowing if meat would be available on the next order form) at \$2.89 per pound.

"I had already looked into getting meat elsewhere and what it was going to cost and how we would go about getting it," Cooper said. "I had already ordered some meat from USDA that we have to pay for at River Bend. We got our order and now we'll get Illinois Eats again. I don't know yet if the program is going to work the same as it did before in terms of us still getting 120 pounds of meat "I'm still a little bit nervous about it because maybe it's only here for a few months. This is a little bit of relief, but now we're tippy toeing around the subject. I'm hoping it'll be back for good. If it does end again

on July 1, at least we have a little bit of time to work with to find meat elsewhere for a reasonable cost. We have time to form a backup plan. "When Illinois Eats was cut on March 4, I got a no-

tice from the University of Illinois Extension Office at 7 p.m. on that day about the program being eliminated." Earlville accounts for

one-fourth of the food pantry's client base. Sharing Hearts, a group based in Earlville, routinely brings in a monthly donation. This month, they brought in two checks with one specifically earmarked for meat.

Land

Continued from Page A1

weeks on horseback. Upon his return, Rupnick said, Shab-eh-nay learned that his land had been declared "abandoned" by the Illinois General Land Office and sold at public auction.

"That's when he discovered that people were living in his house," Rupnick said. "They actually picked up his house and moved it to another location and people were living in it. He tried to fight that through the court systems. They told him that he had abandoned his land, that the General Land Office had sold all of his land because he abandoned it, and they allowed the settlers and whoever else to live there."

The Prairie Band Potawatomi have argued since that time that the land is still legally theirs because Congress never authorized the sale, and as recently as 2001, attorneys for the U.S. Department of the Interior acknowledged the tribe had a legitimate claim to the land. "The federal government

Garage Sale time is here!

has acknowledged wrongdoing in the sale of the land," Walker said in his statement. "With the support of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and members of the Prairie Band, this transfer is not only a common-sense solution, it's the right thing to do."

Until last year, Illinois was one of only a handful of states with no federally recognized tribal reservations. That changed in April 2024 when the Interior Department placed into trust 130 acres from the original reservation that the tribe had repurchased, making that property an official reservation.

After the Shabbona Lake State Park transfer is executed, that land is expected to be added to the reservation.

(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.)



en COVID-19, measles and H5N1 disease surveillance, and to prepare for future potential pandemics.

For best results, advertise your sale in The Reporter.

HONOR ROLL

Holy Cross School -

MENDOTA-Holy Cross School has named its high honor roll and honor roll students for the third quarter of the 2024-25 school year.

Eighth Grade High Honors-Claire Atherton, Raegan Atherton, Eva Beetz, Joseph Cackley, Abby Delao, Elesea Denk, Cal Doyle, Quinn Eddy, Liam Jones, Catherine Moench, Kyla Muhlstadt, Yulissia Quintana

Seventh Grade High Hon-

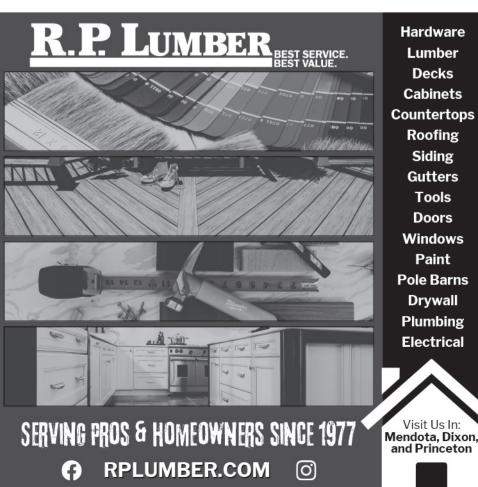
ors–Emme Beetz, Cale Full, Linda MacDonald, Lillee Monterastelli, Camden Pawlowski, Ellye Reppin, Molly Wilson

Seventh Grade Honors – Blake Cyrocki, Leo Engels, Sophia Figueroa

Sixth Grade High Honors – Samantha Escatel, Paul Hochstatter, Mingxi Huang, Sofia Lemus, Brooklyn Shakespeare, Ally Tillman, Jaxson Zimmerlein Sixth Grade Honors – MasonAtherton, Nicole Cervantes, Eliana Escatel, Henry Happ, Brooklyn Mauch, Armani Quintana

Fifth Grade High Honors – Rose Beetz, Bridget Cackley, Kinsley Cassidy, Carissa Doll, Isabel Lemus, Addison Mathesius, Juliana Ortiz, Ellyn Schmidt

Fifth Grade Honors – Noah Mathesius, Aiden Moreno



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OPINION



Award-winning Newspaper IPA/NINA ress Assoc./No. III. Newspaper Asso Kip Cheek, Managing Editor Brandon LaChance, News Reporter Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager Brent Hatch, Account Executive

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writer or artist. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Reporter management or staff.

Letters to the editor should be typed or handprinted. They should also be brief. All letters must contain a name, address and telephone number. The editor reserves the right to publish, condense, revise or reject any submissions.

How state laws threaten America's power grid

By JASON M. WALTER and ERIC OLSON University of Tulsa

America's electrical grid is at a critical juncture.

As artificial intelligence and other technologies drive unprecedented demand growth, we need massive investment in our transmission infrastructure. Yet arcane legal provisions known as "right of first refusal" laws are systematically blocking competition and innovation precisely when we need them most.

Known as ROFR, the right of first refusal gives incumbent utilities exclusive rights to build new transmission projects connecting to their existing infrastructure, effectively shutting out competitive developers. These provisions guarantee monopoly control over essential infrastructure, eliminating bidding processes that would otherwise drive innovation and reduce costs for consumers.

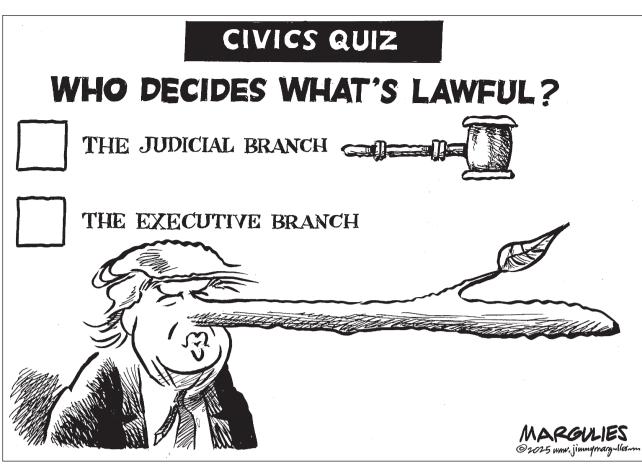
The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission recently reintroduced federal ROFRs through Order No. 1920 under the guise of "right-sizing" replacement facilities. But the more concerning trend is happening state by state, as incumbent utilities lobby legislatures to enact state-level ROFRs.

Twelve states have enacted these anti-competitive laws, according to the Manhattan Institute, creating a problematic geographical barrier across the central United States. This concentration segments eastern and western electrical grids and complicates the development of crucial cross-country transmission lines needed for grid resilience and renewable energy integration.

The National Conference of State Legislatures reports that these ROFR laws are concentrated mainly in the Great Plains states, along with Great Lakes and Gulf states, with Mississippi being the most recent addition. Many proponents claim these laws protect consumers from "out-of-state competition" and safeguard incumbent producers.

The economic evidence against ROFRs is overwhelming. Competitive bidding reduces transmission project costs by 20%-30%, according to a study by The Brattle Group. In the MISO region alone, competitive projects yielded cost savings of 37% for ratepayers, as documented by the MacIver Institute. By eliminating competition, ROFRs directly translate to higher utility bills for American families and businesses.

While courts in Texas and Iowa have correctly



Fooling around on April Fool's Day – 1992

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from April 2, 1997.) **By Jessica Nashold**

It so happened, five years ago, that The Mendota Reporter's first April issue was published on April 1, 1992. Kip Cheek, and staff, couldn't resist this rare opportunity for some fun.

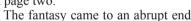
The Oscars had just been awarded so Kip wrote that Jodie Foster had been aboard a train passing through Mendota and had commanded the engineer to stop. The train ground to a halt at the Sixth Street crossing where Jodie stepped out, clutching her Oscar. She signed autographs for admiring fans and even posed for pictures. She also allowed the Oscar to be passed about.

Her purpose in making the Mendota stop, according to Kip's story, was to assess the town as a possible site for shooting a sequel to "Silence of the Lambs."

We are looking for a quaint Midwestern town and Mendota is high on the list.

To lend further credibility, the story mentioned that Oscar-winning director Jonathan Demme had often noted Mendota while traveling from Los Angeles to New York City. It was Demme who had asked Jodie to give an opinion on the town. Anthony Hopkins would be in Mendota on a similar mission the following week.

The Reporter staff cooperated in making sure the final paragraphs were on page two.





he was penalized –

But the state can be six months late in paying for medicine for people on Public Aid.

Rigney said the problem was the current governor's insistence on a balanced budget with no new taxes. He had been elected on his promise of "no new taxes."

"The old governor," Rigney said, "could always find somewhere to get more taxes."

Expressing the opinion that people would be willing to pay a higher income tax if property taxes were lowered, and the income tax earmarked for schools. Rigney added that the trouble with that approach would be that "other things also need funding," not just schools. ***

Representatives of Mendota Community Theatre met with Rex and Chris Benson of the MHS music department on April 2, 1992, to discuss a new sound system for the high school. The Bensons suggested a joint venture between the school and MCT. The board had earmarked \$5,300 for the project and MCT had donated \$2,000. With profits from some future productions, MCT would probably be able to come up with "what more might be needed." an independent appraisal of the property. The MHS board agreed to pay for such an appraisal at an estimated cost of \$300-\$500.

Robert "Skip" Stachlewitz returned to Mendota as plant manager at Motor Wheel. He had previously been with Motor Wheel in Mendota from December 1981 to November 1982.

Frito Lay rejected 300,000 pounds of potatoes because the sugar level exceeded its standard for making potato chips. Too much sugar resulted in chips of unacceptable darkness. A number of agencies providing food to the needy benefitted from Frito Lay's decision to distribute these potatoes, which were perfectly all right for human consumption.

Dean Otterbach happened to hear of the availability of the potatoes and he and Carl McNair loaded trucks with 3,550 pounds for the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry. It was reported that five semi loads had gone to agencies in Chicago and other deliveries were made to Dixon and Aurora.

A donation to the MHS school board in memory of Don Whitmore was designated to be applied to a scholarship for a deserving MHS athlete. Whitmore had been a distinguished athlete during his years at Mendota High. His record as state champion javelin thrower in 1939 still stands as the event was later dropped and his record had never been bettered.

recognized these laws as unconstitutional violations of the dormant Commerce Clause – with Iowa's Supreme Court explicitly labeling their ROFR "crony capitalism" in a 2023 ruling – the legislative push continues unabated.

Minnesota stands as a case study in this ongoing battle. The state currently faces an uphill fight to repeal incumbent transmission rights enacted in 2012, as documented by the State Power Project. Since passing its ROFR law, Minnesota has experienced precisely what economic research predicted: harm to consumers, reduced reliability, and discouraged regional grid planning, according to a 2023 study in The Electricity Journal.

More concerning is how these monopolistic provisions are evolving to evade scrutiny. Oklahoma's latest attempt (House Bill 2747) uses circuitous language: electric suppliers are "permitted to construct, own, and maintain facilities" only when extending "existing electric transmission facility or to facilities within or through any territory already served." This effectively grants preferential power to incumbent utilities while avoiding the explicit "ROFR" terminology.

Wisconsin's approach is more direct, with their proposed legislation (Assembly Bill 25/Senate Bill 28) simply granting "an incumbent transmission facility owner the right to construct, own, and maintain a transmission facility." Either way, the outcome is the same: competition remains locked out.

As America faces unprecedented energy challenges, we cannot afford policies that artificially restrict development of electrical transmission infrastructure. Without competitive markets driving efficiency and innovation, our grid will struggle to meet 21st century demands.

This isn't merely a battle between industry competitors – it's about whether America will have an electrical grid capable of supporting our economic future. The ongoing efforts to repeal existing ROFR laws and block new ones represent an essential step toward ensuring a resilient, affordable power system that serves the public interest rather than entrenched monopolies.

The choice before state legislatures is clear: protect outdated monopolies or embrace competition that delivers lower costs and better service. For America's energy future, the stakes could not be higher.

(Jason M. Walter is an associate professor of economics who teaches Policy Analysis at the University of Tulsa. His research focuses on industrial organization, environmental economics, and regulation.)

(Eric Olson is the Mervin Bovaird Foundation Endowed Professorship in Business and an associate professor of finance in the Collins College of Business at the University of Tulsa. His research focuses on energy policy, monetary policy, and open-economy macroeconomics.) with the final line –

APRIL FOOL

State Senator Harlan Rigney's visit to Mendota was also reported on April 1, 1992, but it was the real thing. Senator Rigney met with about two dozen Mendotans to address concerns ranging from inadequate school funding to tardy state payments for services to Public Aid recipients. Marilee Holzner, director of Heritage Manor, said they had not received a payment since Nov. 1, 1991. As of March 1, the state was \$213,275 in arrears.

Pharmacist Herb Goslin pointed out that if he was one day late paying taxes,

Mel Harth of MCT declared it "a godsend" that Jim Poisel had recently rejoined the group.

His knowledge of lights and sound and his communication with the high school music department is of highest value.

MHS superintendent Mike Duffy reported decreases in assessed property valuation for both Del Monte and Fasco Mills, which would seriously impact school revenues. Del Monte had dropped from \$4.9 million to \$2.1 million and Fasco had gone from \$5.3 million to \$2.9 million. Duffy suggested that the district might do well to finance A Woman's Day Expo at the Mendota Civic Center, April 10-11, 1992, was sponsored by the Center and by Mendota Business & Professional Women. Lunch was served both days in the Feik Senior Parlor and 16 speakers on a variety of topics were featured as well as exhibit booths.

Bob Dempster, chairman of both NBM Bank and holding company boards, announced his retirement. He had come to Mendota in 1965 when it was a \$15 million bank and was leaving as it stood at \$120 million. Dwight G. Heckert, president of NBM, was elected chairman of NBM Bancorp.

Mayor Michelle Wu vs. immigration enforcement

By Rich Lowry

The Mayor of Boston wants everyone to know that her city is all about the fundamentally American value of protecting lawbreakers.

Michelle Wu, a first-term Democrat, is a fierce defender of Boston's sanctuary city policies that seek to frustrate federal immigration enforcement.

She sees a direct connection between King George and President Donald Trump. The British monarch imposed the Intolerable Acts of 1774, which closed Boston Harbor and restricted self-government in Massachusetts; the president of the United States sent his border czar to arrest criminal aliens.

Separated by 250 years, these two actions both supposedly raise the question: Just how much tyranny can the Cradle of Liberty tolerate?

Wu declared in her State of the City address last week: "No one tells Boston how to take care of our own. Not kings, and not presidents who think they are kings. Boston was born facing down bullies."

It is a strange reversal of values when the government agency that wants to remove people who have broken laws is the "bully," and the people who committed the crimes are the victims.

The Boston mayor exemplifies the perverse morality of a Left that pushed Joe Biden to create a de facto open border, and then defended his cataclysmic handiwork to the last. Now, with Trump delivering on his enforcement promises and benefiting in the polls, progressives like Wu still can't give up their near-theological commitment to illegal immigration.

For much of the Left, illegal immigration isn't so much about gaining additional voters in the future -- although that's a consideration -- than triumphing over the artificial constraint of a border that shouldn't separate us.

"We may not always agree or see eye to eye," Wu said of her fellow Bostonians in her address, "but at the end of the day, we are a family. If you come for one of us, you will get all of us."

This is a banal sentiment that plays on natural feelings; no one is against family togetherness. But there is a distinction between a law-abiding, civically engaged member of Boston's community and someone from Honduras who crossed the southern border illegally twice, traveled to Boston because it was a cheap bus ticket, and got jailed on a drunk-driving rap.

That Wu can't tell the difference isn't a symptom of her generosity but of her ideologically besotted vision.

In a sweep intended to highlight the danger of sanctuary policies, ICE in Boston last week arrested 370 illegal aliens. More than 200 of the arrestees reportedly had significant criminal convictions or charges, including for homicide, rape and manslaughter. Just members of the Boston family, right, Mayor Wu?

Boston's sanctuary law allows the police to cooperate with immigration authorities regarding offenders charged with offenses like sex and drug trafficking, but otherwise is meant to obstruct the deportation of illegal immigrants.

According to the Center for Immigration Studies, during the Biden years, sanctuary jurisdictions released roughly 22,000 immigrants from jail that ICE was seeking for deportation. At the very least, this makes ICE's job more difficult; at the worst, it results in entirely avoidable tragedies.

Last year in New York City, an illegal immigrant released into the country by the Biden administration in 2022 brutally raped a woman when the city refused to hand him over to ICE after a prior arrest. The New York Times headlined its story, "How a Migrant Accused of Rape Was Freed and Charged with Rape Again." And yet sanctuary supporters like Wu dare to assume a posture of great righteousness.

There is a sign that some Democrats realize their error. Asked on "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" if there's anything that he likes about Trump's second term, Senator Bernie Sanders cited the president's work at the border and acknowledged Joe Biden should have done more. In other words, Biden's abdication was too much even for the socialist.

It's Wu, though, who still speaks for much of the party, in a voice that is resolutely clueless.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc.

ISBE hosts first-ever Student Summit to elevate student voices in education

□ Students from across state participate in meaningful policy discussions

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) hosted its first-ever Student Summit on March 13, at the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University in Normal. The summit provided approximately 125 students from 40 high schools across the state with a platform to share their experiences, advocate for their needs, and help shape the future of education in Illinois.

The summit was designed to engage more student voices in policy discussions on how to improve education, school learning environments, and academic outcomes. Discussions focused on key issues affecting students today – from mental health and school engagement to postsecondary opportunities.

"Students are at the heart of everything we do at ISBE," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders. "When we truly listen to them, we unlock the full potential of our schools and communities. Their voices shape better policies, stronger classrooms, and more meaningful learning. We are grateful to all the Student Summit participants for sharing their insights and helping build a stronger, more inclusive education system."

The summit featured roundtable discussions on key topics identified by ISBE's Student Advisory Council (SAC), focusing on students' experiences and well-being. Mental health sessions covered substance use, bullying, and access to extracurricular activities that support emotional wellness. Education discussions explored college and career pathways, strengthening Career and Technical Education, experiential learning, and improving curriculum resources. Student engagement roundtables addressed school discipline, cell phone use, attendance, and increasing student representation in their communities.

The ISBE Student Summit was by invitation only, with ISBE extending invitations to all members of the Student Advisory Council, the Illinois Career and Technical Student Organizations Board, and all students who applied for the 2024-25 SAC. In previous years, Student Advisory Council members engaged in virtual discussions, but this in-person event provided a new opportunity for collaboration and direct dialogue with peers across the state.

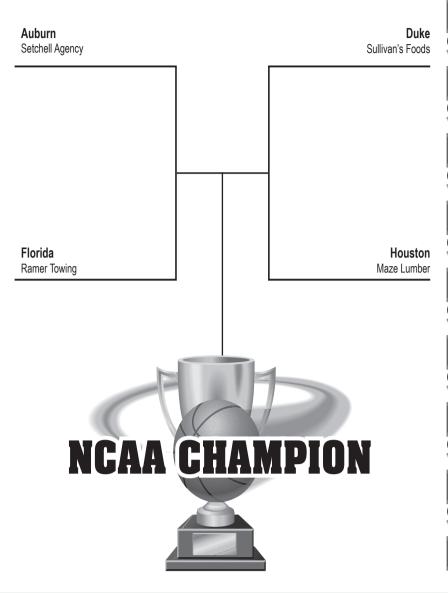
"The Student Summit is a great a way to represent my district and share some of the things we're doing well at New Trier. I've had some really good conversations today with my peers from all around the state," said New Trier Township High School senior Marie Mohr. "I plan to take those ideas back home to make my school an even better place."

"I'd like to thank ISBE for creating an environment for student leaders from across the state to come together to communicate and focus on the issues and strong suits that we have," said O'Fallon Township High School sophomore Dean Calhoun.

"I'm excited to hear what students across the state have to say and take it back to my school so our student body is more engaged and enjoys school more," said Barrington High School senior Vidhi Trivedi.

The insights gathered from these discussions will help inform the Student Advisory Council's recommendations to the ISBE Board. The council will make a presentation to Board members in May to ensure that they have an opportunity to consider student voice to inform policies and practices that impact Illinois schools.

Who's Left in the Reporter's NCAA Contest?







<u>ommunity Calendar</u> APRIL 2025

OCT. 1, 2024 - SEPT. 30, 2025 ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE FUNDRAISER Sponsored by M.A.S.S. Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Our goal for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$1000. Please help us reach our goal. Drop off cans at the northeast back door of the Civic Center.

APR. 2025 SENIOR LUNCHES Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 11:30 AM Monday - Friday Feik Senior Parlor Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Meal Cost - \$4.00 Monthly menus are available on our website & Facebook page. Lunches are from OSF St. Paul Medical Center. Must register 24 hours in advance.

APR. 2025 WAFFLE WEDNESDAY Sponsored by M.A.S.S. **TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED** Feik Senior Parlor Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

APR. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Wii BOWLING Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 10:30 AM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 All welcome to come and enjoy the fun!

ARP. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

EUCHRE Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 12 PM (Noon) Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 All are welcome!

APR. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

BEGINNING CROCHET CLASS Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1 PM- 2 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 New class being offered. Barbie Crochet will be here to teach crochet from beginners to advanced. Bring your own crochet hooks and yarn.

<u>APR. 2</u> SMALL FRIES Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 4 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: 3 years old to Kindergarten. Join us for books, crafts, and play

us for books, fun, and play all about Easter. Bring a basket for an egg hunt.

> APR. 4, 11, 18 & 25 BINGOCIZE Sponsored by M.A.S.S 10 AM Feik Lounge Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Open to anyone in the community.

APR. 4, 11 & 18 BINGO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S 1 PM Feik Lounge Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

APR. 4 COMMUNITY BINGO Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1 PM Feik Lounge Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 538-7700 or 539-9673 Anyone 18 and older welcome to join the fun!

> APR. 7, 14, 21 & 28 TOPS CLUB Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 10 AM Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Anyone welcome.

APR. 7, 14, 21 & 28 DOMINOES Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1 PM Feik Lounge Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 All are welcome to join in the fun.

<u>APR. 8</u> ADULT CRAFT AT THE LIBRARY Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library CHOOSE 1 PM OR 6 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 FREE Adult crafters only. Must register. Come craft with us here at the library! This program allows you to let your creative side flow.

APR. 8 & 22 BLOOD PRESSURE / BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 11 AM - 12 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Free to anyone in the community.

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

12 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Meat dish will be provided. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

<u>APR. 18</u>

APRIL POTLUCK

<u>APR. 21</u> SENSORY FRIENDLY STORY TIME Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 6 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: All. Explore the Library on your own terms. Sensory-Friendly story time is specifically planned for the kids and families who are challenged with developmental disabilitie. This story time welcomes movement, frequent breaks and encourages exploring & creativity in an inclusive setting.

APR. 23 CHAPTER CREW "THE CRITTER CLUB: AMY AND THE MISSING PUPPY" BY CALLIE BARKLEY Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 4 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 FREE Ages: Grades 1st and older. Introduction into chapter books with play and movement incorporated!

APR. 24

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "SHAPES" Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 6 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: Birth to 2 years old (siblings welcome). Join us for books, fun, and play all about shapes

> <u>APR. 25</u> BAKED POTATO BAR Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

Serving 11 AM to 1 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Eat-in or Carry-out available. The meal includes potato, a choice of toppings (butter, sour cream, cheese sauce, broccoli, chili, bacon bits), drink if eat-in and dessert. Orders can be placed ahead for a designated pickup time. Ticket price - \$8.00 Tickets available at the door. 50/50 raffle will be available.

> APR. 10 TWEENS "DIY TERRANIUMS" Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 6 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142



As part of its recognition of outstanding professionals this year, IVCC recently honored five retirees: Lou Borio, Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg (posthumously), Mary Sue Myers, and Jeanne Hayden. Left to right, are Borio, Dr. Rose Marie Lynch (accepting for Dr. Weeg), Myers, and Hayden. (Photo contributed)

IVCC Board of Trustees recognizes emeritus recipients & tenure status; OKs Master Plan

OGLESBY - Five outstanding retired professionals who were awarded with the honorary title of emeritus status in February were recognized during the Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees meeting on March 19. Plaques were presented to faculty members Mary Sue Myers, Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg (posthumously), and adjunct faculty Gene Montgomery; administrator Lou Borio and staff member Jeanne Hayden.

Additionally, the Board granted tenure to faculty members Lyndsey Beetz, dental assisting/dental hygiene/coordinator, and Scott Fox, manufacturing program coordinator.

Also, the Board appointed Amber Fox as Dean of Natural Sciences and Business to succeed Ron Groleau, who retired in January. Fox is an accounting instructor and program coordinator who attended IVCC before earning a master's degree in accounting from Bradley University. She began teaching at IVCC in 2012 and has been teaching full time since 2018.

The Board of Trustees also approved a Master Facilities Plan, as required periodically by the Illinois Community College Board. Proposed projects updated from a 2019 plan include

an expansion of Building J (now housing agriculture, welding and automotive), expansion of the gym building to include a fieldhouse and a fitness center, and the new agriculture education building and a greenhouse.

Other proposals involve returning Student Parking Lot 3 to green space; relocating and expanding the assessment center, IT department and microbiology lab; renovating various areas including classrooms, student spaces in the lower level, Jacobs Library and the Academic Support Center, a Health Professions skills lab and locker rooms/athletic space, and expanding the dental assisting program area.

In her monthly report, President Dr. Tracy Morris updated the Board on the College's growing agriculture program, predicting the proposed Ag Complex "will position IVCC as a leader in agricultural education, attracting students and faculty passionate about sustainable farming practices and technological advancements in the field."

An average of 105 students enroll in the program and courses each fiscal year, resulting in a 5 percent increase over the last five fiscal years. On average, 61 students choose an agricul-

ture certificate/degree/major, and more than 40 percent of agriculture students were in a transfer program.

"The Ag Complex will not only enhance educational opportunities for students, but also serve as a hub for research, innovation, and community engagement in agriculture practices," Morris said.

In other action, the Board: Nominated the follow-

ing for Illinois Community College Trustees Association awards: OSF Healthcare, Business/Industry Partnership award; student Ashton Watkins, Gregg Chadwick Student Service Scholarship; Samantha Whiteaker, Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Member Award and Donald Leynaud, Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award.

 Learned of a change order to the CTC audio-visual technology upgrade project that will lower the cost of the project by \$45,000, bringing the contract to \$278,600.

· Acknowledged the reappointments of non-tenured faculty for 2025-2026 including: Rebecca Caldwell, Early Childhood Education instructor; Michele Cheshareck, nursing instructor; Juliana Dzurisin, CNA instructor/program coordinator; Kora Jones, dental assisting instructor and Greg Whightsil, industrial maintenance and electricity instructor. · Learned of the appointments of Susan Weber, accounting clerk-payables/ cashier and John Bratkovich, custodian. · Learned of the resignations of Dr. Sammy Kumar, CNA instructor and Lydia Huey, assistant women's soccer coach, and the retirement of Lynn Moore.

<u>APR. 3</u> LEGO CLUB Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 4 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: 1st - 8th Grades. Come build LEGOs with friends.

APR. 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, & 28 EXERCIZE CLASS Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 8 AM Feik Lounge -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Exercise at your own pace with an exercise video.

<u>APR. 3 & 17</u> HEARING SCREENINGS Sponsored by Civic Center & M.A.S.S. 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Hearing aid batteries available at M.A.S.S. Lori Angus from Alternatives for the Older to purchase. Bring in old batteries to recycle.

APR. 3, 10, 17 & 24

NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1 PM Feik Lounge -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Bring your needlework or crafts to work on or just come for the friendship.

APR. 3, 10, 17 & 24

POKENO Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 12 PM (Noon) Feik Senior Parlor Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 This game is a conbination of Bingo & Poker. Pennies are used, so bring your penny jar. Call M.A.S.S. for more information @815-539-7700

<u>APR. 3</u> SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "EASTER" Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 6 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: Birth to 2 years old (siblings welcome). Join

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "EASTER" Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 11 AM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: Birth to 2 years old (siblings welcome). Join us for books, fun, and play all about Easter. Bring a basket for an egg hunt.

APR. 15 APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Join us for free Birthday Cake & Coffee to celebrate April birthdays.

<u>APR. 15</u> CAREGIVER COUNSELING Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1:30 PM - 3 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Adult will be here to provide information for any caregiver needing assistance or in need of someone to just talk with. Appointments can be made or walk-ins are welcome.

<u>APR. 15</u>

THIRD TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library CHOOSE 1 PM OR 6 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 FRFF Stop by the library to pick up the book for the following month! April's book: "The Last Romantics: A Novel" by Tara Conklin

<u>APR. 16</u>

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE AND BLOOD **GLUCOSE CHECK** Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 2 - 3 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 FREE Come to the library to get a free check of your blook pressue and glucose levels. No appointment necessary! Every third Wednesday. Provided by: In-Home Care Connetions

Ages: Grades 5th-8th.DIY Terrariums: Come join us in making your very own terrarium! Pizza from Mendota Rosati's delivered at 6:30 PM.

<u>APR. 30</u> STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 6 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: 2-10. Bring your stuffed toy for this story and crafting hour. Leave your stuffed friend and discover their magical mischief overnight.

APR. 30 LEGO CLUB Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 1 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: 1st - 8th Grades. Come build LEGOs with friends.

<u>APR. 30</u>

MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S -"MISS POTTER" (2006) Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library & M.A.S.S. 3 PM 1401 W Main St ,Mendota For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673 Free. Snacks (popcorn and beverages) provided by M.A.S.S.



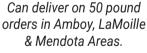
More local events found at mendotachamber.com

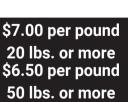
The Community Calendar Is Brought To You By Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce & The Mendota Reporter. These are some of the local businesses who belong to your **Chamber of Commerce:** Edward Jones Ekana Nursery & Landscaping El Rey Del Taco 14022025 El Torito Mexican Grill El Zarape Mexican/American Restaurant Elite Welding Service Euclid Beverage LTD Eureka Savings Bank Expressions Salon Financial Plus Credit Union

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Amboy preschool to hold pork chop fundraiser

AMBOY – Clipper Kiddies Christian Preschool in Amboy will hold a pork chop dinner fundraiser on Thursday, April 17 from 5-7 p.m. at the Amboy Community Building. This is a drive-thru only event.

The dinner will feature Ralfie's BBQ & Catering. The meal includes seasoned pork chops, roll, BBQ beans and pasta salad.

Tickets are \$15 per meal or \$20 per meal with two pork chops. There will be limited tickets available at the door. For ticket information, call Clipper Kiddies Preschool at 815-857-2225.

There will also be a bake sale hosted by Clipper Kiddies with items selling by donation (cash only).

Federal government cuts \$28 million for mental health and substance use services that was directed to Illinois

CHICAGO – The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, notified the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) that the Trump Administration would terminate up to \$28 million that Congress directed to Illinois for mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

The federal funding was granted through the American Rescue Plan Act and allocated to 77 community-based organizations which provide direct services to thousands of individuals living across Illinois. These funds enable behavioral health crisis response services, support for young people experiencing early symptoms of psychosis, substance use recovery homes, and substance use prevention services.

"At a time when Americans desperately need support for mental health and substance abuse, the Trump Administration has again prioritized cruelty over care and cut essential funds states were relying on to fund lifesaving programs," said Governor JB Pritzker. "We know many Illinoisans still face mental health challenges after the pandemic and we need to do everything we can to help them. The programs supported by the funding have ripple effects that touch every community in Illinois – reduction in violence, lowered healthcare costs, and a happier and healthier population."

The American Rescue Plan Act was intended to alleviate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a lasting effect on the mental and behavioral health of Illinoisans. While the pandemic is over, it left long-term impacts on stress, anxiety, and depression.

Alcohol use, in particular, increased during the pandemic, with a RAND Corporation survey finding that adult alcohol consumption increased by 14% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

While Illinois has made substantial progress in addressing these impacts, the federal funds Congress directed toward the state are critical to supporting substance use and mental health recovery.

"Removing funding that is used at the local level to support people in recovery from mental health and substance use challenges is shortsighted and negligent," said IDHS Secretary Dulce M. Quintero. "This funding has an invaluable return on investment-saving lives and rehabilitating those struggling so they can once again become thriving members of their communities."



The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation recently moved from LaSalle to the Ottawa Professional Building, 116 W. Lafayette St., Ottawa. The building is adjacent to Reddick Mansion. (Photo contributed)

Starved Rock Country Community Foundation relocates to Ottawa

OTTAWA – The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation has moved from LaSalle to the Ottawa Professional Building at 116 W. Lafayette St., Suite 2, Ottawa. The building is immediately west of Reddick Mansion and faces Washington Square Park.

The Foundation phone number remains (815) 252-2906, the website is srccf.org and email is info@srccf.org.

Founded in Ottawa in October 2015 by Pamela and Chuck Beckett, SRCCF has invested over \$2.6 million in the region and established over 120 charitable funds. The Foundation supports the arts, education, health and human services, the environment and disaster relief.

For information, visit www.srccf.org or call President Fran Brolley at (815) 252-2906, ext. 1.

Arts of Starved Rock Country Fund grant period now open until May 1 for art projects

OTTAWA – The 2025 Arts of Starved Rock Country Fund grant period is underway for art projects. Grants are available to any nonprofit, school, library, or community group supporting the arts or arts programs.

The application period runs through May 1, with grant announcements made in late May.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 2024, grants were awarded to Hegeler Carus Foundation of LaSalle, Community Players of Streator, Prairie Arts Council of Princeton, DePue School District, Poca a Poca of Streator andNCIArtworksofPeru.

"Aside from grants, we provide education, networking and online support across Starved Rock Country," said ASRC Administrator René Parks Wendinger. "We work with artists and organizations to make their creative projects happen."

For information, contact Parks Wendinger at rene@srccf.org. For an application, visit the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation website at https://srccf. org/artgrant/#grant-information.

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Household hazardous waste disposal site located in Rockford

ROCKFORD – Did you know that there is a waste disposal location for hazardous household waste, such has old mercury-and-glass thermometers?

The Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Center is located at 3315 Kishwaukee St., Rockford. The facility is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. Waste items will only be accepted during operational hours.

Illinois residents can dispose of common household hazardous waste items. Commonly generated wastes include: aerosols, corrosives, oxidizers, solvents, oilbased paints, waste oil, pesticides, fertilizers, batteries (no alkaline), and fluorescent lamps. Also, thermostats, thermometers gauges manometers, barometers, vacuum gauges, mercury switches in children's light-up sneakers. All liquid wastes are required to be in containers of no more than five gallons.

Latex paint is not accepted. There is no cost for dropping off household hazardous waste items for Illinois residents.



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The Following will be Sold-LIVE IN PERSON ONLY at the ON SITE LOCATION of 1901 1st Ave (Building Located Behind M.A.S.S. Bldg) in Mendota, IL on:

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 TIME: 10:00 A.M. View Listing & Photos on website: www.

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See our website: www.elzarapemendota.com



THE BACK PAGE

POLICE **BLOTTER**

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED Jason J. Westfall, 28, of North Charleston, S.C., was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Main and Eighth streets at 10:35 a.m. March 25. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Addresses sought for town-wide garage sales

MENDOTA-The 5th annual Mendota Townwide Garage Sales will take place Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those interested in having their addresses added to the list and advertised should contact Heather at (815) 990-5577. The deadline is Thursday, May 1.

City Ordinance

Grass clippings,

etc. in streets

place or leave, or cause or

permit to be thrown, placed or left, any ashes, dirt, filth

or rubbish, grass clippings,

or foreign matter in or upon

any street, alley or sidewalk

olating this section shall be subject to the penalty of not

less than \$50 nor more than

\$500. Imposition of any

penalty for a violation of this

section shall not be construed

as a waiver of the right of

the City to collect the cost of removal of such nuisance

where it is necessary for the City to remove such nuisance.

of the City of Mendota. Penalty: Any person vi-

No person shall throw,

I-80 construction resumes in LaSalle and Bureau counties

OTTAWA - The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that construction on Interstate 80 in Bureau and La Salle counties has resumed. The work zone will be from one mile west of the Illinois 89 interchange (exit 70) to just west of the Illinois 251 interchange (exit 75).

Work will mill and resurface the road, including the Illinois 89 and Plank Road exit and entrance ramps. There will be one lane open in both directions during the project, which will happen overnight between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Sunday through Friday.

The Illinois 89 and Plank Road interchanges will remain open at all times. All lanes on I-80 will be open during weekends and holidays. This \$21.6 million project is expected to be completed this fall.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area and be prepared for slow

Hail?

Critters?

Collision?

Over

40 Years

Combined

Experience

and stopped traffic. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices, and be alert for workers and equipment.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,200 miles of highway and nearly 9 million square feet of bridge deck as part of Rebuild Illinois, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Accomplishments through Year Five of Rebuild Illinois include approximately \$16 billion of improvements statewide on 6,541 miles of highway, 686 bridges and 986 additional safety improvements.

For IDOT District 3 updates on X, go to @IDOTDistrict3. View area construction details on IDOT's traveler information map at www. GettingAroundIllinois.com.

Sublette

Body Services

WE are the

Watch for bicyclists on roads

MENDOTA - The Mendota Police Department urges motorists to pay attention, be alert for bikes and share the road. MPD urges bicyclists to be predictable and observe traffic laws. Your actions affect public opinion.

Illinois Bicycle Laws

Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles. Bicyclists riding on a highway are granted all of the rights and are subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, with few exceptions.

Lane Positioning - When riding on roadways and bicycle paths at less than normal traffic speed, ride as close as practicable and safe to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except, when overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction, or, when preparing for a left turn, or, when reasonably necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, motorized pedal cycles, pedestrians, animals and surface hazards. Lights on Bicycles – For night riding, a

front lamp with a white light visible from at least 500 feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear visible from 100 feet to 600 feet are required. A rear light visible



from 500 feet may be used in addition to the red reflector. Two or More on a

Bike-Bicycles shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, except that an adult rider may carry a child securely attached to his person in a backpack device or sling.

Parental Responsibility – The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize the child or ward to violate any of the provision of this code.

The Mendota Police Department encourages bicyclists to wear a helmet for protection against head injuries.



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SPORTS

Remembering when boxing was good; RIP George Foreman

Some people will remember scraping, digging, and clawing for all the coins they could possibly find in their couch, car seats, pockets of a jacket they haven't worn in a few months, a season, or at the bottom of their wallets, purses, and backpacks.



• Then you'd a s k y o u r friends to chip in.

Not for groceries, not for rent, not for gas, not to pay a bill, but...to watch a boxing match.

Before PPV, Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali (especially "The Fight of the Century" on March 8, 1971, and the "Thrilla in Manila" on Oct. 1, 1975) were must-sees.

I'm disappointed I didn't come around until 1985, but very thankful I've been able to watch all the classic fight replays on ESPN and YouTube.

The list of awesome fights in the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 2000s is long, very long.

From "Marvelous" Marvin Hagler vs. Thomas "Hitman" Hearns on April 15, 1985, to Diego Corrales vs. Jose Luis Castillo on May 7, 2005, which I donated plasma for two months while a freshman at Southern Illinois University to purchase, to "Sugar" Ray Leonard vs. Roberto "Hands of Stone" Duran, to Leonard vs. Hearns, to Arturo Gatti vs. Mickey Ward, which I saved money from my newspaper route and begged my mother to let me have the TV for a few hours on May 18, 2002, to countless fights involving Mike Tyson and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Actually, in the pay-per-view era of boxing, the Top 10 bought matches include either Tyson or "Money" Mayweather.

Manny Pacquiao vs. Mayweather on May 2, 2015, which I watched at the Gopher Hole (formerly Dillys, but now R.I.P.) with a bunch of friends was the most purchased with 4.6 million buys. Mayweather vs. UFC star Connor McGregor recorded 4.3 million buys on Aug. 26, 2017, which I stood shoulder to shoulder, backs to chests at Mr. Salsas in Oglesby to view.

Mayweather vs. Oscar De La Hoya on May 5, 2007 (more plasma donating while in college) brought in a third-place 2.44 million. Mayweather and Canelo Alvarez (10 friends and I chipped in for) are fourth at 2.2 million views on September 14, 2013.

Then Mike Tyson vs. Evander Holyfield II (June 28, 1997), Tyson vs. Lewis (2002), Tyson vs. Roy Jones Jr. (2020), Tyson vs. Holyfield I (1996), and Tyson vs. Peter McNeely are five-nine, before Mayweather and Miguel Cotto take 10th on the list for their May 5, 2012 fight.

I put all of these in this column to show two things. First, boxing "back in the day" drew because it was actually boxing, and you knew it was going to be a great fight. There was no doubt you were either going to say a dramatic knockout or a warrior vs. warrior fight to the finish.

Now, we buy the pay-per-views or stream hoping we will get the same electrifying punch power of Tyson or the crafty footwork of Mayweather but are left wanting after dropping more and more jellybeans for each fight.

To be honest, you can't even call most of them fights anymore. They're publicity stunts to bring in money. And we buy hoping Jake Paul vs. Tyson or Mayweather vs.

McGregor (not even a boxer) are going to be classics. And they turn out to be duds in terms of a worthy

Lady Trojans post 3 straight shutouts

The Mendota varsity girls'soccerteam notched its first win of the season with a 3-0 shutout over Streator on March 24 at the MHS field.

Crystal Garcia booted in two goals for the Lady Trojans, while Kamilah Preciado scored the other goal. Laylie Denault picked up an assist.

The Lady Trojans pitched another shutout with a 1-0 triumph at Rochelle on March 25.

Garcia scored the lone goal with 2:27 left in the game. Noemi Arteaga got the assist.

Mendota kept its opponent off the scoreboard for

the third straight game with a 4-0 victory over Ottawa on March 27 at the MHS field.

Garcia provided the offense for the Lady Trojans, scoring all four goals. Collecting assists for Mendota were Elaina Reddin with two, and Briza Cervantes and Arteaga with one apiece.

MHS coach Nick Myers praised the defense in Mendota's win. "Our defense of Kaley Siemer, Noemi Arteaga, Addy Allensworth, Lu-

4-0 Lady Trojan victory. (Reporter photo)

pita Sandoval and Ariana Sanchez in goal played an amazing game for our third

Mendota's Crystal Garcia tries to fend off the defense of Ottawa's Gracie Polancic

during a soccer game on March 27 at the MHS field. Garcia scored all four goals in a

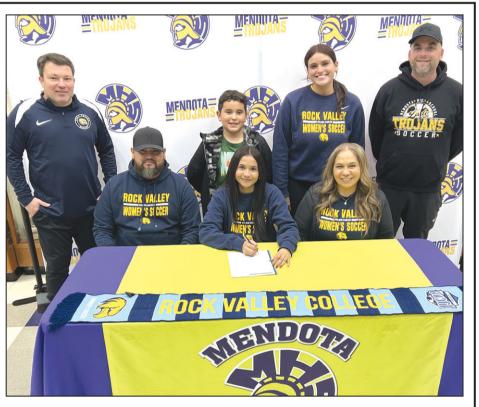
shutout in a row," said Myers. Mendota improved its record to 3-1.

Trout season starts April 5

SPRINGFIELD - The 2025 Illinois spring trout fishing season will open Saturday, April 5 at 58 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state.

An early opportunity at select trout sites - the spring catch-and-release fishing season - opened March 22. No trout may be kept during the catch-and-release period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning April 5. The daily harvest limit for each angler is five trout.

The Illinois Catchable Trout Program receives funding support by those who use the program through the sale of inland trout stamps. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted during the spring season. An additional 80,000 trout will be stocked for the fall trout season, which be-



Rock Valley soccer recruit

Mendota High School senior Crystal Garcia will follow in her sister's footsteps and play women's college soccer at Rock Valley College this fall. Crystal, seated center, is flanked by her parents, Rafael and Angelica, as she signs a letter of intent to attend the Rockford college. Also looking on in the back row, left to right, are Rock Valley head coach Kevan Watkins, brother Julian, sister Naitzy and MHS head coach Nick Myers. With Naitzy as the goalkeeper, Rock Valley set a school record for wins in a season in 2024 with 17 and advanced to the NJCAA Division II National Tournament in Huntsville, Ala. Crystal will be scoring the goals for Rock Valley this fall from the forward position. Naitzy will continue her college soccer career at Eureka College this fall. (Reporter photo)



contest and more of a tribute, thank you for your previous time in the boxing ring, and thank you customers for being customers and helping us pay the boxers millions.

This brings me to my second point – all of the great ones, have left us.

The passing of George Foreman, famous for "The Rumble in the Jungle" against Ali and winning the heavyweight title for the second time at the age of 45 against Michael Moorer on Nov. 5, 1994, hit home and made me think of all of my boxing memories.

At one time, my top sports list went basketball, boxing, football, baseball. My big three included boxing because of the former greats and the current greats in the 1990s and 2000s.

Foreman, who passed away Friday, March 21 was definitely one of them.

He now joins Ali, Frazier, Leon Spinks, Hagler, Trevor Berbick, Corrales, Vernon Forrest, Tommy Morrison and Ken Norton, on the list of boxing champions (1970s until now) who are no longer with us.

Although he hadn't been in the ring since the 1990s and at 76, he wasn't in the public eye anymore, he still carried the nostalgic presence of a golden era of boxing.

While Foreman rests in peace, hopefully this isn't the next step of boxing (the sport, not the spectacle) falling further into isolation as a has-been sport or resting in peace itself.



S. Carlos takes second in 400m at Top Times

Mendota's Sebastian Carlos finished in second place in the Class 2A boys' 400-meter dash at the Illinois Top Times Indoor Classic at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington on March 29. The Mendota High School junior ran a time of 51.02 to tie his personal record. Dylan Hodges of Sycamore won the race in a time of 50.72. (Photo contributed)

Trojans take out 3 foes on baseball diamond

Mendota had its hitting shoes on as it blasted Stillman Valley, 12-2, in varsity baseball action on March 25 at Stillman Valley.

The Trojans banged out 12 hits and three Mendota pitchers limited the Cardinals to just two safeties.

Mendota scored three runs in the opening inning on a single by Brody Hartt, walks to Braiden Freeman and Dane Doyle, and a Stillman Valley error.

The game remained 3-0 until the fifth when the Trojans added a run on a single by Hartt and an RBI triple by Evan McPheeters.

The Trojans added three more runs in the sixth and five in the seventh to go up 12-0. Freeman and Hartt delivered singles in the sixth with Hartt and McPheeters driving in runs. In the seventh, Doyle, McPheeters, Collin Coss and Cayden Taliani all singled as the Trojans batted around.

Hartt finished with three hits and four runs batted in, while Freeman, Doyle and McPheeters had two hits apiece.

Freeman got the ball to start the game and

pitched into the fifth inning. He allowed just one hit and struck out 11. McPheeters and Gavin Evans finished up on the hill.

Mendota put up another dozen runs and took down Indian Creek, 12-0, in a game shortened to five innings by the 10-run rule on March 26 at the MHS field.

The Trojans took control from the start, scoring six runs in the first inning and plating five more in the second. In the first, one-out walks to Hartt and Esten Otero were followed one out later by consecutive singles off the bats of Doyle, McPheeters, Rhett Watson and Coss. Evans was hit by a pitch and then Freeman delivered a two-run double.

Highlighting the second-inning uprising were triples by Doyle and Watson.

Mendota finished up its scoring in the fourth on a double by Doyle and another three-bagger by Watson.

Doyle and Watson paced the Trojans' 10-hit attack with three hits apiece. Doyle drove in

four runs. McPheeters added a pair of singles.

Doyle was the winning pitcher, giving up just one hit in four innings. He fanned six and walked two. Jack Gillespie struck out a pair in the final inning.

**

Two big innings propelled the Trojans to an 8-4 triumph over Westmont on March 29 at the MHS field.

Mendota broke on top with a five-run third inning. Freeman doubled in the frame and Doyle and Watson both singled. Three walks and a Westmont error aided the Trojans' cause.

Westmont closed the gap when it got on the board with a three-run sixth, but Mendota matched the Sentinels in the bottom of the inning on doubles by Watson and Otero, a walk to Freeman and an error.

Freeman gave up just one hit and struck out seven in four innings. McPheeters and Doyle finished the game.

Freeman, Doyle and Watson each had two hits for the Trojans.

gins in October.

For the 2025 spring trout season, no trout may be taken from any stocked sites between March 15 and the season opening at 5 a.m. April 5. Anyone attempting to harvest trout before the legal harvest season opening will be issued citations.

For information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Not all sites are open for trout catch-and-release season and not all sites open at 5 a.m. opening day.

The spring trout season offers opportunities for families to get outdoors and enjoy fishing. Resources are available online for taking youth fishing. All anglers, including those who intend to release fish caught before April 5, must have a fishing license and an inland trout stamp unless they are younger than 16, blind or disabled, or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces.

Fishing licenses and trout stamps can be purchased by using a credit card online. Visit ifishillinois.org for more information on trout seasons and other Illinois fishing opportunities.

Among the 2025 Illinois Spring Trout locations are:

• Bureau County – Hennepin Canal Parkway

• LaSalle County–Illinois and Michigan Canal Lock 14, LaSalle; Lake Mendota, City of Mendota

• Ogle County – Pine Creek, White Pines Forest State Park **

• Whiteside County – Centennial Park Pond, Rock Falls

(** Denotes sites open for catch-and-release early spring season fishing)

SPORTS

BOWLING

Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of March 19 – 1. Novak Farms 31-21; 2. Black Brothers 31-21; 3. Maybe Next Week 26.5-25.5; 4. O'Donnell Excavating 25-27; 5. Man On! 25-27; 6. First State Bank 17.5-34.5

High team game (scratch) – O'Donnell Excavating 1071, Man On! 1030, Black Brothers 1016

High team game (hdcp) – O'Donnell Excavating 1251, Black Brothers 1249, Maybe Next Week 1225

High team series (scratch)-Man On! 2997, O'Donnell Excavating 2962, Black Brothers 2912 High team series (hdcp) - Black Brothers 3611, Maybe Next Week 3543, O'Donnell Excavating 3502

High individual game (scratch)–LukeRoss268, Todd Smith 255, Drake O'Donnell 238

High individual game

(hdcp) – Skip Stachlewitz 292, Luke Ross 286, Todd Smith & Charlie Gordon 282

High individual series (scratch) – Luke Ross 744, Todd Smith 717, Nate Bradford 688

High individual series (hdcp) – Todd Smith 798, Luke Ross 798, Brian Foley 774

Elks 9 Vouth Loog

Youth League Standings as of March 22 – 1. Team 4 44-20; 2. Team 1 29-35; 3. Team 3 26-38; 4. Team 2 26-38 High team game (scratch) – Team 4 251, Team 1 215, Team 3 207 High team game (hdcp) – Team 1 580, Team 4 578, Team 2 567

High team series (scratch) – Team 4 719, Team 3 592, Team 1 509 High team series (hdcp) – Team 4 1700, Team 2 1673, Team 3 1654

Boys' high game (scratch) – Jaxon Stamberger 110, Michael Eames 73, Grayson Kent 71 Boys'high game (hdcp) – Jaxon Stamberger 215, Henry Schoepf 198, Grayson Kent 194

Boys' high series (scratch) – Jaxon Stamberger 264, Michael Eames 194, Landyn Welch 189

Boys'high series (hdcp) – Jaxon Stamberger 579, Henry Schoepf 560, Michael Eames 551

Girls' high game (scratch) – Lainey Ramer 82, Grace Piskie 77, Brooklyn Bejster 75

Girls'high game (hdcp) – Lainey Ramer 198, Grace Piskie 192, Addyson Fahr & Brooklyn Bejster 191

Girls' high series (scratch) – Lainey Ramer 202, Grace Piskie 199, Brooklyn Bejster 168

Girls' high series (hdcp) – Lainey Ramer 550, Grace Piskie 544, Addyson Fahr 538

Elks 11 Youth League

Standings as of March 22 - 1. Team 4 44-20; 2.

Team 1 40-24; 3. Team 2 29-35; 4. Team 3 14-50

High team game

(scratch) – Team 4 437, Team 1 308, Team 2 302 High team game (hdcp)

-Team 4 678, Team 2 624, Team 1 613

High team series (scratch) – Team 4 1243, Team 1 883, Team 2 853

High team series (hdcp) – Team 4 1966, Team 2 1819, Team 1 1798

Boys' high game (scratch) – Parker Ramer 176, Jaxen Daley 161, Billy Bromenschenkel 141

Boys'high game(hdcp) – Jaxen Daley 263, Billy Bromenschenkel 241, Gavin Stamberger 226

Boys' high series (scratch) – Parker Ramer 516, Billy Bromenschenkel 399, Jaxen Daley 378 Boys'high series (hdcp)

-Billy Bromenschenkel 699, Jaxen Daley 684, Parker Ramer 651

Girls' high game (scratch)-Catherine Moench 158, Eliana Eames 148 Girls'high game (hdcp) –Eliana Eames 252, Catherine Moench 239

Girls' high series (scratch)-Catherine Moench 375, Eliana Eames 319

Girls'high series (hdcp) –Eliana Eames 631, Catherine Moench 618

Monday Night Men's League

Standings as of March 24 - 1. The Struggle is Real 40.5-29.5; 2. Bad Kats 40-30; 3. Ramer Inc. 38-32; 4. Leagal Beagles 33.5-36.5; 5. Split Happens 33-37; 6. CM Farm 24-46

High team game (scratch) – Split Happens 748, Leagal Beagles 720, Ramer Inc. 697

High team game (hdcp) – The Struggle is Real 1010, Leagal Beagles 999, Split Happens 968

High team series (scratch) – Split Happens 2189, Leagal Beagles 2054, Ramer Inc. 1951 High team series (hdcp)

- The Struggle is Real

2916, Leagal Beagles 2891, Split Happens 2849

Men's high game (scratch) – Mike Smith 247, Ron Westphal 233, Matt Ramer 210

Men's high game (hdcp) – Mike Smith 290, Ron Westphal 289, Bob Moench Jr. 276

Men's high series (scratch) – Mike Smith 290, Ron Westphal 289, Bob Moench Jr. 276

Men's high series (hdcp) – Ron Westphal 795, Carl Reistad 745, Mike Smith 741

Women's high game (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 221, Hannah Westphal 214, Gail Sessler 203

Women's high game (hdcp)–Hannah Westphal 286, Audrey Holocker 277, Jessica Robinson 270

Women's high series (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 557, Hannah Westphal 549, Emily Thomas 548

Women's high series (hdcp)–Hannah Westphal 765, Audrey Holocker 755, Stephanie Ramer 719

Spring Car Care

Keep interior clean & tidy

A number of factors are involved in keeping a vehicle functioning and looking good. Ensuring a vehicle interior is clean and tidy is easily overlooked, but such efforts can improve the driving experience.

Drivers who want their cars and trucks to look their best should not forget their vehicle interiors. Drivers unsure where to start can spruce up their vehicle interiors in the following ways.

• Remove any trash. Wrappers, receipts, empty water bottles, and other items can quickly pile up inside a car, especially for drivers who have young children. Routinely go through the vehicle to gather and remove debris.

• Vacuum the interior. Start off with a can of compressed air and blow out dust and any other dirt that has accumulated in tight crevices. Then use a high-powered vacuum to conduct a thorough cleaning. Pay attention to the seams of car seats, door handles, armrests, floor mats (and under them), underneath child safety seats, and the trunk or cargo area. If you don't have a vacuum with a lot of suction, utilize one at a do-it-yourself car wash location.

Common car noises and what they might be indicating

Although there are many drivers who understand what goes on under the hood of a vehicle and the inner workings of car mechanics, there are plenty of others who might not know a spark plug from a dipstick. For the latter group, random noises when driving can be a cause for immediate alarm.

Certain noises can be innocuous and easily fixed, while others may be indicative of something more complex. Pinpointing where a noise is coming from can help vehicle owners identify the problem. Here's a list of some common sounds and what the causes might be, courtesy of Firestone, Geico and Nationwide.



• Scrub floor mats. Drivers with rubber mats can remove them and make a mild cleaning solution of a few drops of dish soap and warm water. Use a soft-bristled brush to clean the mats. Upholstered mats can be shampooed using a carpet cleaner. Then rinse and hang to dry. All mats should be completely dry before being returned to the vehicle.

• Clean the upholstery. Seats can get dirty and dingy over time. For cloth vehicle seats, use a proper spray or foam upholstery cleaner. All-purpose cleaner can work on vinyl seats, but leather seats require a special leather soap and conditioner. Avoid products with silicone, which can stain your clothes and may make interior surfaces too slippery.

• Address glass surfaces. Turn your attention to the windshield, windows and mirrors. You can use a storebought glass cleaner on these surfaces and a lint-free cloth. Avoid products containing ammonia, which may damage tinting on windows.

• Consider lingering odors. If the interior of the car has an odor, the cabin air filter may need to be changed, or there may be water entering the vehicle somewhere and creating a musty smell. Seek out any problems and address. A car air freshener can further improve the interior smell.

A thorough deep cleaning can be done at least once a month to keep a vehicle's interior fresh and clean. However, keeping up with interior cleaning and maintenance by doing small jobs regularly will reduce the need for routine deep cleaning.

High-pitched squealing

Screeching or squealing coming from the tires when stepping on the brakes likely means that brake pads are wearing down and the indicator is rubbing against the rotor. Although this is not an emergency situation, it does mean that brakes will need to be replaced sooner than later.

Rattling in the wheel

If you hear rattling inside of a wheel at low speeds which stops as you drive faster, it could mean there is a loose lug nut inside of the hub cap. That wheel wasn't tightened properly the last time it was removed and replaced. Bring the car to a mechanic as soon as possible. **Clicking**

If you try to start the car and only hear a clicking sound instead of the car turning over, a dead battery is likely the cause. Such a noise also may indicate corroded battery terminals that are preventing the current from flowing. Terminals need to be cleaned. The battery should be checked and jumped, if necessary. If a battery is not holding a charge, a new one is needed.

owners identify the problem.

Squeaky or scraping windshield wipers

Squeaking and scraping means the windshield wipers are wearing down or the windshield is dirty. Clean the windshield and inspect the wiper blades to make sure they are in working order. A bad wiper and dirty windshield can reduce visibility and make driving dangerous.

Clunking sounds Clunking sounds may

indicate a few different issues. A clunking sound might indicate worn out shock absorbers, which absorb vibrations from the wheels. Damaged struts also can cause clunking. Worn out leaf spring shackles that help in off-roading conditions also can cause clunking when they bend or break.

Humming, whining or whirring

These strange noises might have different origins. Check if the differential needs to be lubricated. A wheel bearing also could be worn out and produce a noise. In more severe cases, the transmission could be failing. The best course of action is to get a professional opinion from a mechanic.

Flapping noise

A broken belt typically is the culprit when a vehicle makes a flapping or slapping noise. Something also may be interfering with the fan. Driving with a broken belt may cause severe engine damage, so it's important to address the issue.

Squealing under the hood

Squealing can indicate worn or loose accessory belts. In newer cars it might be the serpentine belt. Belts are relatively inexpensive and easy fixes.

These are some of the sounds that vehicles can make when something is awry. Figuring out the issue can prevent further damage.

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Certain noises can be innocuous and easily fixed, while others may be indicative of

something more complex. Pinpointing where a noise is coming from can help vehicle

Lincoln Unlocked brings new digital experiences to presidential library

SPRINGFIELD - The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum commemorated Lincoln's birthday in February by officially launching Lincoln Unlocked, a digital tool that gives visitors exciting new ways to explore Lincoln's legacy, see rare items from the library's collection and even connect with family and friends to play games.

ALPLM visitors can point their phones at exhibits to see historic figures spring to life. They can take themed tours to dive into the roles of women and African Americans during Lincoln's life. And they can hear "Lincoln" deliver the Gettysburg Address or listen to a music box owned by Mary Lincoln. It's also an accessibility aide, offering content in six languages and enriching visits for people who are Deaf or visually impaired.

Developed with Google Public Sector and leading global technology consultancy Thoughtworks, Lincoln Unlocked builds on the ALPLM's tradition of marrying technology and scholarship to share history in compelling new ways.

"Abraham Lincoln's story still resonates today, more than 200 years after his birth. We must always search for new and better ways to tell that story to as many people as possible,"



said Christina Shutt, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. "This digital tool adds new layers to the experience of visiting the presidential museum. It lets us share more information about the material in our collection. the evils of slavery and the amazing men and women who helped Lincoln change history.

With Lincoln Unlocked, visitors can tour the museum as normal and enjoy augmented reality features as they go. For instance, in an exhibit about slavery, the visitor's phone will display an array of related artifacts, with information about each – such as a badge enslaved people were required to wear in Charleston, South Carolina. In the section of the museum devoted to the Gettysburg Address, visitors can use their phones to see Abraham Lincoln come to life and deliver the famous speech or see soldiers fighting the bloodiest battle in American history.

Visitors also have the option of taking special tours on the themes "Women of the Era," "Forever Free" and "History Detective." The first two guide visitors through the museum with digital presentations of photos and artifacts about the contributions of women and African Americans. The third lets groups link their phones and compete in trivia questions about what they're learning as they visit.

Lincoln Unlocked can be used even without visiting the museum. Users anywhere can dive into its information about Lincoln's life and times, learning about people like the courageous Robert Smalls, who helped 16 people escape slavery, and Anna Ella Carroll, a writer and activist who gathered intelligence for the Lincoln administration.

"Lincoln Unlocked lets us share diverse stories and images that add context to Lincoln's accomplishments," Shutt said. "It gives visitors more opportunities to return and explore history from new

perspectives. And it helps us connect with younger generations that routinely explore the world with phone in hand."

It also serves as a digital souvenir, letting people look back at their visit to the museum or show highlights to friends and family.

With its realistic scenes from Lincoln's life, the fascinating "Civil War in Four Minutes" video and the popular "Ghosts of the Library" theatrical experience, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has a well-earned reputation for creatively immersing people in history and engaging visitors of all ages. Lincoln Unlocked adds a new level.

Lincoln Unlocked delivers advanced interactive experiences — including experiential history lessons and virtual tours — all powered by Google Cloud and Thoughtworks. Technology such as Google Cloud's Immersive Stream for XR create immersive, photorealistic, and gamified experiences.

"Technology has the power to transform learning, creating immersive experiences that bring history to life and make it accessible to everyone,' said Brad Hoffman, Director of State & Local Government, and Education at Google Public Sector. "ALPLM's in-person, and

digital experiences through Lincoln Unlocked, are engaging visitors with the past in dynamic and personal ways, fostering deeper understanding and connection. We are proud to partner with Thoughtworks to provide advanced Google Cloud technology to ALPLM to ignite curiosity around our nation's history."

"The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has once again led the way in leveraging innovative technology to engage visitors as it brings history to life. This augmented reality experience represents the next step in that evolution, creating a dynamic and interactive way for families to connect with the stories and legacy of Abraham Lincoln," said Joe Murray, Global Head of CX and Product at Thoughtworks. "We're extremely proud to partner with Google in this endeavor, bringing our capabilities in customer experience and digital product development to create a truly extraordinary experience that also sets a new standard for accessibility in the museum world, ensuring that everyone can benefit from the power of AR."

Lincoln Unlocked can be downloaded free from Google Play and Apple's App Store. Links and more information can be found at LincolnUnlocked.com.

Oral Health Month

What causes halitosis?

Health conditions elicit a range of responses from the people who are diagnosed with them. Though no two individuals are the same, people who develop halitosis tend to be embarrassed by the condition, which Johns Hopkins Medicine notes is an oral health problem marked by foul-smelling breath. The good news for individuals with halitosis is that it's both preventable and treatable and also quite common. In fact, the Cleveland Clinic estimates that one in four individuals across the globe has halitosis.

Treatment and prevention of halitosis is easier once individuals identify its underlying cause, and the following are some of the more common causes of the condition.

Issues that can arise from poor dental hygiene

The importance of maintaining dental hygiene is emphasized from the time most people are small children. Indeed, parents start early by cleaning kids' teeth the moment the first one pushes its way through a baby's gums, and that hopefully kick-starts a lifelong devotion to dental care

Appearance may be the main reason why many people prioritize dental hygiene, and few things set as strong an impression as a set of pearly whites. But health is another notable reason to make dental hygiene a priority. It goes without saying that dental health is adversely affected by poor dental hygiene habits, but the rest of the body also can suffer when individuals don't take time to care for their teeth. Cardiovascular disease: The American Academy for Oral & Systemic Health reports that poor dental hygiene and inflammation of the arteries are directly linked. That's because bacteria from the mouth enters the bloodstream and causes the arteries to harden, thus increasing a person's risk for stroke or heart attack. The AAOSH also notes that poor oral



• Food: Johns Hopkins notes that certain foods can contribute to halitosis. For example, garlic and onions are absorbed into the bloodstream and can affect breath until the food leaves the body. Avoiding such foods or eating them in moderation can prevent or mitigate halitosis.

• Poor hygiene: Hygiene should be part of anyone's healthy routine, and that includes dental hygiene. But the Cleveland Clinic notes that poor dental hygiene, which can be marked by a lack of brushing and flossing and infrequent dental cleanings, is the most common cause of halitosis. Brushing at least twice per day and flossing everyday can reduce risk for halitosis. Twice-annual dental cleanings also can help.

· Poorly cleaned dentures: Johns Hopkins notes that improper cleaning of dentures also can contribute to halitosis. When individuals get dentures, they should discuss proper cleaning with their oral health care professional. Poorly cleaned dentures can collect bacteria, fungi and food particles, all of which can contribute to bad breath.

· Gum diseases: Periodontal disease affects the gums by damaging gum tissue and leading to tooth and bone loss around the teeth. Gingivitis is an inflammation of gums caused by plaque, which is removed with brushing, flossing and routine cleaning. Trench mouth is an advanced gum disease that also can contribute to bad breath.

 Tobacco usage: Tobacco causes an array of health problems, including halitosis. Cigarettes and cigars may be most commonly associated with bad breath, but tobacco users also are at elevated risk for gum disease and oral cancer, each of which can contribute to halitosis.

Halitosis can be an embarrassing and harmful yet preventable condition. Recognition of the common causes of halitosis can help people overcome it and regain their confidence.

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health has been linked to high blood pressure and elevated levels of "bad" cholesterol, each of which pose a threat to cardiovascular health.

• Diabetes: The American Diabetes Association notes that periodontal disease causes inflammation in the gums. That's a notable link, as the ADA points out that inflammation in the body can cause high blood sugar levels, which is a known risk factor for diabetes. Simple oral hygiene practices like daily brushing and flossing can protect against gum

disease that can increase the risk for diabetes.

 High-risk pregnancy: Women should know that taking care of their teeth could be a notable way to protect their unborn children. A 2021 study published in the journal BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth found that periodontal disease is strongly associated with premature birth. Authors of the study note that premature birth is associated with a host of negative outcomes, including perinatal mortality, immature lung development, reduced

feeding ability, and inferior weight gain.

· Respiratory issues: The mouth is vulnerable to bacteria growth, which is one reason why daily measures like brushing and flossing are so important. The AAOSH notes that once bacteria reaches the lungs, an individual's risk for infections, bronchitis, pneumonia, and other respiratory issues increases.

Dental hygiene practices like brushing and flossing are simple measures, but they can have a profound effect on individuals' overall health.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I know that Donnie Wahlberg is an actor on a successful TV series, but whatever happened to his fellow boy band member Joey McIntyre? Is he still acting? -- K.W.

A: Yes, Donnie Wahlberg and Joey McIntyre have both made a successful transition into acting since their days of singing and dancing with New Kids on the Block, a wildly successful boy band from the '90s. Wahlberg made the leap to film and TV with small roles in "The Sixth Sense" and 'The Practice" before landing his big break, the critically acclaimed HBO miniseries "Band of Brothers."

He later appeared in the horror movie "Saw II" and two of its sequels before being cast in the hit CBS police drama "Blue Bloods," which ended last year after 14 seasons. The network has a lot of faith in him and his character, Danny Reagan, because they're building a spinoff series around his character. "Boston Blue" will launch during the 2025 fall TV season.

As for McIntyre, he starred in the short-lived CBS sitcom "The McCarthys" a decade ago and has worked steadily ever since, mostly in TV movies like "V.C. Andrews' Dawn" and

the recent Roku Christmas

Don't write off New



movie "Jingle Bell Love."



will be performing in their very own Las Vegas residency called "The Right Stuff" beginning this June. Visit NKOTB.com for more info.

Q: Is it true that Meryl Streep is dating Martin Short? I thought they were just friends, but apparently they're in love? -- S.J.

A: Yes, the two stars became an item after their on-screen love on the Hulu series "Only Murders in the Building" turned into an offscreen courtship. Short was left heartbroken after losing his wife Nancy to ovarian cancer in 2010, while Streep has been separated from her husband, Don, since 2017.

Since their "OMITB" characters, Loretta and Oliver, tied the knot last season, Streep will likely be featured in the upcoming fifth season of the hit whodunit series. Streep joined the show in sea-

son 3 as a recurring character. The new season, which is currently in production, will feature guest stars Téa Leoni ("Madame Secretary," Keegan-Michael Key ("Wonka") and two-time Oscar winner Christoph Waltz.

Q: I read that Gwyneth Paltrow is going to be in something with Timothée Chalamet. I thought she retired from acting to focus on her lifestyle website. What

happened? -- J.A. A: In 2017, Gwyneth Paltrow announced that she was taking a break from acting to focus on her business, Goop, but she didn't close the door completely. Her last major role was in the Netflix series "The Politician," which starred Ben Platt ("Dear Evan Hansen") and was co-produced by her husband, Brad Falchuk. That was back in 2020.

She's been selective about her next projects, which she has the luxury of doing. She's back on the set in 2025 with not one but two films, both comedies. First up is "The Miracle on 74th Street" with Drew Barrymore and Christine Taylor, and then "Marty Supreme," which she's currently filming with Timothée Chalamet and Sandra Bernhard

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Hollywood is still shocked by this year's Oscars "In Memoriam" omissions. Excluding international star Alain Delon is inexcusable. He starred in "Purple Noon" (1960); "Rocco and His Brothers" (1960); and "The Leopard" (1963), co-starring Oscar winner Burt Lancaster and Claudia Cardinale. Alain also starred in "The Yellow Rolls-Royce" (1964), with Oscar winners Shirley MacLaine, George C. Scott and Art Carney.

In 1965 in New York, I met Alain, who was enroute to Hollywood to make "Once a Thief," with Ann-Margret and Oscar winners Van Heflin and Jack Palance. His 1970 classic 'Borsalino," with Jean-Paul Belmondo, was voted one of the Top 20 greatest gangster movies of all time. He passed away on Aug. 18, 2024, at 88 years old.

She starred alongside Oscar winner Bing Crosby in "Anything Goes" (1956), as well as Oscar winner Frank Sinatra in "The Joker Is Wild" (1957). In 1957, Mitzi starred in "Les Girls," opposite Gene Kelly, as well as the 1958 classic "South Pacific,"

with Rossano Brazzi. I was friends with Mitzi and her husband, Jack Bean, and they were like a newlyweds until the day he died. I sent a dozen roses to her dressing room once at her Riviera Hotel closing in Vegas. The next week, the editor of Photoplay Magazine (where I was a columnist at) told me that Mitzi was calling all over town for my address. Sure enough, I received a thank-you note the next day. Now, that's class! She left us on Oct. 17, 2024, at 93 years old. When Olivia Hussey arrived at the Cinerama Dome for the premiere of "Romeo and Juliet" (1968), you'd have thought she and her Romeo, Leonard Whiting, were Princess Diana and Prince Charles. She also starred in "Lost Horizon," with Oscar winners Peter Finch, Liv Ullmann, George

Kennedy and John Gielgud. I was still in awe of her when I shot her wedding to Dean Martin's son, Dino Jr., at the Sands Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas in 1971. They really looked like Romeo and Juliet! She left us on Dec. 27, 2024, and she, too, was omitted from the Oscar's "In Memoriam.'

Also ignored was James Darren, forever immortalized as Moondoggie in "Gidget" (1959), with Sandra Dee and Oscar winner Cliff Robertson.

Tony Roberts, who completed 20 films, including "Play It Again, Sam" (1969), died on Feb. 7 at 85 years old. Linda Lavin, who completed 21 films and the sitcom 'Alice," died on Dec. 29, 2024. at 87 years old. Martin Mull died on June 27, 2024, at 80 years old and did 29 films, including "Clue" and "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman.³ He also earned an Emmy nomination for "Veep" in 2016. You'd think the Academy, of all organizations, would remember that it's better to be looked over than overlooked!

King Crossword

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6 Parcel of land 27 Toy store buy

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7 Bogart/Bacall 28 Lounge

8 Trattoria des-

9 Valhalla VIP

10 Sushi wrap-

ACROSS

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- 12 Petri dish gel
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product 14 Ancient Dead

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"Y2K" (R) -- In his direc-

torial debut, Kyle Mooney

("Saturday Night Live")

brings back 2000s-style

comedy in full force. This film

deemed an "apocalyptic sci-

fi comedy horror" follows a

group of high school students

in 1999 who crash a New

Year's Eve party. Expecting a

night full of the usual teenage

angst and antics, these kids

receive the shock of their lives

when the power goes out at

midnight and technological

chaos ensues! As pieces of

technology from VCRs to

Tamagotchis to microwaves

begin to murder the party-

goers, our group of unsus-

Couch Theater

Flight Attendant"), Justina Machado ("The Horror of Dolores Roach"), and Jessie T. Usher ("Smile"). (Netflix)

"The Bondsman" (TV-MA) -- Kevin Bacon ("Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F") has been enjoying thrilling roles as of late, and his latest role as the titular character in this eight-episode miniseries continues to add to his repertoire in the horror genre. Premiering April 3, "The Bondsman" stars Bacon as Fred Herbert, a bounty hunter whose last mission didn't go too well and resulted in a gruesome death. However, Fred eventually wakes up and realizes that he's been resurrected ... with just a small catch. Lucifer only let Fred escape from hell on the condition that he continues his bounty-hunting job -- but this time, he'll be catching demons. (Amazon Prime Video) 'Classified'' (R) -- Most notably known for his role as Harvey Dent/Two-Face in Christopher Nolan's "The Dark Knight,"Aaron Eckhart leads this action thriller out on April 4. Eckhart plays Evan, a hitman who has been getting his mission instructions from the CIA through the classified section of newspapers. His MI6 analyst daughter, Kacey (Abigail Breslin), tracks him down to tell him that these coded instructions haven't been coming from the CIA and that his boss has been dead for years. Desperate to find out who he's been killing for, Evan pairs his combat skills with his daughter's analyst skills to follow this lead. Tim Roth ("Poison") co-stars. (Hulu)

Strange **But True**

By Lucie Winborne

* Rocker Chuck Berry had a degree in hairdressing.

* The shark on the "Jaws" poster and the T. rex on the 'Jurassic Park" poster were both modeled after exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History.

* A single strand of spaghetti is called a "spaghetto."

* Beer cans in Japan have braille on them so blind people don't confuse alcoholic drinks with soft drinks.

* If you spent merely a day on each of the islands

game

lingo

50 Sleek, in car

51 Salinger girl

53 Must have

option)

3 Standard

classic

5 Idle or Bana

4 On time

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12

15

Another omission was Mitzi Gaynor, who starred opposite Ethel Merman, Dan Dailey, Donald O'Connor and Marilyn Monroe in "There's No Business Like Show Business" (1954).

Do you know the original name of Reese's Peanut **Butter Cups? Check out** Strange But True for the answer!

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that e	Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine. DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦ ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY! © 2025 King Features Synd, Inc.											_	/le		be				
1	Brought to you each week by																		

Trivia Test •

1. TELEVISION: In the sitcom "Modern Family, Gloria is from which country? 2. LITERATURE: Whichauthor wrote "The Kite Thief" and "A Thousand Splendid Suns"?

3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the deepest lake in the world? 4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which first lady's nickname

was Lady Bird? 5. ASTRONOMY: How

many stars make up the Big Dipper?

6. MOVIES: Which famous Hollywood couple played lead roles in the film version of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf"?

7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of skunks called?

8. GEOMETRY: How many sides does a decagon have?

ART: Which American artist focused on women and children in her paintings?

10. ANATOMY: What substance gives skin its color? Answers

- 1. Colombia.
- 2. Khaled Hosseini.
- 3. Lake Baikal, Russia.

4. Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson, wife of President Lyndon Johnson.

Seven.

6. Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. 7. A surfeit.

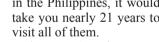
8.10.

9. Mary Cassatt.

10. Melanin.

pecting high schoolers must fight to make it through the night. Jaeden Martell ("Mr. Harrigan's Phone"), Rachel Zegler("The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes"), and even The Kid LAROI co-star in "Y2K," out on April 4. (Max)

"Pulse" (TV-MA) -- Fans of "Grey's Anatomy" and medical dramas, look no further than this new series set to premiere on April 3. Taking place in a trauma center in Miami-Dade County, the show centers around Danny Simms, a third-year resident in emergency medicine. When her personal relationship with the chief resident gets him suspended, Danny receives a promotion so that she can prove herself. With a hurricane on its way to Miami and new responsibilities on her shoulders, Danny faces the biggest challenge of her entire career. Luckily, she has the help of a great staff, played by Colin Woodell ("The



* Most Americans can buy an AR-15 rifle before they can legally buy a beer.

* A party boat carrying 60 men and women capsized in Texas in 2012 after all the passengers rushed to one side when the boat passed a nude beach.

* The world's first underwater mailbox was installed just off the shore of Susami, Japan.

* Henry Heimlich used the Heimlich maneuver for the first time at age 96.

* Vertebrates with larger brains and more neurons, such as humans and owls, tend to have longer yawns, which help cool the brain and support cognitive function.

The term "scientist" didn't come into usage until 1834, when it was coined by University of Cambridge historian and philosopher of science William Whewell, who wanted to create a unifying noun for people engaged in various scientific fields.

* The Atlantic bluefin tuna can experience such high bursts of muscular activity while fighting a fisherman that it cooks its own flesh.

* Reese's Peanut Butter Cups were originally named "Penny Cups" after the amount they cost at the time.



Solution time: 23 mins. ST9W2nA - promssor) **bury**

1. Name the group that started as the Royal Charms, became the Gladiolas and changed to the Excellos. What name did they finally choose?

FLASHBACK

2. Which '60s singer had hits with "Don't Sleep in the Subway" and "Downtown"?

3. Neil Sedaka was a founding member of which group? 4. Whose version of "Without You" made it onto the list of 500 greatest songs of all time?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I love every movement and there's nothing I would change, She doesn't need improvement, She's much too nice to rearrange." Answers

1. Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs in 1959. The chose the name after spotting a Ford Zodiac while on the road. The group's "Stay" was used in the "Dirty Dancing" soundtrack.

2. Petula Clark. Within three years (1965 to 1968). Clark had nine Top 20 hits in the U.S. and recorded songs in four languages. Among many other awards, she was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the U.K.

3. The Tokens.

4. Harry Nilsson's 1971 cover.

5. "Poetry in Motion," by Johnny Tillotson in 1961. Others released covers of the song, Tillotson's was the more popular.

Shopping Local Creates Jobs: The jobs created allow spending in the local economy and help create more jobs.

Local independent businesses invest more in our community:

They support local charities, schools and community events which financially impacts our community.

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Shopping Local retains our community:

Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.

our

Shopping Local retains distinctiveness:

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Shopping Local encourages community growth. By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Mendota's diversity, charm and appeal; which in turn, attracts new community members.



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Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Mendota. When shopping locally, you create funds for more city and county services through sales tax. In turn, these funds are invested in neighborhood services including police, fire and ambulance as well as park and library improvements.

Local shops value you more: Local businesses survive by their reputation and repeat business, which means you get a higher standard of service.

RELIGION

Rid yourself of guilt once and for all

Do you spend a lot of time feeling guilty? I did, as a result of being abused as a child. I grew up believing something was wrong with me and that everything was my fault. And when you develop that kind of thinking during your childhood, it can torment you for a long time.

Guilt traps us and keeps us in the same place; much like a treadmill that keeps us going but accomplishes nothing. Guilt is a trap that presses us down into our problems rather than lifting us out of them. And as long as we feel guilty about what we do wrong, we remain in that guilt and will not grow spiritually.

All of us make mistakes, and God knows that! No one can be perfect while in a fleshly body, but we can and must continue to grow spiritually regardless of where we are in our relationship with Christ. But in order to grow spiritually, we must first learn who we are in Christ.

By God's grace and mercy, when we are born again, God not only forgives us, He gives us His righteousness because the Holy Spirit comes to

We're Spreading The News... All Over Town! Pick up your copy of The Mendota Reporter at any of these fine locations:



and even though we sometimes still do things wrong, the ability to do what's right is also in us. Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) tells us, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness,

live inside us. We each

have right standing with

God legally because

of the blood of Christ,

faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

God doesn't expect you to become something that He hasn't already equipped you with. At the moment you are born again, God comes to live inside of your heart. The "seeds" of His character are downloaded into your spirit, and just like any seeds that are planted with the intent to reap a harvest later on, there must be a cultivation period that happens over a long period of time. You have everything you need to be who God wants you to be, and since God lives inside of you, this means the fruit of His Spirit is also inside you. And after you are born again, you will grow in Christ as you pursue Him daily.

2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV) tells us, "Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who



call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

The operative word here is "pursue." Pursue means to crave and go after something with all your mind and strength. Your relationship with God should not only be a Sunday morning thing. He is everything! In Him we live and move and have our being and without him we are nothing.

We rely on God's grace to help us do what's right every day. And if we try to do what God asks us to do without relying on Him to help us, we won't succeed because we need Him to do everything we need to do.

Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV) says, "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill

his good purpose." We don't work for

our salvation to earn it, but we do work out our salvation. There's a difference! For example, working out for fitness takes time, discipline and commitment. I have worked out three times a week for the last 10 years. When I started, I didn't have visible muscles. But now I do, because I'm committed to maintaining my fitness. In much the same way, spiritual growth is a workout, with the results developing over a time because of commitment and discipline. And we lean on God to help us every step of the way.

So, keep moving forward, and don't be hard on yourself! You are holy, righteous, anointed, and completely forgiven. You're not where you need to be, but thank God you're not where you used to be. You're okay, and you're on your way.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource Say Goodbye to Guilt. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www. joycemeyer.org

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 150 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVER-COMING EVERY PROBLEM (Faith-Words). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life program, which is broadcast to millions in over 110 languages. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/ or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.





CHURCH DIRECTORY Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship



Rev. Greg Nelson, Pastor Fr. Jeff Windy, Parochial Vicar Ray Fischer, Jose Lopez, and Hector Diaz, Deacons

HOLY CROSS, MENDOTA Weekday Mass

M - 6 p.m., Tu - 8 a.m., W - 8:10 a.m., Th - 8 a.m., F - 7 a.m.

Weekend Mass Sat - 8 a.m. (1st Saturday only), 4 p.m.; Sun -6:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon (Spanish) Confession

STS. PETER AND PAUL, PETERSTOWN Weekend Mass Sun - 9 a.m. Confession

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 100 E. Sixth St. (815) 538-5587

Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 9 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship

In-person & on Facebook at: Mendota First United Methodist Church

April 2 - 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Open communion

April 3 - 10 a.m. Allure worship

ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186 Facebook: Mendota Zion United

Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Sunday School for Preschool - 6th grade in fellowship hall during worship service (Parking lot worship available on 90.9 FM during Sunday services) TUESDAY - Prayer group 7 p.m.

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

4401 State Route 251 (815) 538-3444

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

E-mail: mendotaupc@yahoo.com www.mendotaupc.org

SUNDAY: Christian Education-10 a.m. Worship - 11:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY:

Midweek Bible Study - 7 p.m.



NEW COVENANT ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rt. 251 at Lake Mendota P.O. Box 54

Phone (815) 539-7107 (church) (815) 871-5702 (pastor)

Larry Sheaves, Pastor

www.newcovenantmendota.org www.facebook.com/NCAOG

"Preaching the blood, book and blessed hope."

Sunday School Worship

MENDOTA BIBLE CHURCH

Rt. 251, 1/2 mile south of Mendota (815) 538-6876 Brian Kelly, Pastor www.mendotabiblechurch.org SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School Worship Evening Service

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1003 5th St.

(815) 538-5603

Website: fpcmendota.com Accessible

Pastor Laurie Walker Fellowship 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School following children's message Worship 10:30 a.m. Available on Facebook Live Facebook page www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

April 3 - 10 a.m. "Fill My Cup"
April 4 - 12:30 p.m. HOH pickup;
3 p.m. Unload & stock HOH foods
April 6 - Communion
April 8 - 10 a.m. Produce sorting;
12:30 p.m. MAMA; 6:30 p.m. VBS
meeting @ FUMC; 7 p.m. Session

CHRIST'S CHURCH

"He is the Head of the Body, the Church . . . That in everything He might have the supremacy." Col. 1:18

> 1107 Main St. (815) 993-2462

Dave Manion Jim McDowell Wayne Shuman

Please join us for . . . Sunday Bible Study (all ages) 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Church Builders 12:30 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m. Men's Ministry Ladies & Mens Bible Study Thursday 6 p.m.

Non-denominational Please call for more information

COMPTON IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

CHURCH

398 Church Road, Compton Pastor Jeffrey Schlesinger (815) 539-6567 Wheelchair accessible

LA MOILLE ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LaMoille (Clarion) 4 miles west of Mendota on Rt. 34

(815) 539-7820

Sunday Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Accessible

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

La Moille (815) 638-2348 Pastor David Jungnickel E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9 a.m.

Children's Sunday School following children's message FELLOWSHIP 10 a.m. (nursery available) Mondays - 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m. Soup & Soul

TROY GROVE

FAITH BIBLE

208 W. South St., Troy Grove Pastor Brian Hamiel

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info E-mail: fbfchurch20817@gmail.com

"At Faith Bible Fellowship, we exist to glorify God through the equipping of His saints, teaching of His Word and raising of His name. We would love to have you join us to worship and learn about our risen Savior."

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m. SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m. WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.



BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey 1. Is the book of 2 Peter (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither? 2. How did God identify Himself



lf I Can By William Arthur Ward If I can write one verse of truth today Or give my fellow man a song to sing; If I can push one needless cloud away And help men live as children of the King: If I can lend someone a helping hand Or warm a place where friendship needs to be; If I can build a bridge where fences stand And light a lamp that other men might see; If I can open doors of hope this day By letting someone know that others care; If I can speak in words that seem to say: I know the heavy burdens that you bear. If I can guide a pilgrim on his way Or pause to bid him stay for food and rest; If I can do these, Father, this I pray: "O let me do them with my very best."

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 Tenth Ave. (815) 539-5626

Pastor Elise Rothfusz

E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Website: www.stjohnsmendota.org Schedule: 9 a.m. Sunday Worship in person and online via YouTube Find us on Facebook

NOTE: Please contact your individual church regarding online services or for other church-related information.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

AND CAL AND CAL

Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ACTS 17: 22-24 /@ Yer of the Areopagus the Ver of the Areopagus the Ver of the Areopagus the Pacebox Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved. Website: www.ilccompton.org E-mail: immanuellutheran compton@live.com

"Living in God's Grace as a Neighbor to the World"

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship at First

April 9 - Noon "Lunch With Luke" Lenten Bible study (bring sack lunch); 6:30 p.m. "Luke After Dinner" Lenten Bible study; 7:15 p.m. Confirmation class

Online "devotional service" videos continue every Sunday at facebook.com/ilccompton and YouTube. Check our website and Facebook page for more information. when speaking from the burning bush? I am who I am, King of all, Jesus Christ, Lord of Jehovah 3. Which of these was not one of the 10 plagues in Egypt? Locusts, Wicked skins to stone, Water turned to blood, Livestock diseased 4. 2 Kings 19 and which other book and chapter are almost alike word for word? Jeremiah 50, Job 16, Isaiah 37, Deuteronomy 7 5. Which judge of Israel had 30 sons? Samson, Jair, Ephraim,

6. What king dug wells in the desert? Abner, Isaac, Uzziah, Abimelech

Gideon

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) I am who I am, 3) Wicked skins to stone, 4) Isaiah 37, 5) Jair, 6) Uzziah

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The Merchants on this page urge you to attend a house of worship this week.



FIRST STATE BANK 706 Washington St., Mendota, Ill. Phone (815) 538-2265

MENDOTA MONUMENT CO. 606 Main St, Mendota, Ill. Phone (815) 539-7276



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101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, **OTTAWA, ILLINOIS** IN THE MATTER OF

THE ESTATE OF HAROLD A. NURN-BERG, JR., Deceased. Case No.: 25 PR 45 **CLAIMS NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of HAROLD A. NURNBERG, JR., of Mendota, Illinois.

Letters of Office were issued on March 12, 2025 to GREG NURN-BERG, 904 Meadowview Drive, Mendota, IL 61342, and whose attorney is David M. Kaleel, 806 Jefferson Street, Mendota, Illinois 61342.

Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Independent representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or if mailing or delivery of a Claim Notice from the Independent Executor is required, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before the above stated dates is barred.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an

account with an e-filing

HELP WANTED

203

http://efile.illinoiscourts. gov/serviceproviders. htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http:// www.illinoiscourts.gov/ FAZ/gethelp.asp. Copies of a claim e-filed

> with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been e-filed with the Clerk of Court. Dated this 12th day of March, 2025. Greg Vaccaro Circuit Clerk-LaSalle County Courthouse 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350 David M. Kaleel Attorney for Executor 806 Jefferson St Mendota, IL 61342 815-539-5616

service provider. Visit

kaleel5@frontier.com No. 0311 (March 19, 26 and April 2, 2025)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY, **OTTAWA, ILLINOIS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Dolores Jones, Deceased Case No. 2025-PR-34 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors. claimants, unknown heirs and legatees of the death of Dolores Jones of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 28, 2025 to James Jones

of 1508 Illinois Avenue,

Mendota, IL 61342, as Independent Executor, whose Attorneys of record are Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342. Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County

Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. If the claim notice is personally mailed or delivered to a creditor of the above estate. the claim must be filed in the above entitled cause within 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later. Any claims not filed within the above periods are barred.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exceptions. To e-file. you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.

Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within 10 days after it has been filed The estate will be ad-

supervision, unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (III. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 758, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claims not filed on or before 6 months from the first publication of this notice are barred.

No. 0312 (March 19, 26 and April 2, 2025)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION No: 2025-JD-20

TO: Victorino Rodriguez, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern: Take notice that on the 24th day of March, 2025 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Jagger Rodriguez, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 29th day of April, 2025, at the ministered without court hour of 8:30 a.m., or as

soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor. Now, unless you appear

at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered. Dated March 24, 2025

No. 0401 (April 2, 2025)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does ads,

105 BUSINESS **OPPORTUNITIES**

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

113 FINANCIAL NOTICE Advance GMF Financing or Leasing FIND NEW ROADS"

> Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies business that do by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For

82K Miles, Gray,

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

MISCELLANEOUS

SPLIT Firewood For Sale.

Contact 779-251-0254

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FOR SALE

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

ADADTMENTS

12:20pm-2:15pm. Starting wage: \$17.25 an hour. Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent, experience or training in the care of childhood preferred.

for Northbrook school.

Mendota CCSD 289 is looking for

a Transportation Paraprofessional

Hours: 9:00am-10:30am and

HELP WANTED Daughters of Divine Love Development Ministry, Compton, IL seeks Religious Sisters (Catholic Nuns) to provide observable witness to importance of Church's teachings & spiritual support by compassion/love & prayer for community & families. Required travel within the U.S. 5-10 times per year & occasional international travel. Convent housing available. 2 vacant positions. Submit resumes to director@ddldev.org. Reference Job ID: RS2025 in subject line.



Show 4

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START AN EXCITING **NEW JOB WITH THE ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER!**

Multimedia Sales Consultant

If you have an outgoing personality, an energetic get-it-done approach, and enjoy helping clients build their business, then you may be a perfect fit for a sales position with the Rochelle News-Leader. This is a full-time position.

As a multimedia sales consultant, you will service current accounts and also cultivate new clients in the Rochelle/DeKalb region of northern Illinois, helping them market their products and services through a variety of highly visible, popular and effective local media vehicles.

If you have a passion to get out of the office on a regular basis to help clients grow their audience and reach new customers, then we would like to talk to you.

Applicants should possess excellent communication and organizational skills with a positive personality and team-player approach. Previous media sales or related marketing experience is a plus, including print, digital and social media advertising.

The sky is the limit on earning potential and career development in this position. We offer a competitive base salary plus commission.

Qualified applicants should mail or e-mail their resume to the following address:

Multimedia Sales Position Rochelle News-Leader ATTN: Will McMacken P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068 or email to bmcmacken@newsmediacorp.com



News-Leader Part-time local delivery driver

The Rochelle News-Leader has an opening for a parttime newspaper bundle delivery driver who would load and deliver bundles to the post office, store racks and machines.

The daytime deliveries would be two or three days per week (including weekends) and consist of approximately 4-5 hours per shift depending on the route usually 10-15 hours per week.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver's license, proof of insurance and a safe driving record. Drivers will use company vehicles when delivering, and will be trained on the respective routes.

Candidates must be able to load, unload and carry multiple bundles of 5 to 10 pounds each. Driver applicants must be reliable, personable and have a general knowledge of area streets and roads.

This position is perfect for someone looking to supplement their income or retirement.

Interested individuals must fill out an application in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle. No phone calls please.





All in the Classifieds! toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

119 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

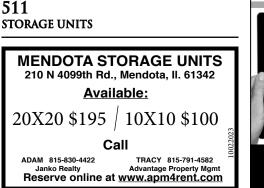
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1000 Washington Avenue, Dixon, IL. Questions, call 815-284-2759.





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Local News Updates

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Wednesday, April 2, 2025

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