

77 to lose jobs after Starved Rock Wood Products announces closure

Final day of business for Mendota facility projected to be in June

MENDOTA—Starved Rock Wood Products (SRWP) officials have regretfully announced the upcoming closure of its wood products manufacturing facilities in Mendota. The decision to exit the wood products business and close the company comes after months of a thorough financial review by industry consultants to determine if SRWP could continue to operate given the very challenging market in which it was competing. The announcement will affect 77 workers at the Mendota locations including remote staff.

“This morning, company leaders met with employees to share this



difficult news. We thanked them for doing their best to help SRWP succeed and asked them to stay with us during the wind down process as we fulfill our remaining orders,” said Michelle Christ, President of SRWP. “We were all very proud of the quality wood products employees created here, but, like many USA companies in recent years we have been facing tough headwinds: increasing pressure from lower-cost competition, reduced

construction volume, higher interest rates, and increased imports from Asia,” Christ added.

“We sincerely thank the people of Mendota for all their support over the years. The community has been an integral part of our journey, and we are grateful for the partnerships and friendships we have built along the way,” said Christ. Christ says the final day of business is set for some time in June 2025.

SRWP was founded in 1994. It has been an employer in Mendota all of those years, and it is with great regret that its ownership has made this difficult decision.

SOS Giannoulias lays out the facts about REAL ID

Enforcement deadline set for May 7th

SPRINGFIELD – With the REAL ID May 7 enforcement date approaching, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias wants Illinoisans to get the facts about REAL IDs as many scramble to get one.



“The federal REAL ID rollout has caused a great deal of confusion across the country, including here in Illinois,” Giannoulias said. “We’re monitoring REAL ID demand and adjusting our services to efficiently accommodate the unprecedented surge.”

Giannoulias noted if you’re not traveling after May 7, you probably don’t need a REAL ID right away. Given the recent surge at Illinois DMVs, Giannoulias advised Illinoisans who don’t need a REAL ID in May to consider holding off to avoid waits at facilities.

He added that the May 7 “deadline” isn’t really a deadline. On May 7, Americans will need a REAL ID compliant driver’s license or ID, or a valid passport, to board a domestic flight; however, DMVs will continue to issue REAL IDs after May 7.

He also announced the office is extending its REAL ID Saturdays program until the end of May to provide more options to get one.

Before visiting a DMV to get a REAL ID, Giannoulias urged residents to confirm that they actually need one.

The Secretary of State’s office is proactively raising

awareness about REAL IDs through its dedicated portal, realid.ilsos.gov. The portal makes it easy for Illinoisans to determine: 1) if they need a REAL ID before the May 7 federal enforcement period begins; and 2) how to find a walk-in location or schedule an appointment near them.

Most important, REAL IDs are not mandatory for driving a vehicle or required for valid identification or proof of citizenship.

The primary reason for Illinoisans over the age of 18 to obtain a REAL ID is to fly domestically on a commercial aircraft or visit certain federal facilities, such as a military base or federal courthouse, as of May 7. Individuals who have a valid U.S. passport, a passport issued by another country or a permanent resident card – and those under the age of 18 – will not need a REAL ID.

To meet the demand, the Secretary of State’s office has expanded service across Illinois with the REAL ID Saturdays program offering weekend hours statewide through May 31. Visit realid.ilsos.gov to learn more.

The office’s expanded REAL ID service processed over 450,000 REAL ID applications between February and March of 2025.

Individuals applying for a REAL ID must do so in-person at an Illinois DMV and are required to present:

- 1. A U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport, Naturalization Certificate, Report of Birth

See REAL ID, Page A5

Measure threatens to dissolve Illinois’ rural townships, sparking opposition

By CATRINA BARKER
The Center Square contributor

SPRINGFIELD – Opponents say Senate Bill 2217 will be detrimental to rural Illinoisans by dissolving townships that have population sizes less than 5,000.

Illinois state Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton, D-Western Springs, has introduced Senate Bill 2217 to dissolve townships that have population sizes less than 5,000.

Jan Weber, Phoenix Township clerk in Henry County, said she knows there’s probably some duplication of services among some of the various state agencies.

“We probably have the most state agencies, boards



and commissions of any other state in the country,” said Weber.

According to an Illinois Auditor General report, it was found that over 100 state boards in Illinois were inactive.

“Our county doesn’t have

this situation, but we have neighboring counties where there may be six or seven elementary districts. Each one of those elementary districts is their own unit of government, and then you have a high school district. In our county, all of the

schools are what we call unit schools. So they maintain a high school, a middle school and an elementary school,” said Weber.

Illinois has more than 850 school districts.

With nearly 10,000 units of local government, Illinois has more taxing bodies than any other state. Weber said residents rely on the township government to take care of roads and dissolving would mean adding a lot more employees to larger government entities.

“I know that the county highway department in our county, in most counties, those county employees are

See Townships, Page A5

Firefighting helicopter refill pump awarded “Coolest Thing Made in Illinois” in 2025

Plano-made pump was recently used to fight California wildfires

By JADE AUBREY
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. JB Pritzker announced the sixth annual winner of the “Makers Madness” contest recently in Springfield.

Chosen in a bracket-style competition from a field of more than 250 products, MTH Pumps’ aerial firefighting helicopter refill pump is the 2025 “Coolest Thing Made in Illinois.” This specific pump was designed to cut the refill time of water tanks used on helicopters to fight fires in half, taking as little as 30 seconds to refill.

The contest is organized annually by the Illinois Manufacturers Association, a trade group that lobbies lawmakers in Springfield.

The product was used by fire departments in California to fight wildfires in January. Tim Tremain, president of

MTH Pumps, said the Los Angeles Fire Department praised the pump, calling it, “very consistent, very helpful and very reliable out in the field.”

MTH Pumps is a family owned and operated business based in Plano, that was started in 1965 by Tremain’s grandfather, Dave Tremain, who he thanked during the ceremony.

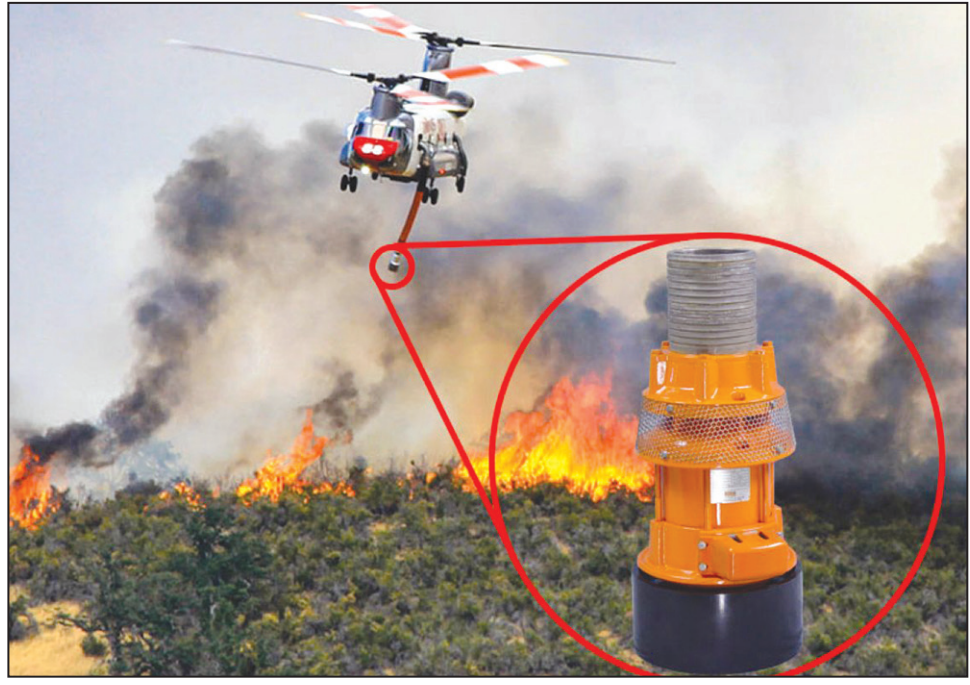
“What’s cool about it is the fact that we built it from scratch ourselves,” he said. “We designed it from the ground up and produced it ourselves right here in Illinois. And just the fact that these pumps are flying all around the world fighting fires is really an amazing thing to think about.”

Other finalists included an aircrew systems tester made by Chemring Energetic Devices of Downers Grove, donor breastmilk distributed by Mother’s Milk Bank

of Western Great Lakes of Elk Grove Village and a remote-operated oil skimmer made by Elastec of Carmi.

Pritzker praised previous award winners during the ceremony, including Rivian’s R1T, the first all-electric truck in production, General Mills’ Fruit by the Foot, Mullin’s imitation French dressing and last year’s winner — a mining truck manufactured by Komatsu that features a hauling capacity of up to 400 tons.

“For generations, Illinois has been a place where things get made,” Pritzker said. “From John Deere and the first steel plow in Grand de Tour to Josephine Cochran and the first dishwasher in Shelbyville to Martin Cooper and the first cell phone in Schaumburg. So much of the world as we know it right now was made here in Illinois.”



The aerial firefighting helicopter refill pump made in Plano was designed to cut the refill time of water tanks used on helicopters to fight fires in half. (Photo contributed)

(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes

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LOCAL AND AREA

Reimagine Mendota starts fundraising for pavilion

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – When Black Brothers announced they were presenting Reimagine Mendota with a match donation of up to \$100,000 in February 2024, the civic group knew it had to think of ways to raise money.

The first of many fundraising opportunities is underway as Reimagine Mendota is running a Pick 3 Fundraiser with 200 tickets (cost \$10) featuring every combination of three digits on them in attempt to win \$500.

On Monday, May 5, whoever has the ticket matching the mid-day Pick 3 Lotto drawing will win \$500. The same will happen for the evening Pick 3 Lotto pull on the same day. This means two people can each win \$500 and Reimagine Mendota will benefit \$1,000.

“It’s a great fundraiser to kick off our fundraising in trying to match Black Brothers Company’s \$100,000

donation,” said Johnson, who is the Reimagine Mendota secretary and was recently re-elected as a Mendota 4th Ward alderperson. “Our fundraising committee has met and outlined a ton of different fundraisers we’re going to try to put in place for the year.

“Our goal is to match Black Brothers so we can build a wonderful pavilion.”

Johnson sees the impact the first fundraiser is having already and hopes the future plans will help the organization meet its goal.

“I’ve ran fundraisers for years. I was the person in charge of the fundraisers for Mendota School District #289, so I’m pretty familiar with fundraising. I knew this would be successful because I did it for the Washington D.C. trip for the students, which I was the leader for.

“We could have done two boards for the pavilion because we’ve already sold a large portion of the 200 tickets.”

March 26’s Mega Millions \$344 million cashed in by Cortland resident

Fourth Illinoisian to win Lotto since June 2021

CHICAGO – Citizens of Illinois have struck luck with the Lottery in the last few years.

It happened once again on March 26 when the Mega Millions jackpot ticket worth \$344 million was purchased at the Casey’s General Store located at 70 S. Somonauk Road in Cortland.

The winning selections were 1-5-17-39-62-8 on the ticket, which Casey’s received a cash bonus of \$500,000 for selling.

In June of 2021, an Illinoisian from Crestwood won a \$56 million jackpot at a Citgo gas station. The largest lottery prize in Illinois history happened in July 2022 when a ticket was bought at a gas station in Des Plaines and the prize was \$1.34 billion. And just last year, June 2024, an iLottery player from Illinois won the largest prize ever won in an online lotto in United States history with \$552 million.

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

We had a great last day before spring break. The students got a surprise Easter egg hunt outside around the school in the afternoon filled with treats and prizes. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered to help with that fun event. The students had so much fun.

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The students in Mrs. Tolley’s WIN reading group participated in Reader’s Theater the week before spring break. The stories they performed were The Little Red Hen, The Day the Crayon Quit and If You Give a Mouse a

Cookie. The first graders performed throughout the week to other classrooms in the building. They did a fantastic job with their performances and it was a great learning experience for them.

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The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Zola Ybarra, Magaly Lopez, Paisley Noles, Sienna Nash, Eli Sedgwick, Viviana Moreno, Henry Myers and Abel Sedgwick. The winners were Oshynn Smith, Sansa Post, Elianna Pre and Bri-

anna Pinto. Congratulations to all of you.

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We are planning Field Day at the end of May to wrap up the school year. This is such a fun day for our students. Right before we left for spring break, students brought home an order form for Field Day shirts. Shirts will be on sale through April 29. Purchasing a shirt is not required. It is just an option. The shirt logo and order forms are on the Blackstone webpage as well at <https://www.m289.org/o/blackstone>

Consider adopting an island on Earth Day

SPRING VALLEY – Spring is here, and while some of us are still dreaming of a tropical island, did you know you have islands in your own backyard? These islands are not sand-covered; instead, they are filled with native wildflowers.

The Conservation Garden at Hall High School is ready to put on its annual display of native plants. This garden features 11 islands that transport us back to when most of Illinois was prairie. Guardians of the Garden, Grow Spring Valley, and the University of Illinois Master Naturalist/Master Gardener program invite you to join them for an Earth Day event on Saturday, April 26 from 1-3 p.m. at the Hall High School Conservation Garden in Spring Valley.

This Earth Day celebration offers a variety of hands-on activities for all ages, including learning about the role and importance of native plants



Master Gardener with participants connecting through gardening at a recent Seed Starting event. (Photo contributed)

and their pollinators and how to become an environmental steward. The opportunities to create a healthier environment are endless; join local 4-H programs, become a Master Gardener or Master Naturalist, participate in the Grow Spring Valley efforts, or even start your own wildlife habitat. Participants can also learn how to adopt and maintain an island of the garden through the

summer months.

Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists will be on site to educate and explore the many species of native plants. Master Naturalists Dr. David Manigold and Chris Wolete will present information at 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. about native plantings and invasive management and discuss conservation management practices in the garden. Other activities will

include exploring insect and flower parts under the microscope and learning facts about pollinators through games and activities sponsored by several local organizations. If you have been considering planting a pollinator garden and fostering the growth of native plants, this is your chance to learn what they are, why they are essential, and how you can build your own nature sanctuary.

If you will need accommodation in order to participate, please contact Bettyann Harrison at bettyann@illinois.edu or 309-364-2356. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

To learn more about the Master Gardener program call University of Illinois Extension at 309-364-2356 or email Bettyann Harrison at bettyann@illinois.edu.



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LOCAL AND AREA

O’Connell named Regional CEO of the American Red Cross of Illinois

CHICAGO – The American Red Cross of Illinois proudly announces Kellie O’Connell as its new Regional Chief Executive Officer. While her responsibilities include the entire Illinois Red Cross region, O’Connell will be primarily based at the Greater Chicago headquarters.

An accomplished and inspiring leader, O’Connell brings a wealth of experience that aligns closely with the Red Cross mission, emphasizing community engagement, equitable access to resources, and diversity initiatives.

With more than 20 years



of experience in nonprofit and governmental roles, O’Connell has dedicated her career to ensuring access to vital resources for underserved communities. Most recently, she served as

Chief Executive Officer of Nourishing Hope (formerly Lakeview Pantry). During her tenure, she expanded the organization’s food storage and distribution capacity, launched an innovative online market program, grew its mental health and social service offerings, rebranded the organization, and forged collaborative partnerships across Chicago.

“We are thrilled to welcome Kellie to the Red Cross,” said Judy Green, Division Vice President, North Central Division, American Red Cross. “Her leadership, vision, and deep commitment to helping communities

in need will strengthen our ability to deliver the Red Cross mission across the Illinois region before, during, and after emergencies.”

As Regional CEO, O’Connell will lead a team of dedicated volunteers and staff, serving more than 12.2 million people in 88 counties across Illinois, and parts of Iowa, and Missouri.

“I am deeply honored to join the Red Cross and lead this exceptional team of volunteers and staff,” O’Connell said. “Together, we’ll build on the region’s strong legacy of service while exploring new ways to expand our impact and bring hope to those

who need it most.”

O’Connell holds a bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Northern Illinois University and a master’s degree in Sociology from Loyola University Chicago. She is also a 2019 graduate of Harvard Business School’s Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management Executive Education Program. Since 2020, she has been a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow and is an active member of the Engagement Committee of the Economic Club of Chicago. O’Connell also serves on the executive committee of the board of

Guitars Over Guns.

O’Connell joins the Illinois Red Cross following the departure of former Regional CEO Celena Roldán Sarillo.

The American Red Cross of Illinois serves communities through a network of five chapters: Central Illinois, Greater Chicago, Illinois River Valley, Quad Cities & Northwest Illinois, and South & West Central Illinois. Our mission is help people prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

For more information, visit redcross.org. Also find us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and X.

Rep. Fritts honors Dinges Fire with local business highlight

DIXON – For his February 2025 local business highlight, State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Dinges Fire Company in Amboy. Rep. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owner with a certificate of appreciation for his contributions to the community.

“This month, I am proud to recognize Dinges Fire Company in Amboy for their dedication to public safety and their remarkable growth as a company,” said Rep. Fritts. “Dinges Fire Company provides essential equipment and services to fire departments across the Midwest, and their continued expansion is a testament to their hard work and commitment to their mission.”

Founded in 2002 by owner Nick Dinges, Dinges Fire Company sells firefighter protective equipment, rescue tools, gear, and more. They also service fire trucks on site. Dinges Fire Company currently employs over 180 people

across multiple states.

Rep. Fritts continued, “I also want to recognize Nick Dinges not only as a business leader but as a dedicated public servant. Not only does he work as an Assistant Fire Chief with the Sublette Fire Department and a firefighter-paramedic with the Amboy Fire Department, but Nick also runs Sublette 365, a non-profit organization that works to fund projects to develop and beautify Sublette. Nick has devoted himself to bettering our community. His leadership, and the continued success of his team, deserve to be honored.”

Dinges Fire Company is located at 243 E. Main St. in Amboy. For more information, you can visit their website at DingesFire.com.

To nominate a local business in District 74 for a future highlight, visit RepFritts.com and select Local Business Highlight Submission Form under Resources.

For more information about Representative Fritts, visit RepFritts.com.



Nick Dinges, left, of Dinges Fire Co. in Amboy accepts a certificate of appreciation from State Rep. Brad Fritts. (Photo contributed)

Kish College unveils Artificial Intelligence Implementation Playbook

MALTA – Kishwaukee College has created an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Implementation Playbook to address changing technology advancements in higher education. The playbook was officially unveiled during the March Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees meeting.

The AI playbook provides steps and goals to help use AI and explore new technologies at the College. Kish will use the tools within the playbook to improve teaching and learning, student experiences, and overall organizational effectiveness by taking a planned and collaborative approach.

“The AI Implementation Playbook is a responsive and evolving resource that reflects Kishwaukee College’s commitment to innovation and excellence in education. This plan is

very adaptable and will be updated to address changes in technology and the needs of our students,” said Dr. Laurie Borowicz, President of Kishwaukee College.

Over the past year, the College has developed the AI playbook through conversations with industry leaders, organizations and other colleges on the forefront of AI technology. From these discussions, Kish outlined a four-step approach to implementing AI — researching industry best practices, tracking AI-related activities, developing a technology integration and product development process, and fostering a culture that promotes experimentation, awareness, literacy and adoption.

Learn more about Kishwaukee College at kish.edu.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

John M. Hasse

MENDOTA—John M. Hasse, 66, of Mendota, passed away April 11, 2025, in his home surrounded by his loving family.

A Celebration of Life will take place Monday, April 21, 2025, from 4-7 p.m. at the Mendota VFW. John generously donated his body to science for the advancement of medical research. Cremation rites will then be accorded, and the scattering ceremony will be private. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

John was born Aug. 13, 1958, in Mendota, to Dennis and Donna (Appel) Hasse. He graduated from Mendota High School in 1977.

He will be forever missed by his mother, Donna Hasse of Mendota; daughter, Meagan Hasse of Mendota; grandson, Malakai; three sisters, Connie Serrano of Mendota, Dawn Hasse Larkin of Mendota and Lorie Corrigan of Ft. Myers, Fla., “little sister” Rachel Green of Mendota; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father.

John was a life member of Mendota VFW Post 4079 Auxiliary and Mendota Moose Lodge 714. During his work career as a welder/laborer he was employed with Mayrath, NL Morton Buildings, Rochelle Fabrication and NTL Boilermaker.

Memorials may be directed to donor’s choice and condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



ISP, IDOT warn drivers to ‘Move Over or Get Pulled Over’

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois State Police (ISP) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) are warning drivers to Move Over or Get Pulled Over. The Move Over Law, known as Scott’s Law in Illinois, requires drivers to move over and slow down when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with its emergency lights activated. If changing lanes is unsafe or impossible, drivers must slow down to a safe speed, proceed with caution, and be prepared to stop if necessary.

“We’ve all heard it, move over and slow down for emergency vehicles on the side of the road with their emergency lights activated,” said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. “Despite this, we continue to see crashes, including deadly crashes, because someone refused to move over and slow down. To help end this reckless behavior, we want the public to know that if you fail to move over and slow down in Illinois, you will get a ticket. The days of receiving a warning are over. Move over or get pulled over.”

The Move Over Law not only applies to law enforcement vehicles, but ambulances, fire vehicles, IDOT Emergency Traffic Patrol vehicles, tow trucks, and other authorized emergency vehicles as defined under the Illinois Vehicle Code. However, ISP and IDOT urge drivers to move over and slow down for any vehicle with flashing lights stopped on the side of the road.

“The main goal of the Move Over Law is to eliminate preventable crashes, injuries and deaths,” said Act-



The Move Over Law, known as Scott’s Law in Illinois, requires drivers to move over and slow down when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with its emergency lights activated.

ing Illinois Transportation Secretary Gia Biagi. “But the easiest way is to please slow down and give plenty of extra distance to people and vehicles on the side of the road. With your help, we can make our highways and streets safer for everyone.”

When seatbelt laws first took effect in the 1980s, adoption of this life saving practice was slow. To increase compliance with the law and reduce the number of unnecessary traffic deaths, law enforcement began issuing citations, not warnings, when there was sufficient evidence seatbelts were not being used. Today, seatbelt use is commonplace, in large part because of the strict enforcement of seatbelt laws, and many lives have been saved. ISP and IDOT are looking to make the automat-

ic response to move over and slow down for an emergency vehicle as commonplace as wearing a seatbelt.

To provide advanced notice that a driver needs to move over and slow down because of an emergency vehicle stopped on the road ahead, ISP partnered with Google Public Sector and HAAS Alert to provide a warning to drivers through apps like Waze and Google Maps, as well as through certain vehicle onboard infotainment systems.

The fine for a Move Over Law violation is between \$250-\$10,000. If the violation results in the injury or death of another person, it’s a felony and driving privileges could be suspended up to two years.

Already in 2025, ISP has suffered five move over

crashes resulting in four troopers injured. Since the beginning of 2019, ISP has suffered 71 Move Over Law injury crashes, including three troopers killed. There were hundreds more Move Over Law crashes over those years involving fire and IDOT vehicles, ambulances, tow trucks, and others.

The Move Over Law is named Scott’s Law in Illinois in remembrance of Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department. Gillen was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver while assisting at a crash on the Dan Ryan Expressway.

More information about Illinois’ Scott’s Law can be found on the ISP website, as well as a Scott’s Law dashboard that includes information and data about ISP crashes.

April is safe digging month in Illinois

CHICAGO — In observance of safe digging month, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is reminding citizens they can reduce utility outages by calling 811. The state’s annual proclamation is a reminder to professional excavators and DIY homeowners alike to call 811 to safely mark utility lines before starting a digging project.

“The warmer weather can inspire us get started on home improvement projects, but underground utility lines can be unintentionally damaged during a digging project. Remember to call 811 before you dig for projects of any size,” said ICC Chairman Doug Scott.

Illinois law requires all homeowners and professional excavators to call the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE) at 811 before digging at least

two working days prior to starting excavation. The project must begin within 10 days of the call, and locate requests have a 25-day life. The State One-Call Center, managed by JULIE (DIGGER within the City of Chicago) is a 24-hour service network system established to prevent contractors and private citizens from hitting utility lines while digging. JULIE has been protecting Illinoisans for 50 years.

Homeowners and excavators may face penalties for not calling 811, and utilities may be cited and fined for failing to mark lines in a timely manner.

The ICC is responsible for enforcement of the Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act. In 2024, ICC Staff issued 154 warnings and 1,114 citations for safe digging violations, resulting in over \$5 million in fines.

St. Bede Academy partners with American Red Cross for April 29 blood drive

PERU — St. Bede Academy has partnered with the American Red Cross to host a public blood drive on Tuesday, April 29, in the Perino Science Center. The drive will take place from noon to 5 p.m. The community is invited to participate in this life-saving event.

Appointments are pre-

ferred. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org. Walk-ins are also welcome as availability allows.

Save time with RapidPass. Donors can save up to 15 minutes by completing the RapidPass online health

history questionnaire prior to their appointment. Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information and to get started.

Building on the success of St. Bede’s Feb. 11 blood drive, which collected 48 pints, the academy is aiming for a total of 100 pints to qualify for a \$1,000

scholarship to be awarded to a graduating senior pursuing higher education. By donating, participants not only help save lives but also support local students in achieving their educational goals.

St. Bede Academy is located at 24 U.S. Hwy. 6, Peru.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Townships

Continued from Page A1

paid better than what we pay in the townships. They probably have health insurance. They have retirement benefits and things that townships in many cases do not offer. So it would be a huge budget drain financially out on the county,” said Weber.

Townships were originally created to provide local government services to rural and unincorporated areas. Weber said about half their residents are rural and the other half live in subdivisions.

“They depend on the township government to take care of the roads. That’s fixing potholes. That’s removing trees that fall into the roadway, plowing snow, so they can leave their homes on a daily basis to go to work or get their kids to school,” said Weber. “So having good roads and access to those roads, virtually 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, is vital just for people’s livelihood.”

State Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, called the bill a “war on downstate Illinois.” Rose also explained consolidation would lead to property tax increases.

“For the county to simply be tossed with no equipment, no manpower, here’s the debt, take the debt, how are they supposed to handle this without raising property taxes? It is simply going to be a property tax increase on the citizens of these counties,” Rose said.

State Sen. Chris Balkema, R-Channahon, has a similar bill, Senate Bill 1347, but it wouldn’t mandate units of government to consolidate rather it “removes the red tape” so, for example, fire districts A and B can decide to consolidate on their own.

Rose supports Balkema’s bill.

REAL ID

Continued from Page A1

Abroad or a Certificate of Citizenship. If you are not a U.S. citizen, an employment authorization document, a permanent resident card or a foreign passport with an approved I-94 form is also acceptable. If you’ve changed your name, you’ll need to provide name change documents.

2. Proof of a full Social Security number (SSN). Examples include: a Social Security card, a W-2 or a pay stub with your full SSN.

3. Two current residency documents that list your full name. Examples include a utility bill, rental agreement, deed/title or a bank statement.

4. Proof of your signature. Examples include: a signed credit or debit card, canceled check, or current state driver’s license or state ID.

Illinois residents can go online to access an interactive checklist to make sure they have the documents they need before heading to a DMV.

City Ordinance

MENDOTA – The City of Mendota reminds citizens that Chapter 41.49 of the Mendota Municipal Code in regard to Prohibited Parking reads as follows:

- Parking is prohibited along both sides of First Avenue for the entire length of the avenue.
- Parking is prohibited on the east side of Sixth Avenue from Second Street to Fifth Street.
- Parking is prohibited on the east side of Main Street from Sixth Street to Washington Street.
- Parking is prohibited on the south side of Washington Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to Iowa Street.
- Parking is prohibited on both sides (north and south) of Washington Street from Iowa Street to U.S. Route 251.

Nursing instructor recognized for teaching excellence at IVCC

OGLESBY – Nursing instructor Samantha Whiteaker of Arlington received IVCC’s 2025 Stephen Charry Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence.

Whiteaker and the other nominees – Christina Boughton, Vince Brolley, Anna Bruch, Carmen Hartford, Keith King, Tracy Lee, Theresa Molln, Jared Olesen and Eric Schroeder – were honored April 3 at IVCC’s employee recognition reception at Senica’s Oak Ridge Golf Club.

“Receiving this award is a deeply humbling honor. It serves as a powerful reminder of the privilege I have in teaching students both the science and the art of nursing. Students inspire me to continually strive for personal and professional growth, and I consider myself fortunate to guide them, witness their development, and help them realize their full potential. I remain committed to encouraging students to forge meaningful connections with their patients while emphasizing the importance of lifelong community service. This recognition reflects the profound impact that students have had on my life,” Whiteaker said.

The three nursing students who nominated Whiteaker praised her as a mentor who guides them to become competent and compassionate nurses.

“She also understands heavy course load and life load and how that impacts our experience in nursing school,” wrote Laura Kicinski in her nomination.



Whiteaker

“She inspires us to be kind and focused on the community by highlighting the value of patient advocacy and comprehensive care. She engages us in conversations on meeting patient needs that go beyond medical care, such as providing emotional support and having good lines of communication with families,” wrote Keysha Cortez in her nomination.

She encourages students to be confident in their knowledge and skills and exposes them to situations they are likely to encounter in the nursing field, all while advising them how to handle those situations properly, wrote November Rhodes in her nomination.

Whiteaker is a graduate of the OSF Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in 2008 and became an IVCC faculty member in 2013 and then again in 2021. She earned her master’s degree in nursing education in 2012 and has been a licensed registered nurse for 17 years, specializing in maternal/child health. She practices as a home birth nurse-midwife assistant, and also volunteers her time providing pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding support in the community. On campus, she advises the Women’s Health and Wellness Student Group and oversees charity work for Abigail Women’s Center in Mendota.

She and her husband, Ryan, have three children.

Named for history professor Stephen Charry, the award recognizes instructors and counselors for outstanding service in teaching, leadership, professional development and contributions to the College and community. Charry died in 2008.

Goetz awarded Support Staff honor at IVCC

OGLESBY – Sarah Goetz of Peru is the winner of Illinois Valley Community College’s Connie Dzierzynski Skerston Memorial Award for Support Staff Distinguished Service.

Goetz, who is the Student Services Records and International Student Specialist, was nominated by Director of Enrollment Services Tom Quigley.

“Sarah is an invaluable asset to the Admissions and Records Department, Student Services and IVCC as a whole. She makes the lives of other people around her easier and will work to find a solution to any problem that arises,” Quigley wrote in his nomination.

In expressing her appreciation for the recognition,



Goetz

Goetz noted she serves in the same division where Skerston was assistant director.” I didn’t have the pleasure of knowing Connie, but from Day One I’ve heard many wonderful stories and the high standard she set. Her lasting legacy at IVCC is an inspiration. I love working at the College and I am honored to receive this recognition and be in the same company as the other outstanding nominees.”

Quigley praised Goetz’s knowledge, professionalism, proactive problem solving, collaboration, and enthusiasm as well as her valuable assistance in piloting a recent technology upgrade.

“She makes the lives of other people around her easier and will work to find a solution to any problem that arises. Her remarkable attention to detail and consistent accuracy make her a dependable and exemplary

professional. Her ability to support and motivate her colleagues helps to enhance overall staff morale and teamwork.”

Goetz began her career with IVCC in 2022 as a Student Services Information Specialist. In 2023, she became the Student Services Records and International Student Specialist.

Goetz and fellow nominees Miguel Hermosillo, Kim Herout, Cindy Lock, Marlene Merkel, Kathy Scheibenreif, Kelli Shan and Donna Swiskoski, were honored April 3 at IVCC’s employee recognition reception at Senica’s Oak Ridge Golf Club.

This is the 25th year of the Support Staff Distinguished Service Award, which was renamed in honor of Connie Dzierzynski Skerston, assistant director of admissions and records, who died in 2015.

IVCC biology professor honored as outstanding part-time faculty winner

OGLESBY – Biology instructor Donald Leynaud was recently selected by colleagues as the winner of Illinois Valley Community College’s 2025 Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award.

“A teacher is first made from the heart and soul, and God has blessed me for choosing the right career,” Leynaud said. Borrowing a biology theory, Leynaud explained the symbiotic nature of teaching: “The teacher can help the student learn, and the student will make the teacher a much better and continually effective teacher.”

In her nomination, Leslie Crum said she and her classmates benefit from Leynaud’s enthusiasm and encouragement. “His humor and kindness are what make him a great instructor and it should not go unnoticed. I fully believe an instructor can make or break a student’s learning experience, and he truly made mine.”

Leynaud’s teaching



Leynaud

techniques made it easier for Crum to retain complex information and his patience helped students become comfortable in the lab setting, she wrote.

Leynaud is a graduate of LaSalle-Peru Township High School who earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biological studies at Eastern Illinois University. Leynaud retired in 2013 after 34 years as a full-time instructor of life sciences at Illinois Eastern Community Colleges/Wabash Valley College in Mount Carmel. In 2016, he became a part-time instructor at Illinois Valley Community College, where he teaches various life science classes and is an instructional lab assistant.

Leynaud has also been active as a community volunteer, teaching science to adult basic education students, serving at local hospitals and facilitating a mental health support group.

Leynaud and many of his IVCC colleagues were honored April 3 at IVCC’s employee recognition reception at Senica’s Oak Ridge Golf Club.

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OPINION



The Mendota Reporter

Award-winning Newspaper IPA/NINA
Ill. Press Assoc./No. Ill. Newspaper Assoc.

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Brandon LaChance, News Reporter
Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager
Brent Hatch, Account Executive

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Letters to the editor should be typed or hand-printed. 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.

It's all in the nickname

Throughout our society, especially in 2025, there is always something to complain about.

You can't get very far from your bed in the morning without hearing some kind of objection. If you wake up and the first thing you do is pick up your phone and look on social media, you're not even getting out of bed first.

Although every person, place, or thing known to man is up for speculation or debate, the one aspect of life I have never, ever heard any kind of criticism or negativity about is nicknames.



Never the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance

I'm not talking about an individual nickname because I'm sure there is a code name somewhere that someone doesn't like whether you're a parent and you don't approve of what your son or daughter's friends call them, or you're a baseball player who doesn't like what your coach calls you, or a bully called you something you didn't like and an outside ear is now an everyday annoying voice.

I'm talking about the awesomeness of nicknames in general.

Nicknames are awesome for many reasons including the reasons listed why people don't like them.

The parents might hate them, but their children might think they're cool, and obviously the ones using the names think they are. The same way the coach and the assistant coaches don't stop using a nickname, and the reason the bully said it in the first place.

They're also a term of endearment.

There are the generic ones such as babe, baby, sugar, angel, honey, sweetie pie, boo, love, pet, love bug, cupcake, pumpkin, doll, darling, sweetheart, dearest, hun, buddy, cutie, kiddo, sunshine, precious (or it can be used for an object like in Lord of the Rings, who doesn't have Smeagol in their head right now), pumpkin, momma, pops, old man, old lady, sis, bro, broseph (I use all of the time), brosiaah (I like to think I made up), broshabba (I know I created), partner in crime, homie, wingman or wingwoman, bestie, BFF, partner, troublemaker, my other half, lover, muffin, peaches, and just about any word used for a sweet treat in America or another country.

There are also generic nicknames used in sports such as champ, king, captain, hero, and savior.

There are nicknames for places, food, drinks, attractions, events, objects, and anything else we have whether they're generic or not.

What's awesome is, they all tell a story.

I umpired a baseball game last Tuesday in Sandwich. The opponent, Plano, had a catcher who was routinely called "Moose." Between an inning, I thought I'd ask him, why are you named after an animal I associate with Minnesota, Bullwinkle, or antlers? He smiled and said it's a long story, but because of the size of his mother's belly before he has born, someone told her she was going to give birth to a moose.

Even though he turned out to be an average size newborn, his parents began calling him "Moose" and the name has never dropped. Honestly, I didn't ask him his real name and never heard anyone call him anything but "Moose."

A few days later, I was back in Sandwich and they were playing Johnsburg. The first baseman and relief pitcher was called "Bear."

Not the smallest kid on the team, I made an assumption it was because of his size. Instead of just being big, his basketball coach coined the name because he said he ran like a bear.

If you go to Earlville for any sporting event or social interaction, it seems everyone has a nickname with a cool story behind it.

In my line of work, I'm always trying to find stories or a way to communicate with people. However, even when I'm not trying to work or find an in, I'm always trying to research why someone is called something other than the name on their birth certificate.

On an airplane about four years ago, I met a woman named R.


I literally asked her, what's the rest of her name. She laughed and told me there wasn't anymore, it's just the letter R.

Come to find out, I'm not trying to get dark but stating the truth, she was named after her father who later went to prison. In a display that he was no longer in her life and would never have the chance to be again, she removed the rest of her name, legally, and will now and forever be R.

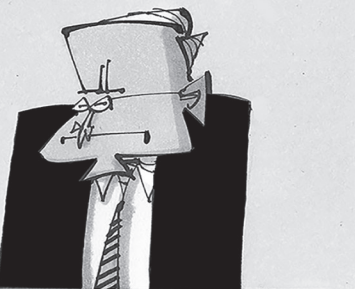
It's awesome to be able to tell stories, have a personality, a connection, a bond, and fun with a simple thing such as a nickname.

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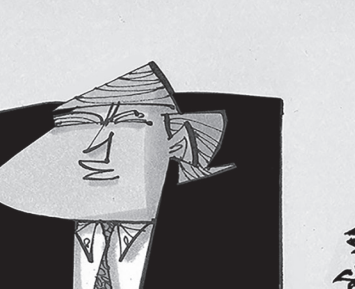
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Taking care of business – 1923

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from April 15, 1998.)

By Jessica Nashold

In 1923, Mendota did not have a Chamber of Commerce, but did have a Businessmen's Association. Frank Fritz was president and on April 16, 1923, the men met at the Depot Hotel restaurant. Manager D.D. O'Connell served a "very nice spread," after which the group began discussing what could be done to improve business.

One plan was to conduct a series of Friend Making Sales, with prices set to bring customers to Mendota. Another proposal was to enlarge the tourist camp on the old north end school grounds by acquiring an adjoining pasture to the north. Some suggested placing "Free Tourist Camp" signs, starting as far away as 30 miles from Mendota.

It is said tourists will travel that far when they know there is a free camp ground.

It was decided to take action to eliminate peddlers, probably demanding that they be licensed to sell their wares.

Later in 1923, the Kiwanis Club was organized, drawing much of its membership from the Mendota Businessmen's Association.

The library board petitioned the city to put in a cement sidewalk between Washington and Sixth streets in front of the library building. It was reported that the book most in demand at the library was the recently published "Etiquette," by Emily Post. Those wishing to read it were urged to reserve it.

The fee for reserving books is 5 cents.

The Mendota Elks played an important role in instituting an Elks lodge in Princeton. A special train carried 153 members to Princeton including its degree team and the Elks Drum Corps led by L.F. Knauer. They were met at the station and paraded to the Knights of Pythias Hall where ceremonies were held following a lavish lunch.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

Princeton members are of the right type to be true to the order of the antlered herd.

The special train left Princeton at midnight for the return trip and arrived in Mendota at 12:45.

On April 6 and 7, 1923, firemen were kept busy. First was a fire in the Union Garage. Bob Bassing was preparing to paint C.P. Gardner's auto and as a first step had applied paint remover. A battery was under the rear seat. As Bassing started work, the car caught fire and the upholstery and top were destroyed. A nearby car, which Fim Mura had stored at the Union Garage for winter, was also ruined.

Fortunately, the building was near fireproof as a building could be and there was very little damage there.

On the morning of April 7, George Madden's roof caught on fire and soon after the firemen were called to Henning's Pond where the ice house had been struck by lightning. The men laid a hose from the creek and constructed a small dam to create a deep pool. For half an hour a motor forced water through the hose, but it was finally decided to let the walls fall.

There were 300 pounds of ice within, belonging to George Feik, and this was transferred to the ice house at the Railroad Pond where he had another supply.

In the farm news that week it was mentioned that had lightning rods been in place, the Henning ice house might still have been standing.

A banquet honoring letter and numerical players on the MTHS football team was held in the cafeteria under a canopy of purple and white, the school colors. (Gold replaced white at a later time.)

Coach Clarence Jack was toastmas-

ter. In addition to team members, school board members and faculty were included and could bring guests. The Home Ec girls served a three-course dinner to 52. Entertainment included piano selections by Anne Henry, Eddie Bieser and Mrs. Womsley. Ramona Nelson sang.

William Seever, field man for a University of Illinois Archaeological Survey, arrived in Ottawa to being mapping places in the Illinois River Valley to be excavated "in quest of relics." Extensive excavating was planned to identify locations where there had been early concentrations of Indians.

Parents are asked to consider teachers when calling schools while classes were in session. Every time a call was made, some teacher had to leave her class to answer, take a message and deliver it. In Lincoln School, for example, there were 200 students.

Do not call unless it is absolutely necessary.

Judge B. Harry Reck ruled that the state had no authority to start condemnation proceedings against property needed for the Illinois Waterway.

All towns and villages along the 65-mile route must first approve the project.

This had not yet been done.

Frank Coss announced he would soon start erection of a milk depot on North Main Street.

He will put in an up-to-date pasteurizing outfit.

Coss was preparing to handle cream, buttermilk, cottage cheese and butter as well as pasteurized milk.

In a Woman's Column in The Reporter, a reader asked if electric flat irons could safely be heated on the cookstove before being connected to the electric outlet. The answer was "yes."

It is said much juice can be saved as the current is needed only after you start ironing.

Trump's non-emergency tariffs

By Rich Lowry

The Trump administration is using Humpty Dumpty rules to justify its new tariffs. The anthropomorphic egg famously said in the Lewis Carroll novel "Through the Looking-Glass," "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean -- neither more nor less." For the Trump team, that word is "emergency."

President Trump has imposed sweeping global tariffs based on his purported authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977 (IEEPA). The president has declared the trade deficit an emergency, which supposedly unlocks his power to impose tariffs that would otherwise have to pass Congress.

"Pernicious economic policies and practices of our trading partners," says a White House fact sheet, "undermine our ability to produce essential goods for the public and the military, threatening national security."

This is an abuse of language and logic in the service of bad policy that hardly interacts with the alleged threat to national security.

In a typical congressional botch-job, the IEEPA was meant to be a limitation on presidential emergency powers after the 1917 Trading with the Enemy Act led to ceaseless states of emergency. But according to the Congressional Research Service, as of January 2024, presidents had declared 69 national emergencies under IEEPA, with 39 of them ongoing.

As a House committee noted around the time of the IEEPA's passage, "emergencies are by their nature rare and brief, and are not to be equated with normal ongoing problems."

Prior declarations of emergency have tended to involve specific countries, events or groups -- the Iran hostage crisis, the civil war in Yugoslavia -- that have resulted in very specific sanctions.

As the IEEPA itself says, the law should be used "to deal with any unusual and extraordinary threat." The U.S. trade deficit is neither. We've been running a deficit since the 1970s. This is the very definition of a chronic issue, the causes of are not amenable to a bumper-sticker solution.

Trump's tariffs are obviously a product of his utterly sincere belief that tariffs are beneficial. This is a long-term

priority for the president, not the result of his hand getting forced by exigent circumstances.

The policy doesn't even match up with the legal pretext. If national security were really the justification, we wouldn't be tariffing allies who will -- if we don't fundamentally alienate them -- provide supplies and manufacturing capacity to us in a true crisis.

All sorts of foodstuffs, from fruits and vegetables to chocolate and coffee, are getting tariffed, and they have nothing to do with national security. Our ability to make precision missiles doesn't depend on the price or availability of Australian beef and Guatemalan bananas.

In some cases, the tariffs aren't even in response to a trade deficit. We are imposing a 10% tariff on countries with which we have a surplus.

More particularly, how can our trading relationship with our friend Israel be in a state of crisis, when the Jewish state reduced its tariffs on all U.S. goods to zero? We imposed a 17% tariff on Israel, anyway.

Likewise, Vietnam, an anti-China bulwark, slashed its tariffs on a variety of U.S. goods, and we still hit it with one of the highest rates announced, 46%.

Trump's insistence that a non-emergency that requires congressional legislation is instead an emergency that allows him to act unilaterally may pass muster with the courts; they are loath to second guess such presidential determinations. Yet, the declaration is still a very bad idea.

The free hand that Trump has arrogated to himself could undermine his own policy -- businesses may believe that the new tariff regime can be changed just as easily as it's been imposed. A congressional enactment would be more stable.

And, a future progressive president will surely pick up where Trump left off. What's to stop President Ocasio-Cortez from declaring a climate emergency?

In sum, it's best, especially when making consequential determinations, to adhere to the true meaning of words, even the much-abused "emergency."

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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LaSalle County Board

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Gary Small, 821 E. US 52, Utica.....481-4566
Ray Gatzka, 3490 E. First Road, Peru.....883-0500

LOCAL AND AREA

IDOT holding workshops to aid in funding chances for community projects

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation is hosting 18 workshops throughout the state to help local governments and communities learn about and apply for funding opportunities. The Special Programs Assistance Conferences are designed to help potential grantees take part in the department’s Economic Development Program, Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program and Safe Routes to School Program.

“Thanks to Gov. Pritzker’s Rebuild Illinois capital program, there is more opportunity than ever for our local partners to work with us to accomplish projects that improve mobility, safety and quality of life in their communities,” said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Gia Biagi. “These workshops are a one-stop shop to learn about some of our more popular programs, as well as to get help tapping into the tools and resources that can make a positive impact in cities, towns and neighborhoods across Illinois.”

The events are geared to help local stakeholders understand competitive funding programs offered by IDOT, identify projects they can submit for consideration and provide instruction on how to craft applications.

Each conference will take place over two days led by IDOT staff, with group presentations the morning of the first day, followed by one-on-one appointments and networking opportunities the afternoon of the first day and all of the second day.

Among the workshops offered in the area are:

- May 28-29: IDOT District 3, 700 E. Norris Drive, Ottawa
- June 17-18: Dixon High School, 300 Lincoln Statue Drive, Dixon

For more information on the funding opportunities available, visit the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, Safe Routes to School Program and Economic Development Program pages on idot.illinois.gov.

U.S. 34 bridge work underway in Earlville

EARLVILLE – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that construction on U.S. 34 over Indian Creek in Earlville in La Salle County will began April 14.

The work will replace a bridge originally built in 1952 and last having major repairs in 1991. The work will require a full closure of U.S. 34 in the work zone. Traffic will detour using East 12th Road and Union Street

(Old Route 34) through Earlville. Access to homes and businesses on U.S. 34 will be maintained during the \$5 million project, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area and be prepared for slow 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, follow us at @IDOTDistrict3. View area construction details on IDOT’s traveler information map at www.GettingAroundIllinois.com.

IVCC Medical Assisting Program earns accreditation; applications for the fall program are due on May 1st

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College’s Medical Assisting program has earned initial accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), an achievement that underscores the program’s commitment to excellence in healthcare education.

Dean of Health Professions Heather Seghi called the accreditation “a gold standard” that gives students confidence in their training and signals to potential employers that graduates meet nationally recognized competencies.

Kaity Ritter, program coordinator and instructor, said graduates are eligible to earn a nationally recognized Certified Medical Assistant credential through the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA), the gold standard organization in the field.

Seeking accreditation is voluntary

and can take years to achieve. IVCC’s journey began in 2020 when it launched the program. Seghi and Ritter documented and met rigorous standards set by the CAAHEP in collaboration with the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB).

Ritter’s tireless efforts were key to ensuring the program met and exceeded the necessary standards, Seghi said. The process included a site visit in August 2024, when evaluators’ findings noted only minor recommendations. Over two days, accreditation visitors conducted a thorough review of curriculum, facilities, faculty credentials, and overall program effectiveness, Ritter and Seghi said.

Medical Assistants perform a wide range of administrative and clinical tasks in hospitals, clinics, urgent care facilities, or private practices. They take

patients’ medical histories, measure vital signs, assist providers with patient examinations, schedule appointments, prepare laboratory samples and more.

“It is a fantastic long-term career or a starting point if you want to be in healthcare but are not exactly sure where. No two days will be the same and you will have the opportunity to find an area of healthcare you love,” Ritter said.

Seghi said the Health Professions Division’s goal is to gain accreditation for every program by 2027. Applications for the Fall 2025 program are being accepted through May 1 but may be accepted until seats are filled. The program is completed in three semesters. For additional information, contact kaity_ritter@ivcc.edu, or visit <https://www.ivcc.edu/programsbyareaoftudy/cma.php>.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Is it true that Woody Harrelson was supposed to play Walton Goggins' role in "The White Lotus"? -- *A.S.*

A: Yes, the Emmy-winning actor Woody Harrelson ("Cheers") was set to play Rick in the third season of HBO's "The White Lotus" but had to turn it down when their filming schedule shifted. He was later asked to play the smaller role of Rick's friend Frank, but this didn't come to fruition either and went to Sam Rockwell instead.

While Harrelson likely regrets the chance of adding another Emmy to his shelf, he's excited about his upcoming comedy series on Apple TV+ with his buddy Matthew McConaughey. "Brother From Another Mother" is still in development, but judging by their hilarious Salesforce commercials, the show will likely be a hit.

Q: When will the new spin-off with the sons of "The Neighborhood" begin airing? Does this mean that the original series is ending soon, like "Young Sheldon"? -- *A.T.*

A: The hit CBS sitcom "The Neighborhood," starring Cedric the Entertainer,

will begin airing its eighth and final season in the fall, with its current season's finale set for May 5. During this episode, oldest son Malcolm will move from the south of Los Angeles to Venice Beach, California, which is the setting of the proposed spin-off.

If the pilot gets picked up by the network as it's expected to be, both Sheau McKinney and Marcel Spears will reprise their roles as Malcolm and Marty Butler. Cedric the Entertainer, who plays their dad, will continue on "The Neighborhood" for its last season. Rounding out the cast are Angelique Cabral and Hunter King from "Life in Pieces," Justin Long ("Goosebumps"), and Kara Royster ("Dynasty").

However, this isn't the only "Neighborhood" offspring in development. You might remember Tracy Morgan's ("30 Rock") appearance as Cedric's rich younger brother, Calvin, in season four. Well, he won't be playing Calvin in the proposed spin-off that is expected to stream on Paramount+ but instead a cousin named Crutch. No official word on when this series will begin airing.

Q: Who plays Doug in the Liberty Mutual commercials? Has he acted in anything else? I don't think I'd recognize him without his mustache and sunglasses. -- *N.I.*

A: Actor David Hoffman has starred in Liberty Mutual's LiMu Emu & Doug ad campaign since 2019. In an interview published in the New York Post in 2021, Hoffman said that he's never once been recognized on the street as Doug.

When he was offered the role, he told his agent that he didn't want to look like himself in the ads for fear of being pigeonholed as "the guy in the commercial." Smart move! The commercials pay the bills, and he can do other projects like voiceover work and guest-starring on sitcoms such as "Modern Family" and films like "Bridesmaids."

Stephanie Courtney, who stars as Progressive Insurance's pitchwoman in their campaign, has a similar resume to Hoffman's. Both are alumni of The Groundlings, the improv comedy school that has served as the launching pad for many "Saturday Night Live" cast members, including Kristen Wiig and Will Forte.

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Rachel Zegler may have single-handedly KO-ed the reboot of the classic "Snow White."



Zegler

Zegler began shooting "Snow White" in March 2022, and you'd think that from then to now, she'd have learned what being a Disney princess means. Yet at Disney's D23 fan event, she completed her appearance with a political comment that got a negative viral response from more than 8 million social media followers. The comment "Free Palestine" may be the reason that social media followers voiced negative responses.

But she didn't stop there; she added negative remarks about our current president and his followers. The "woke" backlash has definitely impacted "Snow White's" box office numbers. Disney executives feel that her comments contributed to the disappointing \$87-million opening of

their \$270-million film. When you're representing a squeaky-clean studio like Disney, you're representing more than yourself -- you're representing an institution.

In films, billing is important to the career of any rising star. Battles have been waged, and jobs have been won or lost because of billing. Daisy Edgar-Jones has been first-billed above all her top-notch male co-stars. Her first top billing in "Where the Crawdads Sing" (2022) was because there was no major male star, but she was billed over Glen Powell and Anthony Ramos in "Twisters" (2024). She is also billed above Jacob Elordi and Will Poulter in "On Swift Horses," which is due this month.

Egar-Jones offered that she's fortunate that her A-list male co-stars have never taken issue with her being billed over them. But the truth is that her co-stars weren't being gracious; she has a brilliant agent, Christopher Farrar, who is the managing director at the United Kingdom talent agency Hamilton Hodel. He's a top-notch negotiator who makes sure

that his star comes out on top ... in billing, that is!

Get ready for new "Mummy" movies! This time, they're starring 33-year-old Irish actor Jack Reynor. Reynor's best known for "Transformers: Age of Extinction" (2014), which starred Mark Wahlberg and Stanley Tucci. It cost \$210 million and grossed \$1.104 billion. Reynor also starred in "Macbeth" (2015), with Michael Fassbender as the titular character. Now Reynor has the upcoming musical-comedy film "Power Ballad," co-starring Paul Rudd and Nick Jonas.

Brendan Fraser, star of three "Mummy" films (1999, 2001 and 2008), went on to win an Oscar in 2022 for "The Whale."

Robert De Niro, who is considered one of our greatest actors, may have bit off more scenery than he can chew. In the crime drama "The Alto Knights," he plays two real-life crime bosses Frank Costello and Vito Genovese. It opened on March 21, and only 39% of critics on Rotten Tomatoes gave favorable reviews.

• Trivia Test •

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What do you call a person who has lived to the age of 100 years?
2. HISTORY: When were cigarette commercials banned from American television?
3. MOVIES: Whose life is depicted in the movie "Raging Bull"?
4. U.S. STATES: In which state are the Catskill Mountains located?
5. TELEVISION: Which long-running TV drama was set in Cabot Cove, Maine?
6. MEASUREMENTS: How long is the ancient measurement called a cubit?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is a dish called Cullen Skink?
8. CHEMISTRY: A diamond is composed of which single element?
9. GEOGRAPHY: What country is home to the Baffin, Victoria and Ellesmere islands?
10. ANATOMY: What is another name for the condition called "piloerection"?

Answers

1. A centenarian.
 2. Jan. 2, 1971.
 3. Jake LaMotta (played by Robert De Niro).
 4. New York.
 5. "Murder, She Wrote."
 6. 1.5 feet.
 7. Scottish soup made of smoked haddock, potatoes and onions.
 8. Carbon.
 9. Canada.
 10. Goosebumps.
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Barn birds
5 Snooze
8 Humdrum
12 Nerd's kin
13 Somewhat (Suff.)
14 Green land
15 Hindu royal
16 "My word!"
17 Taxi alternative
18 Allow
20 Peace
22 Poetic contraction
23 Armed conflict
24 Melville captain
27 Shortly
32 — canto
33 Nonpro sports org.
34 DDE's opponent
35 Parts
38 L-Q bridge
39 Moray, for one
40 Attempt
42 "Rats!"
45 Actress
49 China setting
50 "The Greatest"
52 Empty truck's weight

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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- 53 Male deer
54 Meadow
55 Inventor's inspiration
56 Sharpen
57 Family
58 "Brian's Song" star
- 7 "That was close!"
8 Biondi in "It's a Wonderful Life"
9 Resident of Monrovia
10 War god
11 Wife of Zeus
19 French article
21 "Adorbs!"
24 Sit-up targets
25 Haw preceder
26 Resident of Oran
28 D.C. baseballer
29 Resident of Vienna
- 30 Summer sign
31 Mentalist's gift
36 Household
37 Yale grad
38 Spiritualist
41 Egyptian sun god
42 Sprint
43 Regarding
44 Chat
46 "Mary — Little Lamb"
47 Bailiwick
48 Campus big-wig
51 Island garland

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Couch Theater

"Mickey 17" (R) -- Everyone's been looking forward to director Bong Joon Ho's follow-up film to his 2019 masterpiece "Parasite." For his new sci-fi black comedy, he employed the acting talents of Robert Pattinson -- who got to take a break from being "The Batman" -- as well as Naomi Ackie ("Blink Twice"), Steven Yeun ("Nope"), Toni Collette ("Juror #2") and Mark Ruffalo ("Poor Things"). Pattinson plays expendable Mickey Barnes in the year 2050, and as an expendable, Mickey is tasked with deadly missions. Luckily, a new clone of him regenerates with his restored memories after each death. That is until the 17th version of Mickey survives an accident, only to find Mickey 18 alive and well. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Your Friends & Neighbors" (TV-MA) -- Jon Hamm ("The Morning Show") leads this new drama series that has already been renewed for a second season! Hamm stars as Andrew Cooper, a hedge fund manager in New York who gets fired from his job. Andrew has also recently divorced his wife, Mel (Amanda Peet), and feels the pressure to maintain his family's wealth amid his firing. So, as he's looking around at the riches that surround his friends and neighbors, Andrew concludes that a little looting never hurt anyone. Surely, these affluent people wouldn't miss a diamond bracelet here or a Chanel bag there, right? If you don't want to miss the shenanigans

that will inevitably follow Andrew's flawed plan, the first two episodes of this nine-episode season are out now for you to give a try! (Apple TV+)

"The Carters: Hurts to Love You" (TV-MA) -- Another documentary is releasing about the tortured Carter family, their music careers in Hollywood, and the tragic deaths that some of the Carter siblings continue to meet. In the doc, the only two living siblings, Nick (of the Backstreet Boys) and model Angel (Aaron's twin), discuss their rollercoaster childhoods and the effect these deaths have had on their family. Of course, never-before-seen home videos are interspersed throughout the doc, and interviews with celebrity friends like Melissa Joan Hart and Scout Willis are included. Check it out on April 15. (Paramount+)

In Case You Missed It
"Aftersun" (R) -- Before Paul Mescal ever suited up to play Lucius Verus in "Gladiator II," he gave an incredible performance as a young father in this coming-of-age drama film from the production company A24. Calum (Mescal), who's approaching his 31st birthday, takes his 11-year-old daughter Sophie on a vacation to Turkey. While Sophie records her resort experience through a video camera and enjoys reaching teenage milestones during her vacation, Calum feigns to be an easygoing happy dad but suffers deeply from depression, anxiety and trauma. (Hulu)

FLASHBACK

1. Name the theme song from the film "Same Time Next Year."
2. The Supremes had five No. 1 songs in 1964. What were the songs?
3. Which Lady Gaga song was used in the 2011 animated film "Puss in Boots"?
4. Who was the first to release "What a Fool Believes"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "People put me down cause that's the side of town I was born in."

Answers

1. "The Last Time I Felt Like This," by Johnny Mathis and Jane Olivier in the 1978 film.
2. "Back in My Arms Again," "Baby Love," "Come See About Me," "Stop! In the Name of Love," "Where Did Our Love Go?"
3. "Americano." The song was used at the end of the film when Puss and Kitty Softpaws are dancing across rooftops and then through the credits.
4. The Doobie Brothers, in 1978. The song ended up with a Grammy for Song of the Year and was later inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.
5. "Down in the Boondocks," by Billy Joe Royal, in 1965. Royal's version was meant to be a demo to be sent to Gene Pitney, but the song was good enough for a record company to promote it.

Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* Every unborn baby grows a mustache in the womb, which then spreads to cover the entire body. The baby then consumes this fine hair, called lanugo, and excretes it after birth with its first bowel movement, which is a substance called meconium.

* In 2013, "Star Wars" was dubbed in Navajo, making it the first major motion picture to be dubbed in a Native American language.

* Your brain sees the world upside down. When the rods and cones of your retina send an image to the brain -- say, you're looking at a tree -- the image that gets transmitted to the brain is upside down. The brain automatically rotates the image in its visual cortex.

* Researchers at Oregon State University patented a strain of seaweed that's not only rich in protein, but tastes remarkably like bacon when cooked.

* The term "pipe dream" is a reference to the crazy dreams people have while smoking opium.

* Death rates in boxing exploded after the introduction of the boxing glove. Almost nobody ever died bare knuckle boxing because head punches often resulted in broken hands, so nobody used them.

* A typical piano has about 12,000 parts, 10,000 of which are moving.

* The shooting of JFK assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was the first known human killing seen on live television.

* Nylon replaced silk as the most common dental floss material following silk's increased price during the second World War.

* Studies show that 88% of women wear shoes that are too small for their feet.

N	V	A	O	N	I	K	E	N	O	H
A	V	A	I	D	E	A	T	E	G	A
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H	A	L	B	A	N	A	P	S	W	L

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

Do you know how many moving parts there are in a piano? See "Strange But True."

Weekly SUDOKU

7	4			2		8		9
3	2	9	1		7	6		5
5		8	9					
			2	3				
8	3					9	1	5
9		5				1		6
	8				9	6		1
6		7		1			2	
								8

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 the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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9	8	7	2	5	1	3	6	1
8	2	6	8	1	7	4	9	9
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7	9	1	6	2	9	2	8	8
8	6	2	5	3	2	1	9	4
2	3	2	7	9	6	8	1	5
4	7	9	4	1	8	1	6	2
6	1	8	3	2	2	9	9	7

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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Holy Week Services
April 17, Maundy Thursday Service
7:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran
with Holy Communion
April 18, Good Friday Service
7:00 pm at First Lutheran in Lee
April 20, Easter Sunday
7:30 am Worship at Immanuel
8:30 am Easter Breakfast at Immanuel
9:30 am Easter Breakfast at First Lutheran in Lee
10:30 am Worship at First Lutheran in Lee
Holy Communion at both services

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04092025

Holy Week Worship Schedule
at First Presbyterian Church and
Ecumenical Churches of Mendota

April 17 - Maundy Thursday
7 p.m. at First Presbyterian

April 18 - Good Friday
7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church

April 13 - Palm Sunday
10:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian

April 20 - Easter Sunday
10:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian

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April 20 EASTER SUNDAY
10:00 a.m. Easter Celebration Service

Easter Egg Hunt for the kids after the service!



Join us for Holy Week and Easter

APRIL 13TH PALM SUNDAY
9AM WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
1015AM- SUNDAY SCHOOL
330PM-LIVING LAST SUPPER PRESENTATION

APRIL 17TH MAUNDY THURSDAY
630PM SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

APRIL 18TH ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY
7PM SERVICE AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST

APRIL 20TH EASTER SUNDAY
9AM WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
EASTER EGG HUNT
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April 13
8:30 am - Confirmation Class
9:00 am - Sunday School
9:30 am - Palm Sunday worship service

April 17
7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 18
7:00 pm - Ecumenical Good Friday Worship

April 20
7 am - Sunrise Service (by Confirmation Class)
8 am - Breakfast
9 am - Sunday School and egg hunt
9:30 am - Easter Sunday Traditional Service

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here. He has Risen!"

open hearts
open minds
open doors



04092025



Zion United Methodist Church

Holy Week Services

April 13 - Palm Sunday
9 am Morning Service
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

April 17 - Maundy Thursday
7 pm Communion Service

April 18 - Good Friday Ecumenical Service
7 pm at First United Methodist Church,
100 East 6th St., Mendota

April 20 - Easter Sunday
9 am Morning Service
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

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DISTRACTED DRIVING AND SAFETY AWARENESS

• Distracted Driving

Illinois law prohibits the use of handheld cellphones, texting or using other electronic communications while operating a motor vehicle. Hands-free devices or Bluetooth technology is allowed for persons age 19 and older.

Illinois law prohibits the use of headsets while driving. Headsets are defined as any device, other than a hearing aid, that allows a person to hear or receive electronic communications. The use of a single-sided headset or earpiece with a wireless/cellphone device is permitted while driving. Motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped operators may use intercom helmets, which permit a driver and/or passengers to speak to one another.

Using hands-free technology such as a headset or voice activated controls is considered a distraction while driving and can be dangerous. If a driver must make a phone call, even with hands-free technology, it is recommended the driver pull off to the side of the road before making the call. Using a cellphone while holding the device and utilizing the speaker phone is not considered hands free and is a violation of Illinois law.

The only time an Illinois driver can use a cellphone that is not hands free is:

- To report an emergency situation.
- While parked on the shoulder of a roadway.
- While stopped due to normal traffic being obstructed and the vehicle is in neutral or park.

If you are in a crash with a motor vehicle, bicyclist, pedestrian or any road user caused by distracted driving, you may face criminal penalties and incarceration.

• Scott's Law, the Move Over Law

Scott's Law, named after Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department who was struck and killed while assisting at a crash on the Dan Ryan Expressway, requires that, when approaching any emergency vehicle stopped along the roadway (including construction vehicles and equipment), you must reduce your speed, change lanes if possible, and proceed with caution.

• Safety Belt Law, Child Passenger Protection Act

Safety belts save thousands of lives each year. Illinois law requires all drivers and passengers to buckle up, regardless of where they sit in a vehicle.

The Child Passenger Protection Act requires all children under age 8 be properly secured in an appropriate child safety restraint system. This includes the use of booster seats, which must only be used with a lap/shoulder safety belt. If the back seat of the vehicle is not equipped with lap/shoulder type safety belts, a child weighing more than 40 pounds may be transported in the back seat without a booster seat, secured with a lap belt only. Effective January 1, 2019, Illinois law requires children to be properly secured in a rear-facing child restraint system until age 2 unless they weigh more than 40 pounds or are more than 40 inches tall.

• Don't Drink and Drive

Alcohol is a factor in nearly half of all fatal motor vehicle crashes. If you plan to drink, designate a driver who won't drink.

Avoid impaired drivers. If you notice a vehicle straddling the center line, weaving, making wide turns, stopping abruptly or responding slowly to traffic signals, the driver may be impaired. Steer clear of the vehicle by pulling off the side of the road or exiting at the nearest intersection or exit. If it appears that an oncoming vehicle is crossing into your lane, pull over, sound your horn and flash your lights. If you encounter a suspected impaired driver, safely pull off to the side of the road and contact police immediately.

For more information on traffic safety tips and laws, please consult the Illinois Rules of the Road booklet at www.ilsos.gov.

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ASE CERTIFIED

A pledge to drive distraction-free can save lives

About 3,000 people in the United States lose their lives each year in crashes involving distracted drivers. The good news is that distracted driving can be prevented by avoiding dangerous behaviors.

- Texting or using social media applications
- Checking or sending emails
- Taking selfies or filming videos
- Inputting destinations into your GPS
- Calling someone else when you know they're driving

For Distracted Driving Awareness Month, which takes place every year in April, the National Safety Council (NSC) invites motorists across America to commit to driving distraction-free by taking the NSC Pledge. It involves promising to not drive distracted in any way, including:

- Talking on the phone

Keep in mind, a driver who talks on the phone is four times more likely to be involved in a collision than one who isn't, and a driver who sends text messages is eight times more likely to be involved in a crash.

On average, sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. If you're traveling at 55 miles per hour, that's the equivalent of driving the length of a football field with your eyes closed.

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• Using voice-to-text features in your vehicle

This month for Distracted Driving Awareness Month, promise to drive distraction free and spread the word about the NSC Pledge.

LOCAL AND AREA

As spring sets in, IDNR issues reminder to avoid handling wild animals and birds

SPRINGFIELD – As spring sets in and more people head outside, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is reminding everyone to leave baby birds and young animals alone when they encounter them in the wild.

Well-intentioned people may believe they're helping nature by taking possession of young rabbits, fawn deer, baby birds and other animals that appear to be orphaned or abandoned. However, in nearly all cases, human intervention does more to hurt animals than to help. Young birds and animals are still being fed and cared for by their parents, who usually stay away from nests and dens if humans are nearby.

"The most helpful thing people can do for wildlife is to enjoy the animals through observation, not interference," said IDNR Director Natalie Phelps Finnie. "If you really care about the animals, just leave them alone when you come across them in nature."

The Illinois Wildlife Code provides legal protection for wildlife. Keeping wild animals as pets, or to raise wild animals believed to have been abandoned is prohibited. Additionally, agency re-

sponses to incidents involving illegal captive wildlife can be costly and divert time from other important work.

Most wild birds are protected by the Wildlife Code. This includes protection of eggs, nests, and feathers. Migratory birds are also protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Some additional reminders about wildlife in Illinois:

- **Birds:** Birds often leave the nest before they can fly. Known as fledglings, these birds will live on the ground for a few days while they grow flight feathers, and you may hear them making noises calling for their parents. They do this so their parents will continue to feed them, and it doesn't mean they are in trouble. Keep children and pets away.

- **Deer:** A fawn left on its own is not necessarily abandoned. Young fawns don't possess the speed or stamina to flee until they are about two weeks old. As a result, their mothers will leave them to lie quietly and motionless in nearby tall grass or brushy cover while they forage. A fawn may truly be orphaned if

you notice it in the same spot for two or three days and constantly calling for its mother. At that point, it's time to call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator to aid the fawn.

- **Rabbits:** Rabbits often build their nests in shallow holes or depressions in the ground, and they're frequently found in the middle of lawns and gardens. Mother rabbits commonly return to the nest only at dusk and dawn to feed their young, limiting daytime activity to prevent predators from noticing. Rabbits will begin to leave the nest around three or four weeks of age. Young rabbits outside the nest do not need help, but it's important to keep children or pets away from the nest and venturing babies.

Know the rules for feeding and handling wildlife

There are strict rules on feeding wildlife in areas where wild deer are present, as laid out in Illinois Administrative Code 17-635. It's also a good idea to limit feeding other wildlife species. To limit nuisance activity, do not leave pet food outside at night, clean up under bird feeders, secure the lids on garbage cans to keep raccoons and other wildlife



out, and don't feed Canada geese in urban or suburban areas.

Handling wild animals can result in the handler being bitten. According to the Centers for Disease Control, wild mammals that bite a person should be euthanized immediately and tested for rabies. Many species of wildlife can also carry zoonotic diseases, which are diseases that can be passed on to people. Some of these diseases are serious and can even be fatal.

Illinois has experienced multiple Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (bird flu) mortality events in wild birds, mostly waterfowl,

this winter. The public is reminded not to handle or attempt to capture waterfowl or other wild birds displaying signs of illness.

Wildlife generally have more offspring than habitats can support. This means it's normal for many offspring to become part of the food chain and not survive. It's difficult to see this play out in person, but it's very common, and most species continue to thrive even if more than half of their young don't survive to adulthood.

"We understand that the desire to help wildlife is strong, but it often comes at a cost," said IDNR wildlife chief Mike

Wefer. "Survival rates for relocated wildlife are very low, and the risk of accidentally moving diseases from one place to another is high."

Anyone with questions about care for possibly abandoned wildlife should contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator before removing or relocating wildlife to be sure it's in the best interest of the animal and ensure the rehabber has the room and expertise to treat it.

To learn more about orphaned animals; potential wildlife conflicts; and keeping people, pets, and wildlife safe, visit Wildlife Illinois.org

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THE BACK PAGE

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

EARLVILLE TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALES
Friday, April 25 & Saturday, April 26
7 a.m.-5 p.m.

2t16r

Addresses sought for Mendota townwide 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.

Advertise your sale here!

Mendota VFW plans fundraiser taco dinner on April 19

MENDOTA – The Mendota VFW Post 4079 will be having a fundraiser dinner on Saturday, April 19 at the VFW building, 610 Sixth St., Mendota. The VFW will be serving Tacos Guzman from 4-8 p.m. Dine-in and carry-outs will be available. There will also be drink specials.

The Mendota VFW will use the funds for the continued support of the community.

Sublette Easter Egg Hunt set for April 19 in Centennial Park

SUBLETTE – The village of Sublette will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19 at the Sublette Centennial Park. Join the fun beginning at 10 a.m. at the park pavilion.

There will be lots of prizes and lots of fun.

The Easter Egg Hunt is hosted by the Sub-Let Indians 4-H Club.

POLICE BLOTTER

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Kristine A. Burton, 60, of 508 11th Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after police officers investigated a one-vehicle accident at 11th Avenue and Fifth Street at 9 p.m. April 8. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED

Bethany R. Youssi, 24, of 500 Sixth Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license revoked after police officers investigated a reckless driver complaint at 9:13 p.m. April 10. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WRIT WARRANT

Kelly Gloria, 48, of 149 U.S. Route 34, Mendota, was arrested at 3:46 p.m.

April 11 for a LaSalle County civil writ warrant after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and East Fourth Road. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Emmanuel Then, 34, of 1502 Burlington St., Mendota, was arrested at 7 a.m. April 14 on a Will County warrant for failure to appear/never issued license. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Jeffrey L. Slick, 35, of 1111 Washington St., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and I-39 at 6 a.m. April 15. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DINING
& entertainment guide

Easter Sunday Brunch!
Reservations Recommended
Sunday, April 20
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
\$17.00 per person
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MHS MHS MHS MHS
The Mendota High School Class of 1975
is planning their 50 year class reunion to be held during the weekend of the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival, August 8-10th, 2025. The weekend kicks off Friday night August 8th with a "Meet and Greet" at Craig Pohl's Bar and Grill. On Saturday morning August 9th, classmates can tour the new Mendota High School followed by the commemoration of a class tree dedication at the school. Saturday evening's reunion dinner and festivities will be at the Mendota Golf Club. On Sunday, August 10th, the class will be in the Sweet Corn Festival Parade with a class float. The class is currently trying to locate the following classmates: Chris Moore, Gwen LaShonse, Mike Cohn, John McLean, Patricia Million, Susan Martin, Michelle McCoy, Cheryl Miller, Virginia Davis, John Eich, Eileen Egan, Mike Smith, and Nancy Walk. If you can help locate any of these former classmates, please call or text Kim Gehant Pohl at 815-830-0007 or Cherie Spilman Chandler at 815-910-5900.

MHS MHS MHS MHS

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Anything that still has usability and some value.

2. HOW TO PRICE
Decide the price of each item and then tag that item.

3. LENGTH OF SALE
Sales from Thursday through Saturday seem best.

4. HOW TO SET IT UP
Make it easy for buyers to view the items and have a central place with sufficient change for them to pay.

5. HOW TO ADVERTISE
The most effective place to reach more people is in The Mendota Reporter. We will be happy to assist you in placing your sale ad.

GARAGE SALE DEADLINES*

MONDAY, 10 AM -
To appear in Wednesday's Reporter
* On a week with a holiday, deadlines may change. Please call to verify.

The Mendota Reporter

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SPORTS



Mendota's Sebastian Carlos leaves the rest of the field in the dust on his way to a first-place finish in the 400-meter dash in the Don Gooden Invitational on April 12 at Mendota. (Reporter photos)

El-Paso-Gridley dominates Gooden Invite

□ Mendota's Elam takes first place in two events, Carlos motors to 400m dash victory

MENDOTA – El Paso-Gridley dominated on both the boys' and girls' sides as each of the Titan teams took first place in the Don Gooden Track & Field Invitational on April 12 at the Prusator Sports Complex.

In girls' action, El Paso-Gridley piled up 150 points to easily outdistance second-place Amboy, which scored 94.5 points. Mendota finished in sixth place out of 14 teams with 49 points.

Mariyah Elam led the Lady Trojans by picking up their only two first-place finishes. She tied for first in the high jump with a leap of 5-4 and easily outran the rest of the field in capturing the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 47.53.

Elam had Mendota's only second-place finish with a distance of 34-2 in the triple jump.

In boys' competition, El Paso-Gridley again won the team title by a wide margin, accumulating 146 points, while Sandwich was second with 90.5 points. The Trojans scored 28 points and took 11th place out of 15 squads.

Sebastian Carlos was Mendota's lone first-place finisher as he posted a time of 50.38 in the 400-meter dash. Teammate Anthony Kelson grabbed second-place honors in the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:41.89.

April 12-Don Gooden Invitational (Girls)

El Paso-Gridley 150, Amboy 94.5, Bureau Valley 78, LowPoint-Washburn 72, Sandwich 65.5, Mendota 49, Newark 41.5, Kewanee Westersfield 39, Princeton 32.5, Hall 22, Somonauk 18.5, Fieldcrest 15.5, Earlville 12, Hinckley-Big Rock 10



Mendota's Mariyah Elam takes one of her attempts in the high jump during the Don Gooden Invitational on April 12 at Mendota.

Mendota 1st place: Mariyah Elam, high jump, 5-4; Elam, 300m hurdles, 47.53

Mendota 2nd place: Elam, triple jump, 34-2

Mendota 3rd place: 4x200m relay (Riley Erlenborn, Elam, Kate Strouss, Aby Buettner), 1:57.21

Mendota 4th place: Rylee Woods, high jump, 4-10

Mendota 5th place: Buettner, 100m dash, 13.78; 4x800m relay (Savannah Lenert, Hannah Kunz, Erlenborn, Elaina Koch), 11:52.46

Mendota 6th place: 4x100m relay (Harlow Foltyniewicz, Klaire Knaff, Christianah Brown, Buettner), 55.49

El Paso-Gridley 146, Sandwich 90.5, Bureau Valley 81, Princeton 67, Plano 64.5, Kewanee Wethersfield 39, Fieldcrest 39, Somonauk 37, Low Point-Washburn 30, Amboy 29.5, Mendota 28, Hall 23, Hinckley-Big Rock 19, Earlville 7, Newark 1.5

Mendota 1st place: Sebastian Carlos, 400m dash, 50.38

Mendota 2nd place: Anthony Kelson, 1600m run, 4:41.89

Mendota 5th place: 4x400m relay (Carlos, Kelson, Hector Gonzalez, Komen Denault), 3:48.23; Denault, pole vault, 10-0

Mendota 7th place: 4x100m relay (Carlos, Jayden Lesley, Ethan Escatel, Danny Correa), 47.85

Lady Trojans hit rough patch with three losses

A huge first inning propelled Hall to a 15-5 win over Mendota in a Three Rivers Conference varsity softball game on April 8 at Spring Valley.

Hall sent 14 batters to the plate in the first inning and scored 10 runs on six hits.

Mendota scored its first run in the third when Ava Eddy led off with a single and eventually came home on a wild pitch.

The Lady Trojans plated three runs in the fourth with Karson Doyle delivering a two-run single, while Addison Perryman socked a run-scoring double in the

fifth to drive in Cassie Gonzalez, who singled to open the frame.

Hall finished off the game via the 10-run rule with four tallies in the bottom of the fifth.

Eddy was the losing pitcher.

Mendota and Somonauk combined for 55 hits and 59 runs in an astonishing 30-29 victory by the Lady Bobcats on April 9 at Somonauk.

The Lady Trojans owned an 11-3 lead heading to the bottom of the fifth when Somonauk scored 10 runs to take a 13-11 advantage.

Mendota responded in the top of the sixth with a huge 11-run inning to go back in front, 22-13, but Somonauk answered with 12 tallies in the bottom of the sixth to grab a 25-22 lead.

The seesaw game went back in Mendota's favor when it plated seven runs in the top of the seventh to forge ahead 29-25, but Somonauk made its final at-bat worthwhile when it pushed across five runs in the bottom of the seventh to pull out the improbable victory.

The Lady Trojans finished with 26 hits. Multiple

hits were collected by Eddy (four singles, three RBI), Leah Henkel (two singles, two RBI), Talia White (two singles, triple, two RBI), Perryman (double, home run, two RBI), Doyle (single, double, four RBI), Karissa Freeman (three singles, double, two RBI), Alexis Nave (three singles, two RBI) and Hayley Diaz (four singles, three RBI).

Three Mendota pitchers—Henkel, Freeman and Eddy—gave up 29 hits.

See Softball, Page B2



Mendota's Aby Buettner takes the baton handoff from Christianah Brown during the 4x100-meter relay in the Don Gooden Invitational on April 12 at Mendota.

Lady Trojans claim 4 firsts in Seneca meet

SENECA – The Mendota girls' track team went up against four other schools in the Fighting Irish meet at Seneca on April 10. The host school topped the point standings with 157, followed by Coal City (87), Mendota (75), Marquette (27) and DePue (2).

The Lady Trojans turned in four first-place finishes. Mariyah Elam took a pair of individual firsts in the 300-meter hurdles (48.91) and the long jump (17-3), while she also ran the final leg of the winning 4x100-meter relay team, which broke the tape in a time of 54.47. The other runners were Harlow Foltyniewicz, Kate Strouss and Aby Buettner. The Lady Trojans' other winning event came from Savannah Lenert in the 1600-meter run with a clocking of 6:44.49.

April 10 @ Seneca

Seneca 157, Coal City 87, Mendota 75, Marquette 27, DePue 2

Mendota 1st place: Savannah Lenert, 1600m run, 6:44.49; Mariyah Elam, 300m hurdles, 48.91; Elam, long jump, 17-3; 4x100m relay (Harlow Foltyniewicz, Kate Strouss, Aby Buettner, Elam), 54.47

Mendota 2nd place: Buettner, 100m dash, 13.38; 4x400m relay (Lenert, Hannah Kunz, Strouss, Elam), 4:44.91; Rylee Woods, high jump, 4-8; Buettner, long jump, 16-9

Mendota 3rd place: Eden Pecher, 100m hurdles, 19.91; Buettner, 300m hurdles, 56.22; 4x200m relay (Kara Miars, Woods, Alexa Carlos, Christianah Brown), 2:09.23; Foltyniewicz, high jump, 4-6

Mendota 4th place: Pecher, triple jump, 25-5

Mendota 5th place: Kunz, 800m run, 2:57.59; 4x100m relay B (Brooklyn Baxa, Reushawna Durr, Riley Erlenborn, Klaire Knaff), 59.74

Girls' soccer improves season record to 10-3-1

The Mendota girls' soccer team blanked Sterling, 3-0, on April 9 at the MHS field.

Crystal Garcia continued her onslaught of goals with two for the Lady Trojans, while Kamilah Preciado had the other goal. Assists went to Kaley Siemer (two) and Briza Cervantes.

Mendota pitched another shutout with an 8-0 whitewashing at DePue on April 10.

Addi Jones scored a pair of goals for the Lady Trojans, while one goal apiece went to Garcia, Preciado, Siemer, Noemi Arteaga, Elaina Reddin and Zariah Escatel. Garcia assisted on five of the team's goals, while Preciado and Laylie Denault also picked up assists.

The Lady Trojans won, lost and tied in the Princeton Tournament on April 12.

Mendota dropped a 4-1 decision to Dixon in the opener. Ella Coss scored the goal off an assist from Garcia.

In game two, Mendota and Streator battled to a 0-0 tie.

In the tournament finale, the Lady Trojans shutout Sterling, 1-0. Garcia got the Mendota goal.

Mendota was a 2-0 winner over Monmouth-Roseville on April 14 at the MHS field.

Garcia kicked in both of Mendota's goals with one assist from Jones.

The Lady Trojans have a 10-3-1 record.

Trojans collect narrow wins over Somonauk, Hall on baseball diamond

Mendota's bats were stymied in a 10-0 setback to Hall in Three Rivers Conference varsity baseball action on April 8 at Spring Valley.

Hall junior pitcher Braden Curran tossed a two-hitter, striking out 11 and walking two. The Trojans only managed singles by Evan McPheeters in the second and Braiden Freeman in the sixth.

Hall led 4-0 through five innings and then pushed across six runs in the sixth to end the game by the 10-run rule. Curran helped his own cause by doubling home three runs to end the game.

The Red Devils collected eight hits off of three Mendota pitchers. Dane Doyle pitched into the fifth and took the loss. McPheeters and Esten Otero also had stints on the hill.

The Trojans held on to edge Somonauk, 11-10, on April 9 at Somonauk.

Mendota built a 7-1 lead after two innings. The Trojans scored five runs in the first. Freeman, McPheeters and Payton Gagliardo singled in the inning, while Oscar Castaneda ripped a double. McPheeters and Castaneda each drove in one run and Gagliardo had two RBI.

In the second, Brody Hartt and McPheeters had RBI singles.

Somonauk crept closer with two runs in the third and two in the fourth. The Trojans were able to stretch the lead back to 11-5 with four tallies in the fifth on singles by Doyle, Jack Gillespie and Castaneda.

As it turned out, Mendota needed all of the runs it got as the Bobcats scored five times

over the final two innings, but came up one run short.

The Trojans had 10 hits in the contest – two each by Doyle, McPheeters and Castaneda.

Mendota used three pitchers, starting with Gillespie, then Collin Coss and finally McPheeters. Somonauk managed five hits.

Mendota needed eight innings to defeat Hall, 4-3, on April 10 at the MHS diamond.

Each team scored a run in the second, Mendota's coming on a sacrifice fly by Otero to plate Gillespie, who led off with a single.

Then in the fourth, both squads put two runs on the board and the game stayed

See Baseball, Page B2



Mendota's Jack Gillespie kicks up some dirt with a head-first slide into home plate on April 14 at Princeton. (Photo courtesy of Bureau County Republican)

SPORTS

Kelson earns two firsts at Seneca meet

SENECA—The Mendota boys' track team returned to action with a third-place finish in the five-team Fighting Irish meet on April 10 at Seneca. The Trojans scored 69 points, while Seneca won with 135 and Coal City tallied 89. Marquette (65) and DePue (9) also competed.

Anthony Kelson recorded two of Mendota's three first-places finishes. He beat the field in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:09.03 and captured the 1600-meter run in 4:51.08. Gavin Stevenson took the other top spot, winning the 3200-meter run in a time of 11:34.18.

April 10 @ Seneca
Seneca 135, Coal City 89, Mendota 69, Marquette 65, DePue 9

Mendota 1st place: Anthony Kelson, 800m run, 2:09.03; Kelson, 1600m run, 4:51.08; Gavin Stevenson, 3200m run, 11:34.18

Mendota 2nd place: Sebastian Carlos, 200m dash, 23.45; Komen Denault, 400m dash, 59.34; Stevenson, 1600m run, 5:26.96; Robert Botello, long jump, 18-6

Mendota 3rd place: Spencer Kain, 3200m run, 12:48.11; 4x100m relay (Carlos, Jayden Lesley, Botello, Ethan Escatel), 47.49; 4x200m relay (Carlos, Jayden Lesley, Botello, Danny Correa), 1:41.28; Escatel, long jump, 18-3

Mendota 4th place: Carlos Toribio, 800m run, 2:24.25

Mendota 5th place: Hector Gonzalez, 400m dash, 1:03.12; Kain, 1600m run, 6:06.37; Jayden Lesley, long jump, 18-0

Illinois youth turkey hunters set harvest record for 2025 season

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois youth turkey hunters harvested a preliminary record total of 2,091 birds during the 2025 youth turkey season, breaking the previous harvest record of 2,010 set in 2024.

The dates for this year's season were March 29-30 and April 5-6. A total of 6,573 youth turkey permits were issued this year, compared to 6,541 in 2024.

The top five counties for harvest during this year's youth season were Jefferson 69; Pike 69; Randolph 67; Fayette 62; Macoupin 60.

Turkey harvest totals for area counties were Bureau 19; LaSalle 7; Lee 14; Ogle 27; Whiteside 26

Garcia puts her name in Rock Valley record books

□ Mendota High School graduate to take her goalkeeping talents to Eureka College this fall

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA—When Naitzy Garcia graduated Mendota High School in 2023 she committed to play soccer at Rock Valley College because of her pure love for the game.

She would have never guessed by the time her two years were up at the junior college level she would be all over the Golden Eagles goalkeeper record books.

"It was pretty exciting when I saw the records and my place in the program history. It definitely motivated me," Garcia said. "I didn't know there were records or lists for our school until the end of last season when our coach told us girls on the team had broken records."

"It motivated me to play better, but there are some things you don't think about until they happen. It wasn't like I was thinking about being No. 1 in something during the season, I just kept playing and improving my game, and they happened."

"It's very rewarding. These records give you some validity and reassurance all the time spent outside was worth it. It's nice to see that what I was seeing and thinking, was being displayed and paid off."

Garcia is No. 1 in shutouts in a season with 13, No. 1 in shutouts for a career (17), No. 3 in saves in a season (60), No. 2 in saves in a career (126), No. 5 in goals against

average in a season (.86), No. 7 in goals against average for a career (1.08), No. 1 in minutes played in a season (1,980), and No. 1 in minutes played in a career (3,261).



N. Garcia

she led the nation in shutouts for two weeks straight and only allowed four goals in 16 games of region play.

Although the Golden Eagles didn't win a national championship either year, Garcia loved every minute of her program record setting time in the net.

"It was definitely a different experience my second year. Last year, we had two goalkeepers and I was the starter, but this year, the backup couldn't play for personal reasons," Garcia said. "They told me I was going to start and play every single game."

"I came into the season prepared, but it was definitely a lot more pressure at that level. There is added pressure because if I got hurt, there is literally no one to play."

"It did happen though. I sprained

my ankle two days before the post-season started. I played through the sprain during the playoffs and we made it to Huntsville, Ala., the NJCAA Division II Women's Soccer Championships."

There was also a change from season to season in the competition as RVC was forced to add tougher teams because not everyone who played them last year wanted to play them in the 2024-25 campaign because of how good the Golden Eagles had become.

This added to the pressure Garcia felt in the goal. However, it didn't keep her from polishing her craft and giving it her all every match.

"It's always a great experience getting to go to the finals or the championships; going back-to-back was even cooler," Garcia said. "We had a lot of returning players, so we knew there was a chance we could go back. We still had to put in all of the work."

"It's a surreal feeling knowing we were able to go the championships twice. As a goalkeeper, there is a lot of responsibility that goes unnoticed. The adrenaline you feel knowing you're getting closer and closer to the tournament is so cool and a driving motivation throughout regional play."

"Last year, we all wanted it so bad because half the team was made of star players who didn't make it far in regional play the year before."

We were all hungry for something knowing we could have it. Once we got it, it was huge."

Throughout her soccer career in both high school and junior college, Garcia has worked for her uncle, Sandro Guzman, at the Taco Guzman food truck.

She'll be there all summer as she has to save money for her next education and athletics move, Eureka College.

Garcia is transferring to continue her career in the goal and to further her education in forensic psychology.

"I had a lot of schools reach out such as schools in North Dakota, Tennessee, two in northern Indiana, West Virginia, and two schools in Wisconsin. They just weren't close enough to home for me," said Garcia, who is looking into an internship with the FBI, Federal Bureau of Investigation. "I need to be within an hour from home because I'm very family orientated. I considered going away, but I never really fully thought leaving home was what I wanted to do. Eureka is one hour and five minutes away."

"Eureka is rebuilding the program, so it's going to be a big shift from a national championship qualifying team to a team that had two wins last year. I'm excited for the challenge. I feel like it will be a new opportunity to see what else I have internally as a goalkeeper. What more can I give?"

Chronic wasting disease detected in 4 additional Illinois counties

SPRINGFIELD—Chronic wasting disease, or CWD, has been detected in Putnam, Marshall, Adams, and Peoria counties, expanding the geographic presence of the disease in free-ranging deer populations in northern Illinois, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced today.

Adams County is the first documented case recorded outside of the leading edge of the CWD endemic region.

CWD is an always-fatal neurological disease that affects the long-term health of white-tailed deer in Illinois. First documented in Illinois in 2002 near Roscoe, CWD has been detected in 25 counties across northern Illinois and now as far south as Adams County in west-central Illinois.

In early February 2025, CWD was detected and confirmed through diagnostic testing in Putnam, Marshall, and Adams counties from routine surveillance of hunter-harvested deer. Peoria County was confirmed in a 2-year-old deer exhibiting clinical signs consistent with CWD infection using

the same diagnostic testing procedures. Following standard protocol, samples from Adams County underwent genetic testing to ensure genetic matches between submitted tissue samples and source deer.

Affected Illinois counties now include Adams, Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Ford, Grundy, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Marshall, McHenry, Ogle, Peoria, Putnam, Stephenson, Will, and Winnebago.

CWD management is important to the overall health of Illinois' deer herd. A primary goal of ongoing CWD management in Illinois includes lowering prevalence in affected areas to slow the spread of the disease. Those management efforts have kept prevalence low in the state for almost an entire generation of deer hunters.

"Illinois is a national leader in managing and slowing the spread of CWD, and over the past two decades IDNR's program has served as a model for other states," said IDNR Director Natalie



Phelps Finnie.

While the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have not linked CWD to human transmission, they recommend against eating meat from CWD-positive deer. Hunters are encouraged to have their deer tested and avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, and other tissues known to harbor the CWD agent.

Go online at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website for additional information about CWD management in Illinois,

including updates made to the program in 2024. For more information about these detections or about CWD, contact Chris Jacques, wildlife disease program manager, at chris.jacques@illinois.gov.

IDNR wildlife biologists will be available to discuss current management strategies and answer questions about CWD in public meetings anticipated to occur later this year. Meeting dates and locations will be released at a later date. Landowners, hunters, and interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Kids' Fishing Expo scheduled for May 10 in Peru

PERU – The 25th annual Kids' Free Fishing Expo is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Baker Lake in Peru. Baker Lake is located on Airport Road north of Shooting Park Road and one-half mile south of Wenzel Road.

Featured at the expo will be beginning fishing "how-to" clinics for boys and girls ages 6 and up with sessions

every 15 minutes, fishing games with prizes, casting games, free bait, fishing literature and tips from local fishermen. Participants will also learn to cast, tie a knot, bait a hook, tie a fly, identify your catch, clean a fish and more.

A limited number of fishing poles will be available for loan. Food, games, drinks and snacks will also be provided.

The event is sponsored by The Better Fishing Association of Northern Illinois, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Peru Rescue Station, in association with the cities of Peru and LaSalle.

For more information, contact Mark Dudek at 815-220-3901 or Barry Welbers at 815-488-2035.

Baseball

Continued from Page B1

tied through regulation. McPheeters walked and Gillespie singled to start the Trojan fourth. Otero singled in one run and Coss drove in the other with a fielder's choice.

Mendota won it in the bottom of eighth when Freeman led off with a double, advanced to third on a sacrifice by Hartt and scampered home on a single by Doyle.

The Trojans had seven hits in the contest, led by Freeman with two doubles and a single. Gillespie added a pair of singles.

Freeman got the ball to start the game and pitched into the seventh before leaving in favor of Otero, who was credited with the win. Hall managed five hits.

Mendota dropped a 6-2 decision at Princeton in Three Rivers Conference action on April 14.

Princeton led 6-0 through six innings before the Trojans avoided the shutout with a pair of runs in the seventh. Otero ripped a double to plate both runs.

Doyle got the ball to start the game and pitched five innings, allowing nine hits and striking out two. Otero finished up on the hill.

Softball

Continued from Page B1

It was a closer game between Mendota and Hall when they met April 10 at the MHS field, but the Lady Red Devils prevailed again, 13-10.

After Hall scored twice in the first, Mendota got one run back in the bottom of the inning on an RBI single by White, but the Lady Red Devils scored a pair in the second to make it 4-1.

After a scoreless third inning, both teams put runs on the board over the final four frames. Mendota got an RBI single off the bat of Henkel in a two-run fifth to cut Hall's lead to four (8-4), but Hall scored five runs over the final two innings and the Lady Trojans scored six to fall short.

In Mendota's sixth, Hayley Diaz drove in a run with a ground out and Eddy singled in a run, while in seventh, Nave delivered a run-scoring single and Diaz walked with the bases loaded.

Mendota had eight singles in the contest with Henkel and Nave getting two each. Hall totaled 12 hits off of Diaz and Henkel.

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Golf recruit

Mendota High School senior Dessa Komitas, center, signs a letter of intent to attend Wisconsin Lutheran College to play golf for the Warriors this fall. She is flanked by her parents, Peter and Theresa Komitas. Back row, left to right, are brother Christopher, Dessa's golf lesson coach Patrick Guilfoyle, and brother Evan. Wisconsin Lutheran is an NCAA Division III college located in Milwaukee and is a member of the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference. (Photo contributed)

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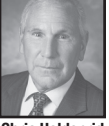
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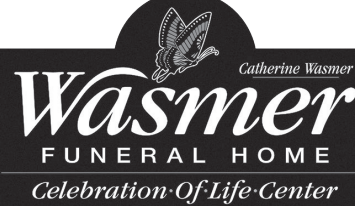
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HOME IMPROVEMENT



A relaxing backyard retreat can make for an ideal space to escape the hustle and bustle of daily life.

How to establish a peaceful backyard retreat

Backyards have undergone quite a transformation over the last decade-plus. The days when patios and decks were all a backyard living space had to offer are largely a thing of the past, as homeowners have realized just how valuable it can be to commit to a stunning backyard.

The real estate experts at Zillow estimate that homes with backyard features such as outdoor televisions, outdoor showers and outdoor kitchens command 3.1 percent more than expected upon reaching the market. If 3.1 percent doesn't sound like a lot, it actually equates to nearly \$11,000 on a typical home. But there's more to gain than money when converting a backyard space into a relaxing respite. Such spaces can provide a welcoming escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life, all the while giving

homeowners and residents a comfortable space to soak in the great outdoors. With that in mind, homeowners can take the following steps to establish a peaceful backyard retreat.

- Refresh the landscape. Even if your vision is centered on outdoor furniture and a space that accommodates movie nights under the stars, it's still best to refresh the existing landscape if it needs a little upkeep. Overgrown trees, hedges and bushes can create the same cluttered vibe that dominates interior spaces overrun with items. If necessary, work with a local tree service or landscape architect to trim, or even remove, trees and hedges that are crowding the backyard and making it feel claustrophobic or giving it an unkempt look. Aim for a landscape that affords a balance of sun and shade so the space is as comfortable as

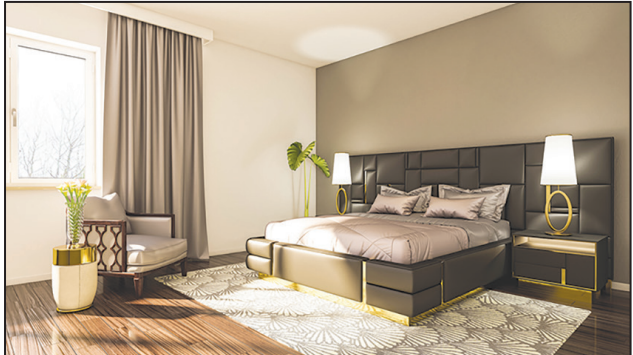
possible throughout the day.

- Set up multiple gathering spaces, if possible. Once a backyard retreat is established, everyone who calls the property home might find the space hard to resist. Keep this in mind when planning the space and aim to set up multiple gathering spaces. An outdoor kitchen with a nearby dinner table can be a great space to enjoy al fresco dining, but a separate area to read a book or watch a movie or ballgame can make the space more versatile. Some may want to relax away from the noise of the grill area, and multiple gathering spaces ensures there's always a peaceful spot to unwind out back.
- Add a water feature. Running water has a way of calming the nerves, and that's good to keep in mind when planning a backyard retreat. Water features run the gamut from garden

ponds to koi ponds to fountains to hot tubs. Homeowners can identify which feature best aligns with their idea of relaxation and then work with a landscape architect to ensure it's installed in their backyard oasis.

- Don't forget shade. Temperatures are rising in many areas of the globe, and that's worth noting when planning a backyard retreat. Even the most ardent sun worshippers likely won't want to be exposed to the sun at all times when relaxing in their backyards. Strategically chosen means of providing shade can make spaces enjoyable all day long. Consider umbrellas, gazebos, pergolas, and even retractable awnings to cover patios and decks when the sun is at its highest each afternoon. If you plan to spend ample time in the grass, make that more enjoyable by planting shade trees, which also can protect the grass from drought and make it more comfortable underfoot.

A relaxing backyard retreat can make for an ideal space to escape the hustle and bustle of daily life.



Homeowners can ensure bedrooms embody the notion that homes are sanctuaries for their residents.

Tips to make a bedroom a more relaxing space

Homes are often characterized as sanctuaries. A home's interior spaces can provide a respite from the hustle and bustle of daily life no matter what's going on in the outside world.

Perhaps no space inside a home should be more relaxing than a bedroom. But bedrooms are not impervious to the hectic pace of life unless homeowners make a concerted effort to transform these spaces into relaxing respites. By implementing a variety of strategies, homeowners can ensure bedrooms embody the notion that homes are sanctuaries for their residents.

- Install new window treatments. Blinds, curtains, shades, and other window treatments come in a variety of styles and colors, ensuring there's at least one out there that can match an existing design scheme in a bedroom. Window treatments can be utilized to create a cozy vibe in a bedroom, blocking out lights from outside, including natural light from the sun and moon but also street lamps and decorative lights from neighboring properties. This can ensure bedrooms are a peaceful and welcoming respite when homeowners and residents return home each night.
- Make the room a device-free zone. If escapism is an end goal, then turning a bedroom into a device-free zone is a must. Televisions, tablets and smartphones ensure the distractions and stressors of everyday life are never too far away, so removing these devices from bedrooms can help to establish a more peaceful bedroom environment. In addition, the National Sleep Foundation reports that using devices in a bedroom tends to reduce sleep duration by delaying the time users go to sleep.
- Reconsider the lighting. Bedroom lighting is another variable that merits consideration when trying to transform the space into a more relaxing room. Ambient lighting can be utilized to create a soft and welcoming atmosphere in the room. Dimmable lights also allow residents to adjust the amount of light depending on the time of day. Lights can be bright when getting dressed in the morning, and then turned down when residents are going to bed and want to unwind before closing their eyes.
- Clear out clutter. A cluttered bedroom is more than an eyesore. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners notes that clutter can contribute to anxiety and adversely affect individuals' ability to sleep and focus. Examine bedrooms to see if there is any unnecessary or overly bulky furnishings that make the spaces feel cramped and cluttered. Remove those items when possible, or consider working with a contractor to expand the room if budget and space allows.

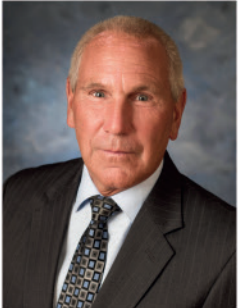
Bedrooms can be respites within the larger sanctuary that homes are meant to be. That's especially so when residents implement strategies to transform bedrooms into more relaxing spaces.

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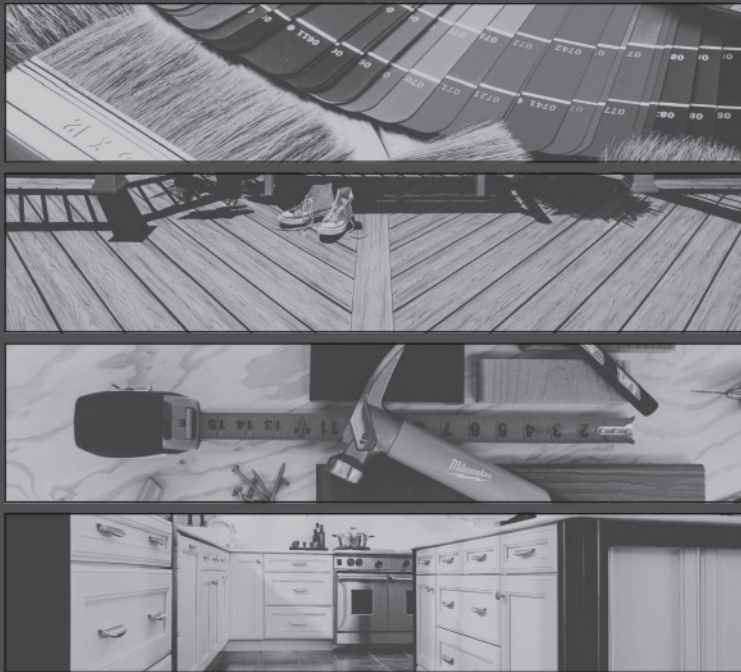


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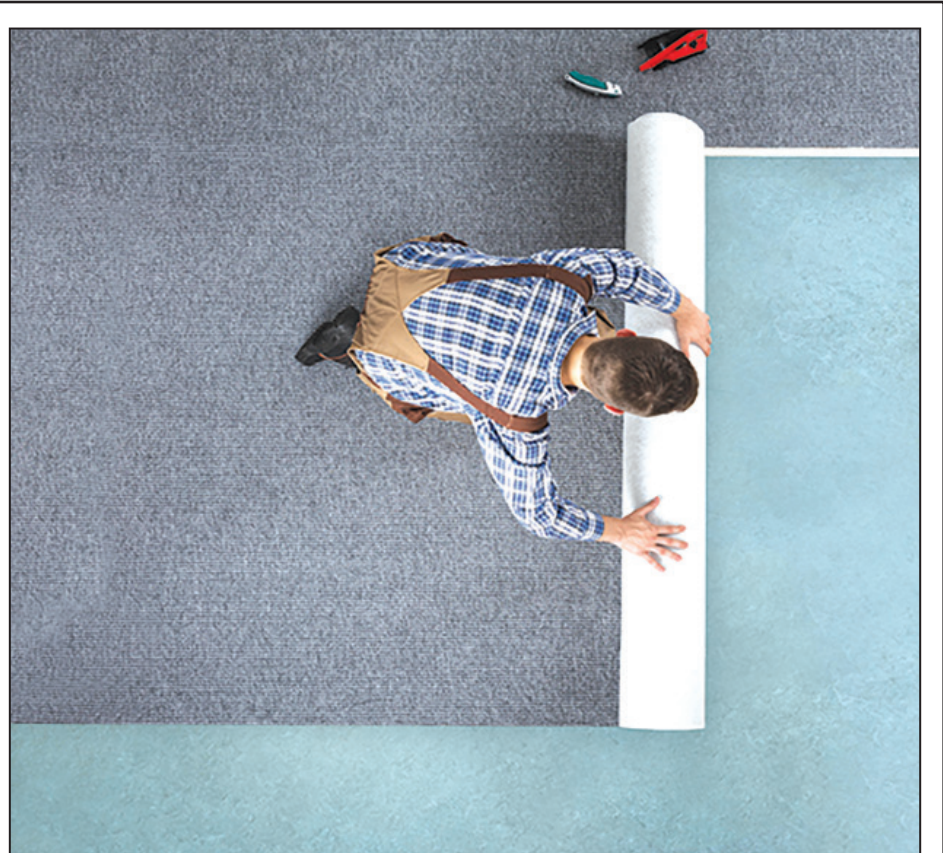
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HOME IMPROVEMENT



Carpeting can help make a home feel more cozy and welcoming. Homeowners can work with a local carpeting retailer to find a carpet that meets their needs and fits their budget.

Common questions and answers about carpeting

No two homeowners are the same, and that's perhaps most evident in the design decisions individuals make when decorating their homes. Flooring is among the first things a person notices when entering a home, and the array of options consumers have when choosing flooring materials underscores how unique each homeowner is.

Carpeting is a popular flooring option. Many homeowners prefer carpeting because they feel it helps to create a cozy, welcoming vibe in a home. Consumers considering carpet for their homes may have some common questions, and answers to those inquiries can help homeowners determine if carpeting is for them.

Is carpeting expensive?

Home renovations are expensive, and the cost of a project is often the first question homeowners have. The cost of carpeting varies widely and is contingent on an array of variables unique to each home and homeowner, including square footage, materials chosen by the homeowner and the cost of labor associated with installation, which can vary significantly between locations. According to the online renovation resource HomeAdvisor, the average cost to install or replace carpet is between \$782 and \$2,812. That wide range illustrates how much the cost of the project will be affected by variables unique to each project. However, even homeowners who come in around or above the high end of that estimate may find carpet installation is among the more affordable ways to give the interior of a home an entirely new look and feel.

How different are carpeting materials?

Carpeting materials differ in their look, feel and function. The home renovation experts at Angi.com note that some carpet fibers are better suited to areas in a home that attract a lot of foot traffic, while others make for better options in areas with less use, such as a bedroom or home office. For example, Angi.com notes that polyester has a luxurious, soft feel, making it a strong option for bedroom floors. Nylon carpet fiber is resistant to stains and damage and maintains its height under heavy weight, making this a good option in heavily trafficked rooms. Homeowners can discuss each carpeting material with their flooring retailer to determine which suits their budget and which is best in each room of their homes.

Is carpet padding a must?

Carpet padding is one of the costs associated with carpeting. When shopping for carpeting for the first time, homeowners may notice carpet padding costs on their estimate and wonder what it is and if it's truly necessary. Carpet padding is necessary, as it keeps the underside of the carpet from wearing against the subfloor while absorbing the impact of foot traffic and furniture. That absorption helps to reduce stress on the carpet and thus extend its life expectancy. Carpet padding also can have an insulating effect and help to reduce sound in a room. So while carpet padding might be a costly expense on an itemized estimate, it's well worth the investment.

Carpeting can help make a home feel more cozy and welcoming. Homeowners can work with a local carpeting retailer to find a carpet that meets their needs and fits their budget.



Some simple tips can help hosts turn their guest rooms into welcoming spaces for their loved ones.

Tips to help make guest rooms more welcoming

Millions of celebrants welcome family and friends into their home as overnight guests throughout the year. Hosting loved ones during special occasions is a selfless act that enables families to create the kind of lasting memories that make these get-togethers such a special time for everyone.

As hosts prepare their homes for loved ones, they can consider these tips to make guests rooms as welcoming as possible for friends and family.

- Check the bedding and replace, if necessary. It's easy to overlook the comfort of bedding in a guest room, particularly since hosts may never sleep in their own guest rooms. When furnishing a guest room, it's not unheard of to repurpose an existing mattress from an owner's suite or another room and use for guest room bedding. Though that's acceptable, it's necessary to periodically inspect a guest room mattress to make sure it's still comfortable and supportive. If not, replace the mattress. A mattress topper, a new comforter and a new set of soft sheets also can make guest room bedding more comfortable.

- Clear out the clutter. Guest rooms can easily become depositories for old furniture and other items, which can create a cluttered and less than welcoming atmosphere in a space. Give each guest room a thorough once-over before guests arrive, removing pieces

that might be creating a claustrophobic vibe. Keep in mind that guests will bring luggage, so a less cluttered space with ample room for their bags can make it easier to settle in.

- Take a cue from hotels. Hotels ensure guests have ample creature comforts at their fingertips. Holiday hosts can do the same when welcoming loved ones into their homes. Provide ample bed and bath linens, ensure the room has ample lighting so guests can read at bedtime and get dressed in plenty of light in the morning. A foldable luggage rack is another nice touch that can keep guests from having to dig through their suitcases on the floor.

- Add an armchair where possible. A spacious guest room allows hosts to provide some extra creature comforts. If the room allows, place a comfortable armchair and side table in the space so guests can read a book or

catch up on the news on a tablet or smartphone. A comfortable, quiet and secluded place to sit provides guests a respite from the hustle and bustle of a home filled with holiday guests.

- Install window coverings, if necessary. A feeling of privacy is another important creature comfort guests will appreciate. Replace existing window treatments if they do not provide adequate privacy or if they do not keep the elements out in the morning. For example, a room that is sun-soaked by early morning each day may make it hard for guests to get sufficient sleep. Some blackout curtains or a new set of blinds allows guests to determine the amount of natural light that will greet them each morning.

Some simple tips can help hosts turn their guest rooms into welcoming spaces for their loved ones.

ATTENTION

The following City of Mendota Ordinances may be helpful to citizens planning their home & yard improvements & maintenance this spring & summer:

CONTRACTORS: All contractors performing work in the City of Mendota MUST be registered. Roofing Contractors must have a State of Illinois Roofing License. Applications may be found at www.Mendota.IL.US or at the City Clerk's Office.

BUILDING PERMIT: Building permits are required for all new buildings or when moving electrical and/or plumbing in existing buildings. Permits are also required for fences, decks, roofs, pools, solar energy systems, driveways, as well as certain water, sewer and/or electrical projects. Please check with the Building Inspector before beginning a project. Required permits must be obtained, purchased and displayed before any work can begin.
815-7459 and jboelk@mendotacity.com

YARD WASTE: Small amounts of yard waste may be burned Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 10am -4pm. Yard waste may be taken to the Burn Pit is open on Mondays 3pm-6pm, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am - 1pm. It is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays and is located at 1203 S. 7th Ave.

GRASS: When mowing, it is illegal to throw grass clippings into the street in order to avoid storm sewer blockages. Grass must be 6 inches high or less.

WATER BILLS: Water Bills are mailed on the last day of each month and are due on the 15th. Automatic debits and emailed bills are available. Applications for each can be found at www.Mendota.IL.US/services or at the City Clerk's office.

ANIMALS: Owners of dogs and cats must register their animals at the City Clerk's office before May 31st of each year at a cost of \$5 per animal. Owners must show proof of rabies vaccine. After May 31st, a late fee of \$10 will be added to the license fee. If you are new to Mendota or acquire a new animal during the year, please register them as soon as possible. You will be charged the normal \$5 fee. All pet owners/keepers are required to clean up and dispose of their pet's waste immediately from any property, public or private, not owned by that person. Fines may be levied against those who violate this ordinance. Disabled persons may be exempt from this ordinance.

For more information on City Ordinances, please contact the Mendota City Clerk's Office at 800 Washington St., Mendota 815-539-7459



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HOME IMPROVEMENT



Homeowners aspiring to transform their home exterior spaces typically must decide between a deck or pavers when the time comes to plan such areas.

How to decide between a deck or pavers in an outdoor remodel

Outdoor living spaces have become sought-after commodities among homeowners. A 2022 survey of homeowners conducted by the New Home Trends Institute found that open yards are less appealing to home buyers than they once were. The survey noted that just 28 percent of respondents chose open yards, while 65 percent preferred patios and 55 percent chose decks. Green spaces remain popular, but the survey indicates that many would-be home buyers also want an outdoor living area to make the most of their home exteriors.

Homeowners aspiring to transform their home exterior spaces typically must decide between a deck or pavers when the time comes to plan such areas. That's a personal choice homeowners must make, but those without strong feelings on either option can consider these tips as they try to decide if a deck or pavers are for them.

• Determine your budget. Budget is a notable variable with any home renovation project, and the addition of an outdoor living space is no exception. The materials homeowners choose will

ultimately determine the cost of each project. For example, composite decking materials tend to cost significantly more than wood decks, but that higher price tag also comes with less maintenance and typically a longer life span. Pavers may prove less expensive than composite decking, but those cost savings may be negligible if a yard requires extensive excavation to prepare an area for a new patio. It requires patience, but gathering estimates of the various materials can serve as a good starting point when planning an outdoor living space. In addition, homeowners must recognize that material costs can fluctuate considerably over time, as such prices are often contingent on a range of variables, including supply chain issues. So it's best to gather estimates in a short period of time to make the most accurate price comparisons.

• Identify your vision for the space. Homeowners who have a vision for their outdoor living space, even if they are not sure about which material they prefer, may find the process goes more quickly and even more smoothly than those who are unsure

Pavers may prove less expensive than composite decking, but those cost savings may be negligible if a yard requires extensive excavation to prepare an area for a new patio. It requires patience, but gathering estimates of the various materials can serve as a good starting point when planning an outdoor living space.

about what they want. Those who prefer a flexible multi-use space may be best going with pavers, as the spaces can be easily converted and areas simply designated as one might differentiate between rooms inside the home. For example, an outdoor living room can be separated with the installation of a pavilion and fireplace, while kitchen and dining areas can be separate spaces on the same patio. Decks tend to be less flexible, which might make them ideal for homeowners who prefer an outdoor dining area but don't need a more expansive entertaining space. Of course, decks can be as big as homeowners choose,

which can make the spaces more multi-functional.

• Recognize both may be in your best interest. Homeowners also should know that many outdoor living spaces feature both a deck and a paver patio. Homeowners may like an elevated deck that steps down to a patio, which can easily distinguish between the spaces and establish the area as a multifunctional space.

Homeowners planning outdoor living space projects may find themselves choosing between a deck and pavers. Each option can work, and homeowners may even want to combine the two.



Finding ways to perform home renovations on a budget may require some creative thinking, but it's possible to get results at the right price point.

Renovate on a budget

Renovations around the house require an investment of time and often considerable amounts of money. Findings from the 2024 U.S. Houzz & Home Study show that home renovations are becoming more expensive. The median renovation spending for homeowners has gone up 60 percent since 2020. Angi, a home services website, reports the average renovation cost for homes between 1,250 and 1,600 square feet is \$51,772, but the final cost of home renovations depends on the scope of the project.

Homeowners who are conserving funds can rest assured that it is possible to make meaningful changes both inside and outside a home without breaking the bank. Here are some ways to renovate a home on a budget.

• Create a budget and don't waver. Figure out exactly what you can afford for a renovation and then make that your maximum dollars spent. Research comparable projects in your area and be honest about whether you can afford the renovation as-is or if you must adapt ideas to fit your price. Make sure to build in a cushion of around 15 to 20 percent for any unforeseen expenses that may arise once a renovation is underway.

• Maximize an existing floor plan. This Old House suggests looking for ways to maximize your current layout before you invest in major renovations like an expansion. Bring in a designer with an eye for utilizing space. For example, see how you might be able to replace shelves with pull-out drawers in the kitchen. Moving furniture around or rethinking floor plans also can help to lower costs.

• Balance DIY with hiring contractors. You can save

money by tackling some projects yourself, but only if you are confident in your renovation skills. Rather than risk making costly mistakes and having to redo things, hire well-vetted professionals but ask if there's any DIY work you can do to cut costs.

• Check clearance and resale stores. Shop discount stores for building materials to save money. For example, if a builder ordered too many cabinets they may offer them to Habitat for Humanity ReStores, which are non-profit home improvement stores and donation centers. Checking the clearance and markdown sections of other stores may yield considerable savings on items needed for a renovation. Warehouse retailers can also be great places to find certain home improvement materials and furnishings.

• Take advantage of free services. Certain stores may offer things like free consultations with designers who can show you what a renovation can look like. This is advantageous to the stores because once you see the potential you're more likely to buy the products, even if it's not mandatory.

• Resurface instead of redo. Certain items can be made to look new with minimal effort. Paint is a relatively inexpensive tool that can transform walls and more. A good hardwood flooring company can buff out a floor and put a new coating instead of an entirely new floor. Kitchen cabinets can be resurfaced instead of replaced as well.

Finding ways to perform home renovations on a budget may require some creative thinking, but it's possible to get results at the right price point.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT



Earthy colors dominate 2025

Change is in the air when a new year arrives. People often use the turn of the calendar as an opportunity to redecorate living spaces or revamp their wardrobes. As individuals narrow down their projects, they may want to incorporate a fresh and trendy palette of colors. For 2025, the options are decidedly warm, cozy and earthy. Industry color experts routinely recommend hues that can elevate homes, offices and other spaces. The following is a selection of shades that insiders predict will color the world for the coming year.

Quietude
Sherwin-Williams has named Quietude its color of the year. This soft sage color exudes serenity and understated luxury. Grayish-green with a touch of blue, Quietude is a soothing color of tranquility. Sherwin-Williams also offers a Color Collection of the Year that includes Convivial Yellow,

Spiced Cider, and Nomadic Desert, among others.

Mocha Mousse
The title of Pantone® Color of the Year 2025 belongs to Mocha Mousse. Just as the name implies, this rich, warm brown suggests the intoxicating qualities of coffee and chocolate. It can create a feeling of comfort in any space, or even serve as the basis of a chocolate wardrobe color palette. According to Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, Mocha Mousse is “sophisticated and lush, yet at the same time an unpretentious classic.”

Purple Basil
Glidden’s 2025 color of the year title belongs to Purple Basil, a dusty, neutral violet purple hue with mauve undertones. It embraces rich, warm energy, and is equally at home in a bedroom as it is in a dining room.

Cinnamon Slate
Cinnamon Slate is moody and introspective. This Ben-

jamin Moore color blends rich plum and chocolate brown that the company calls “adaptable, yet distinct.” In fact, it is quite similar to Glidden’s color of the year, but a tad more brown in nature.

Caramelized
Homeowners may want to consider Caramelized, an earthy terracotta brown that is Dunn-Edwards’ 2025 Color of the Year. Caramelized is versatile and elegant, and it complements both modern and vintage interiors.

Elderton
Paula Taylor, Graham & Brown’s head stylist and trend specialist, calls Elderton “a chameleon color that can be sophisticated yet cozy.” This medium brown is contemporary with a huge amount of depth. It may work in a rustic living room or a cozy library.

The new year arrives with a warm, saturated color palette that can revitalize spaces with cozy appeal.

Why hiring a painter is the right choice

Few home improvements can change the look of a room faster and more affordably than a painting makeover. In fact, homeowners often turn to paint before they make any other renovations. Home Light, a real estate technology company, says painting a home’s interior can net a return on investment as high as 107 percent.

Although painting is a project that can be tackled by do-it-yourselfers, there are various advantages to calling in a professional to handle painting projects. Here is a look at some of the benefits to working with a professional painter.

Cut down on the job time
A professional painter can reduce the project timeline. Painters have the skill set and experience to complete a project in a timely manner. This means the job will be streamlined from preparation to clean-up.

Pay attention to details
Professional painters are likely to do a job that is nearly flawless, especially after homeowners exercise their due diligence and vet painters carefully. Professionals will pay attention to the small details that less experienced painters wouldn’t think about.

Reduce your workload
Painting can be a time-consuming job, and most of it occurs even before you pick up a brush. It can take hours



to prep walls, patch holes, remove moldings, and apply painter’s tape. Homeowners who do not have much time are better off leaving trusting the project to a professional.

Painters already have equipment

Do-it-yourselfers may need to buy new tools before beginning the job. This means brushes, rollers, tape, tarps, trays, and much more. Unless you plan to paint multiple times, this can make stocking up a considerable investment. Professionals already have all the right gear and tools of the trade.

Lasting results

Professional painters understand which products will produce the desired results, depending on the wear and tear of the space. Paints are not all created equal, and certain walls, floors and trim may require unique priming

and preparation that novices are not familiar with. Professional painters can help ensure durability and save homeowners from having to do the job again in a few months or years.

A safer experience

Painting can be a challenging job when it involves painting hard-to-reach spaces and/or climbing and balancing on tall ladders. Homeowners are not at risk of injury when hiring a professional painter. In addition, professional painters should be licensed and insured. This means if an injury or incident occurs, the homeowner will not be on the hook for the cost.

A fresh coat of paint can produce amazing results. Leaving the work to a professional can ensure a job is done correctly and beautifully and completed on time.

Popular types of lighting for home décor

Many components come together to create a home interior that is welcoming and comfortable. Lighting is an important part of any design and plays a key role in home decor. Lighting can change the atmosphere of a room with the flip of a switch. Through lighting, one can make a space seem more cozy, or even make small spaces seem more expansive.

Homeowners should not underestimate the power of lighting in their homes. In addition to making spaces functional and more attractive, lighting can affect personal well-being, as a well-lit room can benefit mental health. The following are various types of lighting and how they can work best in a home.

Ambient
Ambient lighting is blanket lighting that is used to evenly illuminate a room. Lowes Home Improvement says this is the general lighting that every home needs. Fixtures like overhead lights, floor lamps and more provide enough light for people to function safely indoors. Ambient lighting is the foundation for every interior lighting scenario, and ambient lighting fixtures should be featured toward the center of the room and closer to the ceiling to disperse light more efficiently.

Task lighting
The home improvement firm Hiller describes task lighting as lighting directed toward a specific area to give more detail to objects. Close-range work such as crafting, reading, cooking, and desk work requires task lighting so projects are effectively illuminated. Task lighting can be installed anywhere a person requires direct, intense light to see details. This means lights can be under cabinetry or on a desk for reading mail or homework.

Accent lighting
Lowes indicates that accent lighting balances lighting and spotlights certain points in a space. For example, accent lighting can be utilized to highlight collectibles or artwork. Accent lighting may call attention to entryways, plants, fireplaces, or other points. Accent lighting typically adds character to a room and is not neces-

sarily bright enough to sufficiently illuminate a space.

Decorative lighting
Decorative lighting is used exclusively for aesthetic purposes, according to BLOCC House of Interiors. It adds style and drama to spaces. Decorative lighting fixtures include pendants, sconces, chandeliers, and more. Decorative lighting also may be whimsical, such as fairy lights strung in a child’s bedroom or neon lights in a home bar or sports room.

Separately, these lighting options may not be enough to suit your needs. But when combined, these types of lighting help to establish an interesting and functional home interior design that fits with a person’s lifestyle and needs.



Homeowners should not underestimate the power of lighting in their homes. In addition to making spaces functional and more attractive, lighting can affect personal well-being, as a well-lit room can benefit mental health.

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RELIGION

The Good Shepherd

Once when I was doing a study of the 23rd Psalm, I read a book about shepherds. In it I learned a lot about the special relationship between a shepherd and his sheep. A shepherd is a manager and a caretaker. He is the owner of his sheep...and he loves them.

One thing I learned is that a shepherd marks his sheep with an instrument called a "killing knife." Now, it may not sound very loving, but understand that sheep do not instinctively take care of themselves. It may hurt them, but the shepherd knows the temporary pain is ultimately good for the sheep. So he makes a distinct mark in their ear that identifies them as his own and cares for them almost like his

own children.

As Christians we are "marked" by the Holy Spirit. In much the same way, many of the trials and tests we go through can be quite painful while He subdues the parts of our nature that are not like God. However, the Holy Spirit knows that what He is doing in us is for our good and is bringing us to greater spiritual maturity. The question is, which do you think is worse: the pain of change or the pain of staying the same?

In John 10:11 (AMPC), Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep." There is so much we can learn about our relationship with Christ from the lesson

about the shepherd and his sheep.

In the first verse of Psalm 23, David says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing" (NIV). He lacked nothing because he knew that God was with him, always working in his life, changing and maturing him. It doesn't mean that we will always have every little thing we want. But while we are waiting on things we're praying and believing God for, we can be content knowing that He is always with us and will provide exactly what we need.

Verse 2 says, "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters." This is a reference to entering the rest of God. It's not about resting from activity...but resting in our activity. In other words, there is a peace that comes from trusting in the ability and power that God gives us to do what He's called us to do. It is this rest that causes us to step out in faith and do great things in His name. It's faith in God's faithfulness. Are you asking God to do great things through you? Then learn to rest in Him.

When you're resting in God, He will lead you "along the right paths for his name's sake" (v. 3). One of the things I learned about sheep is that they will choose the soft ground, the comfortable and easy places to wander into. But they



can get into trouble and become easy prey for other animals. They will stay in the same pasture forever unless the shepherd moves them. And he will move them regularly so they can stay healthy.

Do you feel like you are in a rut? Are you in a comfort zone you could easily stay in? Be open to change, a challenge...a new pasture. This could mean a new church, a different job, or maybe even other friends. Trust the Holy Spirit to "move" you when you need to move. On the path of righteousness, He will lead you to the right place or to do the right thing at the right time.

This is true even when you "walk through the darkest valley..." (v. 4). The Amplified Bible says, "Yes, though I walk through the [deep, sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me." These are words of great comfort, trust, and peace.

A shepherd carries a rod and a staff, which he

uses in different ways for different reasons. The rod is just a big, long stick with a little knob at the top of it, while a staff has more of a hook at the end of it.

The shepherd practices diligently so that he can accurately throw that rod at a predator or even at an unruly sheep to keep it in line. Sometimes an animal will wander off too far from the others, and the staff is used to hook the wayward sheep and lead it back into the fold. At other times, it's used as an examining tool to check the animals for parasites or other ailments.

The Holy Spirit sometimes has to use a rod of correction on us. Yet, it's good to know that whenever we lose our way, He will use His staff to lovingly and gently guide us back onto the right path.

It's so wonderful to think we have the Good Shepherd who takes care of us! So what are you asking God to do in your life? Whatever it is, know that He will always be with you...and He will always provide just what you need. He is the Good

Shepherd and He has already laid down His life for yours!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource Psalm 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd. 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 OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life program, which is broadcast to millions in over 110 languages. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org

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See Page A5!

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If I Can
By William Arthur Ward

If I can write one verse of truth today
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If I can push one needless cloud away
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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."

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Detail of "Portrait of E.H." by Erich Heckel (1917)

...He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 CORINTHIANS 12: 9,10

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BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Gethsemane (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the only book of the Bible that mentions Christ's tomb being sealed? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. From Matthew 28:2, who rolled back the stone from the door of Jesus' tomb and sat upon it? Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples
4. When Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" came upon the risen Jesus, who did He ask them to inform? Priests, Disciples, No one, Villagers
5. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus
6. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days
ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Matthew, 3) An angel, 4) Disciples, 5) Thomas (called Didymus), 6) 40 days
(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



~~~~~

**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

HORNER-MERRITT FUNERAL HOME  
800 Monroe St., Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-7211

Let GOD'S LOVE  
Light Your Path

TRIPLE SERVICE, INC.  
801 Monroe, Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-3828

WASMER FUNERAL HOME  
2112 W. Main St., Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-8500

ZIGGIE'S RESTAURANT  
Rte. 34 East, Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-5060

~~~~~


Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



MENDOTA • EARLVILLE • LAMOILLE • TROY GROVE • SUBLETTE • COMPTON • WEST BROOKLYN • LELAND

101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Supervisor's Statement of Financial Affairs Town Fund

I, Peggy Reddick, Supervisor of Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025.

BEGINNING BALANCE: April 1, 2024 \$44,093.28
MM \$40,075.12
Checking \$4,018.16
REVENUES: Property Tax: \$2,025.83
Interest MM: \$50.17
Interest Checking: \$5.92
Reimburse Social Security: \$2,141.46
TOTAL REVENUES: \$4,223.38
EXPENDITURES: Internet: \$333.48
Food: \$11,592.79
Insurance: \$2,270.00
Miscellaneous: \$75.00
Legal Fees: \$1,200.00
Office Supplies: \$537.36
Shelter: \$5,362.09
Utilities: \$5,363.66
Transportation: \$140.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$26,874.38
ENDING BALANCE: March 31, 2025 \$21,442.28
MM \$10,272.58
CHKG \$11,169.70

TIF Reimbursement \$4,048.53 Intuit Reimbursement: \$221.30 TOTAL REVENUES: \$201,084.01

EXPENDITURES: ASSESSOR: Office Supplies: \$2,926.00
Capital Outlay Equip.: \$91.00
Software & License: \$6,750.00
Telephone: \$1,546.78
Trvl & Training: \$3,778.69
Digital Internet: \$2,725.82
Dues: \$50.00
Printing/Publishing: \$693.00
Gross Pay: \$42,618.93
Unemployment Tax: \$295.35
ASSESSOR EXPENDITURES: \$61,475.57
SUPERVISOR: Administration: Accounting Fees: \$560.00
Telephone: \$1,546.78
Trvl & Training: \$74.74
Utilities: \$4,708.53
Postage: \$130.35
Publishing: \$971.27
Bldg Maintenance: \$1,045.00
Dues: \$608.18
Insurance: \$4,250.00
Legal Fees: \$1,200.00
Office Supplies: \$3,087.39
Miscellaneous: \$150.00
Equipment Maint.: \$95.00
Gross Pay: \$79,046.28
SUPERVISOR EXPENDITURES: \$97,473.52
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$158,949.09
ENDING BALANCE: March 31, 2025 \$560,236.34
MM: \$539,140.94
CHKG: \$21,095.40

SUPERVISOR'S STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND

I, Peggy Reddick, Supervisor of Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025.

BEGINNING BALANCE: April 1, 2024 \$44,093.28
MM \$40,075.12
Checking \$4,018.16
REVENUES: Property Tax: \$2,025.83
Interest MM: \$50.17
Interest Checking: \$5.92
Reimburse Social Security: \$2,141.46
TOTAL REVENUES: \$4,223.38
EXPENDITURES: Internet: \$333.48
Food: \$11,592.79
Insurance: \$2,270.00
Miscellaneous: \$75.00
Legal Fees: \$1,200.00
Office Supplies: \$537.36
Shelter: \$5,362.09
Utilities: \$5,363.66
Transportation: \$140.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$26,874.38
ENDING BALANCE: March 31, 2025 \$21,442.28
MM \$10,272.58
CHKG \$11,169.70

SUPERVISOR'S STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS CEMETERY FUND

I, Peggy Reddick, Supervisor of Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning August 21, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025.

BEGINNING BALANCE: August 21, 2024 \$00.00
MM \$00.00
Checking \$00.00
REVENUES: Interest MM: \$1,203.19
Interest Checking: \$64.60
E. J. Investments: \$83,766.38
FSB Investments: \$280,937.19
Rent: \$478.00
Plot Sales: \$19,200.00
(15)
Burials: \$40,250.00
(41)
Markers: \$2,200.00
TOTAL REVENUES: \$428,099.36
EXPENDITURES: Admin: \$150.00
Garbage: \$435.75
Roads: \$110.45
Grounds Maint: \$41,925.57
Legal Fees: \$2,558.00
Miscellaneous: \$50.00
Office Supplies: \$1,378.57
Plumbing: \$451.94
Postage: \$8.95
Publishing: \$188.89
Telephone: \$807.14
Secretary: \$5,250.00
Sexton: \$33,650.00
Tree Service: \$400.00
Utilities: \$663.32
Equip Maint: \$00.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$88,028.58
ENDING BALANCE: March 31, 2025 \$340,070.78
MM \$327,474.71
CHKG \$12,596.07

ROAD DISTRICT TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT GENERAL ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND

To the Highway Commissioner, Mendota Township, Road District, LaSalle County, Illinois.

I, Peggy Reddick, Supervisor of Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025.

BEGINNING BALANCE: April 1, 2024 \$13,873.32
REVENUES: Property Tax: \$5,008.24
Interest MM: \$76.68
TOTAL REVENUES: \$5,084.92

Illinois.

I, Peggy Reddick, Supervisor of Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025.

BEGINNING BALANCE: April 1, 2024 \$760,689.42
MM \$745,568.30
Checking \$15,121.12
REVENUES: Property Tax: \$233,120.60
Replacement Tax: \$24,583.49
Interest MM: \$28,448.87
Cemetery Reimb: \$110.45
Windmill deposit: \$857,155.52
Scrap deposit: \$45
TOTAL REVENUES: \$1,143,463.93
EXPENDITURES: Dues: \$160.00
Fuel: \$18,389.15
Bldg Maintenance: \$32,038.56
Equip Supplies/Maint: \$123,907.79
Road Supplies/Maint: \$192,336.05
Windmill Rd Maint: \$42,106.71
Misc: \$100.00
Telephone: \$1,584.95
Utilities: \$4664.91
Office Supplies: \$475.08
Bank Fees: \$78.00
Unemployment Tax: \$151.69
Gross Payroll: \$45,707.25
Municipal Repl Tax: \$10,072.61
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$471,772.75
ENDING BALANCE: March 31, 2025 \$1,432,380.60
MM \$1,318,972.23
CHKG \$113,408.37

ROAD DISTRICT TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING FUND

To the Highway Commissioner, Mendota Township, Road District, LaSalle County, Illinois.

I, Peggy Reddick, Supervisor of Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025.

BEGINNING BALANCE: April 1, 2024 \$85,786.80
REVENUES: Property Tax: \$5,505.61
Interest Income: \$467.65
Truck Sale: \$4,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES: \$9,973.26
EXPENDITURES: Equipment: \$00.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$00.00
ENDING BALANCE: March 31, 2025 \$95,760.06

The treasurer shall present this report of itemized receipts and disbursements annually within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year to the Highway Commissioner of the district. This report is not required to be published in a newspaper. (605 ILCS 5/6-205)

Subscribed and sworn to this 8th day of April, 2025

Peggy Reddick
Treasurer

ROAD DISTRICT TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT AUDIT FUND

To the Highway Commissioner, Mendota Township, Road District, LaSalle County, Illinois.

I, Peggy Reddick, Supervisor of Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025.

BEGINNING BALANCE: April 1, 2024 \$13,873.32
REVENUES: Property Tax: \$5,008.24
Interest MM: \$76.68
TOTAL REVENUES: \$5,084.92

EXPENDITURES: Assurance Services: \$3,150.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$3,150.00
ENDING BALANCE: March 31, 2025 \$15,808.24

The treasurer shall present this report of itemized receipts and disbursements annually within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year to the Highway Commissioner of the district. This report is not required to be published in a newspaper. (605 ILCS 5/6-205)

Subscribed and sworn to this 8th day of April, 2025

Peggy Reddick
Treasurer

ROAD DISTRICT TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING FUND

To the Highway Commissioner, Mendota Township, Road District, LaSalle County, Illinois.

I, Peggy Reddick, Supervisor of Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025.

BEGINNING BALANCE: April 1, 2024 \$85,786.80
REVENUES: Property Tax: \$5,505.61
Interest Income: \$467.65
Truck Sale: \$4,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES: \$9,973.26
EXPENDITURES: Equipment: \$00.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$00.00
ENDING BALANCE: March 31, 2025 \$95,760.06

The treasurer shall present this report of itemized receipts and disbursements annually within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year to the Highway Commissioner of the district. This report is not required to be published in a newspaper. (605 ILCS 5/6-205)

Subscribed and sworn to this 8th day of April, 2025

Peggy Reddick
Treasurer

ROAD DISTRICT TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT LIABILITY FUND

To the Highway Commissioner, Mendota Township, Road District, LaSalle County, Illinois.

I, Peggy Reddick, Supervisor of Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE:

April 1, 2024 \$16,043.87
REVENUES: Property Tax: \$5,505.61
Interest Income: \$72.60
TOIRMA Dividend: \$1,393.00
TOTAL REVENUES: \$6,971.21
EXPENDITURES: Insurance TOIRMA: \$5,524.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$5,524.00
ENDING BALANCE: March 31, 2025 \$17,491.08

The treasurer shall present this report of itemized receipts and disbursements annually within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year to the Highway Commissioner of the district. This report is not required to be published in a newspaper. (605 ILCS 5/6-205)

Subscribed and sworn to this 8th day of April, 2025

Peggy Reddick
Treasurer

ROAD DISTRICT TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT SOCIAL SECURITY FUND

To the Highway Commissioner, Mendota Township, Road District, LaSalle County, Illinois.

I, Peggy Reddick, Supervisor of Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025.

BEGINNING BALANCE: April 1, 2024 \$17,059.05
REVENUES: Property Tax: \$2,005.85
Interest Income: \$82.69
TOTAL REVENUES: \$2,088.54
EXPENDITURES: Social Sec/Medicare: \$3,527.03
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$3,527.03
ENDING BALANCE: March 31, 2025 \$15,620.56

The treasurer shall present this report of itemized receipts and disbursements annually within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year to the Highway Commissioner of the district. This report is not required to be published in a newspaper. (605 ILCS 5/6-205)

Subscribed and sworn to this 8th day of April, 2025

Peggy Reddick
Treasurer

ROAD DISTRICT TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT SPECIAL BRIDGE FUND

To the Highway Commissioner, Mendota Township, Road District, LaSalle County, Illinois.

I, Peggy Reddick, Supervisor of Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025.

BEGINNING BALANCE: April 1, 2024 \$66,188.96
REVENUES: Property Tax: \$10,002.19
Interest: \$913.56
TOTAL REVENUES: \$10,915.75
EXPENDITURES: \$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$0
ENDING BALANCE: March 31, 2025 \$77,104.71

The treasurer shall present this report of itemized receipts and disbursements annually within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year to the Highway Commissioner of the district. This report is not required to be published in a newspaper. (605 ILCS 5/6-205)

Subscribed and sworn to this 8th day of April, 2025

Peggy Reddick
Treasurer

Legal 0404
April 16, 2025

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION No: 2025-JA-14

TO: Darryl Gullens, 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 of 1987 by David A. Greer, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Kameron Jordan Gullens, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 18th day of June, 2025, at the 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

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, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for you.

Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

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 an order or judgment entered.

Dated: April 9, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0406
(April 16, 2025)

the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for you.

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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 an order or judgment entered.

Dated: April 9, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0406
(April 16, 2025)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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.

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

511 STORAGE UNITS

MENDOTA STORAGE UNITS
210 N 4099th Rd., Mendota, IL 61342
Available:
20X20 \$195 / 10X10 \$100
Call
ADAM 815-830-4422 Janko Realty
TRACY 815-791-4582 Advantage Property Mgmt
Reserve online at www.apm4rent.com

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

APARTMENTS FOR RENT: MENDOTA
1 & 2 Bedrooms, Appliances, A/C
779-375-8932
815-498-2262

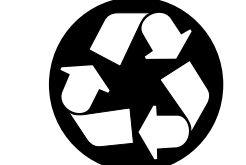
HEALTH/PERSONAL/ MISCELLANEOUS

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY AND SUFFERED AN INFECTION DUE TO USE OF A BAIR HUGGER (BLUE BLANKET), between 2020 and the present time, You may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

103 AUCTIONS

Ogle County, IL
COMMERICAL REAL ESTATE & EQUIPMENT RETIREMENT AUCTION
Saturday, April 26th, 2025 at 9:30 A.M.
Sale online & onsite at: O'Rourke Construction Services, Inc.
104 N Maple Ct
Rochelle, IL 61068
Commercial Property Real Estate in fabulous location! MUST SEE!
Extensive Equipment Listing- check it out!
Real Estate Sells at 9:30 a.m. shop & rack items sell directly after, online & equipment starts at approx. 1:00 p.m.
*Must register in advance for online bidding through www.Equipmentfacts.com
For complete listing of sale bill, maps, tax info, and terms & conditions, etc. visit www.lennvbrysonauctioneer.com OR skauctions.net
For Information Contact: Owner, O'Rourke Construction Services, Inc.
Auctioneers Lenny Bryson 815-946-4120
Cal Kaufman 309-696-9019
Brent Schmigdal 309-202-8378
Attorney, Paul Chadwick 815)562-2136

Going once... going twice...
SOLD!
The benefits of purchasing cattle from a live auction
A live auction can be a great place to source cattle. If you're on the fence about going to a cattle auction in your area, here are four good reasons to attend.
1. **You'll have access to a variety of animals.** You'll be able to view and bid on a large variety of cattle of different breeds and pedigrees. If you buy cattle privately, you'll have to visit numerous farms to see the same kind of selection.
2. **You'll get good value for your money.** At a cattle auction, you'll be able to negotiate a fair price for the cattle you want. Conversely, if you buy cattle from a private farmer, they set the price and often won't consider negotiating.
3. **You'll be certain of your investment.** If you purchase cattle from a live auction, the animals come with health papers. This allows you to rest assured knowing the cattle you buy are in good health. These papers aren't required when selling cattle privately.
4. **You'll be able to network.** Attending a cattle auction will give you the opportunity to get to know other people and organizations in the agricultural industry. This can be useful for promoting and expanding your business.
If you're still hesitant about attending a live cattle auction, don't be afraid to ask the more seasoned farmers in your area for their advice.



Classified

Marketplace

BUY OR SELL

Place A Classified Ad



MENDOTA • EARLVILLE • LAMOILLE • TROY GROVE • SUBLETTE • COMPTON • WEST BROOKLYN • LELAND

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

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.

301 ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; 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

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which

makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"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."

203 HELP WANTED



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

ROCHELLE News-Leader

ROCHELLE News-Leader

Part-time local delivery driver

The Rochelle News-Leader has an opening for a part-time 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.

Support Real Journalism.
Become a Subscriber!

END FAMILY FIRE

8 kids a day are accidentally killed or injured by FAMILY FIRE.

FAMILY FIRE is a shooting involving an improperly stored gun, often found in the home.

ENDFAMILYFIRE.org

ad

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4



2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4 6.2 V8, 45K Miles, Dark Gray, GM Certified, 1-owner, local trade with sunroof, leather interior, heated / cooled seats, beadliner & More!

\$46,900

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

- 2-Year/24,000-Mile Standard CPO Maintenance Plan
- 12-Month/12,000-Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty

- 6-Year/100,000-Mile Powertrain Limited Warranty
- 24/7 Roadside Assistance
- 172-Point Vehicle Inspection and Reconditioning Process
- 3-Day/150-Mile Customer Satisfaction Guarantee

2024 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4 6.2L, 29K Miles, White.....	\$54,900	2021 Chevy 1500 Z71 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ Topper, 63K Miles, Blue.....	\$36,900
2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4 6.2 V8, 45K Miles, Dark Gray.....	\$46,900	2021 Chevy Traverse AWD Premier, Red Line Edition, 72K Miles, Silver.....	\$29,900
2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ, 74K Miles, White.....	\$39,900	2021 Chevy Traverse AWD Premier, 70K Miles, White.....	\$29,900
2022 Chevy Equinox AWD Premier, 59K Miles, Blue.....	\$22,900		

QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2021 Chevy Traverse LT, AWD, Silver, 111K Miles	\$20,900	2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab Longbox LT 4x4 Z71, 77K Miles, Red.....	\$25,900
2020 Chevy Equinox Premier AWD, 100K Miles, Maroon.....	\$16,900	2017 GMC 1500 Double Cab SLE, 89K Miles, Gray	\$22,900
2018 Chevy Equinox LT FWD, 73K Miles, Tan.....	\$15,900	2016 Chevy Equinox AWD LTZ 4-cyl, 64K Miles, Silver.....	\$13,900

VAESSEN BROTHERS CHEVROLET, INC.

HIGHWAY 52 SUBLETTE, IL
www.vaessenbrothers.com

(815) 849-5232
1-800-227-5203

"Great Deals - Great Service Since 1926"

GMF Financing or Leasing

* Plus Tax, title and license. Rebates applied. Subject to credit approval.

FIND NEW ROADS

CHEVROLET

Out of Sight, Out of Mind...

STAY TOP OF MIND With Local Consumers

It's a Smart Investment

Stay Top of Mind and Save With Our Monthly and Annual Ad Contract Specials!

Advertise With Us

The Mendota Reporter

815.539.9396

Here's why consistent advertising with us is a great way to build top of mind awareness:

Nearly 70% of U.S. adults read newspapers each month.

Print newspaper ads inspire action.

7 out of 10 newspaper readers report taking action after seeing an ad in a circular.

IT'S TIME TO ADVERTISE

We LOVE LOCAL Businesses

Talk to us today about community-focused advertising and promotional opportunities to attract more customers to your small business!

AM I OKAY TO DRIVE?

BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING

NHTSA

ad COUNCIL



COMMUNITY MATTERS

ACCURATE TITLE & LICENSE

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 6th St. • Mendota
815-539-9311

ASSISTED/INDEPENDENT LIVING

Stonecroft Village
1700 Burlington St.
815-538-5300
stonecroftvillage.com

AUCTIONEERS

McConville Realty & Auctioneering
612 Main St.
815-539-5673

AUTO BODY REPAIR

Furar's Body Shop
306 Plaza Dr.
815-539-6075

AUTO REPAIR

LaMoille Auto Care Center and Towing
92 N. Main St., LaMoille
815-638-2733

Sahuayo Auto Repair
202 Sandra Ave.
815-538-2000

ATTORNEY

The Cantlin Law Firm
815-433-4712
www.cantlinlaw.com

Guilfoyle & Stevenson LLP
1316 Meriden St.
815-539-6711
Guilfoyleandstevenson.com

AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

Mendota Ford
Rt. 251 S.
815-539-9314
www.mendotaford.com

Schimmer, Inc. Buick • Chevy
Rt. 251 S.
815-539-9343
www.schimmergm.com

Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet
505 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Sublette
815-849-5232
www.vaessenbrothers.com

CABINETRY

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

CABINETRY AND STAIRS

Starved Rock Wood Products
815-538-7797
1605 Division Street • Mendota
starvedrockwoodproducts.com

CARPET & FLOORING

Meyers Furniture & Carpet
1901 S. 13th Ave.
815-539-6263

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce
800 Washington St.
815-539-6507

CONTRACTORS - GENERAL

Mauch Carpentry
705 Illinois Ave.
815-539-7867
License #104005528

DENTISTS

Krenz Dental, Ltd.
Jon Krenz, D.M.D.
704 Indiana Ave. • 815-538-5316

ELECTRICAL

Triple Service
Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

Hilliker Electric, LLC
1417 Franklin Grove
815-456-7036

ELECTRICAL/CONTRACTING

Carriage House Electric
105 12th St.
815-538-5598

EXCAVATING AND SEWER

TJS Excavating
815-228-9845
Tjsexcavating.com

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Financial Plus Credit Union
1905 13th Ave.
815-539-3444
Member NCUA-ESI

First State Bank
706 Washington St. • Main
1403 13th Ave. • Plaza
815-538-2265
firststatebank.biz
Member FDIC

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

First State Bank of Van Orin
200 N Main St., Van Orin
815-638-2111
Member FDIC

Malden Banking Center
302 N Main St.
815-643-2121
Member FDIC

NuMark Credit Union
Earlville • Paw Paw • Sublette
NUMARKCU.ORG
Member NCUA-ESI

FIREPLACES

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

FITNESS

Mendota YMCA
1811 S. 13th Ave.
815-538-2900
Ivymca.org/mendota-ymca/

FLORISTS

Floralcrest Florist & Greenhouse
1207 22nd St.
815-539-9306

FOOD TRUCK

Tacos Guzman
815-503-0839
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FUNERAL HOMES

Wasmer Funeral Home
2112 W. Main St.
815-539-8500

FURNITURE

Meyers Furniture & Carpet & Mattress
1901 S. 13th Ave.
815-539-6263

GROCERY STORES

De La O
Grocery • Deli • Meats • Catering
710 Jefferson St.
815-539-6871

Sullivan's Foods
1102 Meriden St.
815-539-9341

HEALTH CARE CLINIC

Davis Family Health, LLC
1201 Meriden St.
815-538-1800

HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS

Correa Heating and Air Conditioning
815-910-9876

Malley Plumbing & Heating
123 South Ottawa Street, Earlville
815-246-6011
IL License #055-009898

Triple Service Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

HOME HEALTH/HOSPICE

In-Home Care Connection
Hospice Services
680 W. Peru St., Princeton
815-872-7447
www.ihccare.com

HOUSE CLEANING

Illinois Valley Clean Team
815-228-5273

ICE CREAM SHOP

Neveria y Paeteria
La Esquinita de Oro
Ice Cream Shop
1206 Sixth Ave. • Mendota
815-503-0162

IDOT INSPECTIONS

RC Service Co. – Haun Inc.
904 Main St.
815-538-6311

INSURANCE

First State Insurance
715 Washington St. • 815-539-5651

Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance
1103 Main St.
815-539-3878

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 Sixth St. • 815-539-9311

KITCHEN & BATH

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

SITK
1619 N. Main St. • Princeton
815-879-0604
www.somekitchen.com

KITCHEN & BATH

Starved Rock Wood Products
815-538-7799
1605 Division Street • Mendota
srwoodproducts.com

LIBRARY

Graves-Hume Public Library
1401 W. Main St.
815-538-5142
www.graveshume.org

LIQUOR STORE

Lakeside Liquors & Tobacco
1310 Meriden St.
815-539-6400

MUSEUMS

Breaking The Prairie Museum and Country Chapel
684 8th St.
815-539-3373

Hume Carnegie Museum
901 Washington St.
815-539-3373

Union Depot Railroad Museum
638 Main St.
815-538-3800

OPTOMETRIST

Dr. Tara Van de Wyngaerde
700 14th Ave.
815-539-6291

PET GROOMING

Dirty Dawgs
1111 Main St.
815-538-2550

PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

Malley Plumbing & Heating
123 South Ottawa Street, Earlville
815-246-6011
IL License #055-009898

Triple Service
Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

POST FRAME BUILDERS

N.L. Morton Buildings, Ltd.
203 N. 4099th Road
815-539-9325
New construction & repair

REALTORS

Erbes Realty, LLC
1922 Tower Road • Sublette
815-535-6295 • Lorierbes@gmail.com

Homestead Realty
1316 Lakewood Plaza, #5
815-539-3811

McConville Realty & Auctioneering
612 Main St.
815-539-5673

RESTAURANTS

Cindy's on 34
1300 Raymond Drive
815-539-9000

El Ray Del Taco Mexican Restaurant
701 Main St.
815-539-7100

Ziggie's Family Restaurant
1212 First Ave.
815-539-5060
Ziggiesrestaurant.com

SEAMLESS ROOFING

DuroLast Roofing
705 Illinois Ave.
815-539-5142
License #104005528

SOCIAL CLUB

Mendota Elks Lodge #1212
707 Indiana Ave.
815-538-3557

TAX PREPARATION

H&R Block
1313 Meriden St.
815-539-7610
hrblock.com

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 Sixth St.
815-539-9311

THRIFT STORES

Nightengales Thrift Shop
708 Jefferson St. • 815-539-6100
Supports Trinity Health Care Clinic • 815-910-0200

TRANSPORTATION

Mendota Area Senior Services
1901 Tom Merwin Drive
815-539-7700
mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com

TOWING

Ramer Automotive & Towing
Paul, Matt & Brendan Ramer
4266 E. 4th Road
815-539-5321

VAPE/SMOKE SHOP

Smooth Smokes and Vapor
1001 Main St.
815-539-3499

VETERINARIANS

Ancare Veterinary Clinic
Stephen J. Dullard, DVM ABVP
1205 6th Ave.
815-539-3844
www.ancarevet.com

Mendota Companion Animal Centre
Cathy J. Wolf, DVM
Rt. 251 N.
815-539-6601
www.mendotavet.com

WINDOWS & DECKING

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

Mendota Branch
1905 13th Avenue | Mendota, IL 61342
815-539-3444

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