

# Mendota receives \$1.98 million grant to restore fire-destroyed building

## 704 Illinois Ave. project to be catalyst for revitalizing downtown

MENDOTA—The City of Mendota is being awarded a \$1,988,625 grant to develop a multi-purpose city-owned and city-managed downtown building that was devastated by a 2022 fire.

The “Rise From the Ashes Revitalization Project” will rehabilitate the city-owned building at 704 Illinois Ave. to boost downtown economic investment by serving multiple purposes.

Gov. JB Pritzker joined the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) on April 22 to announce state-funded grant awards totaling \$30 million for 25 grantees through the Rebuild Illinois Downtowns and Main Streets (RDMS, \$20 million) and Research in Illinois to Spur Economic Recovery (RISE, \$10 million) programs to revitalize commercial corridors and downtown areas throughout the state and accelerate local economic initiatives. Mendota is a recipient of the Rebuild Illinois Downtowns and Main Streets grant from DCEO.

The ground floor of 704 Illinois Ave. will be available for businesses and organizations to sell products, host

**“This grant gives the City a tremendous opportunity to transform this building into a premier showcase – something that will truly support business, tourism, and connection for our community. It will serve as a vibrant anchor to attract both visitors and new businesses to downtown Mendota.”**

—Emily McConville, Mendota city clerk

events, and support community enrichment activities. This will be beneficial for businesses that have downsized or transitioned to online operations due to pandemic restrictions and are looking to establish or re-establish a physical presence. Additionally, it will provide a venue for non-profit and corporate organizations to host events, enhancing the downtown area’s vitality.

The upper floor will feature a co-working space with internet access, human interaction, and a professional setting for individuals working from home, attending virtual classes, or facing limited internet access for essential virtual connections such as classes, medical appointments, or business meetings.

Located in the heart of

downtown, this building is part of a block that experienced a devastating fire in 2022. The fire left five other buildings in ruins and created empty lots adjacent to the proposed building project. The city aims to make the 704 Illinois Ave. building the premier setting for the block’s redevelopment and a catalyst for revitalizing the entire downtown.

This building, designed with spaces for co-working, a public market, events, and meeting areas, is an integral part of the overall “Work Well Mendota” initiative.

“This grant gives the City a tremendous opportunity to transform this building into a premier showcase—something that will truly support business, tourism, and connection for our community,” said Emily McConville, city clerk. “It will serve as a vibrant anchor to attract both visitors and new businesses to downtown Mendota.”



Annie Short, city project manager, noted that these improvements will continue to spark visible, positive changes not only in the heart of downtown but throughout the community.

“If you’ve been downtown lately, you may have noticed something exciting:

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# Social Security rescinding its plan to end phone-based filing called a win for Illinois seniors

AARP urges Illinois lawmakers to enact policies to strengthen Social Security services

By ISABELLA SCHOONOVER  
Medill Illinois News Bureau

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois chapter of AARP played a role in the Trump administration reversing itself and allowing Social Security beneficiaries to have the option of filing for benefits over the phone.

The continuation of phone-based filing is an about-face of a plan set forth in mid-March by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to restrict telephone services for beneficiaries nationwide. Nearly 100,000 Illinoisans mobilized against the plan by writing to Congress during the month of March. Nationally, AARP members sent more than 2 million emails denouncing the proposed changes.

In response to the widespread pushback, the SSA issued a series of updates on X, formerly Twitter, withdrawing its previously announced plan and reinstating phone services for all claim types—including those applying for retirement, Social Security disability insurance (SSDI), Medicare and supplemental security income (SSI).

The new plan now requires in-person claims processing and identity proofing only for calls flagged as potentially fraudulent, according to a press release from Illinois AARP. “This is great news for older Americans,” said Ryan Gruenfelder, senior director of advocacy and outreach at AARP Illinois.

New rule caused web crashes, service disruptions

AARP Illinois and its members went to the Illinois state Capitol on April 10 to express their frustration with the recent federal actions and call on lawmakers to strengthen SSA customer service. Members have reported significant disruptions in service in recent months, including long wait times at SSA field offices, frequent website crashes and an increase in calls getting disconnected due to a lack of available representatives.

“As a retiree, I count on my Social Security benefits, and they actually provide more than half of my monthly income,” said Sandra McAvoy, an AARP member and volunteer with the Illinois state legislature. “That income has enabled me to live independently and very comfortably.”

In Illinois, about 2.3 million people receive some form of Social Security benefits. More than 40% of Illinois residents age 65 or older rely on Social Security for at least half of their income, while around 20% rely on it for at least 90% of their income, according to AARP.

The SSA was planning to end phone-based claims as an anti-fraud measure, saying the move would strengthen fraud prevention by forcing individuals to go online or visit local field offices to prove their identities and file for benefits.

AARP said this would have made it

difficult for older adults, people with disabilities and those in rural areas to access their benefits.

“The proposed changes were unacceptable,” said Gruenfelder.

About 140,000 people age 65 and older in Illinois live more than 45 miles roundtrip from the nearest Social Security office, according to an April 8 report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Once there, individuals report having to wait for hours in long lines to see an available customer service agent.

The only alternative to in-person and phone services — the SSA’s online portal system — is not a reliable option for many beneficiaries. Roughly 28% of households in Illinois do not have subscriptions to high-speed internet, according to a 2024 report from the Benton Institute for Broadband and Society.

Some callers to SSA waited hours to get help

These challenges were in place long before the now-rescinded changes. But AARP said there has since been a recent “rapid deterioration” in customer service that has resulted in callers waiting hours at a time to get connected with an available representative.

According to SSA data, the agency had a busy rate of 0% in 2024, meaning no callers received a pre-recorded message when trying to reach a service agent over the phone. But in March,

See Social Security, Page A5

# 280 Board reorganizes after election; appoints officers

J. Lauer reappointed as board president

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School Board of Education met on April 22 for a regular meeting and board reorganization. After the April 1 election canvassing of votes, the school board organization meeting was held.

The Administration of the Oath of Office was issued to the new board members – incumbents Aaron Elston, Jim Lauer, Jim Strouss, and Jim Sundberg. The President

Pro Tem was appointed, and the meeting of the new school board was called to order. Nominations and elections were held for board officers. The following officers were selected: Lauer, president; Sundberg, vice president; Megan Faber, secretary. The board set dates, times, and locations for regular board meetings in the 2025-2026 school year. The board will continue to meet on the third Monday of the month, except when school is not in session on a Monday, and then they will meet on Tuesday of that month. The board will not schedule a regular meeting in July. Meetings start at 6 p.m. in the MHS board room.

## BOARD REPORT

Board member reports included the Fall bid requests from the Athletic Committee. The Fall bids were approved, and Strouss shared that the Mendota Quarterback Club will make several thousand dollars in football equipment purchases. The board thanked the Quarterback Club for its support.

## PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Joe Masini provided the Principal’s Report. The Athletic Handbook for 2025-2026 was discussed, and its approval was tabled.

The 8th Grade Orientation visit will be on May 8.

The ACT and PSAT tests were administered with almost perfect attendance.

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# LOCAL AND AREA



## Blackstone pizza lunch in March

The March Principal Award winners at Blackstone School were recently honored with a pizza lunch. Front row, left to right, are Keiton Blanton, Audrey Dewey, Azalayah Pratt, Julius Rodriguez and Nova Escatel. Middle row, Tate Scheppers, Odin Stohr, Nash Albers, Bella Frey and Jayce Woods. Back row, Evalynn Kordick, Julie Taliani, Riley Foote, Josue Guzman and Gabe Dykstra. (Photo contributed)



## Blackstone pizza lunch in April

The April Principal Award winners at Blackstone School were recently honored with a pizza lunch. Front row, left to right, are Axel Acosta-Diaz, Alani Gonzalez, Sansa Post, Nathan Gonzales and Oshynn Smith. Back row, Zeke Hansen, Elianna Pre, Evelyn Henry, Felicity Lynn, Brianna Pinto and Roman Watson. (Photo contributed)

## Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

I hope everyone had a great spring break and enjoyed some time away from school. It was great to have students and staff back in the building this week. We now only have a little over eight weeks left of school before the end of the school year!

We celebrated Earth Day on April 22. We wore blue and green and the students participated in many activities to learn about how to take care of our Earth and how important it is. Our teachers prepared some great lessons and projects that took place in the classrooms.

We kicked off our final kind deed of the year for our community this past week. We are currently collecting boxes of cereal for the Mendota Food Pantry. They are in need of cereal and we want to support those in need in our own community. We are collecting donations of cereal through Friday, May 9. Anyone in the community is also welcome to drop cereal off at Blackstone if you would like to donate. We appreciate the support of our final project of the year!

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Amelia Albright, Ciel Parsons, Samantha Reveles,

Kyle Belcher, Henry Schoepf, Analeisa Artega, Diego Reveles and Sofee Gonzalez. The winners were Evelyn Henry, Axel Acosta-Diaz, Zeke Hansen and Roman Watson. Congratulations to all of you!

We celebrated the April principal award winners with a pizza lunch on April 25. The students invited to the lunch were Aylani Wallace, Aria Darling, Oshynn Smith, Sansa Post, Evelyn Henry, Axel Acosta-Diaz, Alani Gonzalez, Felicity Lynn, Nathan Gonzales, Elianna Pre, Brianna Pinto, Roman Watson and Zeke Hansen. The students enjoyed their lunch celebration.

Don't forget that we have Kindergarten registration this week. We will do this on Wednesday, April 30 from 3:30-6:00, Thursday, May 1 from 9:00-2:00 and on Friday, May 2 from 9:00-2:00. It is extremely important that all parents who will register a child for Fall 2025 Kindergarten pick up registration information.

There is an early dismissal coming up on Wednesday, April 30. Kindergarten will dismiss at 11:20 and first grade at 11:30 for a teacher inservice that afternoon. No student lunches will be served on this day.



## Northbrook March Students of the Month

Northbrook Middle School has named its March Students of the Month. Recognized for the honor, front row, left to right, are Brianna Escatel, Lincoln Daley, Jude Borelli, Ruben Celis, Draco Figueroa, Lyla Pecher, Adelynn Landers, and Ember Castaneda. Back row, Isabella Silva, Tadeo Ortiz, Charles Beaty, Alejandro Gonzalez, Kyndra Higgins, Javier Hernandez, Melany Hernandez, Bailee Rambert and Gabriela Diaz. Not pictured: Illan Garcia. (Photo contributed)

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Kish College to begin “all-in” tuition in summer 2025

MALTA – Kishwaukee College will include all fees and textbooks in the cost of tuition starting in the Summer 2025 semester. The College began eliminating fees in 2024 and will now focus on removing textbook fees. The new textbook initiative provides students with all required physical or digital textbooks as part of the cost of tuition. Students will see one charge on their financial statements, which includes tuition, fees and required textbooks. “The advertised cost of tuition is what students will pay to attend Kish. Cost transparency is important as students and families plan for the true cost of attending college. It also contributes to student success, as they will have the required books they need for their classes on day one without having to pay separately for books,” said Dr. Laurie Borowicz, President of Kishwaukee College. At the March Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees meeting, the Board approved an \$8 per credit hour increase to the base-rate tuition to cover the costs of all required textbooks, digital books and access codes. Students can opt out of receiving their textbooks through Kishwaukee College. When opting out, students receive a refund for the \$8 per credit hour cost. Students who pay for textbooks through tuition rather than independently buying them can save hundreds of dollars per semester. For example, an Associate in Arts student taking 15 credit hours in a semester can expect to save approximately \$165. Studies have shown that student suc-

cess improves when textbooks are more affordable, and students can access course materials immediately. A 2023 survey by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois showed 69% of Illinois college students said textbook costs caused them not to buy required materials for class. “Kishwaukee College has made it a multi-year goal to examine and improve textbook affordability for our students. Affordability and access have been shown to improve student success while increasing savings for students and their families,” said Bob Johnson, Chair of the Board of Trustees. The “all-in” tuition program is made possible in part by the Kishwaukee College Foundation. On average, the Kish Nursing program’s textbook costs are much higher than materials for other classes and programs. Due to the generosity of donors interested in the Nursing program, the Foundation Board has approved funding the additional textbook costs next year. Another initiative making the “all-in” model possible is the use of Open Educational Resources (OERs)—free teaching and learning materials for instructors and students—to reduce the cost of textbooks. Since 2018, the College has tripled the number of courses utilizing OERs, saving students almost \$1 million in textbook costs. This initial work has significantly impacted the College’s ability to offer the “all-in” tuition model. Learn more about the textbook changes at [kish.edu/textbooks](http://kish.edu/textbooks).

## Many local spellers win school spelling bees


MENDOTA – Schools in LaSalle, Putnam and Marshall counties recently held their annual spelling bees. The following middle school students were named the winners of their school’s spelling bee: • Maycie Sproston (second consecutive win), seventh grade, Northbrook School, Mendota • Rachael Duda, sixth grade, La Salle Elementary School • Mason Mock, sixth grade, and runner-up Allyson Bresser, eighth grade, Earlville Grade School • Elan Fallon, seventh grade, Henry-Senachwine Grade and Junior High School • Natali Moriarty, seventh grade, and runner-up George Olesen, sixth grade, Tonica Grade School • Josiah Alix, fifth grade, Marquette Academy, Ottawa • Ethan Farabaugh, sixth grade, and runner-up Sam Reynolds, sixth grade, Central Intermediate School, Ottawa • Rocco Affrunti (second consecutive win), seventh grade, and runner-up Ethan Pantig, seventh grade, Wallace Grade School, Ottawa • Gregory Wakefield, seventh grade, Seneca Grade School • Joshua Libner, seventh grade, and runner-up Mason Rambeau, eighth grade, Marseilles Elementary School • Jude Edwall, sixth grade, Waltham School, Utica • Anthony Harrison, eighth grade, and runner-up Addison Blacklaw, eighth grade, Grand Ridge Grade School Schools had the option to register their school champion at spellingbee.com. The school champions could then take the Regional Qualifier Test with the top finishers advancing to the Scripps National Spelling Bee Regional Bee for Illinois.

## Registration open for Carus Summer Science Camp

PERU – Registration is now open for the 23rd Annual Carus Summer Science Camp, a free, weeklong program designed to spark curiosity and inspire young minds through hands-on STEM learning. The 2025 camp will be held at St. Bede Academy in Peru from Monday, July 14, through Friday, July 18, from 9 a.m. to noon each day. On Friday, July 18, a graduation ceremony will celebrate participants’ achievements and discoveries throughout the week. Open to students entering sixth grade in the fall, the camp provides an immersive educational experience that combines science, chemistry, and creativity in an engaging environment. Each year, students from across LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam counties participate in hands-on experiments, interactive demonstrations, and collaborative challenges—all led by a team of passionate local educators. Space is limited, and spots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, prompting organizers to encourage early registration. Families can sign up at [carusllc.com/summer-sciencecamp](http://carusllc.com/summer-sciencecamp). “The Carus Summer Science Camp has become a meaningful tradition in our community, helping kids explore science in a way that’s exciting, accessible, and fun,” said Lyndsay Bliss, Vice President of Human Resources and Communications at Carus. “We hope this camp will pique their interest in the fields of STEM at an early age and encourage them to keep an open mind as they decide their future learning paths.” Now in its 23rd year, the program reflects Carus’s ongoing commitment to STEM education and community enrichment. Early exposure to STEM has been shown to positively influence academic performance, boost confidence, and open doors to future career paths. According to the National Science & Technology Council, STEM-educated workers drive innovation and fuel economic growth across virtually every sector of the economy. For more information and to register, visit [carusllc.com/summer-sciencecamp](http://carusllc.com/summer-sciencecamp). Early sign-up is strongly encouraged due to the camp’s popularity and limited availability.

## OSF HealthCare expands general surgery services to Peru

PERU — OSF HealthCare is pleased to announce the expansion of OSF Medical Group – General Surgery to Peru, further enhancing access to specialized surgical care for Illinois Valley residents. This addition reflects OSF HealthCare’s commitment to meeting the evolving healthcare needs of the communities it serves. The new OSF Medical Group – General Surgery office, located at 920 West St., Medical Office Building B, Suite LL2, Peru, is now open, providing high-quality surgical care to patients in the Illinois Valley. “We are excited to bring general surgery services back to the Illinois Valley,” said Dawn Trompeter, president of OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center. “By expanding our surgical services, we’re ensuring that patients have access to expert care close to home while remaining connected to their trusted OSF care team throughout their health journey.” Robert Wojcik, MD, will see patients at the new Peru location, providing greater access to surgical care in the region. For more information about OSF HealthCare General Surgery or to schedule an appointment in Peru, Ottawa, Mendota, or Streator, visit [osfhealthcare.org/services/specialties/surgery](http://osfhealthcare.org/services/specialties/surgery) or call (815) 431-5757.




# In Loving MEMORY

On Memorial Day, we remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us. Our time to remember will be published Wednesday, May 21st, devoted to those who are gone, but not forgotten.

JANE DOE

MAY 1, 1950 - APRIL 23, 2012

*You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.*



- Write your own or select one of the following verses below to accompany your tribute.
- We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
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  - Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand
  - Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
  - The days may come and go, but the times we shared will always remain.
  - May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
  - May God’s angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
  - You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
  - May God’s grace shine over you for all time.
  - May the Lord bless you with His grace and warm, loving heart.

To remember your loved one in this special way send \$10 per listing. Your special tribute will become a lasting memorial record in the May 21st issue of The Mendota Reporter. Deadline is Thursday, May 15th at Noon.

Please publish my tribute in the special Memorial Day page on May 21.

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# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Barbara J. Needs

MENDOTA – Barbara J. Needs, 67, of Mendota, passed away unexpectedly on April 23, 2025, at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center Rockford. A Celebration of Life will be Saturday, May 3 from 3-9 p.m. at the VFW. Please bring a dish to pass. Cremation rites have been accorded, and burial will take place at Evergreen Cemetery in West Plains, Mo. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Barb was born on Feb. 4, 1958, at Fort Madigan Army Hospital in Tacoma, Wash., to George and Lela (Judd) Barnett. She will be dearly missed by the father of her children and best friend, Joseph Needs Sr.; daughters, Diane Barnett, Jennifer Godina, and Jennelle (Dennis) Figueroa, son Joseph Needs Jr.; 12 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren; sisters, Wanda (Bob) Majernik, Kathy (Chuck) Rumpfelt, Karen Belcher; and brother, Larry (Norma) Anderson.

Barb was preceded in death by her parents, sister Marilyn, and brother Jack Anderson.

During her work career, Barb was an energetic and smart-witted waitress at Ziggy's for over 40 years. Her many customers will miss her smile and sassy personality. Barb loved her large family more than anything in the world. She was their rock, and the glue that held them together. She was a free spirit and enjoyed traveling wherever the wind would take her. Joe and Barb had just returned from a wonderful vacation in Punta Cana. Barb was a lifetime member at V.F.W. Post #4079 Auxiliary.

Memorials may be directed to Mendota V.F.W. Post #4079 Auxiliary. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



## Robert E. Lewis

AMBOY – Robert E. Lewis (Bobby, Bobby-lou, Bob), 68, of Amboy, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Saturday, April 19, 2025, at Goldwater Care of Princeton.

Per Bob's wishes, a private family only service was held on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at Horner-Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota. His niece, Rev. Maria Bonine, officiated.

He was born the oldest of four siblings at Mendota Community Hospital on Feb. 6, 1957, to John R. and Carol R. (Ossman) Lewis.

Bob is survived by four children, Amy Smith, Kevin (Kelly) Lewis, Harley (Stephanie) Hayes, and Jeana (Tony) Lewis; three siblings, Kathy (Darren King) Zimmerly, Dawn (Brian Anderson) Cores, and Terry (Deana Hermes) Wendel; four half siblings, Darryl Lewis, Brenda Palmer, Susan (Hugh) McCoy, and Connie (Jon) Yambert; as well as many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Lee and Carol Wendel and John and Judith Lewis; nephew, John Zimmerly; and half-sister Sherry Zerbe. Many who knew him called him "Crazy Uncle Bob," even if he wasn't related to them. He enjoyed junking, riding his Harley, driving fast cars, wrenching, and furious women. During his lifetime, Bob accumulated a treasure chest of stories and adventures, which he loved to share with whoever he met.

Please visit [www.horner-merritt.com](http://www.horner-merritt.com) to sign the online guest book.



## Tuition, fees rising at Illinois universities as state funding lags the inflation pace

□ University leaders push for a new way of determining funding

By BRIDGETTE FOX  
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The cost to attend state universities has been rising, and some institutions have said they'll have to continue pushing the brunt of state budget shortfalls onto students and families if there isn't a change.

Data from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, which oversees public universities, shows university income has had to make up for the steady loss of funding from the state since around fiscal year 2009 as compared to inflation.

Since that point, state investment hasn't kept up with inflation, and tuition and fees have risen steadily despite the fact that Gov. JB Pritzker's administration has regularly increased higher education funding. The fiscal year 2026 proposed budget includes a 3% increase for higher education in the general fund for operating costs – which is about the same as the rate of inflation.

The cost of tuition and fees for statewide undergraduates on average has risen 10% higher since FY09 than if it had simply kept pace with inflation. For graduate students, that discrepancy is 16%.

The University of Illinois Chicago is the only school that has seen tuition and fees for both graduate and undergraduate students grow more slowly than inflation.

Administrators from many of the states' universities have said they're holding out hope that a new funding formula, contained in Senate Bill 13 and House Bill 1581, will alleviate some financial burden.

The formula as it is currently proposed would use data from the Illinois Board of Higher Education to determine how much money public universities would need on a per-student basis. University officials said the current system for allocating funds to universities isn't quite as clear about determining why one university gets

more funding than any other.

During a Senate appropriations hearing last week, Sen. Michael Halpin, D-Rock Island, and Northern Illinois University President Lisa Freeman each supported a data-based funding formula over the current method.

Administrators for almost every public state university who have spoken to the same committee have said they need to keep asking for more money than what the governor proposed in order to fend off tuition and fee increases.

"We understand funds are more constrictive this year than in the recent past," said Eastern Illinois University President Jay Gatrell during the committee meeting. "That said, we do have bills to pay, and we only have two real sources of revenue: state appropriations, which cover roughly one-third of our operating costs, and student tuition and fees, which cover the remaining two-thirds."

During fiscal year 2003, that breakdown was flipped – the state covered more than two-thirds of universities' operating costs.

"No university really wants to increase tuition cost," said Corey Bradford, interim president of Governors State University in an interview. "We do it in order to balance our budgets."

The proposed funding formula hasn't made its way through either chamber yet, though legislators generally have ways of moving major legislation beyond stated bill deadlines, up until end-of-May adjournment. If it doesn't move, universities will continue being appropriated funds by standards set from years past.

"Even if there are differences in dollars per FTE (full time equivalency student) after we were to implement this formula, at least those differences would be grounded in this data in the program," Halpin said. "Right now, we have these discrepancies, but there's ... not necessarily a hard

data point, or set of data points, to justify it."

### MAP grants

In his February budget plan, Pritzker proposed increased funding of \$10 million for Monetary Award Program grants for students to use toward tuition and fees, matching the same increase he made for the previous year's budget.

MAP grants can go to any student who's eligible for financial aid across the state. Pritzker's proposed increase would make the new MAP grants pool total \$721.6 million – up from \$400 million when he was first elected in 2019.

However, MAP grants don't directly fund universities the same way money from the general fund does.

"MAP goes to all colleges," Bradford said. "Community colleges, private colleges, it doesn't all come to public universities."

### University building projects

Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, asked every university president during recent committee hearings if their schools had received any funding for deferred maintenance projects on campuses for the current fiscal year.

Rose said no one has said "yes" yet.

"I think we'd like to know before we get to next year's budget how we're spending last year's budget," Rose said. The current budget year concludes on June 30.

Ginger Ostro, IBHE's executive director, said the board is working with universities and meeting with them and the Illinois Capital Development Board to maintain lists about deferred maintenance projects and make sure funding is distributed.

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

### City Ordinance - Pet Waste

• The purpose of this section is to establish requirements for the proper disposal of pet solid waste in the City of Mendota so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure

to comply.

• Requirement for disposal. All pet owners and keepers are required to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any property, public or private,

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• Exemptions. Any owner or keeper who requires the use of a disability assistance animal shall be exempt from the provisions of this section while such animal is being

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• Violations and penalties. Any person(s) who is found to have violated the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$25 and no more than \$75.

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Bus Garage/Old MHS Building  
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# Dist. 280

\$187,500.

Bus bids and trades were reviewed and discussed. The board approved a 2025-2026 purchase of a used 2024 Blue Bird Vision, gas, 54-passenger bus for \$109,500 and 2022 Blue Bird Lift Bus (wheelchair) for \$82,500. Trade-ins will be made for bus #7, #12, and #25. The total purchase will be for

The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board will be Monday, May 19 at 6 p.m.

# Grant

## The Rebuild Illinois Downtowns and Main

Streets grant Capital Program provides grants for construction, repair and modernization of public infrastructure and amenities to boost jobs, improve quality of life and stimulate economic activity for communities that have experienced historic disinvestment. The goal of this program is to drive investment in infrastructure and public amenities that will invite more people back into Main Street districts and local city centers in communities of all sizes. These Main Street districts are economic and cultural engines for small towns across the state. The second round of RDMS funding builds upon \$106 million in RDMS grants provided in 2022.

## Social Security

“In fewer than 100 days, this new administration has done so much damage,” the former president said in Chicago, according to the AP.

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

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**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.



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## McCracken elected as IVCC Board chair, new members seated

Trustees elected Jay McCracken chair, and presented

In other business, the Board approved an annexation/rezoning agreement with the City of Ogleby for a two-acre parcel as part of the new Agriculture Complex and authorized extending an agreement with the city to provide a school resource officer on campus.



# MUHLACH ESTATE AUCTION

**TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**View Listing & Photos on website:**  
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# OPINION



**The Mendota Reporter**

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

Letters to the editor should be typed or 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.

## Letters

### The hypocrisy of elite pro-natalism

**Dear Editor:**

Elon Musk and President Donald Trump publicly champion big families. As leaders of the right-wing pro-natalist movement—a worldview that urges citizens to have more children to boost national strength—they frame parenthood as patriotic duty. Musk goes further, claiming population collapse is the greatest threat to the United States. In his view, procreation isn't just patriotic—it's urgently necessary to save the country.

They're right about patriotic duty: building and supporting strong families is one of the most important investments a nation can make. Yet neither man models what it means to be an equal, active parent—or an equal, present romantic partner.

President Trump has proudly said he never changed a diaper. His ex-wife Ivana once said she raised their children herself, crediting Trump only “for his sperm.” He has five children by three women. Musk, now with 14 children by four women, works punishing hours and admits to being largely absent from their upbringing. One child is estranged. His 4-year-old son “X” is paraded through the White House, used as a prop to soften Musk’s deteriorating public image.

Their version of parenting is either public performance, or something to be outsourced, but a child’s need for a present father is the same whether they live in a mansion or a studio apartment. The damage from parental absence is the same. Their concept of performative, outsourced parenting insults those of us who actually show up. Who change diapers, coach teams, volunteer in clubs, attend every parent-teacher conference, and pace ER waiting rooms.

We know families don’t need lectures on patriotism—they need paid family leave, child tax credits, and affordable, accessible child care.

If Musk, President Trump, and their movement truly cared about families, they’d show up—for them, and within them. Their behavior suggests they have no intention of doing either.

**Justin Bend,  
Mendota**

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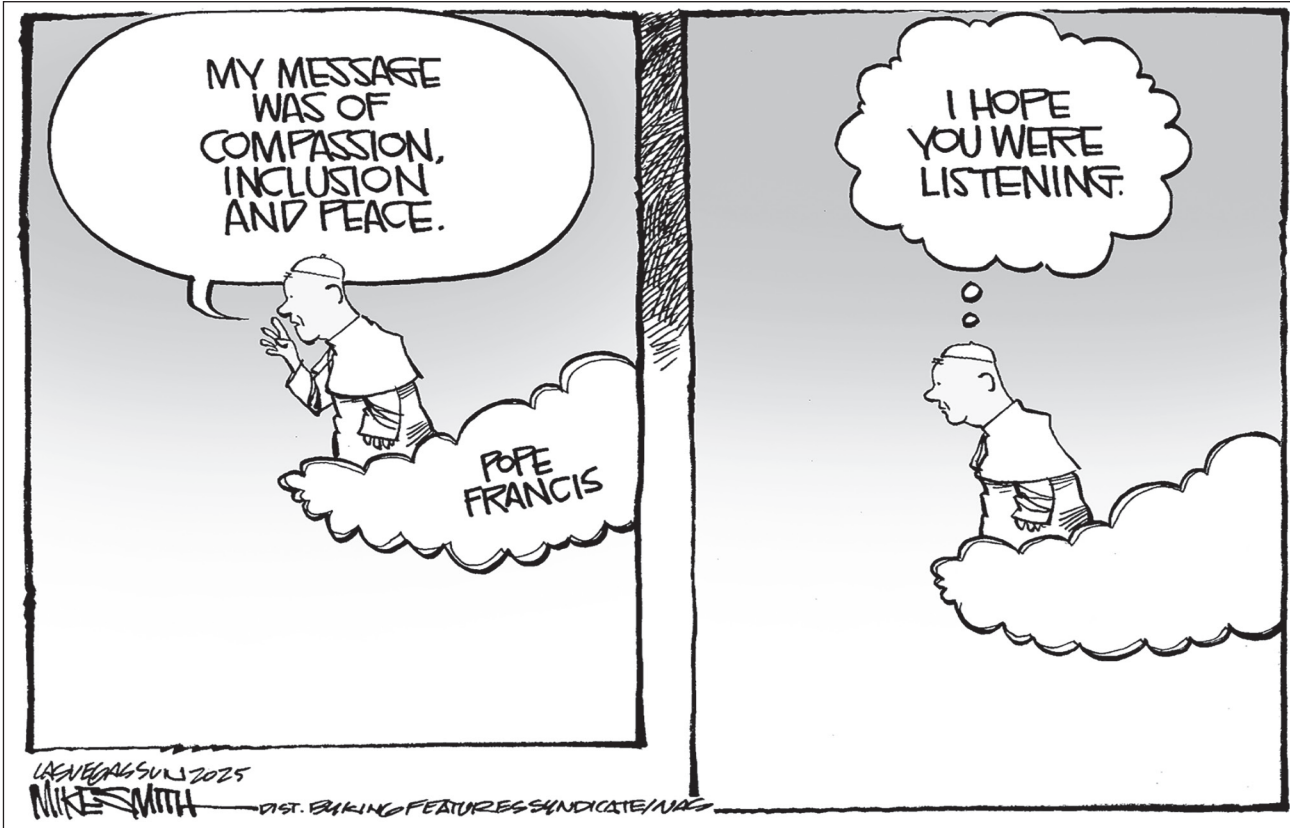
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## Reporter’s historic issue - 1939

*(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s Backtrack & Sidetracks column reprinted from April 28, 2004.)*

**By Jessica Nashold**

It was 75 years ago that The Mendota Reporter carried a banner head on its April 25, 1939, issue.

**THIS ISSUE OF THE REPORTER IS PRINTED ON PAPER MANUFACTURED FROM CORN STALKS**

In the second section, The Reporter carried a picture of “The World’s Only Cornstalk Paper Mill.” It was located in Danville, Ill. This was the plant that produced the paper on which the special issue had been printed. It was a blend of 65% cornstalk pulp and 35% wood sulphite. There were high hopes that with a single acre of corn yielding a ton and a half of cornstalks, at \$6 per ton, farm income would increase substantially. A higher quality of paper than newsprint could also be made from cornstalks, but it would command a higher price. Progress was being reported in the effort to make “paper from cornstalks” commercially feasible. Regrettably, negative information was also publicized.

**It was sent to newspapers in the Corn Belt of the Midwest.**

The Mendota baseball season of 1939 opened on April 28 at Kakusha Park. Mayor John Rutishauser threw out the first ball. A few days later, “nifty baseball suits” for the team arrived. They were gray, with KAKUSHA PARKS in blue letters on the front. The caps were gray with a blue letters on “M” for Mendota. The socks were blue.

Mendota had joined the Illinois Valley League, and that opener, too, was held at Kakusha. The MHS band led a parade to the park where Mayor Rutishauser gave a short address of welcome, and again delivered the first ball.

**The opener was with Princeton.**

Albert Foulk submitted the low bid to deliver mail from the Mendota post office to West Brooklyn, Paw Paw and Compton. The figure was \$2,375 per year. During bad weather he had to be rescued from ditches by a tow truck.

**The \$5 fees reduced his income.**

## Backtracks & Sidetracks

In May 1939, Postmaster George Whitmore was authorized to hire one carrier to deliver mail to Triumph and Troy Grove, making one trip each way. This involved a distance of 23 miles. The salary was to be “no more than \$999 per year.” Whitmore and Henry Wells were observed measuring the distance from the depot to the post office. No doubt this figure was needed for some government calculation. Taxi driver William McDonald was first to secure the Triumph-Troy Grove route.

**Wonder if he settled for \$999?**

Mendota was to have an “aviation field.” J. Clark Seyler of Prophetstown rented 25 acres of hay ground on the Truman farm. It was across the road, west of Kakusha Park. Carpenters were soon at work building hangars. Two or three plans were to be kept there, to serve the public.

**Seyler will be the pilot.**

The work MENDOTA was painted on the roof of the Burlington roundhouse and also on the roof of the Mendota Auto Co.

**This was to guide the aviators.**

At the Mendota water department a change was made from steam to electricity on April 19, 1939. Superintendent A.M. Tope made the announcement.

The caretaker of the Illinois Central grounds in Mendota was provided its a gasoline-powered lawn mower. He used it to cut the grass here and in other towns along the Illinois Central line.

Robert Black plunged into the Mendota creek while westbound on Fifth Street in his brother John’s Studebaker.

**The auto was pulled out by wrecker.**

“Chick” Evans identified as the Amateur Golf Champion of America, agreed to play the Mendota course on Sunday, May 5, 1939. The news came in a letter to Dan Haskell, president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank, dated, April 26. Evans arrived on the morning train and departed on the 5:23. The public was invited. Haskell and Evans were partners. They played 9 holes against Karl Pohl and R.E. Hall. The second 9 holes were against Doc Wagner and Cummings. Evans shot the first 9 in 42 and the second 9 in 39.

**The crowd enjoyed the exhibition.**

The bus line from Somonauk to Mendota was discontinued in April 1939. Fares collected failed to cover the salary of the driver and operating expenses.

W.R. Foster, LaSalle County Superintendent of Schools, was annoyed by the lack of an up-to-date history of the county. His remedy was to write a history himself.

**It was printed on his office mimeograph.**

The anniversary of the Battle of Manila, during the Spanish-American War, was marked nationwide on May 1, 1939.

**Every tow, city and village was asked to join in the observance.**

Clayton Truckenbrod shot a timber wolf weighing 60 pounds with his 22-caliber rifle. The shot pierced its heart. Since this occurred in Bureau County -

**He collected the bounty at Princeton on April 27, 1939.**

A LaSalle paper reported that Clara Cypreansen, girls’ athletic instructor at Mendota High, had submitted her resignation. She asked The Mendota Reporter to correct this story.

**It is absolutely without foundation.**

It was 75 years ago that Mendota acquired 32 lots on which sewer and paving assessments remained unpaid

## The shots that changed the world

**By Rich Lowry**

The iconic Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem “Paul Revere’s Ride” begins, “Listen, my children ...”

And, sure enough, we have long told our kids and ourselves of the cinematic events in April 1775, when the famous silversmith warned the countryside of approaching British troops and the American Revolution kicked off in earnest.

Like all legendary events, Paul Revere’s Ride and the Battles of Lexington and Concord have been encrusted with myth: It’s almost certainly not the case that Revere yelled, “The British are coming!” (we still considered ourselves British); Revere didn’t ride alone, and he didn’t even make it to Concord (the British briefly captured him); and the role of the celebrated Minutemen, the best of the militia units, tends to be exaggerated in the popular understanding (most of the Colonial forces were regular militia).

Such minutiae aside, that day 250 years ago, April 19, 1775, still deserves to be celebrated in prose and poetry and is every bit as extraordinary as you might have learned when you were a child before we decided we didn’t like our own history and heroes so much anymore.

Hoping to maintain operational secrecy, the British sent a contingent out at night from Boston to capture reputed stores of weapons in Concord. They were immediately noticed -- the “one if by land, two if by sea” lanterns in the Old North Church were a real thing -- and the race was on.

It is really one of the most dramatic episodes in American history: Paul Revere and others rushing to warn the countryside, and the British troops marching through the night, not briefed on their mission, hearing guns and bells sounding the alarm all around them.

Lexington was on the way. The militia mustered as a show of force, not seeking a fight. No one knows who fired “the shot heard around the world”; it may have been an inadvertent discharge. But the British then fired volleys and charged with bayonets, killing eight.

Concord was now fully on alert. Again, there was a wary standoff. Again, someone fired. During this confrontation at North Bridge, the British got off a volley, then the Colonials

returned fire with deadly effect and -- shockingly -- the British ran.

Their ranks swelling, the Colonials harried the Regulars along the narrow Battle Road as they retreated back to Lexington, with the places where the fighting was especially intense known by names such as the Bloody Angle and Parker’s Revenge.

Members of the militia didn’t, as popular imagination believes, largely act on their own inspired initiative; they were well-led. The Americans repeatedly stood in formation against the British regulars during the course of the day. “It was an extraordinary display of courage, resolve and discipline by citizen soldiers against regular troops,” the historian David Hackett Fischer writes.

The more dispersed fighting along the Battle Road later on was itself the product of a Colonial plan -- to avoid direct confrontation with a now-reinforced, much larger British force. By the time they made it back to Boston, the British had suffered a true mauling, experiencing roughly 300 casualties to 100 for the Colonials.

The Americans ensured that the word spread far and wide, and the effect was electric. Thomas Paine, who had only recently come to America, felt that “the country, into which I had just set my foot, was set on fire about my ears.” John Adams said that Lexington “changed the instruments of war from the pen to the sword.”

If Lexington and Concord were small-scale engagements in the scheme of things, the reverberations were enormous. They sent a message that a defiant American population wouldn’t be easily subdued.

Wadsworth concluded his poem with the lines:

“Through all our history, to the last,  
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,  
The people will waken and listen to hear  
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,  
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.”  
May it be so.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Nursing graduate/philanthropist to deliver keynote at IVCC's 59th annual commencement ceremony

Several ceremonies for IVCC students to take place during May

OGLESBY – About 200 students who completed degrees or certificates are expected to participate in the Illinois Valley Community College 59th Annual Commencement ceremony at noon on Saturday, May 17, in the gymnasium.

This year's commencement ceremony begins one hour earlier than usual, as does the registered nurse pinning ceremony that takes place the same day at 10 a.m. in the Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg Cultural Centre.

Nicki McVey, a nursing graduate turned philanthropist, will be the keynote speaker. McVey lives in Geneva, where she is a nurse and is enrolled in a graduate program to become a nurse-practitioner. Remembering her own struggles as a single mother and college student, she and her husband Doug established scholarships to assist IVCC students pursuing healthcare degrees.

The ceremony also will include remarks from incoming Student Trustee Danica

Scoma and outgoing Student Trustee Emma Garretson, as well as IVCC President Dr. Tracy Morris. The crowd will also hear international student Zixuan "Maggie" Yang's winning Paul Simon Contest Essay.

A reception will follow immediately after the ceremony.

The ceremony will be live streamed. To view, visit at [www.ivcc.edu/commencement](http://www.ivcc.edu/commencement).

Ceremonies for nursing, dental, paramedics and adult education completers also are scheduled in coming weeks.

The first-ever graduation ceremony for paramedics will be Thursday, May 8, at 6 p.m. in the Cultural Centre. Each paramedic will receive a certificate and a customized challenge coin. A total of 25 students are expected to graduate from day and night programs, two of the largest classes ever.

The Adult Education recognition will be at 6 p.m. May 21 in the Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg Cultural Centre.

The pinning ceremony for practical nurses will be at 5 p.m. Monday, July 14, in the Cultural Centre.

A pinning for dental assis-



Students are all smiles after exiting the IVCC gymnasium at the conclusion of the 2024 commencement. This year's ceremony is set for noon on Saturday, May 17.

tant graduates is scheduled at 5 p.m. July 31, in the Cultural Centre. Also at that time, dental hygiene students (who

complete their program in December) will be awarded their white lab coats in a ceremony.

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# THE FARMER’S REPORT

## Habitat incentive programs aid landowners, wildlife

By HANNAH SPANGLER  
FarmWeek

The Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever organizations are assisting landowners in establishing pollinator or wildlife habitats that benefit upland birds, grassland birds and farmer profitability.

“When I meet with a landowner, the first thing I want to do is understand their goals, what resources they have and if they have cropland,” said Caleb Worley, a farm bill biologist with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, during a wildlife habitat educational program Feb. 6 in Bureau County.

Recognizing that different practices work for different people, Worley helps landowners select the edge-of-field or whole-field practice that best meets their needs. He also assists in navigating the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which offer services like cost shares, incentive payments and signing bonuses.

During the program, part of the University of Illinois Extension’s Sustainability on the Farm series, Worley told FarmWeek that he recommends CRP for those with cropland. Administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), CRPs provide rental payments and financial assistance for establishing cover crops or habitats.

Most edge-of-field practices fall under Continuous CRP, including those classi-



Dozens of waterfowl gather in rural Fulton County. Landowners in Illinois have several options to help establish pollinator or wildlife habitats that benefit upland birds, grassland birds and boost farmer profitability. (Photo by Catrina Rawson of FarmWeek)

fied by FSA as CP43 prairie strips, CP33 habitat buffers for upland birds and CP21 filter strips. These practices can improve water quality, reduce erosion and create wildlife habitats.

“We had a producer implement 10.1 acres of CP33 habitat buffers along their timber. This increased their yield by 13 bushels per acre,” Worley said. “This was on corn which increased their profitability by \$13.44 per acre overall,

increasing the return on their investment by 10.6%. So, it is a way for you to increase profitability on your farm and you’re getting some pretty good habitat.”

Worley noted that most General CRPs are whole-field practices, such as establishing pollinator habitats. While the maximum payment is slightly lower than in Continuous CRP, capping at \$240 per acre, General CRPs have no acreage minimum, making them suitable for

landowners not wanting to enroll many acres.

Farmers and landowners looking for the right program can contact Worley at [cworley@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:cworley@pheasantsforever.org), their nearest FSA office or their county’s Pheasants Forever biologist.

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit [FarmWeekNow.com](http://FarmWeekNow.com).)



A University of Illinois doctoral student plans to map the grassland habitat across Illinois. (Photo by Catrina Rawson of FarmWeek)

## NASA invests in U of I doctoral student’s grassland research

By HANNAH SPANGLER  
FarmWeek

A University of Illinois doctoral candidate received a \$150,000 investment from NASA to create a detailed grassland map using remote sensing.

Wendy Dorman, the recipient of the prestigious three-year research grant, plans to map grassland habitats across Illinois — where 99% of the prairies have vanished.

Her goals include finding out which habitat features are most important for endangered birds to maximize best practices to protect them in the small amount of grassland available.

“I’ve been really frustrated by the lack of available data to use when trying to understand what’s happening to birds,” Dorman said, adding that current research is not at the level needed for making management decisions and conducting effective modeling.

Dorman will use remote sensing, which involves using satellite imagery to collect information, to produce a high-quality map of the cold and warm season grasses in grasslands across the state.

She believes this will help provide targeted support to individual bird species based on their survival needs.

“It’s important for conservation and for management and wildlife or other environmental reasons that we have a good idea of where grasslands are and what their qualities are,” said Mike Ward, U of I professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES).

The research can also benefit farmers enrolling in conservation programs and help enhance habitats for birds like quail and pheasants, Ward explained. The detailed maps can show where to place grasslands to maximize agricultural and new environmental benefits.

Ward told FarmWeek that the use of remote sensing in grasslands is a lot like the use of precision technology in agriculture. They are working with small amounts of grassland and using technology to optimize conservation practices.

“A strategic placement of habitat can go a long way,” he said. “Right now, it’s kind of overwhelming to have so much information and so much data. But as we go on, all this information will keep on coming in and we’ll be able to do a better job of managing our resources.”

Research has already started on a small scale, and Dorman and her team are preparing to ramp things up. This semester, she will work with students from natural resources and environmental sciences, computer science and physics to bring together the different disciplines needed for the project.

She hopes to have preliminary results around March or April before moving into fieldwork throughout the spring and summer. The fieldwork will help compare satellite data with real-life observations.

“You need to actually physically go into the field and see what is on the ground,” Dorman said. “We don’t just trust the models that we produce, we compare them against what’s actually in the field.”

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit [FarmWeekNow.com](http://FarmWeekNow.com).)



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April 27 - May 4, 2025

### “THE LIVING SOIL”

While most of us seldom come in daily contact with soil, we all depend on soil for our daily survival, according to organizers of the Soil and Water Stewardship Week observance. In generation after generation, it is important to bring full attention back to the central theme - the living soil sustains all life on earth. Without the soil, nothing lives. Conservation districts work to protect healthy soils that in turn support a healthy environment, and healthy environments support healthy life.

We eat the food, drink water, breathe the air, and enjoy the views, but only a few of us walk the fields and forests on a regular basis and understand what those lands need from us in order to sustain the living soil. However, the local district has suggested three things each of us can do in our own backyards to be better stewards of our soil resources:

1. Protect the soil from wind or water erosion by keeping healthy plants growing on the surface.
2. Restore & maintain organic matter in the soil, such as grass clippings or tree leaves (compost).
3. Protect soil life by using the least amounts and least toxic materials to control pest problems.



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# THE FARMER'S REPORT



USDA published an interim rule establishing guidelines for climate-smart crops used as biofuel feedstocks as well as a Feedstock Carbon Intensity Calculator. (Photo by Catrina Rawson, Illinois Farm Bureau)

## USDA posts interim climate-smart agriculture guidelines

By TAMMIE SLOUP  
*FarmWeek*

USDA published an interim rule establishing guidelines for climate-smart crops used as biofuel feedstocks, as well as a Feedstock Carbon Intensity Calculator.

The 83-page interim rule establishes guidelines for quantifying reporting and verifying the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the production of biofuel feedstock commodity crops grown in the United States.

The rule includes three primary feedstock crops: field corn, soy and sorghum. It also covers climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices that could reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or sequester carbon.

Notably, the interim rule allows for adoption of CSA practices both individually or in combination, providing farmers the flexibility to adopt the CSA practices that make sense for their operation.

“(The rule) reinforces the important role climate-smart agriculture plays in our rural economy, including in fueling clean transportation solutions, as well as the importance of providing pathways for unbundled, science-based accounting of the carbon benefits of climate-smart practices that help farmers earn more for what they grow,” said John Podesta, White House senior adviser for international climate policy.

The covered CSA practices include reduced till, no-till, cover crops, and specified nutrient management practices, such as nitrification inhibitors, no fall application of nitrogen, and split in-season application of nitrogen.

Farmers can calculate farm-specific carbon intensity (CI) scores in line with

the standards of the interim rule using the USDA Feedstock Carbon Intensity Calculator (USDA FD-CIC), which is a sub portion of the Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Technologies (GREET) model. The calculator was published in its beta version with USDA collecting feedback before it’s finalized.

Data that must be input into the calculator, which can be found at bit.ly/4jfkjq2, includes farm location, crop type, yield, acreage and information on CSA measures on covered crops.

“Establishing quantification and verification standards for climate-smart practices helps to ensure that the net GHG emissions reductions from these practices are real, thereby improving credibility and confidence, which could facilitate market opportunities for U.S. farmers growing biofuel feedstocks,” according to a USDA news release.

The interim rule includes guidelines on the following:

- Biofuel feedstock crops and entities in the biofuel supply chain
- Quantification of farm-level crop-specific carbon intensity
- Chain of custody standards for entities in the biofuel supply chain, including traceability and recordkeeping standards
- Auditing and verification requirements
- Climate-smart agriculture practice standards for the biofuel feedstock crops included under the rule.

The interim rule establishes voluntary guidelines that may inform the development of requirements for programs that incentivize low-carbon feedstocks. In January, the U.S. Treasury Department announced its intent

to propose rules for the Clean Fuel Production Credit, often referred to as 45Z, with plans to utilize USDA’s proposed interim rules for climate-smart agriculture.

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack told reporters the Trump administration has additional work to do on 45Z, and the expectation is they follow through on the guidance. He added that the incoming administration can use USDA’s new guidelines and calculator in finalizing tax credit rules.

The interim rule also lays out verification requirements, including accredited third-party verifiers auditing a sample of the farms supplying reduced CI crops. All entities from the first point of aggregation to the biofuel refiner must hire a third-party verifier to conduct an audit annually.

In the case of markets for transportation biofuel feedstocks, this traceability and verification system could allow entities such as farmers, elevators, other intermediary storage facilities and biorefineries to sell products with environmental attributes such as reduced emissions.

“In some cases, selling a product with an environmental attribute could enable these entities to earn a premium price for growing, handling and otherwise helping to move reduced-CI biofuel feedstock through the supply chain,” according to the rule.

USDA is opening a public comment period for 60 days. Read the interim rule at bit.ly/3DXDeWb.

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.)

## Extension Sustainability on the Farm program series cultivates knowledge and inspires action

OGLESBY – University of Illinois Extension, serving Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, and Putnam counties, recently concluded its “Sustainability on the Farm” program series, equipping local farmers and landowners with valuable knowledge and practical tools to enhance their agricultural operations while prioritizing environmental sustainability.

The series, held throughout winter 2025, featured five engaging sessions led by industry experts from organizations including The Wetlands Initiative, Pheasants Forever Quail Forever, American Farmland Trust, and USDANRCS. These sessions covered diverse critical topics, providing participants with actionable insights and strategies to implement on their land.

The program schedule included:

- **Cover Crops:** Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the benefits and implementation of cover crops for soil health and environmental improvement.
- **Wildlife Habitat:** Farmers explored strategies for creating and maintaining wildlife habitats within their agricultural landscapes, promoting biodiversity and ecosystem health.
- **Conservation Tillage:** Attendees learned about various conservation tillage practices and their impact on soil conservation, water quality, and farm profitability.
- **Edge of Field Practices:** The session focused on the implementation of edge-of-field practices, such as buffer strips, filter strips, and constructed wetlands, to minimize nutrient runoff and improve water quality.
- **Cost Share Programs:** Participants gained valuable insights into available federal, state, and private cost-share programs and funding opportunities to support their adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.

“We are thrilled with the overwhelming positive response to the ‘Sustainability on the Farm’ series,” said Emily Hansen, Commercial Agriculture Educator. “The active engagement and thoughtful questions from participants showed a strong commitment to sustainable agriculture in our community. We are grateful to our expert speakers and partner organizations for their contributions to this successful program.”

Already, program participants are making changes on their land, with one stating that their grant application had been approved to restore a portion of their farm with native prairie. And another pursuing the installation of a constructed wetland on their farm.

The University of Illinois Extension remains committed to providing educational resources and support to farmers and landowners in their pursuit of sustainable agriculture. Future programs and initiatives will continue to address the evolving needs of the agricultural community and promote responsible land stewardship. More information about future programs can be found at go.illinois.edu/BLMPAg.

## Illinois wheat checkoff referendum passes 207-69

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois wheat producers approved a measure to bring a wheat check-off program to the State of Illinois. By a vote of 207 to 69, producers passed a referendum to implement a voluntary wheat check-off program with a 1.5 cent per bushel assessment rate.

The referendum result was announced after the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) completed its review of the ballots and certified the statewide vote total. In the coming weeks, the Illinois Wheat Checkoff Committee, in conjunction with the IDOA, will be implementing procedures for the fall 2025 election

of members to the Illinois Wheat Development Board. The program will go into effect Jan. 1, 2026.

The Illinois Wheat Development Act was passed into law to foster the development of new markets for wheat and wheat products, to provide research, enhance production and enable the wheat industry to adapt to changing markets.

“Agriculture is our state’s #1 industry, and we are proud to be the #1 producer of wheat in the nation, producing 60.2 million bushels in 2024,” said IDOA Director Jerry Costello II. “The wheat check-off will foster continued growth, positioning Illinois as a global leader in wheat production.”

## Monarch butterflies proposed as threatened species

By TAMMIE SLOUP  
*FarmWeek*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is proposing federal protections for the monarch butterfly.

The service proposed to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species and designate critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

According to a notice in the Federal Register, USFWS determined the monarch butterfly meets the definition of a threatened species due to the ongoing impacts from loss and degradation of habitat, exposure to insecticides and the effects of climate change.

“To improve future conditions so that the monarch

migratory populations stabilize and grow, we need to (1) achieve a significant increase in the availability of milkweed and nectar plants in monarch breeding and migratory areas; (2) protect and enhance overwintering habitat; (3) avoid and minimize impacts to monarchs and their habitat from insecticides and herbicides; and (4) maintain public support for the conservation of monarch butterflies,” it is written in the notice.

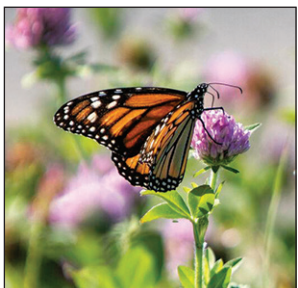
“Because of the monarch butterfly’s general habitat use and wide distribution, all sectors of society, including the general public, have an opportunity to participate in a broad range of conservation efforts throughout the

species’ range.”

The listing proposal is accompanied by a proposed 4(d) rule that offers species-specific protections and flexibilities to encourage conservation and a proposed “critical habitat” designation for the species at its overwintering grounds in 4,395 acres in coastal California. Federal agencies are prohibited from destroying or modifying areas with that designation.

For more information, visit bit.ly/3OQ4ZIT.

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.)



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# SOCIAL NEWS



Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jones...now and then



## Joneses to mark 60th anniversary with open house on May 18th

SUBLETTE – Bob and Betty (Smith) Jones will be celebrating their 60th Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Bob and Betty, with their children, will be having an open house on Sunday, May 18, from 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Hall, 201 Locust St., Sublette. Please, no gifts, your presence will be a joyful gift in itself.

They were married on May 15, 1965, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Sublette, by Reverend Father Robert Donovan. They have been blessed with five children, along with one little angel in heaven, Michael Jones, of Newnan, Ga., Michelle Jones Ernest of Garden Prairie, Daniel Jones, of Carrollton, Ga., Douglas Jones, of West Brooklyn, and Deborah Jones Althaus, of Sublette. They have a total of 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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| <b>JUN 21</b><br>WICKED WHEELS<br>LIT                 | <b>JUL 3</b><br>FREEDOM 40<br>NARS          | <b>AUG 15-17</b><br>STARVED ROCK NATIONALS<br>NARS |
| <b>AUG 23</b><br>BILL WINTER MEMORIAL<br>NARS         | <b>SEP 13</b><br>MONSTER TRUCK BASH<br>NARS | <b>OCT 18</b><br>LASALLE SHOWDOWN<br>NARS          |

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## IVCC's 100th Anniversary Gala raises funds for IVCC Foundation

OGLESBY – A Roaring Twenties-themed Gala on April 12 capped off Illinois Valley Community College's centennial celebration by raising \$70,000 for the IVCC Foundation.

The evening was attended by 165 guests who welcomed a chance to celebrate 100 years of academic excellence and those will guide and champion the College into the future. Many guests dressed in period attire and mingled in a ballroom steeped in festive period decor.

"The event was beautiful from beginning to end and will be remembered for years to come! What stood out for me was the generosity of the guests, the incredible music and how many people danced and truly enjoyed themselves!" said Tracy Beattie, executive director of the IVCC Foundation.

The evening included

live and silent auctions, live music from the IVCC Jazz Combo and the band Harmonix, dining and dancing. "The entertainment and the cause were a perfect way to cap off the anniversary year," Beattie said.

One highlight of the evening came when Larry and Christine Huffman issued a challenge to match donations. The proposal exploded to a \$30,000 grand total to be allocated to general scholarships for IVCC students. According to President Tracy Morris, "One of my most special moments was during the Fund a Future paddle raising. To see the number of paddles raised at all different levels was incredible and heartwarming! The gift by the Huffmans set the tone for the evening. What a generous community we are blessed with!"

Champion Sponsors for the evening included Home-



Guests at IVCC's 100th Anniversary Gala dressed for the Roaring Twenties theme, and danced, dined and mingled. The fundraiser generated \$70,000 for IVCC Foundation scholarships and funds to assist students. (Photo contributed)

town National Bank, Maze Lumber, Senica's Oak Ridge

Golf Club and Thee Ultimate Party.

## International student wins IVCC's Paul Simon Essay Contest

OGLESBY – For international student Zixuan "Maggie" Yang, finding an American college that welcomed her with open arms was as critical as finding one that opened the world to her. At Illinois Valley Community College, she found the real human connection she was seeking.



Z. Yang

Yang described her struggles and her recovery in her winning Paul Simon Essay Contest entry. Students are asked to explain how IVCC has changed their lives. Yang will receive \$300 from IVCC's Student Government Association, which sponsors the campus contest.

Additionally, the essay will be entered in the Illinois Valley Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) statewide contest, where one submission will be chosen for an additional \$500 award.

Yang's American college career got off to a

rocky start. She had missed the college registration deadline, which nearly terminated her student visa status, and she was battling depression and struggling with ADHD, language barriers and cultural adaptation, she wrote.

"As an international student, I often felt isolated – lectures were overwhelming, and even ordering coffee required rehearsing my words. I felt lost. But IVCC rekindled my hope," she said.

IVCC staff helped her restore her student status and set a course schedule. "Their support showed me that at IVCC, every student truly matters. IVCC became more than a school – it became my support system," she added.

Her arrival in the United States to live with an aunt in the Illinois Valley had followed a months-long COVID 19 lockdown that left her reeling and frantic to leave behind an oppressive university system in China. She welcomed the pace and environment of a community college where "I have been able to break

free from the oppressive conformity that I experienced elsewhere." The new environment enabled her to redefine her personal values and the rhythm of her life, she stated.

This spring, Yang will return to China for a few months before continuing her university studies in America. She's approaching the transition with confidence now because she feels healthier and stronger.

"IVCC gave me a foundation in my major, and I have very good skills. I also connected to a lot of people here, and I plan to keep in touch with all my teachers and friends. I feel powerful – and that is what IVCC gave me!"

Yang became familiar on social media in China and the United States, and her posts about IVCC, her life in America, her recovery and her mental health issues have attracted hundreds of followers.

"They ask me a lot of questions about how to apply to IVCC and how to support a life here," she said.

Yang credits her recovery to instructors at IVCC "who not only taught but truly cared."

Jean Forst's reading class "was my first academic hurdle. Her patience made me want to learn – not just to pass – because I felt valued."

Amanda Cook Fesperman's history classes "changed how I saw the world. For the first time, I realized I was not just a foreign observer – I had a voice."

Music instructor Michael Pecherek "changed how I saw myself – not just an ESL (English as a Second Language) student, but as someone whose culture and voice mattered."

Learning she had won this essay contest gave Yang another boost just when she needed one. "I was feeling very heavy pressure on myself. I wondered how to support my life here. I can control nothing. Then I received this good news. God gives me a hand and says do not worry about your future. This is just a little gift I give you, that IVCC gave you, winning this honor."

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# THE BACK PAGE

## POLICE BLOTTER

**RETAIL THEFT**  
Lynnard F. Farley, 32, of 701 Meadowview Drive, Apt. 609, Mendota, was charged with retail theft after police officers responded to a call for service at Shell Gas Station, 700 13th Ave., Mendota, at 7:13 p.m. April 24. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
Henry A. Molina-Gomez, 36, of Rockford, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and I-39 at 6:27 p.m. April 25. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**BATTERY, RESISTING ARREST**  
Jacob N. Walters, 22, of 104 S. Peru St., Troy Grove, was charged with battery and resisting arrest after police officers responded to a call for service at 307 12th St., Mendota, at noon on April 26. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**WARRANT ARREST**  
Jason A. Henry, 35, of 722 Main St., Mendota, was arrested at 4:35 a.m. April 27 on a LaSalle County warrant for failure to appear/possession of cocaine after police officers responded to a call for service at 722 Main St. The subject was transported

to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

**DOMESTIC BATTERY**  
Lynnard F. Farley, 32, of 701 Meadowview Drive, Apt. 609, Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to a call for service at the Farley residence at 6:37 p.m. April 27. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

**WARRANT ARREST**  
Gary D. Smith, 33, of 1000 Main St., Mendota, was arrested at 9:42 p.m. April 28 on a Bureau County warrant for parole violation. The subject was transported to the Bureau County jail.

## Illinois launches multi-faceted effort to curb distracted driving

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias kicked off the office’s multi-faceted “One Road. One Focus” public safety campaign that raises awareness about the dangers and consequences of distracted driving.

The effort features: 1) a new video requirement for student drivers; 2) billboard ads to raise awareness; and 3) expanded distracted driving patrols.

The campaign is geared toward younger drivers to raise awareness and encourage safer driving practices. In 2023, nearly 3,300 people were killed and over 300,000 people were injured in car crashes involving distracted drivers, latest figures from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reveal.

“Despite understanding the dangers, people still give in to the temptation to pick up their phone while behind the wheel. This ‘intoxicated driving’ is the drunk driving of our time and is 100 percent preventable,” Gi-

annoulias said. “Our ‘One Road, One Focus’ campaign seeks to spark a cultural shift in our collective behavior to make Illinois roads safer and save lives.”

“Distracted driving threatens the safety of other motorists, passengers, pedestrians and cyclists and causes tragic reverberations throughout communities,” said Rita Kreslin, Executive Director of Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM), which has developed its own distracted driving prevention and education program. “To ensure the safety of our roadways, we must instill good habits that protect everyone who uses them.”

Using \$77,000 in grant funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the office is also coordinating additional Illinois Secretary of State Police patrols to enforce distracted driving laws in high-volume crash areas throughout the year. The patrols will issue tickets and also serve as a deterrent to drivers who may be tempted toward distraction.

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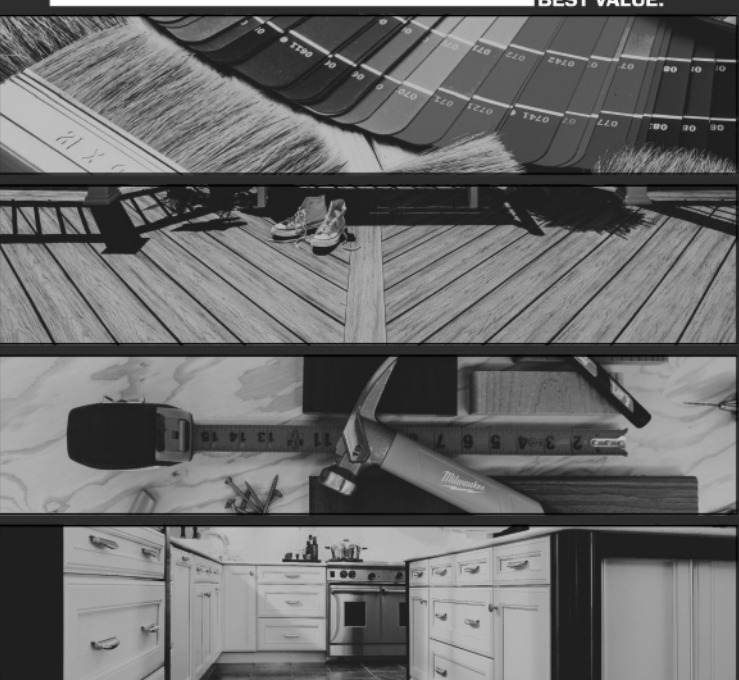
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# SPORTS

## Breaking down the Bears' draft

When the No. 10 overall selection in the 2025 NFL Draft was announced, I was weirdly comfortable. Let's face it, any Chicago Bears' pick makes all Bears' fans a little nervous, queasy, uneasy, sick to our stomach, prideful somehow, shame, unrealistic joy... every single year, but especially when the draft is held



### Not the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance

Colston Loveland, tight end from University of Michigan as the Bears' first round pick, I was awkwardly happy and excited.

Not only does it seem weird to be happy with a Bears pick because, well, it's a Bears pick, but it also seemed strange at first because Loveland plays a position we've been confident in with Cole Kmet.

Kmet has been solid for the Bears since being drafted in the first round of the 2020 NFL Draft after his career at the University of Notre Dame. He has been one Bear who has avoided the calling of his head during the reigns of head coaches' Matt Nagy and Matt Eberflus, which says something about his ability and talent.

So, why pick another tight end with a 10 pick? Because the Bears are finally doing what they should have been doing since the creation of the draft, choosing players who fit the system, fit what the coach wants to do, and who will help the team. For some odd reason, Chicago never gets it right.

The funny thing is, a lot of people were complaining on Facebook about the Bears selecting a position they already had filled.

But they didn't. New coach Ben Johnson runs a two-tight end formation, almost to perfection. His system carved up the Bears' defense time after time when he was the offensive coordinator with the Detroit Lions.

Kmet is one tight end. The Bears didn't have another tight end to do what Johnson wants to do, so they grabbed one.

Not only can Loveland run routes, catch the ball, gain yards after catch, and provide Caleb Williams another option in his second year behind center, but the former Wolverine is 6-foot-5, 245 pounds and can help the offensive line with linebackers and edge rushers.

The offensive line has been pinpointed as a need for the Bears, deservedly so. Instead of wasting the 10th pick on an underwhelming offensive guard, they grabbed Loveland who will be a dual threat as a receiving and blocking tight end.

I'm not saying he is going to be a hall of fame player or is going to become the best player in this draft, which would be amazing if it did happen, but it was a smart decision for Chicago to add depth to the offensive weapons, add to the outside of the offensive line, and play to Johnson's strengths.

For this Bears' fan, it was refreshing. Then the Bears added another offensive skill player with the 39th pick in the second round in wide receiver, Luther Burden III, from University of Missouri.

Although I hope he is awesome and he adds a great third layer of receiver options with D.J. Moore and Rome Odunze, this is where the gripes of not choosing another offensive lineman or a defensive player, anywhere on the defense, can come in.

With Moore, Odunze, Kmet, and Loveland, plus running back D'Andre Swift, there were already multiple receiving options. The other units, however, are very thin and need as much extra help as possible.

I would have gambled with a big guy up front on either side of the line, a pass rusher, a linebacker, rather than picking another receiver.

Then, the complaints from me were silenced when they picked up Boston College's Ozzy Trapilo, a 6-foot-8, 316-pound offensive lineman.

He was just what the Bears' fans wanted ordered, and it made the Burden III pick a little easier to digest.

Being optimistic in the offseason and during the draft comes back to haunt Bears' supporters, but I was raising my level of, 'Let's go,' volume when they took Shemur Turner (offensive lineman from Texas A&M) in the second round with the 62nd pick, traded with the Buffalo Bills to get the 132nd and 169th picks (fourth and fifth round) while releasing the 109th pick (fourth round) to the Bills, picked up Ruben Hyppolite II (a fun name to spell and say) from University of Maryland with the 132nd pick, then traded with the Rams for a sixth round pick in the 2025 draft and a fourth round pick in 2026.

The Bears ended 2025 with a defensive back in the fifth, another offensive lineman in the sixth, and a running back in the seventh.

Again, they did what they usually don't do, grabbed what they needed to fill holes, to placate to their new coach, and to add stability to the units which seemed unstable at times.

I'm not hyping myself up to think the Bears are going to be a playoff team, but they will be fun to watch this year. Let's just hope a Hail Mary doesn't delate the 2025-26 season.

at the epicenter of Chicago hatred, Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wis. When NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell, read



Mendota's Kamilah Preciado (No. 17) heads the ball amongst a crowd around the Plano goal during a girls' varsity soccer game on April 24 at the MHS field. The contest ended in a 1-1 tie. (Reporter photo)

## Girls' soccer posts 3 wins; moves to 12-5-1

MENDOTA – The Mendota girls' soccer team cruised to an 8-0 triumph over Hinckley-Big Rock on April 21 at the MHS field.

Crystal Garcia paced the attack with four goals and two assists. Noemi Arteaga recorded two goals and one assist, while Kaley Siemer and Sienna Gonzalez collected one goal apiece. Other assists went to Kamilah Preciado, Laylie Denault and Kaeyle Brown.

Mendota handed Indian Creek a 3-1 setback on April 22 at the MHS field.

Lady Trojan goals were scored by Garcia, Arteaga and Ella Coss, while Garcia

had two assists and Preciado added the other assist.

Mendota and Plano battled to a 1-1 tie on April 24 at the MHS field.

Garcia had the lone goal for the Lady Trojans.

The Lady Trojans pitched a 2-0 shutout over Oregon on April 26 at the MHS field.

Garcia and Zariah Escatel scored the Mendota goals with one assist from Preciado.

Mendota came up empty in a 2-0 loss at Stillman Valley on April 28.

MHS has a 12-5-1 record.



Mendota's Zariah Escatel moves the ball out in front of a Plano defender during girls' varsity soccer action on April 24 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)



Mendota's Anthony Kelson is at the front of the pack during the 1600-meter run at the Princeton Ferris Invite on April 21. (Photos courtesy of Bureau County Republican)

## MHS girls earn 3 firsts in Ferris Invite

PRINCETON – Mendota's girls' and boys' track team competed in the five-team Ferris Co-Ed Invitational on April 21 at Princeton.

For the girls, the Lady Trojans scored 134 points and finished fourth in the team standings. Rock Falls won with 230 points.

Mariyah Elam earned a pair of top finishes for Mendota, winning the 100-meter hurdles in a time of 16.29 and claiming the high jump at 5-2. Elam also teamed up with Riley Erlenborn, Kate Strouss and Aby Buettner to win the 4x200-meter relay in a time of 1:58.66.

In the boys' meet, the Trojans finished in fifth place with 97 points. Kewanee took top honors with 263 points.

Mendota had a pair of second-place finishes. Anthony Kelson was runner-up in the 1600-meter run with a clocking of 4:48.81 and Komen Denault was second in the pole vault with a measurement of 10-7.

April 21 @ Ferris Invite (Girls)

Rock Falls 230, Princeton 226, Kewanee 201, Mendota 134, Hall 121

Mendota 1st place: Mariyah Elam, 100m hurdles, 16.29; Elam, high jump, 5-2; 4x200m relay (Riley Erlenborn, Elam, Kate Strouss, Aby Buettner), 1:58.66



Mendota's Mariyah Elam is on her way to a convincing win in the 100-meter hurdles at the Princeton Ferris Invite.

Mendota 2nd place: Buettner, 100m dash, 13.75; Rylee Woods, high jump, 5-0; Buettner, long jump, 15-2

Mendota 3rd place: 4x400m relay (Hannah Kunz, Buettner, Eden Pecher, Elam), 4:39.08

Mendota 4th place: Kunz, 400m dash, 1:10.77

Mendota 5th place: 4x100m relay (Harlow Foltyniewicz, Strouss, Reushawna Durr, Ambrielle Oquendo), 58.43; Woods, long jump, 13-9

Mendota 6th place: Emily Banks, 800m run, 3:30.54; Savannah Lenert, 3200m run, 15:18.04; Kenzie Mumm, discus, 59-1 (Boys)

Kewanee 263, Rock Falls 263, Princeton 199, Hall 111,

Mendota 97

Mendota 2nd place: Anthony Kelson, 1600m run, 4:48.81; Komen Denault, pole vault, 10-7

Mendota 3rd place: Sebastian Carlos, 100m dash, 12.02; 4x400m relay (Carlos, Jayden Lesley, Jamal Lesley, Denault), 3:42.79

Mendota 4th place: 4x100m relay (Ethan Escatel, Jayden Lesley, Robert Botello, Jamal Lesley), 47.75; 4x800m relay (Carlos Toribio, Hector Gonzalez, Kelson, Aiden Fisher), 9:44.75

Mendota 5th place: Botello, long jump, 18-2.5

Mendota 6th place: Denault, 400m dash, 59.6; Jamal Lesley, high jump, 5-4; Jayden Lesley, long jump, 18-2

## Elam, Carlos lead MHS at R. Christian Invitational

ROCKFORD – The Mendota track teams participated in the Rockford Christian Invitational on April 25.

There were nine teams in the girls' meet and the Lady Trojans finished fifth in the team standings with 72 points. Lena-Winslow took the top spot with 158 points.

Mendota claimed three first-place finishes, all by Mariyah Elam. She ran a time of 1:01.96 in the 400-meter dash, 16.37 in the 100-meter hurdles and went 15-4 to capture the long jump.

Elam had a second-place finish in the high jump (5-4) and the 4x800-meter relay team was runner-up with a time of 12:23.37. Runners were Hannah Kunz, Savannah Lenert, Riley Erlenborn and Kate Strouss.

Ten teams were in the boys' event and the Trojans were seventh with 31 points. Byron finished up top with 154 points.

Mendota's Sebastian Carlos broke the tape to win the 400-meter dash in a time of 50.80, while he took second place in the 200-meter dash in 22.89.

April 25 @ Rockford Christian Invite (Girls)

Lena-Winslow 158, Belvidere 93, Byron 87, Rockford Jefferson 85, Mendota 72, Dixon 65.5, Rockford Christian 49, Peoria Christian 45.5, Home School Eagles 12

Mendota 1st place: Mariyah Elam, 400m dash, 1:01.96; Elam, 100m hurdles, 16.37; Elam, long jump, 15-4

Mendota 2nd place: Elam, high jump, 5-4; 4x800m relay (Hannah Kunz, Savannah Lenert, Riley Erlenborn, Kate Strouss), 12:23.37

Mendota 3rd place: 4x400m relay (Eden Pecher, Strouss, Kunz, Kara Miars), 5:04.75

Mendota 4th place: Aby Buettner, 100m dash, 13.26;

See Track, Page B2

## Girls' track in Sterling Sectional

STERLING – The Mendota Lady Trojans will compete in the Sterling Class 2A Girls' Sectional Track & Field Meet to be held Wednesday, May 14. Field events begin at 2 p.m. and running events will start at 6 p.m.

Joining MHS will be Aurora (Central Catholic), Aurora (Illinois Math and Science Academy), Aurora (Rosary), Byron, Dixon (H.S.), Freeport (H.S.), Galena (H.S.) [Coop], LaSalle (L-Peru), Pecatonica

[Coop], Plano, Rochelle, Sandwich, Sterling (H.S.), Stillman Valley and Sycamore (H.S.).

First- and second-place winners and those who meet or exceed the qualifying standard in each event, including relay teams, will advance to the State final meet.

The IHSA State Meet is scheduled for Thursday, May 22 through Saturday, May 24 at O'Brien Stadium on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.



# SPORTS

## Track

Continued from Page B1

4x200m relay (Erlenborn, Christianah Brown, Strouss, Buettner), 2:01.59

**Mendota 5th place:** Pecher, 100m hurdles, 20.08 (Boys)

**Byron 154, Belvidere 109.5, Winnebago 107, Rockford Christian 93.5, Rockford Jefferson 91, Home School Eagles 38, Mendota 31, Peoria Christian 30, North Boone 13, Schaumburg Christian 5**

**Mendota 1st place:** Sebastian Carlos, 400m dash, 50.8  
**Mendota 2nd place:** Carlos, 200m dash, 22.89

**Mendota 3rd place:** Komen Denault, pole vault, 10-6

**Mendota 5th place:** 4x100m relay (Carlos, Jayden Lesley, Jamal Lesley, Denault), 47.91

**Mendota 6th place:** Gavin Stevenson, 3200m run, 11:24.63

## Fishing expo set 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.

## MHS track teams compete in Bureau Valley Invite

MANLIUS—Mendota was part of the five-team Bureau Valley Co-Ed Invitational track meet on April 28 at Manlius.

In boys' action, the Trojans placed fifth with 70 points. Bureau Valley won with 154 points.

Gavin Stevenson was first in the 3200-meter run (11:40.45) and Komen Denault grabbed the top spot in the pole vault (9-6).

The Mendota girls finished in third place with 106 points as the Storm won with 215 points.

Mariyah Elam captured firsts in the 300-meter hurdles (47.75) and

the high jump (5-4), while Aby Buettner won the 100-meter dash (13.55).

**April 28 @ Bureau Valley Invitational (Boys)**

**Bureau Valley 154, Riverdale 136, St. Bede 83, Amboy 82, Mendota 70**  
**Mendota 1st place:** Gavin Stevenson, 3200m run, 11:40.45; Komen Denault, pole vault, 9-6

**Mendota 2nd place:** Sebastian Carlos, 100m dash, 12.04; Anthony Kelson, 800m run, 2:15.54; Stevenson, 1600m run, 5:23.05; Spencer Kain, 3200m run, 13:41.94; 4x400m

relay (Robert Botello, Carlos, Jayden Lesley, Kelson), 3:48

**Mendota 4th place:** Carlos Toribio, 1600m run, 5:37.79; Ethan Escatel, long jump, 17-11 (Girls)

**Bureau Valley 215, Amboy 122, Mendota 106, St. Bede 44, Ashton-Franklin Center 14**

**Mendota 1st place:** Aby Buettner, 100m dash, 13.55; Mariyah Elam, 300m hurdles, 47.75; Elam, long jump, 5-4

**Mendota 2nd place:** Savannah Lenert, 1600m run, 6:44.95; Eden Pecher, 100m hurdles, 19.69; Rylee

Woods, high jump, 5-1

**Mendota 3rd place:** Buettner, 200m dash, 27.68; 4x100m relay (Harlow Foltyniewicz, Klaire Knaff, Buettner, Elam), 55.10; 4x200m relay (Alexa Carlos, Knaff, Kate Strouss, Kara Miars), 2:04.34; 4x400m relay (Knaff, Strouss, Miars, Elaina Koch), 5:16.93; Buettner, long jump, 15-5; Pecher, triple jump, 28-0

**Mendota 4th place:** Hannah Kunz, 800m run, 2:52.35; Riley Erlenborn, triple jump, 25-7

**Mendota 5th place:** Lenert, 800m run, 2:55.36; Foltyniewicz, high jump, 4-8; Woods, long jump, 14-8

## Trojan baseball hits rough stretch

The Mendota varsity baseball team let an early lead slip away in an 11-6 loss to Kewanee on April 21 at the MHS diamond.

The Trojans grabbed a 4-1 lead after two innings highlighted by a two-run single off the bat of Dane Doyle. But Kewanee responded with a seven-run top of the third capped off by a wind-aided bases loaded double by Ace LaFollette that chased Doyle from the mound.

Kewanee tacked on another run in the fourth before Mendota completed its scoring with two runs in the bottom of the frame on an RBI single by Evan McPheeters and a bases loaded walk to Collin Coss.

The Boilers added a pair of unearned tallies in the seventh.

Mendota totaled six hits. Brody Hartt singled and doubled, while Oscar Castaneda had a two-bagger.

Doyle allowed seven hits and eight runs to take the loss.

\*\*\*

Mendota and Kewanee met again on April 24 in Kewanee and the Boilers blanked the Trojans, 10-0.

The Boilers scored six unearned runs in the game's second and third innings on

four Mendota errors.

Braiden Freeman took the pitching loss for Mendota, allowing six unearned runs on four hits, walking one, striking out three, and hitting one batter.

The Trojans managed six singles off of Kewanee winning pitcher Landon Sheets, three of them coming off the bat of Freeman.

\*\*\*

Mendota's bats were silent in a 7-0 loss at Orion on April 25.

The Trojans had just two hits – a single by Castaneda in the fifth inning and a single by Jack Gillespie in the seventh.

Orion led 1-0 through three frames and then scored three times in the fourth and three more in the sixth.

Coss was the losing pitcher, going the first four innings and allowing four hits and four unearned runs. Gillespie finished up on the hill.

\*\*\*

Princeton handed the Trojans a 13-1 setback on April 26 at the MHS diamond. The Tigers scored six runs in the fifth to halt the game by the 10-run rule.

Mendota scored its lone run in the fourth when Doyle singled, Otero dou-

bled and Castaneda had an RBI groundout.

The Trojans had five hits off of Princeton winning pitcher Luke Smith.

McPheeters got the start for Mendota and was relieved by Otero in the second when Princeton scored five runs.

\*\*\*

Newman was a 13-3 winner over Mendota on April 28 at Sterling. The Trojans' record fell to 7-10-1 overall and 1-5 in the conference.

Mendota jumped out in front, 2-0, in the top of the first inning, getting four hits right away, including back-to-back RBI singles by McPheeters and Otero.

Trailing 2-1 after two frames, the Comets took the lead for good in the bottom of the third inning, scoring four runs to grab a 5-2 lead.

Newman added six more runs in the bottom of the fourth, to make it 11-2, before Mendota got an RBI groundout by Hartt in the top of the fifth. Newman added two more runs in the fifth to end the game early.

Mendota's eight-hit attack was led by Hartt and Otero with two singles apiece.

Doyle was the losing pitcher.

## QB Club plans golf outing

MENDOTA – The Mendota Quarterback Club will be sponsoring a public fundraising event on Friday, June 13 at the Mendota Golf Club.

Join the club for its 24th annual QB Club Golf Outing. Cost is \$100 per person with steak dinner included. The four-person scramble starts with sign-in and lunch at 11:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 1 p.m. with dinner to follow at 5:30 p.m. If you choose not to golf, the steak dinner is available for \$20 per person.

The event is entirely open to the public.

There will be course games on various holes such as closest to the pin, longest drive, longest putt, etc. It is sure to be a fun time for golfers of all skills.

Entry forms are available online at the Mendota QB Club Facebook page: facebook.com/MendotaQbClub or at the Mendota Golf Club. Come join in for a great time and to support your local Mendota Trojans!

Each year, the club donates thousands of dollars to both the Mendota High School and Mendota Youth Football programs, and would appreciate your support.

## LaSalle to host fishing tourney

LaSALLE – The 38th annual Kids' Free Fishing Tournament will be held Saturday, June 7 at Lock #14 in LaSalle. Registration is at 8 a.m. and fishing is from 9-11 a.m.

The tournament is for boys and girls and will be divided into two age groups – 4-12 and 13-15. Prizes will be awarded.

Participants should bring their own tackle (one pole and one hook). No artificial

lures are allowed. Bait will be provided.

Snacks and drinks will be provided to the participants.

The tournament 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 LaSalle and Peru.

For more information, call 815-223-2382 or 815-488-2035.

## Struggles continue for MHS softball

After a lengthy layoff, the Mendota Lady Trojans returned to the softball diamond and dropped both ends of a double-header at Kewanee on April 24.

In game one, the Lady Boilers claimed a 21-5 victory in a game that ended in the fifth inning because of the 10-run rule.

Kewanee had two huge innings, scoring nine runs in the second and eight in the fifth that halted the action.

Mendota's scoring came in the fourth with three runs and the fifth with two runs.

In the fourth, Ava Eddy led off with a double and she moved to third on a single by Leah Henkel. Karson Doyle walked to load the bases with nobody out. After the next two Mendota batters were retired, Karissa Freeman walked to drive in a run, Sydney Tolley had an RBI single and Leah Schwemlein drew a bases loaded walk.

The Lady Trojan fifth started with a double by Eddy, a single by Henkel and a two-run single by Doyle.

Mendota had seven hits in the game, with Eddy and Henkel getting two apiece. Kewanee collected 14 hits off of two Mendota pitchers, Eddy and Freeman.

The nightcap went to Kewanee, 9-4.

Each team scored a run in the first, Mendota's coming on an RBI single off the bat of Doyle.

The Lady Trojans went back in front with a three-run second inning. Charlee Dankenbring led off with a double. Two outs later, Schwemlein delivered a run-scoring single followed by an RBI double by Alexis Nave. Nave later raced home on a wild pitch.

That ended up being the last runs scored

for the Lady Trojans, while Kewanee tallied eight runs over the final four frames.

Mendota's nine-hit attack was led by Eddy with two singles and a double, while Nave singled and doubled.

Henkel went the distance in the circle for the Lady Trojans. Kewanee totaled 13 hits.

\*\*\*

Orion rolled over Mendota, 22-1, on April 25 at Orion. The game was stopped in the fourth inning by the 10-run rule.

The Lady Trojans scored their only run in the first when Henkel singled and later scored on a single by Addison Perryman.

Orion scored three runs in the bottom of the inning, then plated seven in the second and 12 in the third.

Tolley, Freeman and Hayley Diaz pitched for Mendota.

\*\*\*

Mendota was upended by Newman, 11-4, on April 28 at Sterling.

Trailing 2-0, the Lady Trojans scored once in the third when Nave singled and later scored on a Henkel single. Newman added two runs in the bottom of the third.

Mendota responded with a pair of tallies in the fourth. Freeman and Schwemlein had hits in the frame, with the latter driving in a run.

Newman padded its lead with three runs in the fourth and four in the sixth.

Mendota completed its scoring in the sixth on a single by Schwemlein and an RBI single by Henkel.

Henkel finished with three hits, while Perryman and Schwemlein had two each. Eddy was in the circle for Mendota.



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## Junior Varsity Girls' Soccer

Members of the Mendota High School junior varsity girls' soccer team, front row, left to right, are Marissa Martinez, Faith Solis, Ale Roman, Janell Olguin and Fernanda Valdes. Second row, Monse Chaves, Sophia Orozco, Julia Carvalho, Guadalupe Sandoval, Zariah Escatel and Jocelynn Figueroa. Third row, Briza Cervantes, Julisa Coronel, Janelle Rodriguez, Kashia Ortega and Airam Cuevas. Back row, Rosi Lopez, coach Kyra Koskotas, coach Nick Myers, coach Daniel Hernandez, Kaeyle Brown and Kamilah Preciado. (Reporter photo)

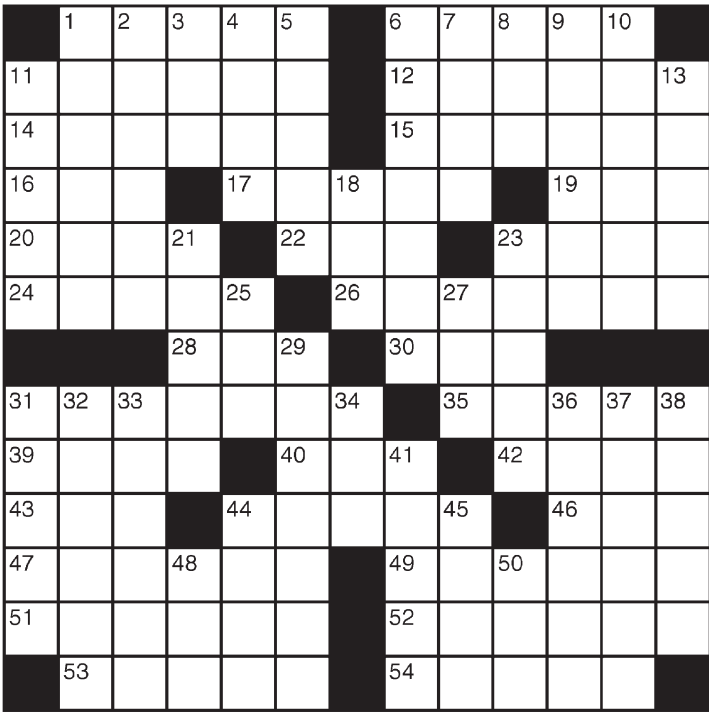


# ENTERTAINMENT

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 German sausage  
6 Hoops great Curry  
11 More minus-cule  
12 Succeed  
14 Ridiculous  
15 Eventually  
16 Bygone bird  
17 Valleys  
19 Pensioned (Abbr.)  
20 Taking action  
22 Label  
23 Corrida bull  
24 Tennis star Rafael  
26 Dessert that jiggles  
28 Violin tuner  
30 Novelist Deighton  
31 "The Peasant Dance" painter  
35 Everglades wader  
39 Give temporarily  
40 Lumber unit  
42 Wrestling style  
43 "Nasty!"  
44 Thread holder  
46 Damage  
47 South Carolina river



- 49 La Brea attraction  
51 Oral  
52 Moving vehicles?  
53 Ceases  
54 Garlic crusher  
**DOWN**  
1 Actress Ryder  
2 Tacit  
3 Estuary  
4 Dispatch  
5 Pick up the tab  
6 Classic catalog giant  
7 Catches some rays  
8 Tolkien creature  
9 Christie sleuth  
10 Arm bones  
11 Shakespeare's "— of Athens"  
13 Rockies range  
18 Trail the pack  
21 Recorded  
23 Zesty flavors  
25 Pants part  
27 Director Spike  
29 Smooth writing implements  
31 Ecstasy  
32 Summaries  
33 Detangle  
34 Brit's restroom  
36 Ado  
37 Inbox fillers  
38 Civil wrongs  
41 Arose  
44 Ooze  
45 Cowardly Lion portrayer  
48 Ring decision  
50 Arctic explorer John

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## Strange But True

### By Lucie Winborne

\* In 2010, a group of 15 monkeys escaped from a Japanese research institute by using trees to catapult themselves over a 17-foot-high electrical fence.

\* Potato aphids will not mate if they detect a drop in air pressure.

\* Casting for Quentin Tarantino's "Jackie Brown" was partly done by Jaki Brown, and Lee Daniels' "The Butler" was cast by Leah Daniels-Butler.

\* It would only cost you in the neighborhood of \$140 per year to eat ramen for every meal.

\* France is the most visited country in the world.

\* Neurologists claim that every time you resist acting on your anger, you are actually rewiring your brain to be calmer and more loving.

\* LEOnardo da Vinci was the first person to observe the curvature of the human spine.

\* During WWII, Winston Churchill wore a specially designed onesie that he called his "siren suit."

\* Don Gorske earned a spot in the Guinness World Records in 2016 for the gastric feat of consuming his 28,788th Big Mac.

\* While most parents do what they can to prevent or stop their babies from crying, in Japan a 400-year-old tradition holds that if a sumo wrestler can make your baby cry, it will live a healthy life. During a special ceremony, parents hand over their infants to wrestlers who bounce the tots and sometimes even roar in their faces to get the tears going.

\* In 1923, a jockey suffered a fatal heart attack but his horse finished and won the race, making him the first and only jockey to win a race after death.

\* Mike Tyson would KO sparring partners quickly so he could get home in time to watch "Tom & Jerry."



Solution time: 21 mins.  
Answers  
King Crossword

## Couch Theater

"The Narrow Road to the Deep North" (TV-MA) -- Based on the novel of the same name by Richard Flanagan, this Australian war-drama miniseries is led by the talented Jacob Elordi ("Saltburn"). Starring as the young version of Dorrigo Evans, an Australian doctor and prisoner of war, Elordi lost all the weight that made him into a convincing high school football player in "Euphoria" to become a bone-thin soldier who gets captured in the Pacific during World War II. Ciaran Hinds ("Game of Thrones") plays the older version of Dorrigo, and Hinds' scenes recount his war experiences while Elordi acts them out for us. All five episodes are out now! (Amazon Prime Video)

In Case You Missed It  
"Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy" (TV-PG) -- Italian-American actor Stanley Tucci ("Conclave," "The Devil Wears Prada," "Spotlight") wanted to go back to his roots for his travel and food show, and this included heading overseas to Italy to explore each region that the beautiful country has to offer. Beginning in Naples and the Amalfi Coast, the first season highlighted some of the food and culture we've come to love from popular cities like Rome, Milan and Tuscany. But as the second season takes off, less-popular regions like Puglia, Liguria and Umbria take the stage, and the culture that gets discovered there might delightfully surprise you. While this lifestyle show only lasted for two seasons, both of which are available to

watch now, Tucci filmed more episodes of a similar show that will eventually come out, called "Tucci: The Heart of Italy." (Netflix)

"The Florida Project" (R) -- Before Sean Baker scored big at this year's Academy Awards with "Anora," he wrote and directed this tragic coming-of-age drama taking place in a budget motel in Kissimmee, Florida, near Disney World. The film logs the treks of a 6-year-old girl named Moonee, who spends most of her days getting into shenanigans with her fellow kids who live in the motel. While her young and lost mother, Halley (Bria Vinaite), grasps at straws to find any way of income after losing her job as a stripper, Moonee is left unsupervised around the motel, causing its manager Bobby (Willem Dafoe) to step in and save them from disaster. This one's not an easy watch but has an exhilarating ending that will stay with you well after the credits roll. Out now. (Max)

"The Worst Person in the World" (R) -- This Norwegian romantic-drama film led by Renate Reinsve ("A Different Man") landed her an award for Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival in 2021 -- an amazing feat for what would be considered her breakout role. The film follows Julie (Reinsve), a young woman in her late 20s as she tries to find her footing in the world. At a loss for what to do in her professional life, Julie bounces from medicine to psychology to photography, never landing on one for good. (Hulu)

## FLASHBACK

1. Which artist wrote and released "You Are the Sunshine of My Life"?
2. Name the artist who was born Reginald Kenneth Dwight.
3. Who released the 1962 cover of "Ruby Baby"?
4. Which artist co-wrote and released "Running Scared"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I thought I could live without romance until you came to me, But now I know that I will go on loving you eternally."

### Answers

1. Stevie Wonder, in 1973. The song won a Grammy Award for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance and was entered into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2002.
2. Elton John, now known as Sir Elton Hercules John after receiving a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1995. He was also knighted in 1998 for services to music.
3. Dion. The song reached No. 2 on the Hot 100 chart.
4. Roy Orbison, in 1961.
5. "I Want You, I Need You, I Love You," by Elvis Presley, in 1956. After 17 takes with no perfect version and being on deadline, the record company producer ended up splicing pieces of version 14 to pieces of version 17. No one could tell he'd done that.

## Celebrity Extra

### By Dana Jackson

**Q:** Is it true that Billy Ray Cyrus is dating Elizabeth Hurley? I thought he was married. -- **K.S.**

**A:** The "Achy Breaky Heart" singer and father of Miley Cyrus recently went public with his new romance with actress Elizabeth Hurley ("Runaways"). Billy Ray Cyrus was married to Tish Cyrus for 29 years before they split. He then wed a singer named Firerose who was 29 years his junior, but they divorced less than a year later.



Hurley

His relationship with Firerose seemed to cause a rift between him and his children. Perhaps Hurley can be the bridge that brings them back together. Her 23-year-old son, Damian, publicly gave his approval of their relationship with a heart emoji after the couple went Instagram official.

\*\*\*

**Q:** Whatever happened to Marvel's "Blade" series? Did it just get delayed, or has it been scrapped altogether? -- **D.D.**

**A:** The 1998 film "Blade,"

which was originally a Marvel comic, starred Wesley Snipes as a half-vampire/half-mortal. It inspired two more sequels, and Snipes also made a cameo as Blade in "Deadpool & Wolverine" last year. Since 2019, there's been plans for a "Blade" reboot film (not a series, at least not yet) starring Oscar-winning actor Mahershala Ali.

Actor Delroy Lindo, who currently appears in another vampire flick "Sinners," was among the cast for the new "Blade" and spoke to Entertainment Weekly about the delayed project. He eventually left the film during its development process after it "went off the rails."

He stated that Marvel "seemed to be really interested in my input" and that conversations with the producers, writer and director at the time was "all leading into it being very inclusive." But creative differences prevailed, and Lindo moved on to other projects like "Sinners."

Marvel pulled "Blade" from its 2025 release calendar after production got pushed back by the pandemic and the Hollywood industry strikes. Meanwhile, Kevin Feige, president of Marvel Studios, says that he remains

committed to Ali's take on the character and that the character "will be coming to the MCU."

Ali, who won respective Oscars in 2017 and 2019 for "Moonlight" and "Green Book," can be seen in the upcoming "Jurassic World: Rebirth" and has several other projects lined up.

\*\*\*

**Q:** Did the actor who played the judge on "Elsbeth" once appear on "Lost"? I had never seen him before this show, but it's got to be him. -- **S.E.**

**A:** Yes, Michael Emerson joined the hit mystery-drama series "Lost" in 2006, in what was initially a short-term role. However, he became a full-time cast member beginning in season three. He then starred in another hit series "Person of Interest" on CBS with Jim Caviezel, which lasted five seasons. Then he landed another hit -- "Evil" on Paramount+.

I'm willing to bet that his favorite acting gig so far has been playing a villain opposite his real-life wife of 26 years, Carrie Preston, on "Elsbeth." About filming their final scene together, he told TV Insider, "We were ready for writing this strong, and when we got it, we could play it."

## Hollywood

### By Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD** -- What has become of Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence? She wed art gallery director Cooke Maroney in 2019 in Rhode Island and gave birth to their son, Cy, in 2022. She returned to work in August 2024 to film the dark comedy "Die, My Love," in Calgary, Canada, opposite Robert Pattinson. Filming wrapped in October 2024, at which time she revealed that she was pregnant with her second child.

Pattinson, who took dancing lessons for his role, was so sure that he didn't do well because of his nervousness; he begged for the scene to be cut, which the producers declined to do.

\*\*\*

Are Zendaya and Tom Holland the new power couple of movies? They met on "Spider-Man: Homecoming" in 2016 when they first became co-stars. In July 2021, paparazzi caught them necking in a car. Later that September, Holland posted birthday wishes for Zendaya, calling her "his MJ" (refer-

ring to her "Spider-Man" character). In 2022, they had a romantic dinner in NYC, as well as a dinner in London for her to meet his family.

This year, Zendaya sported a \$200,000 diamond ring at the Golden Globes, sparking speculation that they got engaged after he proposed to her over the holidays. In March, his father confirmed on social media that Holland asked Zendaya's father for her hand in marriage.

In addition to "Spider-Man," they're both working in Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey," which is shooting in IMAX in Corinth, Greece, and England. She's also lending her voice and talents to "Shrek 5" (for a July 2026 release), along with Mike Myers (Shrek), Eddie Murphy (Donkey), and Cameron Diaz (Princess Fiona). Zendaya plays Felicia, Shrek and Fiona's daughter.

She started shooting the romantic comedy "The Drama," opposite Robert Pattinson, back in October 2024, which eventually wrapped that December. She also

began shooting season three of "Euphoria" in January. Meanwhile, Holland jumps from "The Odyssey" into "Avengers: Doomsday" (due May 2026), before rejoining Zendaya in June 2026 for "Spider-Man: Brand New Day."

\*\*\*

Chris Evans, whose Christmas movie "Red One" tanked at the box office despite co-stars Dwayne Johnson and Lucy Liu, is forging ahead with the romantic comedy "Materialists." He stars opposite Dakota Johnson and Pedro Pascal, and the film is due on June 13.

He also stars in director Ethan Coen's "Honey Don't!" (due later this year), with Margaret Qualley, Aubrey Plaza, Charlie Day and Billy Eichner. In addition, Evans has "Avengers: Doomsday" arriving in May 2026 and the action-adventure comedy "Sacrifice," with Anya Taylor-Joy, Salma Hayek and John Malkovich (no release date yet).

Evans wed Portuguese actress Alba Baptista on Sept. 9, 2023, in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

## • Trivia Test •

1. TELEVISION: Which actor was nominated for an Emmy for the same character on three different sitcoms?
2. MOVIES: Who was the first actor to refuse an Oscar award for Best Actor?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which modern city is in the shadow of the active volcano Mount Vesuvius?
4. FOOD & DRINK: What gas is used to create seltzer water?
5. SCIENCE: What is the center of an atom called?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who are the six men who have made a career Grand Slam in pro golf?
7. ANATOMY: What is the largest artery in the body?
8. LITERATURE: For which category is the O. Henry Award given?
9. ASTRONOMY: Which star system is nearest to our solar system?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many presidents have died in office?

### Answers

1. Kelsey Grammer for "Wings," "Cheers" and "Frasier."
2. George C. Scott, for "Patton."
3. Naples, Italy.
4. Carbon dioxide.
5. Nucleus.
6. Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy.
7. The aorta.
8. Short stories.
9. Alpha Centauri.
10. Eight.

**Can you name the musical artist who was born Reginald Kenneth Dwight? See Flashback for the answer.**

### Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer  
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starvedrockwoodproducts.com

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815-539-5321

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815-539-3844  
www.ancarevet.com

**Mendota Companion Animal Centre**  
Cathy J. Wolf, DVM  
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815-539-6601  
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## WINDOWS & DECKING

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# NIE FUN PAGE



## Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

|    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|
| 10 | 6  |    | 28 |
|    | 5  | 20 | 25 |
| 11 |    |    | 15 |
| 21 | 14 | 33 |    |

|    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 1  | 3 | 11 |
| 20 | 5 | 0  |
| 12 | 6 | 10 |

Solution

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1639:** William Coddington founds Newport, Rhode Island.

**1927:** Charles Nungesser and Francois Coli disappear after attempting to make the first non-stop transatlantic flight from Paris to New York.

## MUSIC FACT:

Cinco de Mayo celebrations often feature this type of traditional Mexican folk music.

Answer: Mariachi!

## Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

VIEYLL SUCMI

Answer: Lively music

## NEW WORD

### MASA

dough made from ground corn

## How they say that in...

**English:** Party  
**Spanish:** Fiesta  
**Italian:** Festa  
**French:** Fête  
**German:** Fest

## Did You Know?

Cinco de Mayo is an annual celebration that commemorates Mexico's victory over the Second French Empire at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.



## Get the PICTURE?



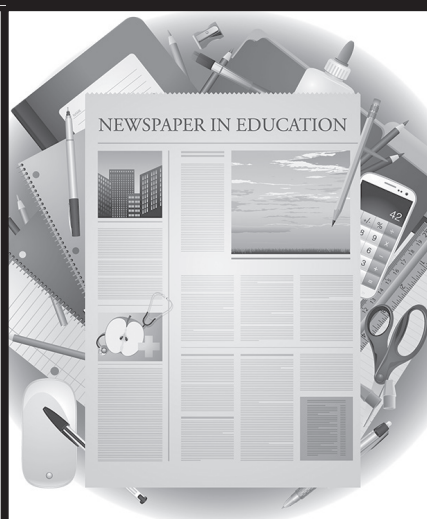
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Guacamole

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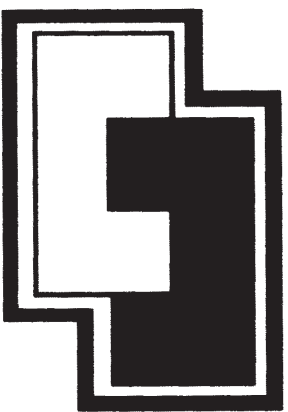
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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Social Security News

### Accessing your personal my Social Security account

By Mike Weilt

PERU – For over 10 years, my Social Security has helped many people access our programs and services online. Soon, we will change the way you sign in to all our online services — including my Social Security. You will no longer be able to sign in to your personal my Social Security account using your username and password. Instead, you'll need to use one of our credential service providers, Login.gov or ID.me. If you already have a Login.gov or ID.me account, and can sign in to our online services, please continue using that account.

If you only have a Social Security username, our screens will guide you through the process to transition your account to Login.gov. Login.gov provides enhanced online security, helps protect you from identity theft, and allows you to create an account that can be used across other agencies. It will only take a few minutes to create a new Login.gov account.

#### How to transition your Social Security username account to Login.gov

To transition your account, please go to [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) and select 'Sign In'. On the next page, select 'Sign in with Social Security Username'. After you successfully sign in with your Social Security username and password you will receive a prompt to create an account with Login.gov. You will then be taken to the Login.gov website.

Once you successfully link your Social Security username with your new Login.gov account, you will see a confirmation screen. You can

start using your new Login.gov account to access our online services immediately. You will no longer be able to sign in with your personal my Social Security account using your Social Security username. Login.gov has 24/7 customer support through phone and chat at [www.login.gov/help](http://www.login.gov/help) to help you set up an account, if needed.

If you're not receiving benefits, you can use your personal my Social Security account to:

- Request a replacement Social Security card.
- Get estimates for future benefits.
- Get your Social Security Statement instantly.
- Get proof that you do not receive benefits.
- Check your application status.

If you're receiving benefits, you can use your personal my Social Security account to:

- Request a replacement Social Security card.
- Get an instant benefit verification letter.
- Start or change your direct deposit. (Social Security beneficiaries only)
- Change your address. (Social Security beneficiaries only)
- Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S instantly for tax season.
- Opt out of mailed notices for those available online.

For more information, please read our publication my Social Security: How to Create an Online Account at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10540.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10540.pdf). Please share this information with your loved ones.

(Weilt is the Social Security District Manager in Peru.)

## IVCC's Continuing Education and Business Training Services customizes training to help businesses thrive

OGLESBY – Whether it is to elevate the skills of an entire workforce or help an individual refresh or reframe a career, IVCC's Continuing Education and Business Training Services has a training program for that – or can develop one.

Seasoned by decades of experience and community savvy, the career training program provides cutting-edge training and expertise to help companies thrive, whether they are startups, expanding, or established businesses seeking to optimize the workforce.

The program serves hundreds of people each year, yet "we are IVCC's best kept secret," said Jennifer Scheri, Director of Continuing Education and Business Training Services. "Despite our best efforts many employers still do not know that we exist, nor the impact we can make on their company. We hope to change that."

As part of Community College Month, IVCC proudly highlights the success of its Business Training Services, which has partnered with 30 companies, providing pre-hiring assessments and customized training courses to about 725 employees in the past year. This milestone reflects the College's ongoing commitment to workforce development, economic growth and meeting the needs of local industries.

NSG Group in Ottawa, which hired IVCC to conduct leadership training for their management group last fall, praised instructor Janelle Reeb and the program. "Courses were informative and interactive and the staff appreciated them," said Lori Wenzelman, the



IVCC's Continuing Education and Business Training Services is one of Illinois Valley industry's most decisive advantages, though it may also be one of the area's best-kept secrets. Headquartered on the Oglesby campus, the program provides customized workforce, career and leadership training led by a team of consultants and subject-matter experts. (Photo contributed)

company's human resources manager.

"We utilized these classes for entry-level to mid-level leaders, but actually, everyone could benefit from them," she said, adding the company plans to enlist Business Training Services for additional training.

Business Training Services can move quickly to remedy a critical shortage, as it did recently for a local healthcare system. Within months, a new pool of 28 trained surgical technicians became available.

"You can partner with us and bring in a program relatively inexpensively with a fairly quick turnaround," Scheri said.

Business training services range from customized training and consulting to employee assessment and testing for new hires. Training can encompass technical skills, competency in customer service, problem solving, OSHA guidelines and the always-in-demand leadership.

Training is done onsite or using IVCC's facilities. The onsite location can be convenient, but some em-

ployers use IVCC "because it removes the distractions of work and allows employees to fully engage in the training," said Jennifer Sowers, Business Training Specialist.

Sowers works with companies to coordinate the training. "We try to meet the learner where they are and provide instruction to acquire skills and master tasks they need immediately," she said. This may involve paring down a larger curriculum to deliver exactly what an employee needs.

A customized training schedule can accommodate day and night shifts and online courses. Grant funding can make the training more affordable and extend company training dollars. In the past year alone, Business Training Services has awarded approximately \$100,000 to district companies through a grant sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB).

"The increase in funding for workforce training demonstrates the state's commitment to helping local business and industry suc-

ceed by employing a skilled workforce," Scheri said.

The center relies on the expertise of IVCC faculty as well as consultants and subject-matter experts in given fields. Some of the veteran subject-matter experts have worked with the program for 20-plus years.

"We rarely say no to any request," said Scheri. "If we have someone to teach it, we will schedule it. Instructors are shared among Illinois community colleges," she added.

An evolving business landscape and fluid workforce makes corporate training more critical than ever for businesses, Scheri said. "As Baby Boomers retire and the workforce becomes more transient, succession planning and training for the next generation of leaders is critically important."

Today's workforce also has expectations for an environment that can support the whole employee, not just address skills, Scheri said.

"Beyond company-wide training, individuals looking to be more successful in their current job or eyeing a career change can enroll in professional development and career training courses offered through Continuing Education," said Kim Koebler, program manager.

Programs are geared to educators, healthcare employees, food-service workers, water system operators, supervisors, and every level of office employee. Grant funding is also available for these courses and is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For information contact the Continuing Education and Business Services Division at 815-224-0547.

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# BUSINESS CARD BULLETIN BOARD



# 9 Reasons to Shop Local

1

## Shopping Local Creates Jobs:

The jobs created allow spending in the local economy and help create more jobs.

2

## Local independent businesses invest more in our community:

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

3

## Local businesses sell a wide range of great products

at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.

4

## Shopping Local saves you money and time!

Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items more.

5

## Shopping Local retains our community:

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

6

## Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:

Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.

7

## Shopping Local encourages community growth.

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

8

## Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.

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

9

## Local shops value you more:

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



RELIGION

The reality of being more than a conqueror in life

Romans 8:37 (NIV) says, "...In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." But do we really know what it means to be more than a conqueror? I know it took many years for me to learn what it means and how to live the victorious life Jesus died to give us as believers.

I remember many years when I went to church faithfully every week, yet my private life was pathetic. It was so frustrating because I really loved God and was a born-again believer, but I wasn't experiencing victory over the problems in my life so that I could really live for God and help people.

As I eventually grew

in my personal relationship with Jesus and spent time studying the Word, I came to understand what it means to be more than a conqueror and how I could get there. And if I can do it, so can you.

To be more than a conqueror means that before you ever get a problem, you already know that whatever problem comes your way, you can overcome it through Christ! You live with confidence that God loves you no matter what and He will never leave you nor forsake you. And when you have this kind of relationship with God, you aren't constantly afraid of bad news or of things that may happen that aren't in your plan.

When the unexpected happens or you're disappointed, you won't be devastated by it.

See, when you truly understand who you are in Christ—who God says you are and everything that's yours through a relationship with Jesus—you discover there's nothing that can happen that is too much for you...because there's nothing that's too much for Him! First John 4:4 confirms it: "Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated and overcome them [the agents of the antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world" (AMPC).

It's so important for us to get this truth down in our hearts and see ourselves as more than conquerors through Jesus, because if we don't, then our enemy, Satan, will be able to confuse us and keep us from victory. And all the enemy wants to do is kill, steal, and destroy what God wants us to have (John 10:10). He wants to diminish you—make you small-minded and small in spirit so you'll live a small, frustrated life.

But we don't have to live that way. Every person who declares that Jesus is Lord, repents of their sin, and gives their heart to God is a child of God and belongs to Him (Romans 10:9-11). In Christ, we



are forgiven and made right with God. We have the strength and power to do what His Word says to do and live the full and fulfilling life He has for us.

Do you realize what this means? It means that as we spend time with God in prayer and studying the Bible, we can access the wisdom and strength we need to make right choices and behave right. It doesn't happen all at once or overnight, but we will make progress every day that we seek God this way.

I really want you to understand who you are in Christ as a born-again believer. You were never meant to be frustrated, discouraged, or feel like you're always just trying to get through the day. God has more for you than that!

When you make a mistake and the enemy comes and tells you, "You're no good," you don't have to take on the guilt and condemnation he wants to put on you. No! You can immediately confess your mistake to God, thank Him for forgiving you and cleansing you with the blood of Jesus, and move forward in the victory of

His grace and forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

Here's a scripture that has helped me take hold of who I am in Christ and live with victory over the hardships of this world: "In this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us...because as He is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17 AMPC).

I encourage you to learn who God really is. Get a deeper understanding of His character and His heart for you. Spend time with Him, read His Word, and let Him love you. Know that He loves you unconditionally. God is good, and He wants to bless you and help you. When we know this truth, we don't have to be tormented by doubts about whether God cares or whether He will take care of us.

Whatever your situation is today, God knows about it. He sees you and hears the cry of your heart. And if you will give Him your problems and do what He tells you to do, you will access His overcoming love,

grace, and power and be more than a conqueror. Because in Christ, as He is, so are we in this world!

\*\*\*

For more on this topic, order Joyce's five-part teaching resource Bold, Confident and Courageous. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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

Where are the AUCTIONS?

See Page A5!

CHOOSE CAR SEAT: BY AGE & SIZE

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY HAVE THEIR CHILD IN THE RIGHT SEAT.

THE ONES WHO ACTUALLY DO.

KNOW FOR SURE IF YOUR CHILD IS IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT.

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Child Car Safety

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Steel Roofing & Siding 38" Width, 36" Cover, New & Seconds!

New Barn Boards / Rough Sawn Full 1" thick 1"x12" White Pine Also 1"x8", 1"x12" Ship Lap Rough Face

\* #1 Southern Yellow Pine Lumber \* 2x8 T/G Yellow Pine\* Good For Horse Stalls & Floors

Red Cedar Dog Eared Pickets 3/4" thick 1"x6" - 6ft long \$3.89 each

Anich Lumber Co. 414 3rd Street • Palmyra [www.palsteel.com](http://www.palsteel.com)

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

### MENDOTA

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

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

#### HOLY CROSS, MENDOTA

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

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

Confession

#### STS. PETER AND PAUL, PETERSTOWN

Weekend Mass  
Sun - 9 a.m.  
Confession

#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

100 E. Sixth St.  
(815) 538-5587

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

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

May 1 - 10 a.m. Allure worship  
May 6 - 1 p.m. PEO-Welker Hall

#### ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace  
jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United  
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Sunday School for Preschool - 6th grade  
in fellowship hall during worship service  
(Parking lot worship available on 90.9 FM  
during Sunday services)

TUESDAY - Prayer group 7 p.m.



#### If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

If I can write one verse of truth today  
Or give my fellow man a song to sing;  
If I can push one needless cloud away  
And help men live as children  
of the King:

If I can lend someone a helping hand  
Or warm a place where friendship  
needs to be;

If I can build a bridge where  
fences stand

And light a lamp that other men  
might see;

If I can open doors of hope this day  
By letting someone know that  
others care;

If I can speak in words that seem  
to say:

I know the heavy burdens that  
you bear.

If I can guide a pilgrim on his way  
Or pause to bid him stay for food  
and rest;

If I can do these, Father, this I pray:  
"O let me do them with my very best."

#### UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

4401 State Route 251  
(815) 538-3444

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor  
E-mail: mendotaupc@yahoo.com  
www.mendotaupc.org

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

WEDNESDAY:  
Midweek Bible Study - 7 p.m.



#### NEW COVENANT ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

Larry Sheaves, Pastor  
www.newcovenantmendota.org  
www.facebook.com/NCAOG

"Preaching the blood, book and  
blessed hope."

Sunday School  
Worship

#### MENDOTA BIBLE CHURCH

Rt. 251, 1/2 mile south of  
Mendota  
(815) 538-6876

Brian Kelly, Pastor  
www.mendotabiblechurch.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
Sunday School  
Worship  
Evening Service

#### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 Tenth Ave.  
(815) 539-5626

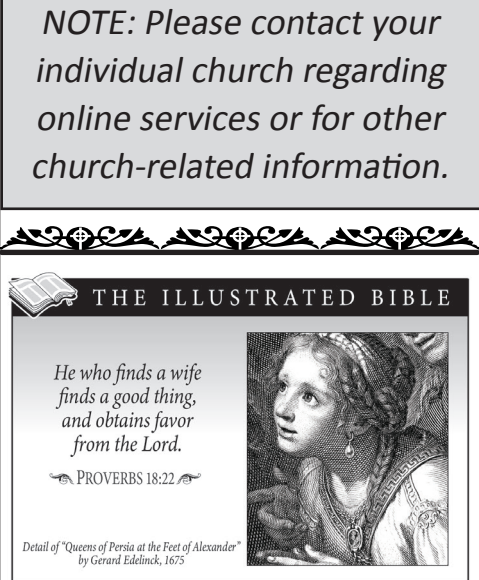
Pastor Elise Rothfusz  
E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Website:  
www.stjohnsmendota.org

Schedule:  
9 a.m. Sunday Worship in person  
and online via YouTube

Find us on Facebook

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



#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1003 5th St.  
(815) 538-5603

Website: fpcmendota.com  
Accessible

Pastor Laurie Walker  
Fellowship 9:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School following  
children's message

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Available on Facebook Live  
Facebook page

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota  
May 1 - 10 a.m. "Fill My Cup"

May 2 - 12:30 p.m. HOH pickup;  
3 p.m. Unload & stock HOH foods

May 6 - 10 a.m. Produce sorting;  
12:30 p.m. MAMA

#### CHRIST'S CHURCH

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

1107 Main St.  
(815) 993-2462

Dave Manion Jim McDowell  
Wayne Shuman

Please join us for . . .  
Sunday Bible Study (all ages) 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Church Builders 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.

Men's Ministry  
Ladies & Mens Bible Study

Thursday 6 p.m.

Non-denominational  
Please call for more information

### COMPTON

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

398 Church Road, Compton

Pastor Jeffrey Schlesinger  
(815) 539-6567

Wheelchair accessible  
Website: www.ilccompton.org

E-mail: immanuellutheran  
compton@live.com

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship at First

Online "devotional service" videos continue  
every Sunday at

facebook.com/ilccompton and  
YouTube. Check our website and Facebook  
page for more information.



### LA MOILLE

#### ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

(815) 539-7820

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Accessible

#### COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

La Moille  
(815) 638-2348

Pastor David Jungnickel  
E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9 a.m.

Children's Sunday School  
following children's message

FELLOWSHIP 10 a.m. (nursery available)

Mondays - 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m. Soup & Soul

### TROY GROVE

#### FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

208 W. South St.,  
Troy Grove

Pastor Brian Hamiel

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info

E-mail: fbfcchurch20817@gmail.com

"At Faith Bible Fellowship, we exist  
to glorify God through the equipping  
of His saints, teaching of His Word  
and raising of His name.

We would love to have you join us  
to worship and learn about  
our risen Savior."

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

#### BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Obadiah (KJV)  
in the Old or New Testament or  
neither?

2. Which Babylon king went insane  
living in the fields eating grass?  
Nebuchadnezzar, Solomon, Daniel,  
Herod

3. From Genesis 23, what was the  
first land purchase in the Bible?  
Garden, Hilltop, Cave, River shore

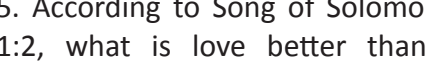
4. Which apostle was foreordained  
to minister to the Gentiles?  
Thomas, Paul, Andrew, John

5. According to Song of Solomon  
1:2, what is love better than?  
Food, Wine, Money, Song

6. Which son of the dying Jacob  
did he compare to a vicious lion?  
Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2)  
Nebuchadnezzar, 3) Cave, 4) Paul,  
5) Wine, 6) Judah

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house of worship  
this week.



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

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800 Monroe St., Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-7211

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Light Your Path

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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





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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice to the Residents of the Mendota-Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection District: You are hereby notified that a tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Mendota-Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection District of LaSalle and Bureau County, Illinois for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2026 has been prepared and the public notice will be posted in five places within the Fire District and also printed in the Mendota Reporter. You are further notified that a public hearing shall be held as to such Budget and Appropriation Ordinance at the Mendota Fire Station, 610 S. Main Street, Mendota, Illinois on June 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Mendota-Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection District. No. 0407 (April 30, 2025)

### NOTICE MENDOTA ELEMENTARY #289 BOARD OF EDUCATION INTEREST

Mendota Elementary District #289 currently has vacant seats on the Board of Education. Please contact School Board President, Theresa Komitas (tkomitas@m289.org) or 815.739.6541 if you are interested in being considered for appointment to a vacant seat that runs through the spring of 2027. There is a brief questionnaire to be completed by prospective Board members.

There are two open seats: one open seat requires the member to live in Mendota Township, the other requires the member to not live in Mendota Township. The deadline for submission of applications is Friday, May 9, 2025. Applicants may be asked to interview with the Board of Education. The current five Board members will vote to fill the vacant seats. Please contact the District Office (815) 539-

7631 with additional questions. No. 0408 (April 30 and May 7, 2025)

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

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## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is

specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

## 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.

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### HEALTH/PERSONAL/ MISCELLANEOUS

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY AND SUFFERED AN INFECTION between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

## Recycle

## 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**  
RNLHOUSE

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## 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.**

## 601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

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2021 Chevy 1500 LTZ Crew Cab 4x4 Z71, 63K Miles, Blue, GM Certified, 1-owner with topper, running boards, leather interior, heated / cooled seats, & More!

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2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ, 74K Miles, White.....\$39,900

2021 Chevy 1500 Z71 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ Topper, 63K Miles, Blue.....\$36,900

2022 Chevy Equinox AWD Premier, 59K Miles, Blue.....\$22,900

2021 Chevy Traverse AWD Premier, 70K Miles, White.....\$29,900

### QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2021 Chevy Traverse LT, AWD, Silver, 111K Miles .....\$20,900

2017 GMC 1500 Double Cab SLE, 89K Miles, Gray .....\$22,900

2020 Chevy Equinox Premier AWD, 100K Miles, Maroon.....\$16,900

2016 Chevy Equinox AWD LTZ 4-cyl, 64K Miles, Silver.....\$13,900

2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab Longbox LT 4x4 Z71, 77K Miles, Red.....\$25,900



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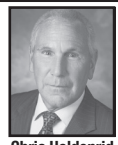
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Chris Holdenrid  
VP, Mortgage Lending  
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Cory Biers  
Sr. Vice President  
NMLS#477892

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706 Washington St. and 1403 13th Ave., Mendota  
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firststatebank.biz

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTION**

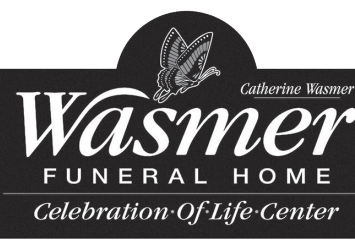
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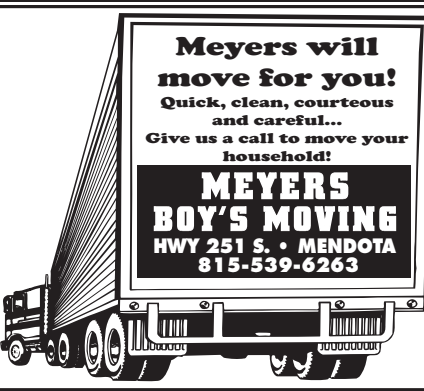
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The Mendota Reporter



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 815-539-5616

**Carniceria De La O**  
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 Mendota  
 815-539-6871

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**La Esquina De Oro**  
 1206 6th Avenue  
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 815-503-0162

**The Mendota Reporter**  
 703 Illinois Ave.  
 Mendota  
 815-539-9396

**Salinas Mexican Food**  
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**Sullivans Foods**  
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