

Newly-elected Mendota city officials are sworn into office by city attorney Mike Guilfoyle at the May 5 city council meeting. Left to right, are Kyle Kim, Vicki Johnson, Leo Hochstatter, Emily McConville, Jim Fitzpatrick and David Boelk. (Reporter photo)

## Mendota city officials sworn in, fiscal year ‘26 budgets approved

**By KIP CHEEK**  
*Staff writer*

MENDOTA—Newly-elected officials took the oath of office and fiscal year budgets were passed at the May 5 meeting of the Mendota City Council.

City attorney Mike Guilfoyle conducted the swearing-in ceremony for the city officials voted into office at the April 1 election. They included Mayor David Boelk, City Clerk Emily McConville, Aldermen Kyle Kim, Leo Hochstatter and Jim Fitzpatrick, and Alderwomen Vicki Johnson.

**ALDERMANIC REPORTS**

Alderman Fitzpatrick reported on engineering agreements for Eighth Street and Ninth Avenue bridge projects. The agreements will be formally acted upon at the next regular council meeting.

As a formality, the council acknowledged the Safe Routes to School award concurrence of D. Construction from Coal City in the amount of \$247,454. Work will consist of the removal and replacement of various sidewalks within the city.

In other action from Fitzpatrick’s report,

the council approved a resolution for street closures for the annual Sweet Corn Festival in August and agreed to a request from the Mendota YMCA to use Lake Mendota Park for a Showcase Truck Show on Saturday, July 26 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in conjunction with its adult soccer league that concludes on July 26.

Alderman John Holland presented the FY26 budgets. The General Fund budget revenue is projected at \$10,387,670 and expenses are estimated at \$10,368,120 for a surplus of \$19,550.

Alderman Jay Miller shared a request from the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce for a liquor license to hold a beer garden, which was accepted by the council.

Alderwoman Johnson introduced members of the Live Well Mendota group, which gave a presentation to the council. The group is an offshoot of the Drug Prevention Committee that was established after Mendota received a \$1.9 million grant in late 2023

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## Mendota hosting numerous events to celebrate National Prevention Week

❑ Prescription Drug Take Back among happenings on May 13

**By BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
*Staff writer*

MENDOTA – In 2023, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration rebranded National Prevention Week to further provide evidence-based and accessible resources to facilitate collective action.

The City of Mendota hopped aboard the idea and became part of SAMHSA’s grant program and will use the funds to educate and assist residents with events, activities, and guest speakers on Tuesday, May 13.

“The City of Mendota received a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Partnerships for Success Grant in 2023,” said Mendota Project Director Annie Short. “Each year, as our Live Well Mendota group grows, it gives us opportunities to grow National Prevention Week.

“This year, we were excited to receive a phone call from State Representative Bradley Fritts to once again do the Prescription Drug Take Back event. Although we have Take Back boxes at CVS and the Mendota Police Department and the hospital, OSF Saint Paul, does take prescriptions back also, it’s nice to do this during the prevention event.”

The Prescription Drug Take Back is from 4-6 p.m. on May 13 and features a drive-thru drop off at the Mendota Civic Center parking lot featuring Fritts.

There are no questions, no judgments, just the opportunity to get drugs out of homes because research has proven the first place or first time for the misuse of drugs



happens at the home.

Hidden in Plain Sight is an adult only event taking place from 4-6 p.m. inside the Mendota Civic Center.

“This is a great opportunity for parents to test their detective skills. There are a lot of products out there now that are easily able to hide drugs,” Short said. “Not to alarm parents, but it’s an opportunity to educate them and give them a sense of what to look for. We don’t want kids using or misusing drugs, and being a parent can be very difficult when it comes to this.

“This event will give them a mock bedroom to see if they can find all the areas where drugs could be hidden.”

After Hidden in Plain Sight, two guest speakers will present.

At 6 p.m., Special Agent Greg Czaczkowski will share current drug use trends among youth and how drugs are being sold to prevent usage among the youth.

At 7 p.m., BeSure Consulting will discuss how parents can monitor, manage, and keep children safe online and on mobile devices.

“We’re excited to have

both of our speakers to discuss drug prevention. They’ll share what to look for and the understanding of how drugs are getting into the hands of our kids,” Short said. “Also, with our social media speaker, we recognize it has to be difficult for a parent these days to know how to protect their children while also letting them be independent, especially when it comes to the internet.

“The speaker will help parents find a way to monitor social media without them feeling like they’re hovering over their kids.”

Short and the City of Mendota are excited to host the National Prevention Week programming to assist Mendota residents. And because guest speakers and Rep. Fritts care as well.

“It shows we’re all concerned and getting involved in preventing our youth from using drugs,” Short said. “Having these opportunities and the grant to pay for speakers to come in is nice because having the national experts, who can give other insight beyond what happens in Mendota is helpful to the cause.”

## Food Truck Mania set to begin May 12 in Mendota

❑ New location is 800 block of Illinois Ave.

**By BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
*Staff writer*

MENDOTA—Reimagine Mendota brought a new concept to eating out in Mendota when it began Food Truck Mania two years ago.

The event has been so successful it has become the biggest fundraiser for the pavilion project.

It also outgrew its location.

“We didn’t have the space to continue having Food Truck Mania on Main Street,” said Reimagine Mendota Secretary Vicki Johnson. “When we put our survey out, people said it was hard to have the food trucks lined up so long because they had to walk all the way down and back to decide what they wanted.



“We talked about still having the food trucks on Main Street and closing a street to make the walk shorter, but due to the traffic, we decided it wasn’t the best idea.”

This year, Food Truck Mania is moving to Illinois Avenue between Jefferson Street and Monroe Street.

This location gives Food Truck Mania – 4-8 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays every month starting May 12 and ending Oct. 27 – a

See Food, Page A5

## MHS Prom 2025



Mendota High School held its 2025 Prom festivities on May 3. Members of the Senior Court, left to right, are Evan McPheeters, Makenzie Bean, Benjamin Bresley, Ella Coss, Queen Kaley Siemer, King Cameron Escatel, Braiden Freeman, Ava Eddy, Crystal Garcia, Cameron Kelly, Cassandra Gonzalez and Mauricio Martinez-Morales. (Photo contributed)



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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Coffee Barn is officially serving coffee, donuts, smiles

*Ownership group pays respect to barn's former owner, Jerry Prokuski*

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

**MENDOTA** – After a few months of covering the windows and carrying wood and saws in and out of its doors, the Coffee Barn has its windows uncovered and coffee and donuts are now leaving with customers.

The Coffee Barn, located at 701 Illinois Avenue in Mendota, had its soft open May 1 and plans to have a grand opening in the coming weeks.

Majority owners Sean Arteaga and Humberto Garcia, as well as general manager and co-owner Janaya Garcia, are excited to officially bring the Coffee Barn to Mendota.

“The idea was thought of by me and Humberto when we went and looked at the building,” said Arteaga. “We liked the space and thought it would be cool for a coffee shop. Janaya and her husband, Lucas (Humberto’s brother), are big coffee people, too. They wanted to be involved, and Janaya knowing coffee and what she is doing, it worked out well for everyone in a partnership.”

“It’s two buddies who have been friends forever, 20 years, and came together on a business concept. We brought it to life and brought Janaya in the mix to create the Coffee Barn. It took longer than expected. Humberto and I purchased the building, and it needed more work than we anticipated. We basically remodeled the entire building with new electrical, plumbing, and renovated the barn.”

The Coffee Barn is open 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m. seven days a week, but could change after business trends set in.

The barn currently offers coffee, lattes, pastries, donuts, and cinnamon rolls with additional breakfast and lunch option in the mix such as breakfast sandwiches, bagels, and paninis.

Seating is available upstairs and downstairs with Wi-Fi available. A library is coming soon with the options to buy books or read an in-house selection while at the Coffee Barn.

Arteaga and the Garcias plan to host pop-up events with other local business owners and rent the building for parties and gatherings.



The Coffee Barn, located at 701 Illinois Avenue in Mendota is officially open for business. The new coffee shop is brought to you by, left to right, majority owner Humberto Garcia, general manager and co-owner Janaya Garcia, and majority owner Sean Arteaga. The Coffee Barn has been renovated and remodeled from its previous business, Jerry’s Flower Barn, which still has its presence, memory in the building. (Reporter photos by Brandon LaChance)

“With the City of Mendota and Reimagine Mendota putting in the effort to revitalize Mendota, we saw it as a great opportunity to buy the building and bring something cool to Mendota,” Arteaga said. “It’s downtown, next door to First State Bank and the Mendota Reporter, plus we’re right across the street from the city building.”

“It made sense to bring a new, cool coffee spot to that exact location. People can come and hang out, relax, and socialize.”

Although the ownership group wanted to open the Coffee Barn as soon as it took a look at the building, they had to be patient.

Previously Jerry’s Flower Barn owned by Jerry Prokuski,



who passed away April 28, 2024, they wanted to give the building the same tender, loving, care, Jerry would.

“It was Jerry’s Flower Barn forever and everyone in town knew the building as Jerry’s Flower Barn,” Arteaga said. “We wanted to keep the name to give respect to him, so that’s why we named it the Coffee Barn. We wanted to keep the building in the same barn fashion rather than changing it 100 percent.”

“We have some pieces from the flower barn that we kept. There is some open shelving from an old bench we broke down. We just wanted to keep some of his stuff around to pay respect.”



### Cinco de Mayo celebration

The annual Cinco de Mayo celebration hosted by the Illinois Valley Hispanic Partnership Council took place Friday, May 2 at Northbrook School in Mendota. The YMCA held a truck show and many businesses were represented. Above, Vivian Romero, center, won the Cinco de Mayo Mini Queen contest, and was awarded gifts by last year’s Cinco de Mayo Queen, Crystal Garcia, and the council’s Celina Garza. Below, Litzzy Celis was named the 2025 Miss Cinco de Mayo. Eddie Ramos earned the title Cinco de Mayo Mini King. “We had a great turnout. There was so much support because the community shows up every time,” said IV Hispanic Partnership Council President Aurora Medina. “I believe we may have outgrown Northbrook. I’d say we had close to 300 people.” (Reporter photos by Brandon LaChance)



### Welcome to the Chamber



### Arteaga’s Liquor

There is a new liquor store in town and it is a new member of the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce. Celebrating the union are Arteaga family members Clariza Espinoza, Junaita Castaneda, Ivan Espinoza, Omar Espinoza, Daniela Arteaga, Noe Espinoza, owners Victor and Luz Arteaga (center), Baudelio Espinoza, Jorge Arteaga, Maria Espinoza, and Elivira Espinoza. Representing the MACC were Lee Stocking, Stephen Donnell, President/CEO Sam Setchell, Veterans Assistance Commission’s Emily Hackler, Kim Bima, and Kelly Becker. Arteaga Liquor is located at 605 6th Street in Mendota. The Arteaga family is from Mendota and are first-time business owners. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

### Explore veggies grown in Mediterranean regions

**OGLESBY** – Join the University of Illinois Extension for a two-part series to explore vegetables commonly grown in the Mediterranean regions. In the first session, you will learn tips on how to grow these vegetables and discover the benefits of a Mediterranean diet, ending with a cooking demonstration. During the second session, which takes place in August, participants will gather back together again to prepare a delicious one-pot Mediterranean meal using the vegetables they have grown together.

Join Susan Glassman, Emily Hansen, Illinois Extension Educators, and Master Gardener volunteers. Discover your love for growing vegetables, cooking, and enjoying Mediterranean foods. Take home resources and recipes to use yourself.

Program fees are \$10 per person, which includes the class, resources, and recipes. Please bring your own beverage.

Grow It, Cook It, Eat It will be offered in two sessions. Session 1 is Thursday, May 22 and Session 2 is Thursday, Aug. 21, both from 5:30-7 p.m. at Illinois Valley Community College Teaching Kitchen, CTC-123.

To register, visit [go.illinois.edu/GrowCookEat](http://go.illinois.edu/GrowCookEat) or call 815-224-0894. Note that class size is limited to 20 adults.

If you need an accommodation to participate, contact Glassman at [susang@illinois.edu](mailto:susang@illinois.edu) or 815-224-0894. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

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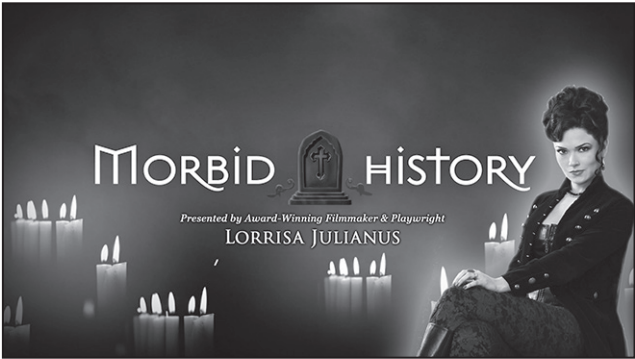
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# LOCAL AND AREA



## Graves-Hume provides insight to our morbid history on May 14

MENDOTA – The Graves-Hume Public Library invites you to a light-hearted presentation taking you around the world with spine-tingling true tales you never learned in history class.

Morbid History is presented at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 by award-winning filmmaker Lorissa Julianus and looks at the questionable history of humans by

talking about grave-robbing, resurrections, electrical experiments inspired by Mary Shelley, the notorious Burke/Hare murder case, and much more.

This program is ideal for ages 10-plus, teens, adults, and seniors.

Library programs are open to all. No library card is required. Call 815-538-5142 for more information or stop in for a newsletter.

## Pressure can foods safely this summer with free test from U of I Extension

OTTAWA – To ensure safety in the home canning process, pressure canner dial gauges should be tested once per year. This canning season, University of Illinois Extension is offering free testing of dial gauge pressure canners at your local Extension office. Over time, the accuracy of a dial gauge can become inaccurate. If the pressure is lower than recommended, the internal temperature of the food will not be high enough to kill harmful bacteria.

Register or stop at your local University of Illinois Extension office on a pressure canner testing day. Lids and gauges can also be dropped off prior to the testing day, and we will call you to pick them up at your convenience when offices are open.

• Wednesday, May 14,

1-4:30 p.m. at Bureau County Extension Office, 850 Thompson St., Princeton. Register at [go.illinois.edu/bureaucanner](http://go.illinois.edu/bureaucanner)

• Wednesday, May 21, 1-4:30 p.m. at LaSalle County Extension Office, 1689 N. 31st Road, Suite 2, Ottawa. Register at [go.illinois.edu/lasallecanner](http://go.illinois.edu/lasallecanner)

• Wednesday, May 28, 1-4:30 p.m. at Marshall-Putnam County Extension Office, 509 Front St., Suite 4, Henry. Register at [go.illinois.edu/cannernp](http://go.illinois.edu/cannernp)

For more information, please call Susan Glassman at 815-224-0894.

If you need an accommodation to participate, please contact Susan Glassman at [susang@illinois.edu](mailto:susang@illinois.edu) or 815-224-0894. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.



## Walk Audit

The City of Medina performed walk audits on April 23-24 at Mendota High School, Northbrook School, Lincoln Elementary, Blackstone Elementary and Holy Cross in part of the Safe Routes to School Grant. Kwame Brako, left, Illinois Department of Transportation intern, and Annie Short, City of Mendota project director, asked parents questions at Lincoln on Wednesday, April 23 on how they felt about the safety of Mendota sidewalks for their children's safety in terms of getting to and from school. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

## Welcome to the Chamber



## OnCall Imaging

The imaging center, located at 1609 First Avenue in Rock Falls, is now a proud member of the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce. In the photo are, front row, left to right, Kim Zera, MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell and Tori Cheshire. Back row, MACC ambassador Piper Grazulis, Alli Rosalez, Terri Miller, Skip Sage, and Lauren Strauss. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

## Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

The KIND KID winners for the month of April were just announced. Congratulations to Maliyah Josephson, Tate Scheppers, Julius Rodriguez, Benjamin Hermosillo, Romalia Dominguez, Sienna Nash, Dylan Robinson, Margaret Bend, Analeisa Arteaga, Josue Guzman, Nash Albers, Felicity Lynn and Abby Gehant. We are very proud of all of our kind kids at Blackstone.

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We had kindergarten registration this past week for incoming kindergarten students for the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you to all of the parents who came to pick up registration packets. We ask that parents complete the online part of registration within the next week. If anyone has questions or trouble with the registration process, please contact our office at 539-6888. If you have a child coming to kindergarten at Blackstone this next year, and you have not picked up registration information yet, please contact our office as soon as possible so we can help you get your child registered.

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The April Paw Pride assembly was on April 30. We celebrated students showing great behavior throughout the month. Students can earn golden tickets for demonstrating great behavior on a daily basis. We drew golden ticket winners to play a fun Tic-Tac-Toe Relay game and then also to win some great prizes. We have one more behavior assembly at the end of May.

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We celebrated May Day by having all of our students make May Day baskets. The students filled their baskets with some treats to enjoy at home. Thank you to Mrs. Holmes for helping the students make the baskets in STEAM class and the classroom teachers for helping the students fill them with treats.

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The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Callie Kittilson, Maliyah Rodriguez, Kade Watson, Olivia Moorehead, Pablo Rivera, Caden Benefiel, Ximenna Hermosillo and Wynter Fairman. The winners were Ella Quijas, Samantha Reveles, Kaedyn Landers and Harvey Robison. Congratulations to all of you!

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Each year the Regional Office of Education in LaSalle County hosts an Excellence in Education Banquet to honor outstanding educators in the county. The winners this year from Blackstone were Sydney Wilhelm (first grade teacher) and Michelle Beetz (paraprofessional). The ROE also recognizes retiring teachers. Vanessa Holmes and Mary Kieffer were recognized for retirement at the end of the 25-26 school year. Congratulations to these outstanding educators!



## Third Thursday Concert Series begins May 15 at Hegeler Carus Mansion

LaSALLE – Starting Thursday, May 15, the Third Thursday Concert Series will begin for 2025 in the Grove at the Hegeler Carus Mansion in LaSalle. Concerts will take place from 6:30-8 p.m. (gates open at 6 p.m.) on the third Thursdays from May through September.

Each concert will feature live music, food vendors, a guest emcee, and a 50/50 raffle. Bring your chairs, blankets, and your favorite people for an awesome time under the tree canopy.

The 2025 lineup includes: May 15-Cody Calkins; June 19-Fiddle Rock, July 17-Steve Sharp, Aug. 21-Kev Roy and the Overjoyed; Sept. 18-Big Uproar

Unique add-ons this year include:

- Flower Crown and Scalp T(HAIR)apy

Workshop on May 15. Come early and make your own flower crown with Vittoria Wurl using locally grown flowers from Nettle Creek Lavender Farm. Cost \$55/person

• Crescendo Tour: Trip to the Stars May 15 and Sept. 18. After the concert join in for a special trip to the highest point of the mansion: the cupola. This “night cap” will last 10-15 minutes and be the high point of your evening. Cost: \$15/person

“The concerts are back with a few new opportunities,” said Laura Walker, Hegeler Carus Foundation Executive Director. “You won’t want to miss it.”

Admission is \$5 a person at the gate or online at the mansion website, [hegelercarus.org](http://hegelercarus.org). Buy your tickets in advance and make your plans.

## Hank Walsh takes genealogy guild to the ballgame

OTTAWA – Hank Walsh will “Take us out to the ballgame” at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 17 during the LaSalle County Genealogy Guild monthly meeting located at 115 W. Glover St. in Ottawa.

Walsh will be presenting the early history of baseball leagues in LaSalle County. When did leagues begin? What were the team names? Who became famous players?

Walsh will explain all, including a rare history of some Negro League players and stats.

The public is invited to attend and refreshments will be served, however, research will not be allowed during the program.

## A World Gone Mad: World War II


PRINCETON – On Thursday, May 22, the Bureau County Genealogical Society will host historian Jim Gibbons and his presentation on World War II.

This presentation will be at 7 p.m. at the Bureau County Genealogical Society, 629 S. Main St., in Princeton. The public is invited to attend this free presentation.

On December 8, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated: “Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked

by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.” The United States had now entered World War II.

Historian Jim Gibbons will take you through the second of two of the most catastrophic wars in our nation’s history, World War II. Gibbons will highlight significant events that thrust the United States into this unwanted war. These unfolding events include: Germany, Italy, and Japan’s mad, manipulative race to power; the bombing of Pearl Harbor, London, Warsaw, Stalingrad, and Leningrad; and the seizing of Paris.




# 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.

1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
2. May God cradle you in His arms, now and forever.
3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand
4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
5. The days may come and go, but the times we shared will always remain.
6. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
7. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
8. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
9. May God's grace shine over you for all time.
10. 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.

Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please use Verse # \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I have included my own Verse (write below)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Passing: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: The Mendota Reporter, 703 Illinois Ave., P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342



# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Gwenda L. Strouss

MENDOTA—Gwenda L. Strouss, 87, of Mendota, passed away peacefully on April 27, 2025, at Allure in Mendota. Graveside services were at 10 a.m. Friday, May 2, 2025, at Restland Cemetery. Rev. Mary Bohall officiated. Cremation rites were accorded. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Gwenda was born Dec. 10, 1937, in Mendota, to Robert and Mabel (Steve) Strouss. She graduated Mendota High School in 1946.

She is survived by four cousins and their families, Bob (Nancy) Strouss of Urbana, James (Colleen) Strouss of Mendota, Linda (Al) Spenader of Mendota and Leslie Strouss Sr. of Princeton.

Gwenda was preceded in death by her parents.

Gwenda had a variety of positions at Del Monte Corporation where she worked until her retirement.

Memorials may be directed to Allure of Mendota. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.

## IVCC Board approves bid for 2025 renovations

OGLESBY—The Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees launched a multimillion-dollar renovation project to improve lab and testing areas on campus.

On April 16, the Board accepted a bid from Vissering Construction Co., Streator, in the amount of \$3.8 million for 2025 campus renovations.

Work is expected to begin this summer on creating new space on the College's lower level, where a microbiology lab will be relocated, making it independent of other lab areas and improving safety for students.

The Assessment Center will also be relocated and renovated to include advanced features and technologies.

Additionally, as part of the renovation project, a corridor near the cafeteria will be redesigned and new seating options will be created in the cafeteria space.

In other action, the Board welcomed 2025-2026 student trustee Danica Scoma of Utica and recognized outgoing student trustee Emma Garretson for her service.

Outgoing trustees were recognized for their service on the board. Dr. Amy Boyles served eight years and Jane Goetz served 12 years.

In her monthly report, President Dr. Tracy Morris noted:

- Students have been active in supporting their classmates by volunteering at the Eagles Peak Food Pantry. Nora Villareal's English Composition students have donated items, unloaded deliveries, organized shelves, and greeted students. Project Success students volunteer monthly, unloading a delivery truck, unboxing goods, and stocking shelves. In the first quarter of this year, more than 1,400 people in 182 households received food pantry supplies. That number included 182 children.

In other action, the Board:

- Approved a proposal from the IT Department to purchase equipment for a technology refresh at a cost not to exceed \$206,000.

- Learned of the resignations of welding instructor Christian Carboni, Career and Technical Programs instructor Michael Furlan and Financial Aid Advisor Louis Lukacsy, and the retirements of maintenance employee Mark Quincer, administrative assistant Marlene Merkel, speech and theater instructor David Kuester, and psychology instructor Richard Mangold.

## IVCC alum documents local theater legend's personal and professional impact on Illinois Valley

OGLESBY — Reid Tomasson had crossed paths with Jim Jewell often, but it was not until he read the writing on the wall that he imagined how he and the area theater legend could share a stage.



Tomasson

Last year, Tomasson began gathering footage and memories for his latest film project showcasing Jewell's life and art and his lasting impact on the Illinois Valley. The feature-length documentary carries an intriguing title: "Thank You Jim Jewell for the Use of Your Piano."

Jewell died in 1994, long before Tomasson was born, so they never met. Yet their paths intersected notably at Illinois Valley Community College, where Jewell taught speech from 1968-1994. Tomasson, who graduated in 2021, said his parents relocated to the area when his dad, Cory, succeeded Jewell on the faculty.

"It is crazy to think about, that we might not have moved here, and I would not have been at IVCC and Stage 212. I owe so much in my life to Jim, and I wanted to repay that," Tomasson said.

Hooked on the story-telling power since seeing the thriller "Jaws" as a boy, Tomasson commandeered the family camcorder to create horror, action or comedy films in his neighborhood. An IVCC film appreciation class introduced him to fine points of lighting and sound, while a chance venture recording the College's virtual stage productions in 2020 shaped his editing skills.

In 2023, Tomasson gathered up his Columbia College film and TV production degree and went to work as production manager at La Salle's Stage 212, where Jewell had performed, directed, served on the management board — and eventually endowed the institution, which named the

auditorium after him.

As a boy growing up performing with Stage 212, Tomasson knew the name but discovered when he read a plaque on the Wall of Honor that there was more to Jewell than an auditorium. He had written a play and a book.

Tomasson, who enjoys reading play scripts, borrowed a copy from Stage 212's business manager, Natalie Smigel. Jewell's image — as a performer and as a local hero — sharpened.

"So many things hit a chord for me and made me feel like there had to be more to his story. I realized a lot of people who knew Jim recalled he was one of their favorite people, but you didn't hear about his life," Tomasson said.

In 2024, as part of his quest to fill in the gaps, Tomasson re-staged the one-man monologue that Jewell had debuted on La Salle's stage decades earlier. "Milo Lookingale" stimulated awareness of the documentary project and uncapped sources of Jewell stories.

"What stood out in the stories is that people felt he was the best person in their lives — a charming beacon of happiness bringing other people up. They counted him among their favorite teachers. Jim had been a face without a personality to me, someone I had only seen on a plaque. I am getting to know him. He lives through the stories!"

People keep presenting new memories of Jewell, tidbits they consider insignificant but which Tomasson hears as epic parts of the story. "They have more to say than they think," Tomasson marveled.

A documentary appealed to Tomasson, who had been looking for another film project after what he describes as a "low-budget guerilla comedy" in 2022. "I wanted to tell a real story, to change things up."

He partnered with local filmmakers and fellow IVCC graduates Tyler Amm, who



Jim Jewell poses in his office at IVCC. Jewell died in 1994.

provides creative and technical support, Zach Shaw, a cinematographer who presents a visionary eye behind the camera, and Griffin Tabor, a writer with a tenacity for research.

Tabor poured over newspaper articles and genealogy sites, tapping a rich archive that unveiled relatives and revealed that Jewell had written a well-respected history of Broadway's Tony Awards. Theater program dedications over the years yielded links to classmates and college instructors.

Knowing that Jewell grew up in Indiana and was adopted, Tomasson had despaired of finding family until they discovered cousins who had grown up with Jewell. That meeting "turned up a flood of family photos and videos and gave our documentary more of a personal touch."

Jewell was a prolific writer and newsletter editor, traveled widely to do etchings of memorial gravestones, and — in pre-internet days — filed away articles about friends, students and colleagues because "he wanted to keep in touch and know about you. He was a champion of other people."

Jewell's one-man play — written at the height of the AIDS crisis and chronicling a man's fears and frustrations as he watches his friends die — foreshadowed his own death.

Tomasson is progressing on the documentary, though no release date is set. He said the title is an inside joke among local theater people and refers to Jewell's personal piano which appeared in various productions. The piano became as famous as its owner and was credited often in theater programs and even a wedding program, and a legend was born.

"The title is perfect! It sums up who Jim is and celebrates the people who are part of this production," said Tomasson, who himself borrowed the piano from the Stage 212 lobby for his 2022 film. The appearance passed uncredited into history since Tomasson did not know the legend then, but Tomasson wants to ensure Jewell's legacy does not vanish too.

"Jim had so many sides to life: teaching, writing, Stage 212, other organizations, the Indiana side. This is a chance to see all sides of him."

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Spring planting accelerates across U.S.

By RHIANNON BRANCH  
*FarmWeek*

BLOOMINGTON – It is early in the season, but soybean planting is ahead of the five-year average pace and the forecast for May generally looks favorable for fieldwork.

USDA reported 10% of Illinois soybeans were planted as of April 21 compared to 10% at the same time last season and 7% on average.

Corn planting reached 7% complete as of the same date compared to 10% last year and 11% on average.

Jason McVicker, Pioneer field agronomist who covers the Interstate 80 corridor in northern Illinois, said planting has been all over the board in his area.

“We have guys that are probably about half done and really poured the coals to it and you’ve got others that said they wouldn’t do anything until after Easter,” he told the RFD Radio Network’s Jim Taylor.

McVicker said those who planted put a good dent in soybean acres.

“A lot of my reps’ sheds were stocked full (of seed) and now they’re not quite down to bare bones, but they have made a lot of progress with deliveries and getting some of those beans in the ground,” he said, adding that many farmers were holding out for warmer temperatures to plant corn as of last week.

“But if we do get dried out, I think we’re going to see a pretty heavy switch to guys getting corn in the



ground and maximizing that opportunity,” McVickersaid.

Wind has been the biggest challenge in northern Illinois this season, according to McVicker, as it prevented timely herbicide applications.

“It is getting frustrating for some of these guys because we need to make sure we’ve got that chemistry out there to keep us weed-free and give that crop a chance to get ahead of any of those challenges that could present themselves,” he said.

Weather outlooks for May point toward warmer and wetter-than-average conditions across Illinois.

Trent Ford, state climatologist with the Illinois State Water Survey, told RFD chances for a late spring cool down are slim and above average temperatures should

continue an upward trajectory for soil temperatures.

“Wetter-than-normal conditions do mean that spring fieldwork windows aren’t going to be wide open, but they’ll be open in between things,” Ford said.

Far southern Illinois, where growers have received more than enough rain this spring, is where this forecast is of concern, Ford said.

“Any additional rainfall that they’re likely to receive in May is probably going to continue to delay or maybe obstruct good fieldwork,” Ford said.

Soil in the rest of the state has the capacity to take in more water, according to the climatologist.

“So that means any rain that falls will hopefully drain pretty quickly and, combined with above average tempera-

tures, we could have some pretty timely fieldwork in May,” Ford said.

Meanwhile, severe weather has continued an active pattern in the state.

A strong spring low pressure system brought severe storms to parts of the Midwest on Easter Sunday. Three tornadoes were confirmed in Knox and Tazewell counties, according to the National Weather Service, with another along the McDonough-Henderson county line, which all caused damage to trees, outbuildings and power lines among other objects.

*(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.)*

## Sublette Cruise ‘N Show scheduled for May 17th

SUBLETTE – The annual Sublette Cruise ‘N Show will be held on Saturday, May 17 from 4-7 p.m. on Main Street in downtown Sublette.

Everyone is invited to cruise to Sublette to show your car. All antique, classic or special interest cars, trucks and motorcycles are welcome.

There is no entry fee and no judging, just a night to enjoy old classic vehicles.

Sublette’s restaurants and shops will be open for business during the show.

## City

Continued from Page A1

to be used for drug prevention efforts over a five-year period.

Some of the things that have been accomplished so far are the formation of a Nex Gen Leaders group with youth of the community, Early Out/Hangouts and Explore Your Likes/Early Dismissal events for youth, a Mendota Family Safe Night Out, and the formation of numerous partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

### OTHER ITEMS

Mayor Boelk proclaimed Mendota will celebrate National Prevention Week May 12-17. Several events sponsored by Live Well

Mendota will take place on Tuesday, May 13, including a prescription drug take-back opportunity from 4-6 p.m. at the Mendota Civic Center that will allow residents to drop off any expired and unused medications. The drug drop off is hosted in partnership with Rep. Brad Fritts.

Boelk also said the city is going to do all it can to have the swimming pool open this summer after leaks were discovered over the winter. He said the city will keep citizens informed about the status of the pool.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m.

## Food

Continued from Page A1

parking lot, lights, a storage area for the picnic tables, and people do not have to cross a street with ongoing traffic.

At press time, Johnson has met her goal of having 10 food trucks for six of the 11 Mondays the event will take place. She has eight or nine trucks for the other five but is reaching out to more.

“It worked out very well last year. Plus, with the survey, 100 percent of the people wanted Food Truck Mania to return,” Johnson said. “It’s something that brings our community together. The Sweet Corn Festival is the main thing to bring people downtown, but this is nice to have to have people gather on a regular basis.”

Food trucks included in Food Truck Mania are Tacos Guzman, Salinas Mexican Food, Philly Factory, Tony’s Buttshack, Flo’s on

Pulaski, Didough’s Pretzels, AR Chimney Cakes, LaSalle Doghouse, Big Rich BBQ, Big B BBQ, Farmers Smoked BBQ, Main Squeeze Lemonade, Naiho’s Eggrolls and More, La Esquinita De Oro, and Flo’s will have a second truck.

“We hope to have some of the trucks do fundraisers for us. We’ve had a couple of trucks volunteer,” Johnson said. “We’re starting to charge the trucks \$25 to be at Food Truck Mania, which we’ve never done before. If they decide to do a fundraiser, they won’t be charged the \$25 for that night, but at the end of the night, they’ll donate 10 percent of their profit.”

“All of the proceeds from Food Truck Mania and the food trucks, minus the costs, are going toward the pavilion project to match the \$100,000 donation from Black Bros.”

## 2024 La Salle County final multiplier announced

SPRINGFIELD – La Salle County has been issued a final property assessment equalization factor of 1.0000, according to David Harris, director of the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR).

The property assessment equalization factor, often called the “multiplier,” is the method used to achieve uniform property assessments among counties, as required by law. This equalization is particularly important because some of the state’s 6,600 local taxing districts overlap into two or more counties (e.g., school districts, junior college districts, fire protection districts). If there was no equalization among counties, substantial inequities among taxpayers with comparable properties would result.

Under a law passed in 1975, property in Illinois should be assessed at one-third (1/3) of its market value. Farm property is assessed differently with farm homesites and dwellings subject to regular assessing and equalization procedures. Farmland is assessed at one-third of its agriculture economic value and not subject to the state equalization factor.

Assessments in La Salle County are at 32.93% of market value, based on sales of properties in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

The equalization factor currently being assigned is for 2024 taxes, payable in 2025.

Last year’s equalization factor for the county was 1.0000.

The final assessment equalization factor

was issued after a public hearing on the tentative factor. The tentative factor issued on Dec. 19, 2024, was 1.0000.

The equalization factor is determined annually for each county by comparing the price of individual properties sold over the past three years to the assessed value placed on those properties by the county supervisor of assessments/county assessor.

If the three-year average level of assessment is one-third of the market value, the equalization factor will be one (1). If the average level of assessment is greater than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be less than one (1). And if the average level of assessment is less than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be greater than one (1).

A change in the equalization factor does not mean total property tax bills will increase or decrease. Tax bills are determined by local taxing bodies when they request money each year to provide services to local citizens. If the amount requested by local taxing districts is not greater than the amount received in the previous year, then total property taxes will not increase even if assessments increase.

The assessed value of an individual property determines what portion of the tax burden a specific taxpayer will assume. That individual’s portion of tax responsibility is not changed by the multiplier.

## City Ordinance

### Grass clippings, etc. in streets

No person shall throw, place or leave, or cause or permit to be thrown, placed or left, any ashes, dirt, filth or rubbish, grass clippings, or foreign matter in or upon any street, alley or sidewalk of the City of Mendota.

Penalty: Any person violating this section shall be subject to the penalty of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500. Imposition of any penalty for a violation of this section shall not be construed as a waiver of the right of the City to collect the cost of removal of such nuisance where it is necessary for the City to remove such nuisance.

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Local school district libraries are recipients of state grants

SPRINGFIELD – Secretary of State and State Librarian Alexi Giannoulias has awarded more than \$1.3 million to 2,484 Illinois public school libraries throughout Illinois.

The grants, awarded in the spring of every fiscal year, support school library services for Illinois students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Resources and services provided through the grant include library books, e-books, audiobooks, periodicals, multilingual materials, technology and programs.

Among the grant recipients are Mendota Community Consolidated School District 289 (\$850), Mendota High School District 280 (\$850), Amboy Community Unit District 272 (\$850) and Ohio school districts (\$850 each).

“Illinois students deserve to have access to quality library resources, including learning materials, books and online services at our public schools,” Giannoulias said. “Libraries serve as places of knowledge, learning and discovery and this funding will help equip them to educate and inspire our future generations.”

Based on a statutory formula, school districts receive \$0.885 per student for their enrollment at each school having a qualified library. Funding for the program originates from the General Revenue Fund and is appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly.

“The school district library grant is an investment into the futures of all Illinois students. With this funding, library staff provide a rich array of materials, including books, online resources, and technology, to meet the educational needs and spark the interests of all K-12 students in all areas of our state,” said Illinois Library Association Executive Board Director-at-Large Michelle Glatt. “We appreciate and commend Illinois leaders, especially Secretary of State and State Librarian Giannoulias, for their commitment to school libraries and the young people they serve.”

“Throughout Illinois, school librarians are thankful to receive these grants from Secretary Giannoulias to improve our libraries,” said Jacob Roskovensky, President of The Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE), which provides leadership and support for the development, promotion, and improvement of school libraries. “In some districts, this funding is the sole source of revenue to purchase books.”

## Area county fairs receive grant from financial group

□ Funding will support fairground improvements to enhance attendee, exhibitor experience

SUN PRAIRIE, Wis. – For the eighth year, Compeer Financial is helping county fairs across the Upper Midwest improve facilities and attendee experiences through its Fund for Rural America, the Farm Credit cooperative’s giving program. In Illinois, 21 fair organizations will each receive up to \$4,000 to support their fairground projects.

In total, Compeer Financial is awarding \$242,000 to 61 county fairs across Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin for a wide range of repairs and upgrades through this year’s County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant Program.

“County fairs are a summer highlight for families involved in agriculture and living in rural communities,” said Karen Schieler, manager of corporate giving at Compeer Financial. “These grants help fair organizers enhance the experience for exhibitors and visitors by funding essential updates to buildings and grounds. Fair organizers work tirelessly to ensure a positive, memorable event each year, and we’re proud to support their efforts.”

County fairs are rural staples in bringing together people of all ages to learn about and experience agriculture up close. Last year’s fairs saw an average attendance of 42,298. Compeer Financial designated

the County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant Program to uplift the rural communities it serves. The grant program is a critical tool that enables organizers to continue offering the best possible experience to fair-goers by funding upgrades and repairs of fairground livestock buildings, 4-H buildings and livestock judging arenas.

With applicants reporting the average age of their fairground buildings as 45 years old, this year’s funding supports critical initiatives focused on enhancing safety, functionality and the experience for animals, exhibitors and visitors. By modernizing electrical and lighting and enhancing safety and hygiene, fair organizers will foster a welcoming and professional environment that enhances the overall experience and helps attract more exhibitors and attendees. Of this year’s 61 funded projects:

- 35 percent are for upgrades to building structures
- 30 percent are for electrical or ventilation upgrades
- 20 percent are for new livestock gates/pens to accommodate increasing numbers of exhibitors
- 15 percent are for miscellaneous updates

Since its establishment in 2018, the Fund has awarded 483 County Fair Facility Upgrade Grants for a total impact of more than \$1.6

million that has improved the experiences of fair organizers, participants and attendees. The grant will open for 2026 applications in March 2026.

Among the 21 organizations in Illinois earning a County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant include:

- LaSalle County Junior Fair Board Association: Electrical upgrades for the fairgrounds, barns and show barn.
- Lee County Fair Association: Replacing doors and openers in the commercial exhibit building.
- Marshall-Putnam Fair Association: New rollup doors on the poultry and rabbit building.
- Ogle County Fair Association: Replacing the walkway and drive chip seal.

### About the Fund for Rural America

The Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America is the corporate giving program of Compeer Financial, structured to support Compeer Financial’s mission to enrich agriculture and rural America. Compeer Financial’s Board of Directors has dedicated one percent of annual net earnings to support the Fund’s focus areas of agri-

culture education, youth engagement, rural development and community enrichment, agricultural advocacy and development, and cooperative initiatives. The Fund is managed by a Board of Trustees, made up of team members and members of the Compeer Financial Board of Directors.

### About Compeer Financial

Compeer Financial is a member-owned Farm Credit cooperative serving and supporting agriculture and rural communities. The \$34.7 billion organization provides loans, leases, risk management and other financial services throughout 144 counties in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Based in the Upper Midwest, Compeer Financial exists to champion the hopes and dreams of rural America, while providing personalized service and expertise to clients and the agriculture industry.

Compeer Financial is the third largest cooperative of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of lending institutions supporting agriculture and rural communities with reliable, consistent credit and financial services.

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<b>JUN 21</b> BUCKING BILLS HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL	<b>JUL 3</b> 40 HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL	<b>AUG 15-17</b> STAN WATERS HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL
<b>AUG 23</b> BILL WATERS Memorial HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL	<b>SEP 13</b> MONSTER TRUCK BASH HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL	<b>OCT 18</b> LASALLE SHOWDOWN HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL HUGE SUPER LATE MODEL

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# WHY I LOVE MOM



## Holy Cross School - Weber

I love my mom because she helps me and she does a lot for me. The first reason why I love mom because she helps me when I'm hurt, when I'm afraid and when I'm worried. The second reason why I love mom is because she does a lot for me by helping me with my homework, when she loves me and when she does funny dances. My mom is great because she likes to smile.

Love, Ivie Beetz

I love my mom because she helps me and she does a lot for me. The first reason I love mom is because she helps me by cleaning my room, helping me with homework and helps me learn to cook. The second reason I love my mom is because she does a lot for me by cooking my favorite foods, getting groceries and she takes me to the Cherryvale Mall. My mom smiles when we play Candyland.

Love, Silas Belan

I love my mom because she helps me and she does a lot for me. The first reason why I love mom is because she helps me cook dinner, she comforts me when I'm sad and she helps me when I'm worried. The second reason why I love my mom is because she does a lot for me by taking me out on Chick-fil-A trips, she makes white chicken mushroom pasta and the children's museum trips. My mom is great because she dances on random songs.

Love, Isla Full

I love my mom because she helps me and she does a lot for me. The first reason why I love mom because she helps me with homework, with spelling and with arguments. The second reason why I love mom is because she does a lot for me by making good food. She is awesome and she loves me. My mom is great because she likes Starbucks.

Love, Arya Gann

I love my mom because she helps me and she does a lot for me. The first reason why I love mom is because she protects me, she helps me when I am hurt, she helps me with spelling words. My second reason why I love mom is because she does a lot for me by helping me learn, she gave me shelter and she buys shirts for me. Thank you for all you do. My mom is great because she lets me play on my ipad.

Love, Olivia Huang

I love my mom because she helps me and she does a lot for me. The first reason why I love mom is because she helps me be responsible with my homework and helps me fix problems. The second reason is she does a lot for me by being nice, she cleans my bunny cage and she gets me nice things. I love dancing with her.

Love, Alexis Radnovich

I love my mom because she helps me and she does a lot for me. The first reason I love mom is because she helps me on homework, when I'm sick and when I am hurt. The second reason I love mom is she does a lot for me when I have strep throat she takes me to the doctor, cooks me waffles for breakfast and cooks me dinner. My mom is great because she goes roller skating.

Love, Stella Rosales

I love my mom because she helps me and she does a lot for me. The first reason why I love my mom is because she helps me do art, she helps me do my homework and she helps me sleep very good. The second reason why I love mom is because she does a lot for me by cooking for me, takes me to Walmart and takes me to different malls. My mom is great because she helps me and

does a lot for me. I love when you do a big smile.

Love, Trinity Shanyfelt

I love my mom because she helps me and she does a lot for me. My first reason why I love mom is because she helps me with homework, art and cursive. The second reason I love mom is because she does a lot for me by cooking, helping me when I'm really sick and gets a lot of stuff I need. My mom is great because she makes chocolate chip cookies.

Love, Liam Stewart

I love my mom because she helps me and she does a lot for me. The first reason why I love my mom is because she protects me, helps me with my homework and she is nice to me. The second reason why I love my mom is because she takes me to McDonald's, takes me to the park and gets me new clothes. I love going to Michigan.

Love, Nolan Stiles

I love my mom because she helps me and she does a lot for me. The first reason why I love my mom is because she helps me when I'm hurt, when I'm sad and when I'm angry. The second reason why I love mom is because she does a lot for me by doing laundry, she makes my bed and she does dishes.

Love, Addison Trillet

## Lincoln School - Becker

My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as a flower. She likes to lay down all day. The best thing she cooks is macaroni and cheese. Her favorite food is chocolate ice cream. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to lay in bed. We like to lay in bed together. My mom is really good at cleaning. I would like to thank my mom for the new house. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to not stomp on the stairs. My mom deserves to have a new house for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Queen Fairman

My mom is as pretty as a flower and as sweet as a sour worms. She likes to cook us breakfast. The best thing she cooks is cheese tacos. Her favorite food is strawberries. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to lay in bed. We like to snuggle together. My mom is really good at having friends with grandma. I would like to thank my mom for my toys. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to give her extra hugs. My mom deserves a heart with chocolate for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Harlie Madonna

My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as a Swedish fish. She like to clean. The best thing she cooks is cookies. Her favorite food is spaghetti. Her favorite thing to do to relax is watch TV. We like to go shopping together. My mom is really good at reading. I would like to thank my mom for my snap bracelet. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to keep my room clean. My mom deserves a picture for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Jayleen Hernandez

My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as a mint. She likes to bowl. The best thing she cooks is cookies. Her favorite food is pizza. Her favorite thing to do to relax is laying with Dixie. We like to play catch together. My mom is really good at Spy-roll. I would like to thank my mom for doing everything she did to keep us alive. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to race her. My mom deserves hugs and kisses for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Cullen Stallings

My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as a flower. She likes to eat tacos. The best thing she cooks is tacos. Her favorite food is tacos. Her favorite thing to do to relax is sleep on the couch. We like to relax together. My mom is really good at volleyball. I would like to thank my mom for giving me a bike. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to give her a hug. My mom deserves love for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Lincoln Garcia

My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet a piece of candy. She likes to go on walks. The best thing she cooks is cookies. Her favorite food is pasta. Her favorite thing to do to relax is

she goes on the recliner and reads. We like to go hiking together. My mom is really good at making stuff. I would like to thank my mom for my home. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to give her a relaxing day. My mom deserves a necklace for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Graham Phillips

My mom is as pretty as Barbie and as sweet as hot chocolate. She likes to play games. The best thing she cooks is cookies. Her favorite food is tator tot casserole. Her favorite thing to do to relax is watching TV. We like to play games together. My mom is really good at drawing. I would like to thank my mom for a purse. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to make a drink for her. My mom deserves to get flowers on Mother's Day this year.

Love, Amelia Thurber

My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as candy. She likes to play with me and my brother. The best thing she cooks is Italian beef and sausage. Her favorite food is fruit and smoothie. Her favorite thing to do to relax is taking a foot massage and listening to smooth music. My mom is really good at taking pictures of bridal showers. I would like to thank my mom for making food. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to be a great girl and do homework. My mom deserves a relaxing time for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Mia Wegener

My mom is as pretty as a flower and as sweet as cotton candy. She likes to relax. The best thing she cooks is roast beef. Her favorite food is pasta. Her favorite thing to do to relax is watching a movie. We like to go to the spa together. My mom is really good at cooking roast beef. I would like to thank my mom for paying for stuff. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to help clean the house. My mom deserves help for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Ellie Krisch

My mom is as pretty as a kitten and as sweet as a lollipop. She likes to smoke. The best thing she cooks is chicken parmesan. Her favorite food is steak. Her favorite thing to do to relax is watching TV. We like to bond together. My mom is really good at art, painting and drawing and outlining. I would like to thank my mom for life. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to be good. My mom deserves chocolates for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Azalea Wright-Tveten

My mom is as pretty as a flower and as sweet as an orange. She likes to be lazy. The best thing she cooks is mac and cheese. Her favorite food is tacos. Her favorite thing to do to relax is laying on the couch. We like to make cakes together. My mom is really good at cooking. I would like to thank my mom for everything. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to do everything. My mom deserves a break for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Callan Jordan

My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as a marshmallow. She likes to cuddle. The best thing she cooks is meat loaf. Her favorite food is tacos. Her favorite thing to do to relax is watching TV with me. We like to play tag together. My mom is really good at writing in cursive. I would like to thank my mom for my life. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to be really, really, really good. My mom deserves a big, big hug and a kiss for Mother's Day.

Love, Layla Patenaude

My mom is as pretty as a baby dog and as sweet as a kit kat. She likes to play with me. The best thing she cooks is cheese hot dogs. Her favorite food is lasagna. Her favorite thing to do to relax is watching TV and goes to sleep. We like to go on walks together. My mom is really good at rock, paper, scissors. I would like to thank my mom for being so nice to me. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to tell her happy Mother's Day. My mom deserves a gift for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Jazlyn Kerchner

My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as candy. She likes to sleep in. The best thing she cooks is tacos. Her favorite food is burritos. Her favorite thing to do to relax is going to sleep. We like to play board games together. My mom is really good

at teaching. I would like to thank my mom for doing homework with me. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to hug you. My mom deserves a blanket for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Laken Weber

My mom is as pretty as a butterfly and as sweet as a smarty. She likes to cook. The best thing she cooks is cookies. Her favorite food is chicken noodle soup. Her favorite thing to do to relax is take a bubble bath. We like to play Yahtzee together. My mom is really good at drawing and coloring. I would like to thank my mom for everything that she gave me for life. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to help her clean the house. My mom deserves a car for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Kinzley Hunt

My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as candy. She likes to help me do my homework. The best thing she cooks is mac and cheese and chicken. Her favorite food is mac and cheese. Her favorite thing to do to relax is sleep. We like to clean together. My mom is really good at cooking. I would like to thank my mom for helping me doing my homework. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to help her take care of Sisy. My mom deserves roses and kisses for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Evelyn Sutis

My mom is as pretty as a butterfly and as sweet as candy. She likes to watch movies. The best thing she cooks is ban puning. Her favorite food is fruit salad. Her favorite thing to do to relax is taking a nap with a phone. We like to play on the trampoline. My mom is really good at making jokes. I would like thank my mom for food. On Mother's Day this year, I promise xoxoxo in the morning. My mom deserves a car and xoxoxo for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Noah Garcia

My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as a rose. She likes to cuddle with me. The best thing she cooks is pizza. Her favorite food is pizza. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to lay down and watch TV. We like to watch TV together. My mom is really good at making food. I would like to thank my mom for all of my electronics. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to spend time with her. My mom deserves to spend time with the whole family for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Rayla Nagy

My mom is as pretty as a butterfly and as sweet as candy. She likes to play football. The best thing she cooks is chicken. Her favorite food is tacos. Her favorite thing to do to relax is sleeping. We like to play football together. My mom is really good at cooking. I would like to thank my mom for being enjoyable. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to be tidy. My mom deserves a birthday cake and hug for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Roman Herrera

My mom is as pretty as a flower and as sweet as candy. She likes to go to the park. The best thing she cooks is bologna. Her favorite food is tacos. Her favorite thing to do to real is knit. We like to watch TV together. My mom is really good at knitting. I would like to thank my mom for my brother. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to keep the living room clean. My mom deserves a puppy for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Frances Rupp

My mom is as pretty as a flower and as sweet as a puppy. She likes to dance. The best thing she cooks is cookies. Her favorite food is spaghetti. Her favorite thing to do to relax is clean. We like to cook together. My mom is really good at singing. I would like to thank my mom for taking care of us. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to get her chocolates. My mom deserves favors for Mother's Day this year.

Love, Amyra Hawkins

## Lincoln School - Blue

Dear Mom,  
I love when you and I play together. My favorite thing about you is that you take me to Chinese on my birthday sometimes. You teach me to do my homework. You make me feel good. You take me to McDonald's. My favorite thing to do with you to play. I love you mom so much. I'm to play with you. Happy Mother's Day.

Daleyza Arteaga

Dear Mom,  
I love when you play with me. My favorite thing about you is you're sweet. You help me be very happy. You teach me to be me. You make me smile a lot. You take me home. My favorite thing to do with you is hang out with you.

Love, Bentley Baxter  
Dear Mom,  
I love when you tickle me. My favorite thing about you is when you tell funny jokes. You make me happy when you hug me. My favorite thing to do with you is playing games. I love you very much. Happy Mother's Day.

Natalie Bodie

Dear Mom,  
I love when you play with me. Having some fun together. When I do my homework. To be nice. You make me happy. To play basketball. To talk to each other. I love to play and have fun. Happy Mother's Day.

Colton Boysen

Dear Mom,  
I love when you tickle me. My favorite thing about you is you're so funny. You help me when I bowl. You teach me to be nice. You make me my favorite food. You take me to fun places. My favorite thing to do with you is bowl on the weekend. I love you so much.

Alex Brown

Dear Mom,  
I love when you tickle and hug me. My favorite thing about you is your smile. You help me learn math and teach me to ride my bike and make me smile and take me to the park. My favorite thing to do with you is to talk and have fun with you. I love you mom.

Elliot Clark

Dear Mom,  
I love when you smile at me. My favorite thing about you is you are kind. You help me when I need to build something. You teach me to be nice. You make me happy. You take me to my favorite place at Subway. My favorite thing to do with you is have fun. Happy Mother's Day.

Jayce Gibson

Dear Mom,  
I love when you play with me. My favorite thing about you is you are so nice to me. You help me when I need help with homework. You teach me fashion. You make me ramen. My favorite thing to do with you is crafting. I love you so so much—even when you are mad. Happy Mother's Day.

Zaylee Josephson

Dear Mom,  
My favorite thing about you is you cheer people up when they're sad. I love when you hug me because it makes me happy. You teach me to believe in myself. You make me sugar biscuits on my birthday. You take me to China House. My favorite thing to do with you is to go to China House secretly without dada. I love you.

Aria Knowlton

Dear Mom,  
I love when you give me hugs. My favorite thing about you is you keep me safe. You teach me to face my fears. You make me feel happy. My favorite thing to do with you is to play Uno. You are the best mom I could ever have. Happy Mother's Day.

Rylynn Manion

Dear Mom,  
I love when you wake me up on my birthday and tell me "Happy Birthday." You help me learn cursive. You make me my favorite food, pizza. You take me to the trampoline park. I love you.

Sophia Martinez

Dear Mom,  
My favorite thing about you is you love me. You help me get stuff that is too high. My favorite thing to do with you is chill out. I love my mom every day. Happy Mother's Day.

Drew McCord

Dear Mom,  
I love when we tickle each other. My favorite thing about you is that you are kind. You help me with cleaning my room. You teach me how to be responsible. You make me birthday cards. You take me to Walmart. My favorite thing to do with you is when you color with me. I love you to the moon and back, love you. I love you.

Emma Orah

Dear Mom,  
Keep me beautiful as a butterfly. When I need help to do homework. How to bake a cake and cookies and pie. Happy to get tacos to eat. I love you because you make me happy. Happy Mother's Day.

Leliah Quijas

Dear Mom,  
I love when you snuggle with me. My favorite thing about you is you take care of me, you teach me to be inspired, you make me laugh, you take me on adventures. My favorite thing to do with you is watch funny movies. Hope you have a great Mother's Day. I love you, mom.

Sofia Rosales

Dear Mom,  
I love when you give me attention and take me places. My favorite thing about you is that you are so kind. You help me by giving me food. You teach me how to cook. You make me happy when I see you. You take me on trips. My favorite thing to do with you is to chill with you. I love you so much.

Ray Roulston

Dear Mom,  
I love when you give me hugs and kisses. My favorite thing about you is you are super-duper nice. You teach me to treat people the way you want to be treated. You make me laugh when you tickle me. You take me somewhere fun on my birthday. My favorite thing to do with you is go bowling. Have a great Mother's Day.

Brielle Scudder-Taylor

Dear Mom,  
I love when you take me to the park. My favorite thing about you is when you give me hugs. You help me tie my shoes. You teach me what 2x100 is. You make me happy when you play with me. You take me to my favorite store. My favorite thing to do with you is when we play. I love you mom.

Kipp Stewart

Dear Mom,  
I love when you tickle me. My favorite thing about you is when you play with me. You help me pick up my toys. You teach me about animals. You make me happy. You take me to the toy store. My favorite thing to do with you is wash dishes. Happy Mother's Day.

Zoe Ybarra





# WHY I LOVE MOM



## Lincoln School - Buttel

My mom's job is principal. My mom's favorite color is pink and purple. My mom's favorite food is cake. My mom cooks the best blueberry pancakes. My mom always says I love you. My mom loves to relax by sleeping. My mom always laughs when she watches movies. My mom and I really like to play together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be you are the best. I love mom because she loves me.

David Albers

My mom's job is a teacher. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite food is tacos. My mom cooks the best pizza. My mom always says I love you. My mom loves to relax by the couch. My mom always laughs when my dad is on the phone. My mom and I really like to eat food. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she loves me.

Maddux Becker

My mom's job is cleans the house. My mom's favorite color is teal. My mom's favorite food is tacos. My mom cooks the best eggs and bacon. My mom always says calm down. My mom loves to relax by using a facemask. My mom always laughs when me and my brother pronounce a word wrong. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be that she is the best mom ever. I love my mom because she does a lot for me.

Waylon Brewer

My mom's job is waitress at La Fiesta. My mom's favorite color is pink. My mom's favorite food is lettuce. My mom cooks the best spaghetti. My mom always says clean your room. My mom loves to relax by napping on the couch. My mom always laughs when funny TV. My mom and I really like to play cars together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be please go play cars. I love my mom because she is nice to me.

Anthony Castaneda

My mom's job is crosmerk. My mom's favorite color is blue. My mom's favorite food is spice. My mom cooks the best everything that is food. My mom always says I love you. My mom loves to relax by cuddling with me. My mom always laughs when I tickle her. My mom and I really like to play on the four-wheeler together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I will always love you. I love my mom because she loves me.

Addyson Fahr

My mom's job is probation officer. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite food is noodles. My mom cooks the best sloppy joes. My mom always says I love you Abram. My mom loves to relax by watching her show. My mom always laughs when I trip. My mom and I really like to snuggle together. If you could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you mom. I love my mom because she is sweet.

Abram Fenwick

My mom's job is a nurse. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite food is lasagna. My mom cooks the best always. My mom always says sweetheart. My mom loves to relax by chilling on the couch. My mom always laughs when me and Thomas tell her jokes. My mom and I really like to garden together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be that my mom is the best mom ever. I love my mom because she always tucks me in my bed.

Elizabeth Feurer

My mom's job is stay at home mom. My mom's favorite color is pink. My mom's favorite food is Italian. My mom cooks the best pizza. My mom always says go Dean. My mom loves to relax by music. My mom always laughs when knock knock jokes. My mom and I really like to watch TV together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be that she is so kind. I love my mom because she takes care of me.

Dean Hayward

My mom's job is teacher. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite food is chili. My mom cooks the best pizza. My mom always says I love you. My mom loves to relax by reading a book. My mom always laughs when I do chicken dance. My mom and I really like to watch TV together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she is so snugly.

Grayson Kent

My mom's job is babysitter. My mom's favorite color is purple and brown. My mom's favorite food is tacos. My mom cooks the best chicken alfredo. My mom always says help me clean. My mom loves to relax by sleeping. My mom always laughs when I make jokes. My mom and I really like to spend time together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be telling her that I love her. I love my mom because she helps me with everything.

Juliana Maldonado

My mom's job is the dentist. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite food is bacon. My mom cooks the best white pasta. My mom always says funny things. My mom loves to relax by watching her phone. My mom always laughs when I tickle her. My mom and I really like to play together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love my mom. I love my mom because she takes care of me.

Nova Marez

My mom's job is cleaning house. My mom's favorite color is lite blue. My mom's favorite food is tacos. My mom cooks the best mac and cheese. My mom always says go play outside. My mom loves to relax by the couch. My mom always laughs when I say something funny. My mom and I really like to hang out by the chair together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she hangs out my the chair and she helps me.

Emmett Mellott

My mom's job is a nurse. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite food is China House. My mom cooks the best chicken tenders. My mom always says good job. My mom loves to relax by watching her favorite movie. My mom always laughs when my brother makes jokes. My mom and I really like to watch movies together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love her. I love my mom because she is amazing.

Addie Moss

My mom's job is a nurse. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite food is chicken. My mom cooks the best everything that she cooks me. My mom always says I love you. My mom loves to relax by playing games on the phone. My mom always laughs when I be funny. My mom and I really ask questions together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she is pretty, kind, loving and caring.

Ja'Nahla Moss

My mom's job is Ottawa OSF Healthcare. My mom's favorite color is pink. My mom's favorite food is China House. My mom cooks the best fried tacos.

My mom always says do your homework. My mom loves to relax by me. My mom always laughs when I am funny. My mom and I really like to shop together with me. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be can I have that 100 dollar bill. I love my mom because she takes me to the park.

Hadley Reinhold

My mom's job is a nurse or doctor. My mom's favorite color is purple and pink. My mom's favorite food is Taco Bell. My mom cooks the best French fries. My mom always says go clean your room now. My mom loves to relax by watching Netflix. My mom always laughs when she looks at my face when I smile. My mom and I really like to go to the park together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she made me in this world and she feeds me.

Merakim Riniker

My mom's job is a social worker. My mom's favorite color is black. My mom's favorite food is ice cream. My mom my cooks the best steak. My mom always says I love you. My mom loves to relax by sitting on the couch. My mom always laughs when he friends come over. My mom and I really like to snuggle together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she loves me from the moon and back.

Cainan Sellers

My mom's job is I don't know. My mom's favorite color is pink. My mom's favorite food is pizza. My mom cooks the best pizza. My mom always says it is dinner time. My mom loves to relax by movies. My mom always laughs when we say funny things. My mom and I really like to play cards together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be a go kart. I love my mom because she is nice.

Gannon Stemmet

My mom's job is I Hop. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite food is chicken. My mom cooks the best food. My mom always says to go out. My mom loves to relax by laying on the couch. My mom always laughs when we watch funny movies. My mom and I really like to play together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love her. I love my mom because she is nice.

Joseph Stevens

My mom's job is no job. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite food is all food. My mom cooks the best foods. My mom always says go clean your room. My mom loves to relax by spa at home. My mom always laughs when I make jokes. My mom and I really like to watch shows together. If I would tell my mom one thing it would be I love her. I love my mom because I'm her son.

Brynt Stohr

My mom's job is Ace. My mom's favorite color is pink. My mom's favorite food is lettuce. My mom cooks the best pizza. My mom always says not to whine. My mom loves to relax by workouts. My mom always laughs whenever. My mom and I really like to play together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because we do fun things together.

Camden Wickstrom

My mom's job is Subway. My mom's favorite color is pink. My mom's favorite food is steak. My mom cooks the best romin noodles. My mom always says to pick up my room. My mom loves to relax by sleeping. My mom always laughs when I make a funny joke. My mom and I really like to go to the park together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she is nice.

Jayden Woods

## Lincoln School - Estrada

Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama me da muchos abrazos. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es su pelo bonito. Ella me ayuda a hacer tarea. Ella me ensena escribir en letra cursiva. Ella me hace comida buena. Ella me lleva a el mercado para ayudarle. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es mirar el programa la casa de los famosos all star.

Sofia

Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama y yo vamos de compras. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es que ella me ama mucho. Ella me ayuda a practicar a leer. Ella me ensena como hacer mi tarea. Ella me hace comida. Ella me lleva al parque. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es jugar loteria juntas.

Angeli

Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama juega conmigo. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es cuando me abraza. Ella me ayuda a hacer la tarea. Ella me ensena a multiplicar. Ella me hace Feliz. Ella me lleva al parque. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es ver la tele.

Renata

Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama me ayuda hacer la tarea. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es chistosa. Ella me ayuda a lavar los trastes. Ella me ensena a multiplicacion. Ella me hace de comer. Ella me lleva a la escuela. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es rompe cabezos.

Jonas

Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama hace comida. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es su Cabello y ojos y orejas. Ella me ayuda encontrar mis cosas. Ella me ensena amor. Ella me hace cosquillas. Ella me lleva a Disneyland. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es jugar tag.

Jofiel

Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama juega conmigo muchos de las veces. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es que me hace comida muy rica para mi. Ella me ayuda levantar mi cuarto. Ella me ensena cosas buenas. Ella me hace reir todas las veces. Ella me lleva a compras con ella. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es que ella siempre juego conmigo to dos las diqs.

Carlos

I love when my mom goes to the pool with me. my favorite thing about my mom is when she cooks pozole for me. She helps me with my homework. She teaches me how to braid my hair. She makes me happy. She takes me shopping with her. My favorite thing to do with my mom is to go visit my aunt.

Melanie

I love when my mom takes me on a walk. My favorite thing about my mom is when she takes me to special places. She helps me do something special. She teaches me cursive. She makes me cool things. She takes me to the park. My favorite thing to do with my mom is ride my bike with her and create stuff.

Leonel

I love when my mom and I dance together in the kitchen. My favorite thing about my mom is that she helps me a lot. She helps me with my chores. She teaches me how to do new things. She makes me feel smart. She takes me to the park to play with my friends. My favorite thing to do with my mom is to look at the night sky and stars together.

Emiliano

Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama me hace de comer. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es cuando le doy un abrazo. Ella me ayuda ser la tarea. Ella me ensena como hacer buena persona. Ella me hace sentir Feliz. Ella me lleva a comer a su trabajo. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es pasar tiempo juntos.

Eduardo

## Lincoln School - Sheaves

Reasons why I love my mom are she loves dad and puzzles.

Isabella Orozco

Reasons why I love my mom are happy, creepy carrots, Angie school, pretty, where are you.

Richard Vazquez



## Lincoln School - Shirley

My mom's favorite color is red. My mom's favorite food is pizza. My mom cooks the best pizza. My mom always says loud. My mom loves to relax by chill. My mom always laughs when jokes. My mom and I really like to bake together. If I could tell my mom one things it would be I love you. I love my mom because she takes care of me.

Michael Lemus

My mom's job is bartender. My mom's favorite color is rainbow. My mom's favorite food is steak. My mom cooks the best potato soup. My mom always says no. My mom loves to relax by ladan. My mom always laughs when I fall. My mom and I really like to go shopping together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she makes the best food.

Leila Wallace

My mom's job is Eakas. My mom's favorite color is blue. My mom's favorite food is chicken. My mom cooks the best mac and cheese. My mom always says I am crazy. My mom loves to relax by watching TV. My mom always laughs when watch tiktok. My mom and I really like to do a Home Depot project together. If I could tell me mom one thing it would be you are helpful. I love my mom because she gives me hugs.

Leila Reyes

My mom's job is being on a computer. My mom's favorite color is green. My mom's favorite food is stuff. My mom cooks the best pusty. My mom always says I love you. My mom loves to relax by to sit down. My mom always laughs when nevry. My mom and I really like to watch a movie together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be hi mom, can I have sushi. I love my mom because she is weird.

Grayson Kneebone

My mom's job is working on a computer. My mom's favorite color is blue. My mom's favorite food is pasta. My mom cooks the best chicken. My mom always says get off the device. My mom loves to relax by watching movies. My mom always laughs when make jokes. My mom and I really like to watch a movie together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be play videogames. I love my mom because you are funny.

Briston Fisher

My mom's job is a bar. My mom's favorite color is yellow. My mom's favorite food is chicken. My mom cooks the best spaghetti. My mom always says I love you. My mom likes to relax by a movie. My mom always laughs when my dad laughs. My mom and I really like to cuddle together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she is pretty.

Delayni Silva

My mom's job is Sullivan's Foods. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite

food is noodles. My mom cooks the best noodles. My mom always says I'm clumsy. My mom loves to relax by chill. My mom always laughs when on her phone. My mom and I really like to go to the park together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love my mom. I love my mom because she is nice.

Allias Francis

My mom's job is a moshos-er. My mom's favorite color is red. My mom's favorite food is pezsse. My mom cooks the best food. Mom mom loves to relax by laying down. My mom always laughs when I be funny. My mom and I really like to hang out. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you and dad so, so much. I love my mom because she is nice and she is beautiful.

Kylee Smith

My mom's job is McDon-ald's. My mom's favorite color is gray and black. My mom's favorite food is pizza. My mom cooks the best McDonald's. My mom always says I love you to the moon and all the way back. My mom loves to relax by laying down and watch TV. My mom always laughs when she watches TV or if I fall out of my chair. My mom and I really like to spend time with each other. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you all the way to the moon and back. I love my mom because she treats me good at home and stores.

Dante Roman-Deddo

My mom's job is therapy at Liberty Village in Peru. My mom's favorite color is blue, purple and pink. My mom's favorite food is Ziggie's. My mom cooks the best Ziggie's. My mom always says I love you. My mom loves to relax by sleeping. My mom always laughs when she watches a funny show. My mom and I really like to cuddle together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she loves me.

Parker Krager

My mom's job is the bank. My mom's favorite color is blue. My mom's favorite food is pizza. My mom cooks the best noodles. My mom always says I am grumpy in the morning. My mom loves to relax by sleeping. My mom always laughs when I make a joke. My mom and I really like to watch a movie together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be you are the best mom I could ask for. I love my mom because she spends time with me.

Isaac Orozco

My mom's job is to stay at home. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite food is chicken. My mom cooks the best spaghetti. My mom always says you are smart. My mom loves to relax by chill. My mom always laughs when I am silly. My mom and I really like to clean the dishes together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she buys me stuff.

Antonio Vergara

My mom's job is a lunch lady at Northbrook. My mom's favorite color is green. My mom's favorite food is pasta. My mom cooks the best spaghetti. My mom always says clean your room. My mom loves to relax by watching TV. My mom always laughs when me and my brother be silly. My mom and I really like playing board games together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be can you buy robucks. I love my mom because she always tries to be nice.

Joseph Clark

My mom's job is a nurse. My mom's favorite color is blue. My mom's favorite food is mushrooms. My mom cooks the best fettuccini. My mom always says how was school. My mom loves to relax by watching a movie and watching tiktok. My mom always laughs when I get food on my face. My mom and I really like to shop together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be hi mom. I love my mom because she is a good mom and nice.

Clara Sanchez





# WHY I LOVE MOM



My mom's job is Marthy USA. My mom's favorite color is rainbow. My mom's favorite food is salad. My mom cooks the best ramen. Mymomalways says I love you. My mom loves to relax by chill. My mom always laughs when I fell. My mom and I really like to chill together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she says I am the best.

Braxton Eames

My mom's job is to stay at home. My mom's favorite color is purple and black. My mom's favorite food is tacos. My mom cooks the best tacos. My mom always says I love you. My mom loves to relax on the bed. My mom always laughs when I say a joke. My mom and I really like to hang out together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love you. I love my mom because she is my mom.

Samantha Guerrero

My mom's job is looking at teeth in Idia. My mom's favorite color is pink and purple. My mom's favorite food is shrimp. My mom cooks the best chicken. My mom always says I love you. My mom loves to relax by sleeping and resting on the couch. My mom always laughs when I make funny faces. My mom and I really like to color, play, making movies and watch a movie together. If I could tell my one thing it would be I love you. Ilove my mom because she is kind and she cooks.

Jonathan Morato

My mom's job is to take care of the kids. My mom's favorite color is purple. My mom's favorite food is sushi. My mom cooks the best tacos. My mom always says settle down. My mom love to relax by the couch. My mom always laughs when my sister does something. My mom and I really like to watch TV together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be hi. I love my mom because she is a good cook.

Jonah Carreon

My mom is a hair stylist. My

mom's favorite color is black. My mom's favorite food is cottage cheese. Mymomcooks the best lasagna. My mom always says don't let the bed bugs bite. My mom loves to relax by a love movie. My mom always laughs when silly faces. My mom and I really like to have a girl day. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be God gave me you. I love my mom because God gave me you so, so, so much.

Lennon McCully

My mom's job is jippy sotos and dido. My mom's favorite color is gray and green. My mom's favorite food is spaghetti. My mom cooks the best spaghetti. My mom always says do my best. My mom loves to relax by going to sleep. Mymom always laughs when she laughs at me. My mom and I really like to go to sleep together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I love her. I love my mom because I play with her.

Julian Hernandez

My mom's job is a vet. My mom's favorite color is blue. My mom's favorite food is tacos. My mom cooks the best pizza. My mom always says I am good all the time. Mymom loves to relax by watching a movie at night. My mom always laughs when I do jokes all the time. My mom and I really like to paint together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be I am good to see you. I love my mom because she is the best.

Anthony Jefferson

My mom's job is Setchell Agency. My mom's favorite color is orange. My mom's favorite food is pizza. My mom cooks the best macaroni and cheese. My mom always says iche wawa. My mom loves to relax by snuggling with me and my three dogs and gus and carmel. Mymomalways laughs when watching me fall and face plant. My mom and I really like to see me together. If I could tell my mom one thing it would be you are my sunshine. I love mom because she makes the world happy.

Lainey Ramer






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2025**

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*Lynn Furar,  
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# THE BACK PAGE

## GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

**SPRING GARAGE SALE**  
Sponsored by  
First United  
Methodist Church  
First Ave. & Sixth St.  
Thursday, May 15  
Noon-5 p.m.  
Friday, May 16  
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday, May 17  
8:30-11 a.m.

2t18r

**MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE**  
1002 26th St., Peru  
Thursday, May 15  
Friday, May 16  
Saturday, May 17  
8:30 a.m.-?  
Furniture, tools,  
clothes, kitchen items,  
Lionel 027 train set  
and miscellaneous.

1t19r

**MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE**  
4381 E. 250th Road,  
Mendota (Guiles Avenue)  
Thursday, May 8  
4-7 p.m.  
Friday, May 9  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday, May 10  
8 a.m.-noon  
Crib that converts  
to a toddler bed,  
girls' clothes sizes  
NB to 4T, craft items,  
holiday decorations,  
Precious Moments,  
plants (indoor & outdoor)  
and much more.

1t19r

**GARAGE SALE**  
910 Chicago St.  
(garage faces  
Pennsylvania Ave.)  
Friday, May 9  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday, May 10  
8 a.m.-?  
Vintage canning jars,  
coolers, DVD movies,  
books, magazines  
(Taste of Home, Country),  
costume jewelry, gift bags,  
work boots, humidifier,  
rocking chairs, tables,  
adult clothing, toys.  
Come see.

1t19r

## POLICE BLOTTER

**VIOLATION OF PRETRIAL RELEASE**  
Lynnard F. Farley, 32,  
of 701 Meadowview Drive,  
Mendota, was charged with  
violation of pretrial release  
conditions near the inter-  
section of 14th Avenue and  
Monroe Street at 8:51 a.m.  
April 29. The subject was  
transported to the LaSalle  
County jail to appear before  
Judge.

**DUI-DRUGS**  
Brian L. Beggs, 51, of  
Dixon, was charged with  
driving under the influ-  
ence-drugs after police  
officers were called to the  
1300 block of 13th Avenue  
for a welfare check on an  
individual at 6:50 a.m.  
April 30. The subject was  
released with a LaSalle  
County court date.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
Robert J. Romanoski,  
45, of Cary, was charged  
with driving while license  
suspended after police offi-  
cers responded to a call for  
service at 1307 Kailash Drive  
at 2 p.m. May 3. The subject  
was released with a LaSalle  
County court date.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
Gary D. Smith, 33, of  
1000 Main St., Mendota,  
was charged with driving  
while license suspended after  
a traffic stop at 12th Street  
and Augustine Avenue at  
9:38 a.m. May 5. The subject  
was released with a LaSalle  
County court date.

**GARAGE SALE/ NOTICE DEADLINE**  
• Monday 10 a.m. to  
appear in Wednesday's Re-  
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# SPORTS

## NBA Playoffs offer breath of fresh air

Sometimes life, especially sports, rotates on a similar axis from year to year where we can compare different fads or eras.

In terms of the NBA playoffs, from the beginning of the playoffs and the first Walter A. Brown Trophy winner the Philadelphia Warriors in 1947, we get tired of seeing the same players and teams in the last series of the season.

From 1949-54, the Minneapolis Lakers won five out of six championships. The Syracuse Nationals won in 1955 after losing in 54 and the Warriors won again in 1956,



### Not the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance

won every year to 1969, except for 1958, which was won by the St. Louis Hawks but lost to the Celtics in three other finals, and 1967 which was won by Philadelphia, now the 76ers.

Along the way, the Lakers were in the finals seven times before Jerry West and Wilt Chamberlain finally won in 1972 after Willis Reed and the New York Knicks won in 1970 and Lew Alcindor, better known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, won in 1971.

The Knicks won again in 1973, Boston in 1976, and the Lakers in 1980.

There were some swerves in the middle, which happens occasionally as Rick Barry and the Golden State Warriors won in 1975, Bill Walton and the Portland Trail Blazers won in 1977, and the Seattle SuperSonics (no longer a team) won in 1979.

Then the “Showtime” Lakers thanks to Magic Johnson and Kareem, the Larry Bird Boston Celtics, and the Moses Malone and Dr. J (Julius Erving) 76ers won every championship from 1980 until 1989 when the “Bad Boy” Pistons won in 1989 and 1990.

All of us sports fans know what the Chicago Bulls did in the 1990s with two three-peats surrounding Hakeem Olajuwon dreaming his Houston Rockets to two rings.

Then the San Antonio Spurs and the Lakers (a three-peat) won the next five before an actual team in the 2004 Pistons were victorious. Then the Spurs exchanged with the Heat and the Celtics before the Lakers won two more.

The Dallas Mavericks snuck past the Dwyane Wade, LeBron James, Chris Bosh Miami Heat, but they were in four consecutive finals winning two.

The Spurs win again and then the “Splash Brothers” Steph Curry and Klay Thompson, along with my least favorite NBA player of all time, Draymond Green, were in the next five finals, winning three with losses to James and the Cleveland Cavaliers and Kawhi Leonard and the Toronto Raptors (talk about a surprise).

The Lakers win in the bubble, Giannis Antetokounmpo gives the Bucks their first ring since 1971 in 2021, Steph wins again in 2022, Nikola Jokic takes the Denver Nuggets to uncharted territory in 1013, and the Boston Celtics win yet another banner last year thanks to Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown.

I wasn’t originally going to go down the entire NBA Championship list, found on Wikipedia, NBA.com, or a number of other sites, but it helps prove my point and why the NBA playoffs are so interesting,

There seems to be a been there done that, the same teams or the same players are in the NBA finals year after year...with, again, a few expectations.

This year, the playing legends, who are first-ballot, no-doubt-about-it hall of famers, all of them are already eliminated, in the first round, except one...Curry.

The Lakers are eliminated taking out James. The Suns never made it to the playoffs, Kevin Durant (who won two NBA Finals MVPs with the Warriors in 2017 and 2018) gone. The Bucks bowed out, Antetokounmpo is gone. Kawhi Leonard and James Harden (who plays great until the playoffs) are gone thanks to the Nuggets.

This means seven out of the remaining eight teams have either never won a title in general or with any of current players on its roster – Oklahoma City Thunder, Minnesota Timberwolves, Cleveland Cavaliers, Indiana Pacers, and the New York Knicks – or have only won one with their superstars still in their prime – Denver Nuggets and the Boston Celtics.

What a breath of fresh air.

We get to see fresh faces past the first round, or we get to see if players and teams can live up to their hype and do it again.

Tatum receives zero respect from fans. But will he finally get it if the Celtics win again?

Jokic should be the regular season NBA MVP but he’s not going to be because of Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. Can he continue to average a triple-double and get back into the finals?

And although the Warriors (No. 7 in the west, the worst seed still alive) are the old dogs, what happens if the partnering of Jimmy Butler with Curry and Green actually wins the Warriors yet another championship?

The drama and intrigue for the rest of the NBA Playoffs is more exciting than any TNT or TBS network lineup.

I know I’m tuned in.

## Errors plague Trojans in 13-3 loss

MENDOTA – Rockridge set the tone early with a five-run first inning and went on to top Mendota, 13-3, in varsity baseball action on May 2 at the MHS diamond. The game was stopped in the fifth by the 10-run rule.

After the first-inning uprising, the Rockets scored a single run in the second and then pushed across another five tallies in the third to move out to an 11-0 lead.

The Trojans got on the board with a pair of runs in the bottom of the third. Collin Coss led off with a single and eventually scored on a passed ball. Two batters later Braiden Freeman singled and later scored on a sacrifice fly by Evan McPheeters.

The two teams completed their scoring in the fourth with Rockridge scoring twice and Mendota once. The Trojans scored when Brody Hartt led off with a double and later raced home on a sacrifice fly off the bat of Esten Otero.

Mendota committed eight errors in the contest which resulted in eight of Rockridge’s runs being unearned.



Owen Steele of Rockridge gets a foot in safely at second with a stolen base before Mendota shortstop Esten Otero can apply the tag during varsity baseball action on May 2 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

McPheeters got the ball to start the game for the Trojans and worked two innings. Five of the eight runs he allowed

were earned, while Otero came on in relief and gave up five runs, none of which were earned.

Mendota (7-11-1) managed just four hits, including doubles by Hartt and Dane Doyle. Rockridge had seven.

## Princeton, Rockridge top MHS softball

Princeton defeated the Mendota varsity softball team, 15-5, in Three Rivers Conference action on April 29 at Princeton. The game was halted in the sixth inning by the 10-run rule.

The Lady Trojans took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Ava Eddy led off the game with a triple and scored on a ground out by Leah Henkel. Princeton countered with a run of its own in the bottom of the first.

The Tigresses pushed across another run in the second to move in front, but Mendota grabbed its second lead of the game with two tallies in the third. Alexis Nave reached on an error and Eddy singled. Henkel drove in Nave and Eddy later scored on a stolen base.

The Mendota lead was short-lived, however as Princeton scored six runs in the bottom of the third and two more in the fourth to take a comfortable 10-3 advantage.

The Lady Trojans completed their scoring with a pair of runs in the fifth. Eddy walked and stole second to start the inning, and then raced home on a Henkel single. Two outs later, a double by Emily Diaz plated Henkel.

Princeton scored five times in the bottom of the sixth to finish off the contest.

Mendota collected eight hits in the game with Eddy, Karson Doyle and Emily Diaz getting two apiece.

\*\*\*

Perennial state power



Mendota’s Charlee Dankenbring watches the ball sail into left field as she slides safely into third base during a varsity softball game with Rockridge on May 2 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

Rockridge handed Mendota an 18-0 loss on May 2 at the MHS field.

The Rockets got off the bus and immediately put eight runs on the board in the first inning. They scored five more in the second inning and one in the third to go up 14-0. After a scoreless fourth, Rockridge added four runs in the fifth to complete its scoring.

Mendota finished with four hits in the contest and could not dent the plate. Its best chance came in the fourth inning when it loaded the bases with one out, but could not score.

The Lady Trojan hits were all singles off the bats of Eddy, Henkel, Charlee Dankenbring and Cassie Gonzalez. Rockridge totaled 17 safeties.

## Girls’ soccer blanks ‘Bago

The Mendota varsity girls’ soccer team won a 2-0 battle with Winnebago on April 30 at the MHS field.

Crystal Garcia scored one goal for the Lady Trojans. The other Mendota tally was an own goal when a Winnebago player inadvertently directed the ball into her own net.

\*\*\*

Mendota (13-6-1) lost at Genoa-Kingston, 3-0, on May 5.

## MHS soccer earns top seed in sub-sectional

MENDOTA – The Mendota girls’ soccer team has earned the number one seed in Sub-Sectional A of the Rock Island Alleman Sectional.

Mendota will be the host of a regional to be played May 16 and May 20. Action will begin on Friday, May 16 with two games. Mendota will battle DePue at 4:30 p.m. and Princeton will take on Oregon at 6:30 p.m.

The two winners will meet for the regional title at 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 20.

The winner of the Mendota Regional will advance to the Rock Island Alleman Sectional to face the winner of the Byron Regional at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 24. The other sectional game will pit champions from the Rockford Christian and Indian Creek regionals at 7 p.m. May 24.

The sectional championship game will be contested at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 28. All sectional games will be played at the Alleman Sports Complex, 1186 43rd Ave., Moline.

**Mendota Class 1A Girls’ Regional Soccer Tournament Friday, May 16**

1 – (1) Mendota vs. (8) DePue [Coop] – 4:30 p.m.

2 – (4) Princeton vs. (5) Oregon – 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 20**

3 – Winner Match 1 vs. Winner Match 2 – 5 p.m. (championship)

## Girls’ track set for post season

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.

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 May 22-24 in Charleston.

## Kids’ Fishing Tournament set for June 7th in LaSalle

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.



## IVCC soccer recruit

Mendota High School senior Noemi Arteaga, front left, signs a letter of intent to play soccer for the IVCC women’s soccer team as her mom, Sonia Arteaga, front right, looks on. Also witnessing the signing are MHS head coach Nick Myers and IVCC head coach Sabrina Poole. IVCC women’s soccer plays a fall schedule. (Reporter photo)



# SPORTS

## Mendota Co-Ed meet wraps up home schedule

MENDOTA – Mendota High School track and field athletes wrapped up the home portion of their schedule with the four-team Mendota Co-Ed meet on May 2.

In girls' competition, LaSalle-Peru ran away with the team title with 121.5 points. Mendota was second with 59 points, followed by Streator (41) and Hall (31.5).

Mendota had four first-place finishes. Mariyah Elam won the high jump at 5-2 and the triple jump at 35-3, while Aby Buettner took top honors in the 100-meter dash (13.56) and Hannah Kunz topped the field in the 400-meter dash (1:09.58).

The Mendota boys finished in third place with 50 points. L-P again dominated the action with 116 points and Streator was second with 65 points. Hall scored 36 points.

The Trojans collected five first-place finishes. Sebastian Carlos beat the rest of the competition in three events – the

100-meter dash (11.88), the 200-meter dash (23.37) and the 400-meter dash (51.50).

The other two first-place efforts went to Anthony Kelson in the 800-meter run (2:10.99) and the 1600-meter run (4:56.83).

**May 2 – Mendota Co-Ed meet (Girls)**

**LaSalle-Peru 121.5, Mendota 59, Streator 41, Hall 31.5**

**Mendota 1st place:** Aby Buettner, 100m dash, 13.56; Hannah Kunz, 400m dash, 1:09.58; Mariyah Elam, high jump, 5-2; Elam, triple jump, 35-3

**Mendota 2nd place:** Buettner, 200m dash, 28.06; Savannah Lenert, 1600m run, 6:49.68; Elam, 100m hurdles, 16.54; Buettner, 300m hurdles, 56.22; Rylee Woods, high jump, 4-11; 4x200m relay (Riley Erlenborn, Alexa Carlos, Kate Strouss, Elam), 2:01.95

**Mendota 3rd place:** Buettner, long jump, 14-9; 4x100m relay (Harlow

Foltynewicz, Klaire Knaff, Ambrielle Oquendo, Carlos), 57.92; 4x400m relay (Lenert, Kunz, Eden Pecher, Strouss), 4:58.32

**Mendota 4th place:** Foltynewicz, high jump, 4-8

(Boys)

**LaSalle-Peru 116, Streator 65, Mendota 50, Hall 36**

**Mendota 1st place:** Sebastian Carlos, 100m dash, 11.88; Carlos, 200m dash, 23.37; Carlos, 400m dash, 51.50; Anthony Kelson, 800m run, 2:10.99; Kelson, 1600m run, 4:56.83

**Mendota 2nd place:** Gavin Stevenson, 3200m run, 11:24.63

**Mendota 3rd place:** Stevenson, 1600m run, 5:18.66; Komen Denault, pole vault, 11-6; Robert Botello, long jump, 18-4.5

**Mendota 4th place:** Jayden Lesley, 100m dash, 12.15; Jayden Lesley, 200m dash, 24.89; Spencer Kain, 3200m run, 13:04.41



Mendota starting pitcher Evan McPheeters delivers a pitch in a varsity baseball contest with Rockridge on May 2 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

## Boys' track in Rochelle Sectional

ROCHELLE – The Mendota boys' track team will participate in the Rochelle Class 2A Sectional Track & Field Meet on Wednesday, May 21. The field events will begin at 3:30 p.m. and the running events are set for a 5 p.m. start.

Other schools competing in the sectional include Aurora (Central Catholic), Aurora (Illinois Math and Science Academy), Byron, Dixon (H.S.), Freeport (H.S.), Galena (H.S.) [Coop], Pecatonica [Coop], Plano, Rochelle, Rock Falls, Rockford (Boylan Catholic), 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, which is Thursday, May 29 through Saturday, May 31 in Charleston.



## Northbrook Eighth Grade Night

Northbrook Middle School track celebrated Eighth Grade Night on April 29 with first-place wins by the seventh and eighth grade boys' and girls' teams. Front row, left to right, are Aisaac Arteaga, Rafa Arteaga, Sam Arteaga, Sebastian Arteaga, Conner Bloomfield, Arian Chavez, Jaxen Daley, Aiden Fisher, Ari Gambrel, Illan Garcia, Josh Granados, Emmanuel Guzman, Devin Hernandez, Wyatt Knight, Chris Komitas, Ben Montgomery, Elizandro Orozco, Sam Reyes, Axel Ruiz, Gavin Tolley, Brayden Wilhelm and Dane Williams. Back row, Mallory Beck, Bella Bute, Analee Castro, Hayden Cedillo, Aliya Delao, Eliana Francis, Jeniah Francis, Averie Hazelwood, Abri Klein, Giselle Perez, Tatj Rucker, Lexie Saylor, Lumen Setchell, Samantha Stremlau, Laurali Thompson, Camila Vallejo and Dylan Welch. Not pictured: Coaches Tom Slater, Heather Friedlein, Hanna Gallagher, James Schweinberg. (Photo contributed)

# NATIONAL PET WEEK

## Doggie decoding: Understanding canine body language

Without the gift of gab, dogs are left to rely on a bark, a tail wag, or, sometimes, even a snarl to communicate with their two-legged companions. However, as we attempt to connect with our canine friends, understanding the unspoken becomes immensely important in recognizing their wants and needs.

“Understanding our dogs' basic body language allows us to gain insight into their thoughts and feelings about the world around them and what they are experiencing,” said Harmony Diers, a veterinary technician and project manager for the Dog Aging Project at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

To help owners “decode” their dog, Diers describes the meaning behind some common body language signals that dogs use to communicate.

### Reading The Relaxation

Happy dog, happy life is a wonderful sentiment to live by. But how do owners know when their dogs are happy?

“Happy and relaxed dogs offer us a great deal of body language intel,” Diers said. “The ears of these dogs can range from forward and relaxed to pointed back and relaxed. Dogs that are happy and submissive may even fold their ears back. But the takeaway is ‘relaxed.’”

A key sign is found in circular wags — if your dog is wagging its tail in a circle, it

is showing you that it is very happy and joyful, Diers said.

Other body language-based observations of a content and calm dog include:

- Eye squinting
- Soft, yet direct gaze
- Leaning on you
- Laying down
- Rolling over
- Open/panting mouth

“It is important to recognize a calm and content dog's body language to determine whether he or she is comfortable with the current environment and circumstances,” Diers said. “When we learn to recognize our dog's communication, we can set them up for success within their boundaries and also identify situations where they may need more support or training.”

### Personal Space Advised

On the other hand, discontented body language refers to behaviors that raise concern — reflecting defensive or submissive signs. This can be influenced by a multitude of variables, such as overstimulation, new environments, or unfamiliar individuals.

Once again, a key source of information lies in a dog's tail; for example, a frightened dog may tuck his tail, while an alert or nervous dog will carry its tail high and possibly wag it vigorously.

“A dog experiencing an uncomfortable situation may also turn his body away from the threat to present his back,” Diers said.

Similar to shaking off water from the pool, dogs also give a shake to reduce tension or stress from their bodies.

Other signs of a nervous or alerted dog include:

- Upright and forward ears — shows an attempt to be ready for “fight or flight”
- Pinned back ears near the head — shows the dog is attempting to make itself look smaller
- Alerted eyes — often in a fixed stare
- “Giving you the whale eye” — averting direct eye contact or showing the whites of the eyes indicates a scared dog
- Tense lips — often pulled back/lifted over the teeth
- Licking lips — often accompanied with yawning

Being able to recognize the signs of a discontented dog is vital for your furry friend to feel a sense of security at home as well as encountering unfamiliar dogs outside of the home.

Diers notes that while these are common signs, some breeds' natural characteristics may appear alarmed upon first glance.

For example, German shepherds' natural ear shape means they're often upright, and husky and malamute breeds have curled-up tails, even when relaxed.

“When these dogs are in alert mode or feel threatened, the tail may go higher and stiffer and wag quickly,” Diers said “Look at our pugs.



They always have big open eyes, but if a wide-eyed pug is giving the whale eye, he may be experiencing a threat or feeling nervous.”

### Trouble In Paradise

In understanding your dog's body language, you can also be better prepared to recognize potential health concerns.

“An ill dog may sleep more, be grumpier, and not want the normal interaction he usually gets excited about,” Diers said.

Other “red flag” indicators that can indicate pain or tension include:

- Limping
- Head-hanging
- Tense posture

- Tucked belly
- Arched back
- Whimpering
- Lip-smacking (precursor to nausea).

Diers notes that lip-smacking can also indicate a self-soothing method for stress or anticipation of a snack.

“Ultimately, if your normally active and happy dog starts to isolate and show lethargy and/or decreased appetite, this is a sign that something has changed with their overall health, and seeking the care of a veterinarian is a suggested course to take,” Diers said.

Reading, understanding, and responding to your

dog's body language is a key part of the companion-to-owner relationship. By understanding their cues and appropriately advocating for your dog, owners can continue to ensure their dogs remain happy, comfortable, and safe while also guaranteeing the safety and well-being of those around them.

(Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the web at [vetmed.tamu.edu/news/pet-talk](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/news/pet-talk). Suggestions for future topics may be directed to [vmbs-editor@tamu.edu](mailto:vmbs-editor@tamu.edu).)

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Sat. 8 to Noon



# SPORTS

## Denault wins pole vault at Genoa-K. JV Invitational

GENOA – Mendota took its junior varsity boys’ track team to Genoa for the Genoa-Kingston Junior Varsity Invitational on April 30. There were six teams in the event and the Trojans finished fifth in the standings with 37 points. Hampshire dominated the competition with 257 points.

Komen Denault earned Mendota’s only first-place finish by going 10-4 in the

pole vault.

Gavin Stevenson turned in a second-place performance in the 3200-meter run with a time of 11:19.04.

**April 30 @ Genoa-K. JV Invitational**  
**Hampshire 257, Burlington Central 139, Dixon 136, Oregon 65, Mendota 37, Genoa-Kingston 34**

**Mendota 1st place:** Komen Denault, pole vault, 10-4

**Mendota 2nd place:** Gavin Stevenson, 3200m run, 11:19.04

**Mendota 3rd place:** Robert Botello, long jump, 17-6

**Mendota 4th place:** 4x200m relay (Ethan Escatel, Denault, Botello, Stevenson), 1:48.75; Escatel, long jump, 16-6

**Mendota 5th place:** 4x100m relay (Escatel, Denault, Botello, Danny Correa), 53.7

## Kids’ Fishing Expo is May 10 in Peru

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

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

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

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

be provided.

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

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

## 2025 IHSA Class 1A/2A Baseball State Finals to be played at Illinois Field in Champaign

BLOOMINGTON – Due to a schedule conflict with the Peoria Chiefs at Dozer Park, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) announced that its 2025 Class 1A and Class 2A Baseball State Finals on Friday and Saturday, June 6-7, will be played at the home field of the University of Illinois, Illinois Field, located on the Champaign-Urbana campus.

“Major League Baseball (MLB) scheduled games at Dozer Park on June 6-7 and the Chiefs didn’t catch the conflict until it was too late,” said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. “The Chiefs efforts in working with MLB to remedy the situation ultimately were not successful. We are disappointed because Dozer Park is a wonderful facility, but feel fortunate to have another outstanding facility and host partner in the Fighting Illini athletic department and Experience Champaign-Urbana willing to pinch-hit as hosts.”

Illinois Field, one of the top collegiate facilities in the Midwest, was constructed in 1988 and installed lights a decade later in 1999. The home of the Fighting Illini, which seats over 5,000, added a new video scoreboard in 2015 and a FieldTurf surface in 2020.

“We look forward to Illinois Field hosting the 2025 IHSA Class 1A and Class 2A Baseball State Finals,” said IHSA Assistant Executive Director and baseball administrator Sam Knox. “The IHSA has a longstanding relationship with the Illini Athletic Department and Experience Champaign-Urbana and look forward to working together to provide an outstanding state final experience for the players, coaches, and fans.”

Since the first IHSA state tournament in 1940, the IHSA Baseball State Finals have been played at nine different venues around

the state. Illinois Field will become the tenth host stadium, while also marking the first time that state baseball will be played in Champaign-Urbana. The University’s State Farm Center is also the current host of the IHSA Individual Wrestling State Finals and America’s Original March Madness, the IHSA Boys Basketball State Finals.

“We are honored to host these athletes and their fans at Illinois Field on the University of Illinois campus,” states Jayne DeLuce, President & CEO of Experience Champaign-Urbana. “As we do for the IHSA Individual Wrestling Tournament and the Boys State Basketball Championships, we will welcome these teams with our signature Midwest hospitality. We look forward to showcasing our brilliant local businesses and experiences in the area.”

Dozer Park has hosted the Class 1A and 2A state tourney since 2011. The tourney’s roots in the Peoria area go back even further, as Peoria and East Peoria have respectively combined to host the event over 50 times at venues that include Tom Conner Field, Woodruff Field, Bradley Field, Meinen Field, and Dozer Park.

“While we are disheartened that the IHSA Class 1A and Class 2A Baseball State Championships will not be in Peoria this year, we know that our counterparts in Champaign will play great hosts to the state finals in 2025,” said J.D. Dalfonso, the Chief Executive Officer of the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. “As a strong partner with IHSA, hosting numerous state tournaments in the Peoria area, we look forward to the opportunity to welcome the IHSA baseball championships back to Peoria in future years.”



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## Community Calendar MAY 2025

**OCT. 1, 2024 - SEPT. 30, 2025**  
**ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE FUNDRAISER**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Our goal for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$1000. Please help us reach our goal. Drop off cans at the northeast back door of the Civic Center.

**MAY 2025**  
**SENIOR LUNCHESES**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
11:30 AM  
Monday - Friday  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

**Meal Cost - \$4.00**

**Monthly menus are available on our website & Facebook page.** Lunches are from OSF St. Paul Medical Center. **Must register 24 hours in advance.**

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

**MAY 2025**  
**WEEK OF MAY 5TH**  
**TWEENS TAKE HOME CRAFT**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142

Ages: Grades 5th-8th. May is Mental Health Awareness month! Stop by the front desk and ask for a mental heal bag. Grab one while supplies last.

**MAY 7**  
**SMALL FRIES**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
4 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142

Ages: 3 years old to Kindergarten. Join us for story, crafts, and play.

**MAY 7**  
**SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "NUMBERS"**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
11 AM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142

Ages: Birth to 2 years old (siblings welcome). Join us for books, music, and play.

**MAY 7, 14, 21 & 28**  
**BEGINNING CROCHET CLASS**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM- 2 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

New class being offered. Barbie Crochet will be here to teach crochet from beginners to advanced. Bring your own crochet hooks and yarn.

**MAY 8, 15, 22 & 29**  
**POKENO**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
12 PM (Noon)  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

This game is a combination of Bingo & Poker. Pennies are used, so bring your penny jar. Call M.A.S.S. for more information @815-539-7700

**MAY 8, 15, 22 & 29**  
**NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Bring your needlework or crafts to work on or just come for the friendship.

**MAY 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, & 29**  
**EXERCIZE CLASS**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
8 AM  
Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Exercise at your own pace with an exercise video.

**MAY 9**  
**LUNCH IN THE PARK**  
Sponsored by Mendota Museum and Historical Society  
11 AM - 1 PM  
Veterans Park

**MAY 9, 16, 23 & 30**  
**BINGOCIZE**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
10 AM  
Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Open to anyone in the community.

**MAY 9, 16, 23 & 30**  
**BINGO**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

**MAY 11**  
**MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH**  
Sponsored by Mendota Elks Lodge  
9 AM - 2 PM  
Mendota Elks Lodge  
For more info call 815-538-3557

**MAY 12**  
**DECORATE YOUTH DEPARTMENT (KITES)**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
6 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142

Ages: All ages. Come help us decorate the Youth Department.

**MAY 12 & 19**  
**TOPS CLUB**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
10 AM  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Anyone welcome.

**MAY 12 & 19**  
**DOMINOES**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

All are welcome to join in the fun.

**MAY 13, 20 & 27**  
**EUCHRE**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
12 PM (Noon)  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

All are welcome!

**MAY 13, 20 & 27**  
**Wii BOWLING**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
10:30 AM  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700

All welcome to come and enjoy the fun!

**MAY 14**  
**MORBID HISTORY**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
6 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142

FREE

This library program is presented by Larissa Julianus and looks at the morbid history of humans by talking about topics such as grave-robbing, resurrections, electrical experiments inspired by Mary Shelley, the notorious Burke/Hare murder case, and so much more! Ideal for ages 10+, teens, adults, and seniors.

**MAY 15**  
**HEARING SCREENINGS**  
Sponsored by Civic Center & M.A.S.S.  
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Hearing aid batteries available at M.A.S.S. to purchase. Bring in old batteries to recycle.

**MAY 15**  
**SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "NUMBERS" (REPEAT OF MAY 7TH PROGRAM)**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
6 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142

Ages: Birth to 2 years old (siblings welcome). Join us for books, music, and play.

**MAY 16**  
**LUNCH IN THE PARK**  
Sponsored by Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce  
11 AM - 1 PM  
Veterans Park

**MAY 19**  
**SENSORY FRIENDLY STORY TIME**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
5 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142

Ages: All. Explore the Library on your own terms. Sensory-Friendly story time is specifically planned for the kids and families who are challenged with developmental disabilities. This story time welcomes movement, frequent breaks and encourages exploring & creativity in an inclusive setting.

**MAY 20**  
**BLOOD PRESSURE / BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
11 AM - 12 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Free to anyone in the community.

**MAY 20**  
**THIRD TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
1 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call (815) 538-5142  
FREE

Stop by the library to pick up the book for the following month! The book for this month is, "Behind the Beautiful Forever" by Katherine Boo.

**MAY 20**  
**MAY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Join us for free Birthday Cake & Coffee to celebrate May birthdays.

**MAY 20**  
**CAREGIVER COUNSELING**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1:30 PM - 3 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Lori Angus from Alternatives for the Older Adult will be here to provide information for any caregiver needing assistance or in need of someone to just talk with. Appointments can be made or walk-ins are welcome.

**MAY 21**  
**FREE BLOOD PRESSURE AND BLOOD GLUCOSE CHECK**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
2 - 3 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142

FREE

Come to the library to get a free check of your blood pressure and glucose levels. No appointment necessary! Every third Wednesday. Provided by: In-Home Care Connections

**MAY 21**  
**SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "GROWING"**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
11 AM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142

Ages: Birth to 2 years old (siblings welcome). Join us for books, music, and play.

**MAY 23**  
**MAY POTLUCK**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
12 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Meat dish will be provided. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

**MAY 23**  
**LUNCH IN THE PARK**  
Sponsored by LaMoille Ministerial  
11 AM - 1 PM  
Veterans Park

**MAY 28**  
**MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S. - "GOING IN STYLE" (2017)**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library & M.A.S.S.  
3 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Free. Snacks (popcorn and beverages) provided by M.A.S.S.

**MAY 29**  
**SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "GROWING"**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library  
6 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call (815) 538-5142

Ages: Birth to 2 years old (siblings welcome). Join us for books, music, and play.

**MAY 30**  
**LUNCH IN THE PARK**  
Sponsored by Tri-County Fair Association  
11 AM - 1 PM  
Veterans Park

**MAY 30**  
**LUNCH IN THE PARK**  
Sponsored by Tri-County Fair Association  
11 AM - 1 PM  
Veterans Park



More local events found at [mendotachamber.com](http://mendotachamber.com)

The Community Calendar Is Brought To You By Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce & The Mendota Reporter. These are some of the local businesses who belong to your Chamber of Commerce:

First Federal Savings Bank  
First Presbyterian Church  
First State Bank  
First State Insurance  
Fitzer's  
Floralcrest Florist & Greenhouse  
Flo's on Pulaski  
G & M Distributors  
Gahan Goy CPA's, Ltd  
Good Vybz Ent



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrity Extra

**By Dana Jackson**

**Q:** Why did “Alert: Missing Persons Unit” kill off Nikki? She was one of the leads on the show. Who will replace her? -- *J.M.*

**A:** It was definitely shocking when the producers of Fox’s “Alert: Missing Persons Unit” decided to kill off their female lead, played by Dania Ramirez. This usually doesn’t happen unless the actress wants to leave the show, but nothing has been reported that it was Ramirez’s choice.

Executive producer Carla Kettner explained to TVLine that the biggest factor in the decision to write out the character was their “commitment to keeping the show fresh and surprising.” The plot twist happened a month before the finale because Kattner wanted the members of the investigative unit to cope with their grief over several episodes so that it would feel real.

There’s still a question of whether “Alert” will get renewed. Ratings have been trending downward, but the network might be more inclined to renew the show if a big name is cast as Ramirez’s replacement.

\*\*\*

**Q:** How is Christina Applegate doing these days

since her multiple sclerosis (MS) diagnosis? Will she ever return to acting? -- *D.W.*

**A:** Christina Applegate essentially had to retire from acting on screen once her hit series “Dead to Me” wrapped up. Filming the final season was extremely hard on her body due to her MS, and she told the press that she’s “probably not going to work on camera again.” However, never say never!

Shortly thereafter, she started a podcast with actress and friend Jamie-Lynn Sigler (“The Sopranos”), who also has MS. “MeSsy” provides insight into their daily lives of living with the disease, with the hosts sharing their vulnerability and adopting a sense of humor about their devastating diagnoses. Special guests on “MeSsy” have also included Applegate’s “Married ... with Children” parents Katey Sagal and Ed O’Neill.

Since making an announcement about her possible retirement, Applegate has committed to two television projects. First up is an animated reboot of “Married ... with Children,” where Applegate will do the voice of Kelly Bundy, but the second project, a TV movie, is one that will really test her

physical endurance. In Lifetime’s “Your Time Is Up,” she’ll star as a “disheveled psychologist” who has a “unique approach” in how she conducts her therapy sessions due to her unconventional upbringing.

\*\*\*

**Q:** Since the show “Lucifer” isn’t coming back, what can I see Tom Ellis in next? -- *E.H.*

**A:** Welsh actor Tom Ellis became a huge star in America after he starred in the series “Lucifer.” Actually, it wasn’t until the show was revived by Netflix after being canceled by Fox after three seasons that Ellis really hit it big. He co-starred in the Hulu series “Tell Me Lies,” but it’s his next series that should give you a heavy dose of him.

“CIA,” the upcoming late-instant installment in CBS’s “FBI” franchise, just announced Ellis as a “rule-breaking, loose-cannon CIA case officer.” However, his co-star, who will play a by-the-book FBI agent, has yet to be announced. Look for “CIA” as part of the 2025-26 TV season.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

## Hollywood

**By Tony Rizzo**

HOLLYWOOD -- Oscar winner Jessica Chastain is headed back to movie theaters in a big way! Her most recent film “Dreams,” opposite Rupert Friend, received high praise at the Berlin Film Festival in February, but it still needs a distributor in the United States. In August 2024, she completed “Lear Rex,” based on “King Lear” by William Shakespeare, and it co-stars Al Pacino as Rey Lear, Ariana DeBose, Rachel Brosnahan, Peter Dinklage, Chris Messina, Danny Huston, and Stephen Dorff.

She’s also preparing for Rob Savage’s horror film “Incidents Around the House.” The story involves a haunting from the perspective of a young girl, whose family is targeted by an entity she calls “Other Mommy.”

\*\*\*

Recent “Maestro” Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper has chosen his next film:



Chastain

a comedy co-starring Will Arnett, Laura Dern and Sean Hayes, called “Is This Thing On?” After writing, producing, directing and starring in “Maestro,” the biggest success of his career, he must have wanted to get far away from “Maestro’s” demands. He just finished a series of Talenti gelato commercials. (Ice cream in a jar -- a great way to zone out!)

\*\*\*

Also missing for a while was former “Entourage” series star Jeremy Piven. He was last seen in “Sweetwater” (2023), a biographical sports film about basketball great Nat Clifton. It co-starred Cary Elwes, Richard Dreyfuss and Kevin Pollack, and it cost \$8 million while grossing \$541,633.

Obviously concerned about his thinning hair, he sought help from the Hair Club for Men. He must have been very pleased with the results because he’s now the spokesman in their TV ads!

\*\*\*

I can’t even count how many times I watched “Jumanji” (1995). Robin Williams was superb in it.

Apparently, the sequels have crushed its \$262.8 million grosses. “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” (2017), which starred Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan and Nick Jonas, pulled in \$962.5 million. Then in 2019, “Jumanji: The Next Level” earned \$801.7 million.

Surprise, surprise, there is another sequel in the wings! “Jumanji 4” is scheduled to be released on Dec. 11, 2026. At this time, the principal actors are negotiating their (higher?) salaries, but no one’s been signed as of yet.

\*\*\*

No doubt “Jumanji 4” will be finalized soon, especially after the success of “A Minecraft Movie,” a film based on the sandbox game Minecraft that allows players to explore a vast open world, build, and dig for treasure. “A Minecraft Movie” cost \$150 million, opened on April 4, and has already grossed over \$800 million. Jack Black and Jason Momoa star in the film. Imagine if they put “Jumanji” and “Minecraft” together, they could sink “Titanic” from No. 1!

## • Trivia Test •

1. U.S. STATES: Which state is last, alphabetically?
  2. MOVIES: What does the acronym S.H.I.E.L.D. stand for in movies about Marvel characters?
  3. LITERATURE: Who wrote the short story “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty”?
  4. GAMES: How many cards are in a standard deck?
  5. TELEVISION: On which sitcom did the character Harry the Hat appear?
  6. BUSINESS: When did the first Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise open?
  7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many Nobel prizes are awarded every year?
  8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the shortest at 5 foot 4 inches tall?
  9. ASTRONOMY: Who was the first woman to travel into space?
  10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby platypus called?
- Answers
1. Wyoming.
  2. Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division.
  3. James Thurber.
  4. 52.
  5. “Cheers.”
  6. 1952 in Salt Lake City, Utah.
  7. Six.
  8. James Madison.
  9. Valentina Tereshkova.
  10. A puppy or pup.
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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Completely  
4 Playwright Levin  
7 Done with  
11 Secular  
13 Collection  
14 Water carrier  
15 Airline to Tel Aviv  
16 ET's craft  
17 Dutch cheese  
18 Ersatz chocolate  
20 One-named supermodel  
22 Tree fluid  
24 Trombone parts  
28 Grassy tract  
32 January, to Juan  
33 Grassy area  
34 Shade provider  
36 FBI guy  
37 Alpha's opposite  
39 "The Hunger Games" heroine  
41 Dance clubs  
43 Prefix with athlete  
44 Tom Joad, for one  
46 Urged (on)  
50 Hive population  
53 Schlep  
55 Luau dance

1	2	3			4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11			12		13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19		20		21				
			22		23		24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31		32				
33					34		35		36			
37				38		39		40				
41					42		43					
			44			45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52			53		54		55			
56					57				58			
59					60					61		

- 56 Vegetarian's no-no  
57 Mine material  
58 Russian ruler  
59 Saturates  
60 Scale member  
61 Blasting stick
- 7 Exciting Broadway event  
8 YouTube clip, for short  
9 Clean air org.  
10 "The One I Love" band  
12 Loan application fees  
19 "Cheers" setting  
21 Pub order  
23 Bakery purchase  
25 Singer Lovato  
26 Historic periods  
27 Male children
- 28 Trudge  
29 Actor Malek  
30 Dazzles  
31 Caribou kin  
35 Yoga pad  
38 Fine, to NASA  
40 Italian "three"  
42 Farm towers  
45 Franc replacement  
47 Sudden wind  
48 Flair  
49 Scurry  
50 German auto  
51 Shoe width  
52 Have breakfast  
54 Solidify

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## Couch Theater

“Death of a Unicorn” (R) -- Jenna Ortega (“Beetlejuice Beetlejuice”) and Paul Rudd (“Only Murders in the Building”) team up to play a father-daughter duo in this fantastical horror-comedy film. Rudd portrays Elliot Kintner, who takes his daughter, Ridley (Ortega), on a weekend trip to the estate of his boss, Odell Leopold. Upon arriving to their destination, Elliot accidentally runs over a unicorn foal, much to their surprise and confusion. Keeping the injured unicorn in their car, Elliot and Ridley get to the Leopolds’ estate only for them to discover that the unicorn has healing properties. The Leopolds want to extract as much as power as they can from the unicorn, but as majestic as these creatures look, unicorns subsequently prove that they’re no one to mess with. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

“Companion” (R) -- This sci-fi thriller is a mind-bending one led by scream queen Sophie Thatcher (“Heretic”) and Jack Quaid (“Novocaine”), and it’s out now to stream. Thatcher plays a young woman named Iris who prepares to travel with her boyfriend, Josh (Quaid), to a lake house to meet their friends. Once there, Iris experiences a frightening situation when Sergey, one of their friends, tries to sexually assault her. In self-defense, she kills Sergey; however, when she returns to the lake house in shambles, Josh reveals that she is actually a companion robot. Offered through a robotics company named Empathix, Iris is just one of many models that people can purchase and

control through an app on their phone. Who knows what this revelation will lead Iris to do ... (Max)

“The Four Seasons” (TV-MA) -- This eight-episode miniseries out now to binge is comprised of a stacked cast that is sure to make this your new favorite series. Serving as an adaptation of the 1981 film of the same name, this comedy series stars Tina Fey (“Mean Girls”), Steve Carell (“The Morning Show”), Colman Domingo (“Sing Sing”), and Will Forte (“Sausage Party: Foodtopia”). These comedy veterans play a group of longtime friends who always vacation together each season of the year, but dynamics in the group are thrown for a loop when one couple breaks up and the ex-husband brings in a much younger woman. Get your popcorn ready! (Netflix)

“Love Hurts” (R) -- Following the success of a 2023 award season campaign that landed him a Golden Globe and an Oscar for his work in “Everything Everywhere All at Once,” Ke Huy Quan was signed to utilize his action skills to lead a classic action-comedy film for Universal Pictures. Quan plays a top-selling realtor named Marvin Gable who’s become quite a success, but he hides a dark secret. Having been a former assassin for an organization run by his criminal brother, Marvin uses his realtor guise as an attempt to cover up his dodgy past. But when he receives a warning message from someone in his past, Marvin realizes that his enemies are right on his tail, and it’s time for him to tie up some loose ends. Premieres May 9. (Peacock)

## FLASHBACK

1. Name the song in which the alarmed husband calls out to his wife, “Don’t look, Ethel!”
2. Who wrote and released “Spinning Wheel”?
3. Which two artists released “Ebony and Ivory”?
4. Name the theme song for “American Gigolo.”
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: “The road is long with many a winding turn, That leads us to who knows where, who knows when.”

### Answers

1. “The Streak,” by Ray Stevens, in 1974. Astonishingly, this song about a streaker climbed international charts, including the U.S., the U.K., Australia, Ireland and Canada. “The Streak” was one of dozens of songs on the same topic that year.
2. David Clayton-Thomas of Blood, Sweat & Tears in 1969. The song won a Grammy for Best Instrumental Arrangement.
3. Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney, in 1982.
4. “Call Me,” by Blondie in 1980. The song topped the Hot 100 chart for six weeks.
5. “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother,” originally by Kelly Gordon, in 1969, but made a hit by the Hollies.

## Strange But True

### By Lucie Winborne

- \* Worldwide, blue is the most common favorite color.
- \* Medieval knights were given letters of protection that essentially provided them with a license to kill, as they granted the possessor full immunity from legal proceedings resulting from battles or necessary fatalities.
- \* The “Mona Lisa” has her own mailbox in the Louvre for all the flowers, poems and love letters she receives.
- \* Deipnophobia is the fear of dining with other people.
- \* People have used dishwashers to clean hats, toothbrushes, sneakers and more. There are even tutorials on how to cook certain foods with a dishwasher.
- \* New Order’s classic song “Blue Monday” is the best-selling 12-inch single in history. Unfortunately, the band lost money on it since the cost of producing its unique cover was higher than its sale price.
- \* In 95% of cases, the first word someone writes with a new pen is their own name.
- \* Human fetuses have gills, fur and even a tail during development. The tail becomes the coccyx and the “gills,” which are temporary slits in the neck, develop into jaw and ear bones, while the fur disappears before birth or within a few weeks afterward.
- \* Despite more than 150 years worth of study and experimentation, no one really knows why ice is slippery.
- \* The oldest known toilet, in the ancient city of Knossos on the island of Crete, has remained functional for approximately 4,000 years since its construction and was built with a seat and sophisticated drainage system.
- \* Eyelashes are considered the thickest and toughest of all hairs on the human body, with a lifespan of about three months.

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

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Do you know which  
U.S. President was  
the shortest at 5'4"?  
Find the answer  
in Trivia Test!

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Member  
FDIC

Brought to you each week by

FIRST STATE BANK





**LOCALS**  
*Have More Fun*  
 Get out and support our local shops, restaurants and events!

# COMMUNITY MATTERS

## ACCURATE TITLE & LICENSE

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

## ASSISTED/INDEPENDENT LIVING

**Stonecroft Village**  
 1700 Burlington St.  
 815-538-5300  
[stonecroftvillage.com](http://stonecroftvillage.com)

## AUCTIONEERS

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

## AUTO BODY REPAIR

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

## AUTO REPAIR

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

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

## ATTORNEY

**The Cantlin Law Firm**  
 815-433-4712  
[www.cantlinlaw.com](http://www.cantlinlaw.com)

**Guilfoyle & Stevenson LLP**  
 1316 Meriden St.  
 815-539-6711  
[Guilfoyleandstevenson.com](http://Guilfoyleandstevenson.com)

## AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

**Mendota Ford**  
 Rt. 251 S.  
 815-539-9314  
[www.mendotaford.com](http://www.mendotaford.com)

**Schimmer, Inc. Buick • Chevy**  
 Rt. 251 S.  
 815-539-9343  
[www.schimmergm.com](http://www.schimmergm.com)

**Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet**  
 505 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Sublette  
 815-849-5232  
[www.vaessenbrothers.com](http://www.vaessenbrothers.com)

## CABINETRY

**Maze Lumber**  
 Water Street • Peru  
 815-223-1742

## CABINETRY AND STAIRS

**Starved Rock Wood Products**  
**815-538-7797**  
 1605 Division Street • Mendota  
[starvedrockwoodproducts.com](http://starvedrockwoodproducts.com)

## CARPET & FLOORING

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

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

## CONTRACTORS - GENERAL

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

## DENTISTS

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

## ELECTRICAL

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

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

## ELECTRICAL/CONTRACTING

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

## EXCAVATING AND SEWER

**TJS Excavating**  
 815-228-9845  
[Tjsexcavating.com](http://Tjsexcavating.com)

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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

**First State Bank**  
 706 Washington St. • Main  
 1403 13th Ave. • Plaza  
 815-538-2265  
[firststatebank.biz](http://firststatebank.biz)  
 Member FDIC

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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

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

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

## FIREPLACES

**Maze Lumber**  
 Water Street • Peru  
 815-223-1742

## FITNESS

**Mendota YMCA**  
 1811 S. 13th Ave.  
 815-538-2900  
[Ivymca.org/Mendota-ymca/](http://Ivymca.org/Mendota-ymca/)

## FLORISTS

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

## FOOD TRUCK

**Tacos Guzman**  
 815-503-0839  
 Follow us on Facebook

## FUNERAL HOMES

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

## FURNITURE

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

## GROCERY STORES

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

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

## HEALTH CARE CLINIC

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

## HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS

**Correa Heating and Air Conditioning**  
 815-910-9876

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

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

## HOME HEALTH/HOSPICE

**In-Home Care Connection**  
**Hospice Services**  
 680 W. Peru St., Princeton  
 815-872-7447  
[www.ihcccare.com](http://www.ihcccare.com)

## HOUSE CLEANING

**Illinois Valley Clean Team**  
 815-228-5273

## ICE CREAM SHOP

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

## IDOT INSPECTIONS

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

## INSURANCE

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

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

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

## KITCHEN & BATH

**Maze Lumber**  
 Water Street • Peru  
 815-223-1742

**SITK**  
 1619 N. Main St. • Princeton  
 815-879-0604  
[www.somekitchen.com](http://www.somekitchen.com)

## KITCHEN & BATH

**Starved Rock Wood Products**  
**815-538-7799**  
 1605 Division Street • Mendota  
[srwoodproducts.com](http://srwoodproducts.com)

## LIBRARY

**Graves-Hume Public Library**  
 1401 W. Main St.  
 815-538-5142  
[www.graveshume.org](http://www.graveshume.org)

## LIQUOR STORE

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

## MUSEUMS

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

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

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

## OPTOMETRIST

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

## PET GROOMING

**Dirty Dawgs**  
 1111 Main St.  
 815-538-2550

## PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

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

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

## POST FRAME BUILDERS

**N.L. Morton Buildings, Ltd.**  
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## REALTORS

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

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

## RESTAURANTS

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

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

**Ziggie's Family Restaurant**  
 1212 First Ave.  
 815-539-5060  
[Ziggiesrestaurant.com](http://Ziggiesrestaurant.com)

## SEAMLESS ROOFING

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

## SOCIAL CLUB

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

## TAX PREPARATION

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 1313 Meriden St.  
 815-539-7610  
[hrblock.com](http://hrblock.com)

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

## THRIFT STORES

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## TRANSPORTATION

**Mendota Area Senior Services**  
 1901 Tom Merwin Drive  
 815-539-7700  
[mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com](mailto:mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com)

## TOWING

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

## VAPE/SMOKE SHOP

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

## VETERINARIANS

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 Stephen J. Dullard, DVM ABVP  
 1205 6th Ave.  
 815-539-3844  
[www.ancarevet.com](http://www.ancarevet.com)

**Mendota Companion Animal Centre**  
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 Rt. 251 N.  
 815-539-6601  
[www.mendotavet.com](http://www.mendotavet.com)

## WINDOWS & DECKING

**Maze Lumber**  
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 815-223-1742



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**[www.mendota.il.us](http://www.mendota.il.us)**



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# LOCAL AND AREA

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Birthday  
Michelle!



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**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
on passing your State Exams  
**Carol Ann Smith, RN**  
Love, Joey



## LaSalle County Health Department begins its vector surveillance program

OTTAWA – There will be a slight change in the way the LaSalle County Health Department conducts its vector surveillance program for the 2025 season (May 1 through Oct. 15, 2025).

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has notified all local health departments that the collection of dead birds for West Nile virus testing will not be conducted due to the ongoing H5N1 avian influenza outbreak. Therefore, the LaSalle County Health Department will not be collecting dead birds as part of the vector surveillance program during this time frame. Reports of five or more dead birds found in LaSalle County during this time frame should be made to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) District Wildlife Biologist for LaSalle County by calling (779) 702-8274 or call the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, at 1-866-487-3297 to determine if domesticated bird samples should be collected for testing.

How do I dispose of dead birds on my property?

Given the concern regarding influenza in wild birds (especially waterfowl, aquatic birds, and birds of prey), the following are tips to reduce the risk of avian influenza spreading to people who may need to pick up dead birds on their property. While it is unlikely that handling dead birds would lead to human infection, it is best to be cautious. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when around dead birds. In the case of not having that PPE, the following guidance can be used:

- Don't use bare hands to pick up a dead bird or animal.
- Use disposable waterproof gloves and/or an inverted plastic bag to pick up the dead bird(s). Double the plastic bag with the bird(s) inside and dispose in the trash where it cannot be accessed by children or animals.
- After handling a bird, avoid touching your face with gloved or unwashed hands.
- After the bird(s) are disposed of, take gloves off first and put into a plastic bag for disposal.
- Wash hands with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.

If you should develop flu-like symptoms within ten days of disposing of a group of dead birds, contact the LaSalle County Health Department. For additional information on disposal of dead birds, please visit: IDPH Safe Dead Bird Disposal (Less than 5 birds), Safe Dead Bird Disposal (5 or more birds)

### Mosquito Collection and Testing

As in prior years, Health Department staff are getting ready to begin testing mosquitoes for West Nile virus. The mosquito collection and testing equipment were purchased with grant money. Testing will begin once the weather stays consistently warm and will continue through the fall months. Multiple mosquito collection sites are utilized and they are typically moved throughout the county during the surveillance season. Collected mosquitoes are placed in a freezer to inactivate and then they are sorted out for testing. The female Culex pipiens (common house mosquito) are the only mosquitoes tested, as they bite for blood meals. The Health Department will report any positive mosquito batches to the public.

### Larvicide Distribution

The Health Department also utilizes grant money to purchase a large quantity of mosquito larvicide, which is used to treat potential mosquito breeding sites. The larvicide will be distributed to licensed mosquito control applicators from local municipalities and villages throughout the county.

Additionally, the Health Department, through a grant, offers larvicide to property owners looking to reduce mosquito breeding sites. Property owners are encouraged to pick up a package of NATULAR® DT. NATULAR® DT, is a mosquito larvicide that controls larvae of mosquitoes for up to 60 days. Manufactured by Clarke, Natular® DT is an easy-to-use, bi-layer tablet that prevents mosquito breeding in standing water sites around yards. The larvicide can be picked up at the Health Department (717 Etna Road, Ottawa. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). Each package contains 12 tablets. At this time, supplies are limited to one per household.

For additional information on West Nile virus, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at [www.lasallecountyil.gov](http://www.lasallecountyil.gov).

# GARAGE SALE TIME!



*It's a great time to have a Garage Sale. If you're planning to get together some of the items you no longer use around your home and set up your own sale, be sure you follow some important basic steps!*

### 1. WHAT TO SELL

Anything that still has usability and some value.

### 2. HOW TO PRICE

Decide the price of each item and then tag that item.

### 3. LENGTH OF SALE

Sales from Thursday through Saturday seem best.

### 4. HOW TO SET IT UP

Make it easy for buyers to view the items and have a central place with sufficient change for them to pay.

### 5. HOW TO ADVERTISE

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

## GARAGE SALE DEADLINES\*

**MONDAY, 10 AM -**

**To appear in Wednesday's Reporter**

\* On a week with a holiday, deadlines may change. Please call to verify.



**Call 815-539-9396 or  
stop in the office at  
703 Illinois Ave.**



# 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.



# Overcome doubt and live with bold faith

them, “I beg you to be in good spirits and take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you...” (v. 22). He then shared that an angel of God told him this, and said in verse 25, “So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith (complete confidence) in God that it will be exactly as it was told me.”

How could Paul, in the middle of a horrible storm, ask the people to “be in good spirits” and have a good attitude? Because he believed in his heart—without a doubt—“that it will be exactly as it was told me.” I love that! It’s a

great picture of the power of faith in God when all hope seems lost. And we can have the very same faith that Paul had if we will overcome doubt.

We all face storms in life. Some are more difficult than others, but we all go through trials and tribulation. That's why we have the gift of faith. Ephesians 6:16 (NIV) calls it "...the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." Doubt is a type of "flaming arrow" that the enemy uses to attack our faith.

We usually experience doubt after we've made a decision. In James 1:6,



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*Joyce Meyer*

expecting me to be perfect; He wants me to do my best to be in His will and take steps of faith as He leads me—whether that's through His Word or something He speaks to my heart. Remember, He wants us to put our confidence in Him. God really does want to speak to you personally and lead you in His great plan for your life. So don't be afraid to step out and do what's in your heart. If you make a mistake, you'll learn from it and go on. That's how we "step out and find out." And we all have to do it.

I want to encourage you to begin saying things every day that will help you grow in your faith and confidence in God. Declare things like, "God loves me. He wants to speak to my heart. I can hear from God. He is faithful to me and will lead me in His will for my life. And I believe it will be exactly as God has told me!" By God's grace, we can be bold in faith and overcome every attack of doubt during the

storms of life.

\*\*\*

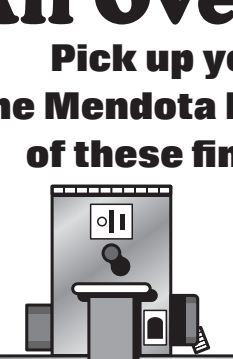
For more on this topic, order Joyce's five-part teaching resource *Bold, Confident and Courageous*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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.

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- Mendota Food Mart
  - Mendota Shell
- Road Ranger, I-39
  - Sullivan's Foods




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101

LEGAL NOTICE

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 Kornitas (tkornitas@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)

NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on April 28, 2025 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as KJ&D-Lux located at 1408 Meriden Street Mendota, IL. 61342.

Dated: April 28, 2025.

Luguer Desirena, Jesus Enrique Romero Ramirez & Jesus Antonio Martinez Guzman Applicants.

No. 0501 (May 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

NOTICE

District #289 Mendota, IL

1806 Guiles Ave, Mendota IL 61342

The district will be accepting bids for school milk service for the 2025-26 school year. Bids will be accepted through 6-1-25. Email cdelho@m289.org or mail to the listed address above.

No. 0502 (May 7, 2025)

NOTICE

Ophir Township regular monthly meeting dates for fiscal 2025-2026 will be held on the second Monday of the month, April through October at 7:00 p.m and November through March at 6:00 p.m. All meetings will be held at the Ophir Community Building at 3907 E. 752nd Road in Triumph.

Bill Pakenham  
Ophir Township Clerk  
No. 0503 (May 7, 2025)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Ophir Township Town Budget

Notice is hereby given that a tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Town purposes, Ophir Township, LaSalle County, Illinois for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026 is available for public inspection at the Triumph Community Building, 3907 E. 752nd Road Triumph Illinois. A public hearing on the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:00 p.m. on

Monday June 9, 2025 at the Triumph Community Building. Bill Pakenham  
Ophir Township Clerk  
No. 0504 (May 7, 2025)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Ophir Township Road and Bridge Budget

Notice is hereby given that a tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Road purposes, Ophir Township, LaSalle County, Illinois for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026 is available for public inspection at the Triumph Community Building, 3907 E. 752nd Road Triumph Illinois. A public hearing on the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday June 9, 2025 at the Triumph Community Building. Bill Pakenham  
Ophir Township Clerk  
No. 0505 (May 7, 2025)

101

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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

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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

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501

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One-bedroom apartments located in Sublette. Rent based on income and income limits apply. Must be a person 62 years of age; or a person 50 years of age, or older, with disabilities, to apply. Application available at Farmers State Bank of Sublette, or Lee County Housing Authority, 1000 Washington Avenue, Dixon, IL. Questions, call 815-284-2759.

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HELP WANTED

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.

03262023

601

VEHICLES FOR SALE

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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

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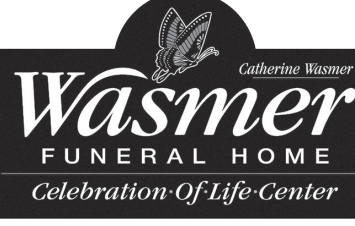
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# Mendota Police Department

Chief Jason Martin	SRO Officer Chad Hochstatter	Officer Deven Guelde
Deputy Chief Tyler Kent	Officer Daniel Hernandez	Part-time Records Clerk Emma Myers
Sergeant Amy Oscepiniski	Officer Seth Martin	
Sergeant Josh Sarver	Officer Randy Tucker	<b>Part-Time Patrol</b>
Sergeant Zach Urbanski	Officer Will Hansen	Officer Robert Cessna
Officer Brad Martin	Officer James Shankle	Officer Michael Hammen
Communications Officer Tammy Kackert	Officer Ashton Dossett	Officer Brandon Hornung
Officer Ben Bentley	Officer Logan Eppard	Officer Austin O'Sadnick
Officer Ryan Krewer	Officer Matthew Kristensen	Officer Clint Thulen



## NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

**We Salute The Area's Finest For Going Above And Beyond The Call Of Duty!**

<b><u>First State Bank</u></b> 706 Washington St. and 1403 13th Ave., Mendota 800.362.9623 Member FDIC	<b><u>First State Insurance</u></b> 715 Washington St. Mendota 815-539-5651 114 Railroad St. • Earlville 815-246-8261	<b><u>ARS Auto Repair</u></b> 307 Plaza Dr. Mendota 815-538-2412
<b><u>Carriage House Electric</u></b> 105 12th St. Mendota 815-538-5598	<b><u>First State Bank of Van Orin</u></b> 200 N Main St. 815-638-2111 Member FDIC	<b><u>The Mendota Reporter</u></b> 703 Illinois Ave. Mendota 815-539-9396
<b><u>Black Bros. Co.</u></b> 501 9th Ave. Mendota 815- 539-7451	<b><u>Malden Banking Center</u></b> 302 W. Main St. 815-643-2121 Member FDIC	<b><u>McDonald's</u></b> 2701 12th St. & 1503 13th Ave. Mendota
<b><u>City of Mendota</u></b> 800 Washington St. Mendota 815-539-7459	<b><u>Financial Plus Credit Union</u></b> 1905 13th Ave. Mendota 815-539-3444 Member NCUA-ESI	<b><u>Pizza by Marchelloni's</u></b> 1210 Meriden St. Mendota 815-538-2145
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<b><u>Parkway Family Restaurant</u></b> 1400 13th Ave. Mendota 815-539-6837	<b><u>Ramer Automotive &amp; Towing</u></b> Paul & Matt Ramer 4266 E. 4th Rd. Mendota 815-539-5321	<b><u>Ziggie's Family Restaurant</u></b> 1212 First Ave. Mendota 815-539-5060

<b>Police • Fire • Ambulance</b> <b>Mendota Police Department</b> <b>(non-emergency)</b> <b>815-539-9331</b>	<b>LaSalle County Sheriff's Department</b> <b>815-433-2161</b> <b>Lee County Sheriff's Department</b> <b>815-284-6631</b> <b>Bureau County Sheriff's Department</b> <b>815-875-3344</b>
<b>Illinois State Police District 17 • Emergency: 911 • Non-emergency: 815-224-1171</b>	