



Cardboard vessels
The annual Cardboard Boat Regatta saw Mendota High School teacher Matt Hughes’ physics class take their prized cardboard sailing apparatuses to Lake Kakusha on Wednesday, May 7. The lake’s coast was lined up with viewers celebrating sailing success and snickering at the sailors who found themselves walking in water. MHS students Joe Stewart, back left, Johan Cortez, front left, and Brody Hartt push off from the pier in hopes they don’t sink anytime soon. (Photo contributed)

BBCO’s Phalen named woodworking industry’s Baldwin Award winner

❑ J. Carroll won prestigious award in 1986

MENDOTA — Black Brothers Company is honored to announce Director of Sales Todd Phalen has been bestowed the prestigious Ralph B. Baldwin Award of Excellence by the Woodworking Industry Association. The top award recognizes the 25-year veteran’s outstanding contributions to the woodworking machinery and ancillary equipment industry.

Phalen is an active member in the WIA (formerly WCMA) and joined the Board of Directors in 2018 having served as Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. He is the second member of Black Bros. to earn the award with James S. Carroll winning in 1986. “Todd has been a dynamic leader in the woodworking machinery industry,” said Black Bros. CEO Matthew Carroll. “His customer-focused leadership has driven record-breaking sales and product innovation, and he is a widely-respected mentor, connector, and advocate — an exceptional leader in every sense.”

Within the WIA, Phalen was the driving force in implementing and overseeing annual sales trainings, which championed growth and participation. He regularly influenced members to become more involved and help make a difference. Even more, his guidance played a key role in the recent WMMA and WMIA merger to assure a seamless union and strengthen its mission and overall health. Phalen is a 11-time participant at the International Woodworking Fair and is regularly active at industry events of all kinds.

Nominator Clay Coss, Marketing Manager at Black Bros., praised Phalen’s leadership. “Todd is an exceptional communicator and listener, respected for his mentorship, industry insight, and selfless commitment to progress.”

Beyond the workplace, Phalen is a staple in civic and charitable activities. He has been a huge player in the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, serving as president in 2003 and winning the Horace Hume Outstanding Service Award in 2020. He formally served on the Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees and has been a registered sports official for football and basketball for nearly 40 years.

The mission of the WIA is to improve management operations, marketing programs, sales techniques, merchandising, and distribution functions of those engaged in the domestic or foreign manufacture of woodworking machinery and ancillary equipment and/or the sale of such equipment in North America.



Mendota to honor its fallen heroes on May 26

MENDOTA – The 2025 Mendota Memorial Day Program will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 26, at Restland Cemetery Memorial Gardens, Mendota. The Veterans’ Memorial Council, The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4079, its Auxiliary and American Legion Post 540 will be participating. These organizations welcome everyone to this service for the purpose of honoring and remembering all veterans resting on domestic



or foreign soil - for their commitment and unselfish contribution to our present way of life with liberty and freedom for all. The program schedule is as follows:

Master of Ceremonies: Bill Hunt, US Navy Veteran
• Presentation of Colors/ Raising of the Flag: Veterans’ Memorial Council
• National Anthem: Mendota Alumni Band
• Invocation: Jay Miller,

US Navy Veteran
• Guest Speaker: Jeff Simonton, COO Black Brothers
• Musical Selection: Mendota Alumni Band
• Roll Call of Deceased Veterans since last Memorial Day: Harold Olsen
• Laying of the Wreaths: VFW Post 4079 Auxiliary
Firing of the Volley: Veterans’ Memorial Council
• Taps: Veterans’ Memorial Council
• Benediction: Miller.

Illinois state parks draw highest number of visitors in more than a decade

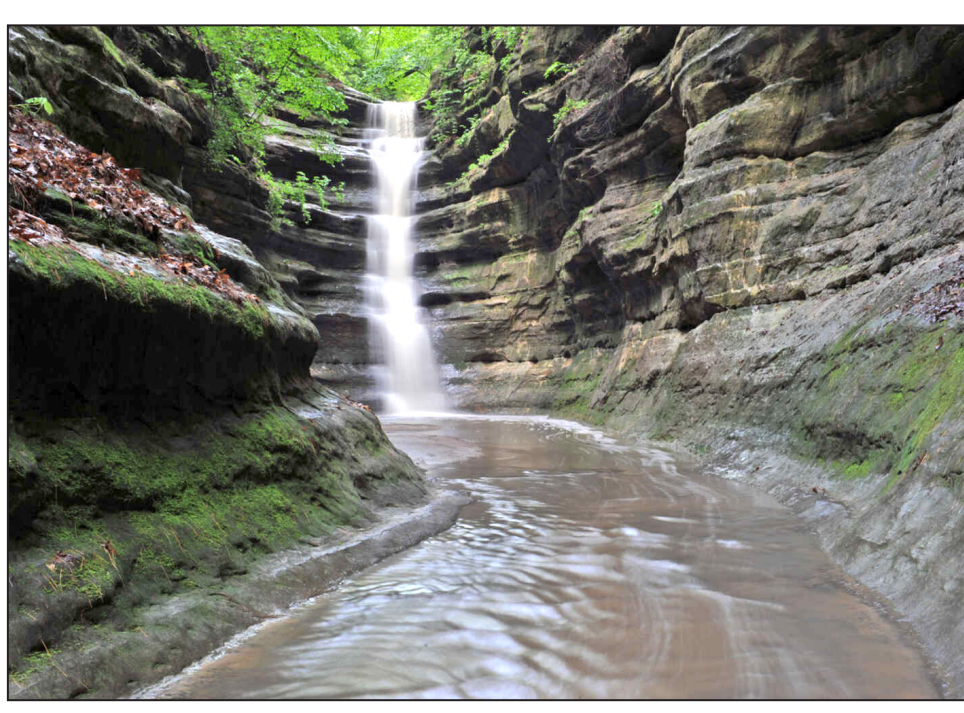
❑ Starved Rock State Park tops the list with 2.4 million visitors

By BEN SZALINSKI
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois state parks saw more visitors in 2024 than any point in the past 15 years, according to new data from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Illinois’ 290 state parks and 56 historic sites recorded more than 41 million visitors last year, which was the most in 15 years, following several significant capital projects to upgrade and improve many of the parks. Interest in state parks has been growing since the pandemic, IDNR Director Natalie Phelps Finnie said in an interview. “During COVID, people were stir crazy, shut in, and they once again realized how important nature is to all of us,” Phelps Finnie said. An aggressive advertising campaign by the state has also helped, she said. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity launched the state’s “Middle of Everything” marketing campaign in 2022, which promotes tourism at the state’s top recreation and cultural attractions in TV com-

mercials, billboards and online advertising. Starved Rock State Park in LaSalle County topped the list in 2024 with 2.4 million visitors coming to explore the canyons and waterfalls nestled in gorges along the Illinois River in north-central Illinois. The second-most visited park last year was Illinois Beach State Park, near Zion, with 2 million visitors. IDNR completed a major \$73 million project last year to preserve the park from erosion. “It’s always been a high number of visitors, but certainly the uptick we’ve seen since the beach was restored and since the resort is being invested in once again and remodeled,” Phelps Finnie said. Beach State Park holds Illinois’ only undeveloped stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline, but it’s subject to the ferocious waves of the lake. The conditions have sometimes eroded up to 100 feet of shoreline a year in parts of the park.

See Parks, Page A5



French Canyon is one of the many stunningly beautiful areas of Starved Rock State Park. The LaSalle County natural wonder led the state in the number of visitors to state parks in 2024.



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LOCAL AND AREA

Frankie's Tavern is bringing fried chicken back to Mendota

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – There are plenty of different food options in Mendota.

However, there is something missing.

Johnny Arteaga wants to fill the fried chicken void in the city with Frankies' Tavern.

"Our main concept is fried chicken. We're in the Midwest and in Mendota, we've been brought up on fried chicken," Arteaga said. "We have places to get tacos and pizza, but fried chicken is where it's at. It's a family affair to bring everyone out for chicken. I think it's something we need in Mendota."

"We've had a lot of great places in Mendota that lasted forever like Main Street, Andy's Tavern, and Sip-N-Snack. They all put in a lot of work and did it with their families to bring other families together. We want to do the same thing."

Frankie's Tavern is a new name and a new restaurant/bar in Mendota, but the building is far from new and is well recognized by Mendota residents and outside travelers.

The location, 701 Jefferson St., was The Hub for decades.

"I offered Becky Kenny \$160,000 for The Hub years back. She said I owned enough bars, and she didn't want me to own them all. I understood," Arteaga said. "She passed away a week later (October 27, 2022). It

was crazy. I saw The Hub, through the estate, was for sale online and I called my realtor. My bid, which was half of my original offer, was accepted and we closed within a week."

Although the name is changed, Arteaga knows it's going to take some time for the new name and the new business to be as recognized as the building and its history.

"I decided to use my grandson Frankie's name for the name of the restaurant and I'm going to name something in the menu after my grandson Roman," said Arteaga about Roman, who is 7 and Frankie who is 4, his grandchildren from his daughter and son-in-law, Erica and Jeff Currier. "I had a brother who passed away when he was 2 years old. His name was Frankie. I thought between my brother and my grandson, the name of the tavern should be Frankie's. It's something different to Mendota."

"This place will always be known as The Hub. It's always going to be associated with the name. But I want to change the environment and the culture. We took out the pool tables and there won't be 50 cent or \$1 drafts. Those days are over with."

"We're going to have craft beer and some of the nicer tequilas. This place is going to be nice."

The building has been remodeled, seating is in place, the menu is created,

and the chicken is ready to hit the fryer.

However, Frankie's Tavern hasn't opened yet due to delays from the health department, exit signs, fire extinguishers, fire safety in the kitchen, and a few pieces of equipment not delivered yet.

But Arteaga is ready to roll as soon as they are.

With Frankie's Tavern, the owner also owns Uncle Joe's Gaming Café, J.C.'s Headquarters (which is leased to a business owner), Arteaga Tree Service & Landscaping, Arteaga Concrete, numerous real estate properties, co-owns Jerry's Tap in Compton, and co-owns Sammy's Roadhouse in Arlington.

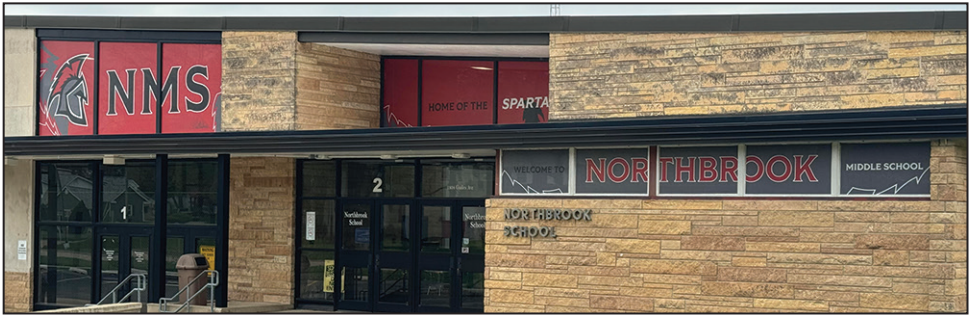
Before he began owning property and businesses, Arteaga started in the car business as he spent three decades at Prescott Brothers of Mendota before leaving in 2024.

"I told my wife Anna, once I get up to \$20,000 in passive income per month, I was going to stop working at Prescotts and do my own thing. I met my goal," Arteaga said. "It's good money, but it's a lot of work. And once you see an opportunity, you have to jump on it."

"We try to give back to the community often. We donated to the new food pantry building. I'm going to set up Queen of Hearts to donate to local organizations like the food pantry, the Mendota Police Department, the Mendota Fire Department and others."



Johnny Arteaga bought the property on 701 Jefferson Street in Mendota, formerly The Hub, to create Frankie's Tavern. The No. 1 priority is to bring back quality fried chicken to Mendota in similar fashion as previous restaurants did for decades. Arteaga is ready to have Frankie's associated with high quality food, drinks, atmosphere. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



Northbrook School's new look

Check out the new decals on Northbrook School. The decorative school spirit is part of a long list of building updates over the last two years. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



LAMOILLE BUFFALO DAYS

June 13-15, 2025

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

5:00-7:00 Paint the Town (\$5)
Gurney street (behind bank)
Foam Party Included / Snacks provided. (Rae 910-7711 / Ashley 878-7909)
5:00 Chiller's Shakeups & Ice Cream (\$)

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

4:00 Food - Taco Special / Beer Tent Opens
Chiller's Shakeups & Ice Cream (\$)
4-8 Blondin's Bounceables (Wristbands \$10)
5:30 Baby Buff Winners Announced - Allen School
6:00 Prairie Princess - Allen School (Mara 579-1833)
5K Stampede-High School (Stacy 878-6962)
8:30-12 Music by **THE BRAT PACK** - Beer Tent
11:00 Egg Sandwiches

Parade Registration is in the High School parking lot. Parade Route will go North this year on Main Street, starting at Burnett Street, ending at the Park.

Come get your buffalo burger!

Congratulations

2025 Grand Marshalls: 2 Time State Champion in 8 man Football. Here's your 2023-24 Amboy / La Moille / Ohio Clippers Football Team

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

8:00 Tractor Show (Munro 303-1960)
10:00 Food / Beer Tent Opens
Parade Registration - HS Parking Lot
10-4 Vendor Fair (Tammy Mcstoots-Stachowiak 830-8215)
11:00 Parade-Main Street (Jeremy 343-6848 / Brian 200-2899)
12:00 Adult Waterfights Registration - Sheldon Street by Park
Chiller's Shakeups & Ice Cream (\$)
12-4 Silent Auction
12-8 Blondin's Bounceables (Wristbands \$20)
1:00 Adult Waterfights Begins
Magic Show by John Measner
1-3 Kids Fun fair
1-4 Around the Town Entertainment - Caricature Drawing
2:00 Magic Show by John Measner
2:30-4:30 Foam Party (included in wristband)
3:00 Magic Show by John Measner
3-7 Music By **WISE GUYS** - Beer Tent
8-12 Music by **WILDCARD** - Beer Tent

11:00 Egg Sandwiches

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

9:00-10:30 Churches of La Moille Service Park Pavilion
9:30 Biscuits and Gravy (food tent)
10:30 Sign Up Bags Tournament - Beer Tent
11:00 Food / Beer Tent Opens
Bags Tournament begins
Kiddie Waterfights Registration - Sheldon Street
Chiller's Shakeups & Ice Cream (\$)
11:30 Kiddie Waterfights begins
1-6 Music by **BURN N BUSH** - Beer Tent
2:00 Live Auction - Beer Tent (Lori 252-2827)
5:30 50/50 Drawing

Complete listing of events:
www.lamoillebuffalodays.org
Or call 815-878-5858



Mendota Rotary scholarship recipients

Anthony Kelson, left, and Ella Martin were recently awarded with \$1,000 scholarships from the Mendota Rotary Club. (Photo contributed)



Lincoln second graders donate to M.A.S.S.

Members of Mrs. Petra Estrada's second grade class at Lincoln Elementary School give Mendota Area Senior Services' Executive Director Rayanne Sester a donation of \$340. The funds came from quesadillas sales. (Photo contributed)

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Mendota Railroad Museum paints train

Gilbert Painting staff painted the train in front of the Mendota Railroad Museum on Friday, May 9. They painted the black train last year. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

LOCAL AND AREA

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

It was Staff Appreciation Week May 5-9. We are very blessed to have such a wonderful staff to work with at Blackstone. They were recognized throughout the week in a variety of ways to show our appreciation for all they do. It amazes me the effort they put forth on a daily basis to meet the needs of all of our students. Thank you to all of our parents for all they did to make our teachers and staff feel extra special during this week. Many students brought in notes, cards, pictures or gifts for their teachers as well to show their appreciation. Our staff greatly appreciated all that was done for them throughout the week. Our community is lucky to have such fantastic teachers and support staff!

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We started our week off on Cinco de Mayo by having a

dance performance from the Ballet Folklorico de Colores group. They looked fantastic and we really enjoyed their dancing. It was so fun to see current, past and future students dancing for our school. Thank you for visiting Blackstone!

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The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Javy Rodriguez, Camden Weber, Adriel Preciado, Mia Topolewski, Ophelia Bronski, Odin Clark, Diana Suarez and Hadley Scheppers. The winners were Amelia Albright, Damian Evans-See, RJ Havenar and Colton Longmire. Congratulations to all of you!

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We just wrapped up our final kind deed of the year. We collected 170 boxes of cereal for the Mendota Food

Pantry. We appreciate the kindness of our students, their families and our staff to support those in need. Thank you to everyone who donated!

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Looking ahead, we will have a kindergarten registration night on Monday, May 19 from 6-7 p.m. at Blackstone. This event is for all incoming kindergarten students and their parents for the 2025-2026 school year. Parents should have completed the online Teacherease portion of registration before this night. We will also collect the two paper registration forms that were included in the registration folder and collect birth certificates and proof of residency forms. In addition, students and parents will get to meet our kindergarten staff on that night and see our school!



Barbershop and Bluegrass brings two Americana performances May 24

TRIUMPH – Barbershop and Bluegrass, an evening of pure Americana entertainment, is coming to the Triumph Community Center (Ophir Community Building) on Saturday, May 24.

Bring a dish to pass and enjoy the food and community only an evening like this can provide. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and entertainment begins at 6 p.m. There will be a \$10 admission at the door for everyone 9 years old and older.

The evening will consist of two performances. Barbershop Quartet extraor-

dinaire, 2nd Opinion, will kick off the evening with their fun and entertaining quartet style. 2nd Opinion is based out of Rockford and has been entertaining audiences in the Illinois/Wisconsin area for 19 years. They are one of the top 10 rated groups in the Illinois district. They are sure to entertain an audience of any age with harmony and humor in the old traditions of Barbershop's style.

The headlining, bluegrass band, Maggie's Ridge, will follow and close out the evening. Maggie's Ridge is a group of five of the most gifted musi-

cians in Northern Illinois. Although you may not recognize the name (yet), the members in Maggie's Ridge bring over 100 years of bluegrass experience to the stage. Their high energy, pure harmonies, and impeccable instrumentation, guarantees to bring you to your feet in excitement.

Don't miss out on this Saturday evening of fun and entertainment. You will not find a better, more cost-effective evening for the quality in your own backyard.

This event sponsored by Northern Illinois Bluegrass Association.

Earlville Cruise Night set for May 24

EARLVILLE – The 22nd annual Earlville Cruise Night will be held Saturday, May 24 starting at 5:30 p.m. in downtown Earlville. The event is open to all special interest cars, trucks and motorcycles.

Registration is \$5. Dash plaques and goody bags will go to the first 200 vehicles. Twenty-five vehicles will be randomly selected for a free professional photograph. There will also be free NSRA

safety inspections.

Some of the features of the cruise night will be a DJ, food, 50/50 raffle, participant door prizes and a playground for children. Event T-shirts and hats will be available.

The Earlville Cruise Night is a non-profit event to benefit the Earlville Business Association and its scholarships.

For more information, contact Kevin Zollars at 815-246-9545.

Senator Arellano releases May Mobile Constituent Services Days

DIXON – State Senator Li Arellano, Jr (R-Dixon) and his staff will continue their Mobile Constituent Services program across the 37th Senate District with 10 stops scheduled for May.

“Constituent services are the foundation of what we do. Our mobile office hours are about making government more accessible and responsive to the people we serve,” said Senator Arellano, Jr. “I encourage anyone who needs assistance with a state issue to stop by and meet with my team.”

The Mobile Constituent Services schedule for Tuesday, May 20 includes:

- Earlville Public Li-

brary, 205 W. Winthrop St., Earlville, 10 a.m.-noon

- Paw Paw Public Library, 362 Chicago Road, Paw Paw, 1-3 p.m.

While Senator Arellano, Jr. will be in Springfield for the legislative session throughout May, his staff will be available at each Mobile Constituent Service event to assist residents with state-related issues. The Senator plans to resume attending these events in June following the conclusion of session.

If you are unable to attend a Mobile Constituent Service event, you can contact Senator Arellano, Jr.'s office at 779-251-5003 or visit www.SenatorLi.com for assistance.



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The 140 week CD will be opened as a 980 Day CD. 140 Weeks is the same term as 980 Days.
*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is based on daily compounding. Minimum to open \$1,000. Interest penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal and fees may reduce earnings. APY stated is accurate as of 04/08/2025.

OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Richard A. King

MENDOTA – Richard A. King, 84, of Mendota, passed away on May 3, 2025, due to heart failure.

Visitation will be from 3-7 p.m. on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at Horner-Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota. Rick's family looks forward to seeing you at the visitation, in order to celebrate his wonderful life.

Richard is survived by his son, David D. King of Concord, N.C. and wife Julia Osborn King, and their children Julia Alexandra King and Richard Andrew King, as well as his daughter, LeeAnn King Bailey of DeLand, Fla., and her husband Wallace Bailey. He is also survived by his sisters-in-law, Carol Neuhalfen and Barbara Rich, as well as numerous other relatives.

Richard was the son of the late L. Rae and Catherine L. King of Mendota. He attended and graduated from Mendota schools, was an Eagle Scout, and pitched a no hitter as a young man. He enlisted in the Navy and became a Seabee after high school, and married Marilyn Lee Rich of Triumph upon his return from basic training. Together, they lived in over 24 places – Illinois, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, California, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina. She was the love of his life and preceded him in death. They were married for over 60 years. Rick and Marilyn traveled to Germany, Hawaii, Mexico, and 48 states in their time together.

Richard worked for Black Bros. most of his life, started the service center in High Point, N.C., and rose to be President of the entire company. He remained in the machinery business after BBCO, with King Implement and Costa.

He enjoyed golf, NASCAR, fishing, the Cubs, the Bears and anything to do with animals. He was a very hard-working man, strong and goal oriented. He could build or fix anything imaginable. He enjoyed buying and restoring vintage cars, especially Corvettes. With Marilyn, they were wonderful and loving parents, and they taught their children and grandchildren well.

The family would like to thank his group of Illinois friends for their help and support to Richard: Shirley Jackson, Dave and Rita Jones, Doug Biederstedt, Mary Ann Brunner and Diane Robertson.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to k9sforservicemen.org, who supply service dogs at no charge to veterans with PTSD. This would please Rick as he was a veteran and loved animals.

DEATH NOTICES

The Mendota Reporter will print DEATH NOTICES (approximately 50 words including name, age, date of death, time/date of services) free of charge. OBITUARIES will be printed at a cost of \$100 to be billed to the arranging funeral home or prepaid with cash, check or credit card. Please submit obituaries or death notices to editor@mendotareporter.com.

Garage Sale time is here! For best results, advertise your sale in The Reporter. Call 815-539-9396 for all the details.



George Zimmerman

EARLVILLE – George “Ted” Zimmerman, 96, of Earlville, passed away Friday, May 9, 2025, at Serenity Hospice in Oregon, Ill., after a brief illness of metastatic pancreatic cancer. He was surrounded by his beloved wife, Jane, and other family members.

Visitation will be from 10-11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Earlville, with a Funeral Mass to follow at 11:30 at the church, with Father Jeff Windy officiating. Burial will follow at St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery Earlville.

Ted was born on Jan. 27, 1929, in Mendota. He was raised mainly in Earlville and attended Earlville Schools.

Ted is survived by his wife, Jane; six children, Anne (Kurt) Hollenbeck, Clare (Tom) Poupard, Paul (Rhonda) Zimmerman, Matt (Valerie) Zimmerman, Ellen Zimmerman, and Rachel Zimmerman; seven grandchildren, Christina Zimmerman, Jonathan (Ali) Zimmerman, Kate (Anthony) Moser, Elizabeth (Jake) O’Quin, Constance Poupard, Joseph Poupard, and Max Katz; six great-grandchildren; and a special stepson, Tyler Spenader, with whom he was very close.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Ruth (Lutz) Zimmerman; his first wife, Joan; his sister, Patricia and brother-in-law Joe Appleton; his brother Jerry; and a niece, Teresa.

After high school graduation he attended Illinois State University until joining the Army during the Korean Conflict. He was stationed in Erlangen, Germany during these years. When he was honorably discharged from the Army, he and a buddy decided to look for a Catholic college that they would like to attend. They came upon Quincy College, now Quincy University, and both enrolled there. Ted was a math major. He excelled in his studies and graduated with honors.

While at Quincy College he met Joan Renner, who after graduation became his wife. They settled in Chicago initially where he was a math teacher. They started their family and over the next 10 years welcomed six children. During these years, Ted earned his Master’s Degree in Education at Loyola University in Chicago. They eventually settled in Glen Ellyn. He eventually became a junior high principal at Lombard Junior High and remained there until his retirement.

After his retirement, he and Joan moved back to Earlville. Ted enjoyed playing golf several times a week with old and new friends. He and his high school friend, Fritz Nelson, were partners for many years at the Earlville Golf Course. Ted and Joan traveled extensively until she became ill and passed away in 2002. Ted greatly enjoyed watching the Chicago Cubs and was so thrilled when they won the World Series in 2016. He also enjoyed watching Notre Dame, Northwestern, and University of Illinois sports. In fact, there weren’t many sports on TV that he wouldn’t watch and enjoy.

He was involved with the Earlville Legion, the Earlville Lions Club, and with St. Theresa’s Catholic Church.

In 2005, Ted met Jane Spenader, and in 2008 they were married. They also enjoyed traveling and had many interests in common. Ted was a quiet man, generous, kind, and loving. He was a devout Christian Catholic for his entire life.

We so appreciate the tremendous assistance of his grandson, Jonathan, and Jane’s nephew, Jake, in helping us care for Ted before he was moved to the Hospice facility.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Memorials may be directed to Earlville Excellence in Education Foundation, or Masses.

Arrangements were entrusted to Hanley-Turner-Eighner Funeral Home in Earlville. For more information or to sign the online guest book go to www.eighnerfuneralhomes.com



Francis Miller

MENDOTA – Francis (Joe) Miller, 82, of Mendota, passed away on Sunday, May 11, 2025, at Allure in Mendota.

Memorial visitation will be 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 17, 2025, at the Princeton Bible Church, followed by a Memorial Service at the church at 11:30 a.m. officiated by Jim McDowell, pastor of Christ’s Church in Mendota. Private burial will take place at Restland Cemetery in Mendota.

Joe was born May 6, 1943, in Amboy, to Lawrence and Charlotte (Bradley) Miller. He graduated from LaMoille High School in 1961, and married Judith Sylvius on Feb. 1, 1964.

Survivors include Judy, his wife of 61 years; son, Michael (Lori) Miller of Newburg, Mo., and daughter, Kristina (Richard) Menzel of Princeton; six grandchildren, Tawnya Marciniak (Jimmy Ahlstrom), Tatum (Nick) Glidewell, Trista (Randy) Riveland, Madison (Vincent) Vergamini, Colton Miller, and Walker Menzel; nine great-grandchildren, Olivia Pierce, Toby Marciniak, Ryder Riveland, Samantha Marciniak, Addysen Riveland, Maddox Glidewell, Kinlee Riveland, Estella Glidewell, and Grayson Vergamini; one brother, John (Rosemary) Miller; one sister, Lois (Terry) Cox; plus nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters, Shirley Miller, Mary Lou Miller, and Bonnie Noel.

Joe was a hard worker from an early age. He spent most of his career with the City of Mendota, retiring as Public Works Director in 1998, and then took a sales position with Utility Equipment Co. For many years, he also sold and serviced Electrolux vacuums, and in his retirement he ran deliveries for Pohl’s Office Supply, Mendota. Joe enjoyed family, fixing things, making people laugh, helping and encouraging others, plus ball games, coaching, and other activities involving his grandkids. He attended Christ’s Church in Mendota.

Memorials may be directed to Kids Klubs or Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry. Visit www.horner-merritt.com for online guestbook and video tribute.



Compton/West Brooklyn American Legion to hold 3 Memorial Day services

COMPTON/WEST BROOKLYN – The Compton-West Brooklyn American Legion Post #657 will hold three Memorial Day services on Monday, May 26. The service schedule is as follows:

• 10 a.m. – Melugin’s Grove Cemetery, Comp-

ton. Flag-burning ceremony. Attendees are encouraged to bring their worn/torn flags for proper disposal.

11 a.m. – West Brooklyn Cemetery.

11:45 a.m. – Four Mile Grove Cemetery north of Meriden. Rifle squad salute.

See the latest obituaries on our website.
mendotareporter.com

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The Mendota Reporter
Publication No. (USPS 339-100)
Vol. 147, No. 20

A Charter Member of
Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce
Member Northern Illinois Newspaper Association and Illinois Press Association

The Mendota Reporter (339-100) is published weekly at 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342. Subscription rates are \$69 per year in advance in LaSalle, Lee and Bureau counties and \$89 per year in advance in the United States outside those three counties.

Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Mendota Reporter,
P.O. Box 300,
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LOCAL AND AREA



Starved Rock Country Community Foundation representatives met recently with Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network officials in Princeton. Left to right, are SRCCF President Fran Brolley, SRCCF board member Michael Stutzke, ICAHN Executive Director Tracy Warner and ICAHN Director of Clinical Programs Michelle Hansen. (Photo contributed)

SRCCF awards grant for suicide intervention training

OTTAWA – The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation recently awarded a \$1,500 community grant to the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN) for suicide intervention training.

The grant allowed Michelle Hansen, ICAHN Director of Clinical Programs, to attend a 5-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) for instructors in March.

Hansen will train community members and hospital staff to recognize individuals

at risk of suicide and teach them intervention and safety planning.

ICAHN is a nonprofit representing 60 rural and critical access hospitals (CAHs) across the state. It was founded in 2003 to facilitate the sharing of resources, support services, grants, education, training and networking among CAHs.

For information about SRCCF Community Grants, visit srccf.org/grant-information, call (815) 252-2906, or stop in the office at 116 W. Lafayette St., Ottawa.

Sublette forced to wait to begin two big projects

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

SUBLETTE – There are two big projects the Village of Sublette has been working on over the last six months to a year. They’re almost ready to begin, but the grants to do so have either not come in or haven’t been spent.

At the April village board meeting, both the Water Service Line Inventory IEPA Grant, worth \$30,000 and the West Main Street Sidewalk Project – including a \$25,000 grant meant for infrastructure improvements, motor fuel funds, and other funds up to \$100,000 – were discussed.

Sublette President John Stenzel said the IEPA grant has already been approved, but the money hasn’t been spent yet as they are waiting for the investigation to start. The investigation will provide information of how bad the service lines are and if any need to be replaced.

Once the village knows how much it needs to spend, it will begin the service lines project.

The Sidewalk Project has the funds set aside bids for contractors were to be opened May 5.

One project that could start at any time in Sublette isn’t through the village itself. Lee County has awarded the bid to Martin & Company to repave and resurface roads from U.S. 52 to Inlet and North Street to U.S. 52. The completion date is set for October.

The annual Memorial Day service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, May 26 at the Ellice Dinges Center. The service is directly after Amboy’s service as both are done by the Amboy American Legion.

The board also approved the purchase of new Christmas decorations. At the March meeting, it was addressed that the holiday decorations were 15 years old and needed to be updated.

Also at the March meeting, Ellice Dinges Center janitor Freddy Arteaga was awarded a 50-cent-an-hour raise.

Parks

Continued from Page A1

To preserve the park’s shoreline, IDNR’s project included building 22 break-water structures in the lake to decrease the power of the waves hitting the shore. Several of the structures are entirely submerged while others that poke out the surface of the lake are designed to provide nesting for migratory birds.

The project also included extending the public beach further into Lake Michigan. Erosion had diminished the beach to come within feet of the parking lot and hotel at the park.

The state also announced earlier this year it will put \$60 million toward deferred maintenance projects. More than half of that will go to Starved Rock for trail improvements, facility renovations and building a new wastewater system.

The department is also working on adding electric vehicle chargers at state parks and renovating the Old State Capitol in Springfield.

This summer, IDNR plans to restore and upgrade the Crenshaw House in Gallatin County to include a visitor center at a location on the reverse underground railroad, where slaves were held. According to IDNR, John Crenshaw used slaves

at his southern Illinois home where he manufactured salt. Crenshaw is also believed to have kidnapped freed or escaped slaves to sell them back to slavery in the South.

“We’re excited that the investment is being made and these parks are getting the attention they deserve,” Phelps Finnie said.

Lincoln’s New Salem Historic Site in Peterburg, where the 16th president lived in his 20s, was the state’s most visited historic site last year with 360,000 visitors. The site is in line for funding to repair aging buildings.

IDNR announced in March it will invest \$8 million to repair up to 23 replica log buildings at the site that depict how the village looked when Lincoln lived there in the 1830s.

“You have things fall into disrepair and then it dominoes,” Phelps Finnie said. “It builds. So what was once maybe \$100 million or so is now a little over \$1 billion worth of deferred maintenance” across IDNR’s properties.

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

SRCCF grant funds keynote speaker at Teen Showcase

OGLESBY – The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation recently played a role in the 38th Annual Teen Showcase at Illinois Valley Community College.

“Starved Rock Country Community Foundation generously supported Teen Showcase,” said Ellen Vogel, Community Health Engagement Program Manager for OSF HealthCare Center for Health in Streator.

“The \$1,500 SRCCF community grant helped fund our keynote speaker and he was the highlight of the day,” said Vogel.

Keynote Fabian Ramirez is a renowned motivational comedian who was bullied in middle school. He talks about the psychological impact bullying can have and has helped thousands of schools across the U.S. and Canada prevent it.

Teen Showcase, the area’s largest teen conference,

was spearheaded by North Central Behavioral Health Systems with support from the LaSalle County Health Department, OSF HealthCare, and The Society of Growth. Businesses from multiple counties lent their support with contributions of gift cards and other items for giveaways.

The Showcase emphasizes positive life choices, a drug-free lifestyle, coping skills and wellness. Attendance for the mid-March event attracted a full-house of 600 students in grades 6-12 from Bradford, Grand Ridge, LaSalle-Peru, Henry, Ladd, Malden, Marseilles, McNabb, Ohio, Ottawa, Streator, and Utica.

For information about SRCCF Community Grants, visit srccf.org/grant-information, call (815) 252-2906, or stop in the office at 116 W. Lafayette St., Ottawa.



Teen Showcase organizers met recently with a representative from the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation. Left to right, are Jodi Mahoney, North Central Behavioral Health Systems President, Jenny Barrie and Leslie Dougherty of the LaSalle County Health Department, Ellen Vogel of OSF, Noelle Sliker, NCBHS Vice President, Tracie Mazzorana, NCBHS Community Relations Coordinator/Prevention Specialist and Teen Showcase Coordinator, and Fran Brolley, SRCCF President. (Photo contributed)

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OPINION



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

Every day should be treated as Mother’s Day

There are tons of holidays. Whether they are national-wide, state-wide, community-wide, retail-made, made-up-out-of-nowhere made, or want-to-be made, there seems to be a day for any and everything.

Never the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance



I try to celebrate, acknowledge, or pay attention to as many of them as possible, but there are too many and some I don’t relate with. However, there is always going to be a front runner and

it’s not Christmas, Halloween, my birthday, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Election Day, Casimir Pulaski Day, Mendota Sweet Corn Festival (it’s a four-day holiday, not an event), National Pizza Day, National Brandon Day, National I Want to Take Over the World Day, National Taco Day, National Video Game Day, National Dueling Dinosaurs Day, National Tom Foolery’s Day, National Vitamin C Day...you get the point, there is a day for absolutely everything.

It’s Mother’s Day.

Although, I am not a mother, I have many women who have been a mother to me and have offered love, support, wisdom, and a swift kick in the booty when I needed it.

I counted my texts, Facebook messages, X messages, and emails, and I sent out 35 Happy Mother’s Day greetings. Of course my mother, my adopted-like mother, my three sisters, my grandmother (she got a phone call), a couple of cousins, and a few close friends were on the top of the list, but I always include others who I see on the social lists, that day, that year.

And every year when I’m sending Happy Mother’s Day, I always think, why do we only honor and make sure we say thank you to these role models and life-molding ladies once a year?

Over the years, I’ve personally made more of an effort to make sure how important the mothers in life truly are whether it’s paying for dinner more often than I would have in the past, an extra phone call or text, or a random, ‘Hey, I love you.’

Let’s face it, without them, we wouldn’t be who we are.

Some whooped us into respect.

I say some, which means the older generation, before it became “wrong” or illegal to punish or discipline a child into knowing the difference between right or wrong. I will always be a firm believer in actions speak to children, words do not, in this discussion.

I’m not a father, but I’m glad I got the lessons I did growing up because without them I wouldn’t have the strength, knowledge, admiration, tenacity, or courage to push through things I’ve needed to.

The love.

Nothing feels better than getting a big hug from your mother, even if she is only 4-foot-7 or 5-foot-2 and you’re 5-10 and three quarters.

They’re the first one you want to talk to if you accomplished a goal, met the “one,” are going through a breakup or divorce, or just want to hear a soothing, caring voice.

The support.

It must be in the mom guid book that they’re the true Dr. Phil for every one of their children.

Again, the break ups, the heartbreaks, the tough losses on the golf course, not feeling well, car accident, broke a toe kicking a wall in anger, being elected to a position you’ve worked hard for, or just telling you you’re either going about a situation the right way or the wrong way.

Moms are always there.

And we should always be there for them. To tell them thank you and I love you every day of the year for our entire lives.

Not just Mother’s Day.

Sprucing up railroad property - 1901

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from May 9, 2001.)

By Jessica Nashold

A hundred years ago, both the CB&Q and the Illinois Central announced improvements. The CB&Q was prepared to spend between \$40,000-\$50,000 to put in enough extra tracks in the yards to accommodate 80 cars. Also, the coal chutes would be moved to the east end of town and the high crossing over the tracks on the east side “would be no more.” In the future, “teams and people will pass under the railroads.”

A brick walk was to be laid around the depot and continue south, just beyond the American Express office.

The Central will stand half of the expense.

In addition, the Illinois Central was laying out four flower beds in the parks between the tracks. The bed between the depot and the express office was to be planted with caladiums. The beds south of the express office would contain geraniums, canna and assorted foliage. A local florist, Henry Schweitzer, was in charge of these plantings.

An ordinance was passed to protect all shade trees on public grounds. The committee on streets and alleys would be responsible for any planting, trimming or removal of trees in these areas. The hitching of an animal to a tree on public space was prohibited. A fine of not less than \$3 or more than \$25 would be assessed for each offense.

If necessary to cut any limbs - **Cuts will be covered with coatings of white paint.**

Mr. George Failing was prepared to show a working model of the Miller Signal System. This was an electrical device, to be placed in the cab of an engine, which would display a red light if a broken rail or “anything that might cause a wreck,” was still a mile away. When the track was clear, the light would be white. The new system was

Backtracks & Sidetracks

intended to do away with the need for semaphores.

It is one of the miracles of the 20th century.

Failing was preparing the demonstration in a store on Main Street, north of Washington. He invited everyone to come in and see it.

Casper Fischer was making improvements to his building on the northwest corner of Main and Washington. Munson’s jewelry store was moving to the Marks building on the south side of Washington. The front entrance to the rooms vacated by Munson was being bricked up, and would become part of the Mendota National Bank on the corner.

Fischer also owned the former P.J. Hart cigar store building, where he planned to install a new front and a steel ceiling.

When completed it will be the finest store building in the city.

A committee was at work attempting to improve the fairgrounds. The sum of \$6,200 had been subscribed. An additional \$7,000 would be needed to put the grounds in “first class shape.” Fair dates of July 30-31 and Aug. 1-2, 1901, had been claimed and if the grounds were ready by that time there would be racing each day.

Mayor Edgar Selwyn Browne, who had seen many improvements since taking office in 1897, was pleased to report that work on city hall park was progressing. The portion of Indiana Avenue in front of the library was being closed and an extension of Indiana Avenue would now pass the Warner House.

Sidewalks around and through the park were to constructed of imported German cement. The ship bringing the cement was docked in New York. There were plans for an ornamental fountain, as well.

Browne hoped to see downtown streets paved before long.

He favored asphalt.

The cemetery board could not agree on a location for a receiving vault for caskets coming from out of town for burial at Restland and a chapel for services. Board members Cook, Hastings and Fischer wanted the chapel placed between the old and new sections of the cemetery. Board members Newport and Miller preferred the site of the custodian’s house, near the front gate. Since they were trustees of a \$2,000 balance in the account of a former church treasury, and this fund was committed to the project, Newport and Miller prevailed.

The custodian’s house was moved.

The agricultural experiment station at the University of Illinois received a \$10,000 appropriation to check the fertility of Illinois soil. Alarmists pointed out that farmers dealing with exhausted solid in eastern states were now spending \$40,000,000 annually for commercial fertilizer. The experiment station hoped to come up with a better plan.

The Sun admonished its readers to be careful when disposing of old paper.

It blows around and frightens many horses.

One Friday morning in May, 1901, a train with 12 refrigerator cars left Newton, Kan., bound for California. Each car contained nothing but eggs, gathered in the vicinity by a single firm. The 12 cars contained 144,000 dozen eggs, nearly two million.

This is the first train to carry nothing but eggs.

We need cheap stuff, and lots of it

By Rich Lowry

President Trump downplayed potentially empty store shelves at his recent cabinet meeting.

He said of goods from China that might go missing, “Much of it we don’t need.”

Then he elaborated the point: “Well, maybe the children will have two dolls instead of 30 dolls, you know? And maybe the two dolls will cost a couple of bucks more than they would normally.”

At that moment, Trump surely made history. He must be the first president in history to say that his policies will deprive American children of toys. The American Girl Disney Princess Cinderella Doll may be collateral damage in a trade war that is supposed to reduce our strategic dependence on China.

What Trump was ultimately dismissing is abundance, which is one of the marvels of our system. Fewer choices at a greater cost -- whether of dolls or other goods -- simply means a lower standard of living.

The Human Progress project at the Cato Institute calculated the “time price” of various goods, or how long someone had to work to buy them, from 2000 to 2024. The time price of toys dropped by more than 88% over the period. In other words, the work that it took to afford to buy one toy a quarter century ago would buy almost nine toys today.

This is important, not because we want children to have nine times as many toys as they did in 2000, but the reduced time devoted to buying a toy can be used to buy something else (clothes, sports equipment, art supplies), or work less.

This same dynamic holds across the board. Mark Perry of the American Enterprise Institute looked at the time price of 11 basic household goods from the 1950s to 2013. “The typical factory worker in 1959,” he writes, “would have had to work from Jan. 1 until the middle of June to earn enough (pre-tax) income to purchase those 11 appliances, a worker in 1973 would have had to work from the first of the year

until the second week of April, and today’s factory worker would only have to work until the end of January to earn income for those 11 appliances.”

This is the process of a society getting richer. Trump spoke of what we really “need.” At the end of the day, we don’t need anything except food and shelter. That doesn’t mean we should be content to settle for less rather than more.

The United States, for instance, has a higher standard of living than Greece. According to CIA figures, the U.S. had a \$74,000 per capita GDP in 2023, and Greece had a \$36,900 per capita GDP. That doesn’t mean that people are dying in the streets in Greece --they just have less and lower-quality stuff. Until now, everyone would have agreed that that is a bad thing, and we should avoid taking any steps back down the ladder of prosperity.

The vast array of choices we have as consumers is one of the adornments of modern life. No one walks into a grocery store and looks at the bins in the produce section, sees Red Delicious, Granny Smith, Gala, Honeycrisp, Fuji and Golden Delicious apples, and thinks, “Oh no, there are too many varieties to choose from.”

Or, consider dolls. Among the major brands, there are Barbie, American Girl, LOL Surprise!, Bratz, Cabbage Patch Kids and Rainbow High, all with a dizzying variety of dolls at all sorts of prices.

We don’t need a central authority telling us which dolls are more necessary than others -- the market does that.

All of this is off-brand for a President Trump associated with business success and consumerist excess. It’s more natural for him to be boosterish -- We are going to have fabulous dolls at better prices! -- than to talk people into accepting scarcity.

The sooner he can get out of the position of explaining away what might be imminent shortages and higher prices, the better.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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SOCIAL NEWS

Card shower set for D. Waller's 90th birthday

MENDOTA — Dean B. Waller of rural Mendota will be celebrating his 90th birthday on Sunday, May 25. To celebrate this event, his family is requesting that his friends and acquaintances send him a birthday card. Please include a memory in the card. Please, no gifts. A private dinner will be held

with his family. Waller is the son of the late Benjamin and Martha Waller. He married Edna Waller (deceased) in 1959 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mendota. They moved to the family farm in 1960, where he has resided since. They were the parents of two daughters, Sally Kiner

(Vaughn) of Mendota and Nancy Waller (deceased). His pride and joy are his two grandchildren, Heather Kapinski (Clint) of LaSalle, and Ben of Mendota. He farmed east of Mendota until his retirement with odd jobs around the area. You might have encountered him when he

worked for Avery Trucking, Del Monte, Kaiser Implement, King Implement, Wujek Trucking, Ken McLaughlin Trucking or Napa Automotive. In his retirement years, you could find him camping, helping at the Mendota Food Pantry or doing whatever projects the grandkids found for him.



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Chrysler 300 commemorative license plates available

SPRINGFIELD — Celebrating the Secretary of State's 75th annual Vehicle Show this fall, Illinois Secretary Alexi Giannoulias is highlighting the 70th anniversary of the iconic Chrysler 300. Giannoulias also announced that the Vehicle Show will take place on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in downtown Springfield. A limited number of commemorative license plates featuring the Chrysler 300 and promoting the Vehicle Show are now available for \$35 per pair until June 10. Illinois vehicle owners who purchase the plates may display them on their vehicles for up to 60 days before the show from July 8 to Sept. 6, 2025. "The Secretary of State's Vehicle Show is a treasured tradition that brings families and enthusiasts together from across the Midwest," Giannoulias said. "This year's show celebrates 75 years of classic cars and family fun. We look forward to hosting the event in downtown Springfield

so people can take in the sites of our capital and provide a boost to the local economy." "The Illinois Secretary of State Vehicle Show is more than just a display of classic cars—it's a celebration of innovation, history, and community," said Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher. "Now in its 75th year, this milestone event highlights the creativity and craftsmanship that define classic cars, while giving us a chance to welcome visitors and showcase the very best of Springfield—our local shops, restaurants, and our beautiful historic downtown." The show's advisory committee will honor one vehicle with the Illinois State Champion Award, given to the best vehicle in show. First-, second- and third-place winners will also receive awards across 60 categories. Credited with ushering in the American muscle car era, Chrysler introduced the C-300 in 1955. These early models were known for their Hemi V8 engines, strong performance

and luxurious interiors. The 300 later underwent numerous redesigns, positioning the car as a family-friendly, full-size sedan that would appeal to a broader market. The 300 was discontinued in 1971 but returned when Chrysler debuted the new 300 concept car in 2003. It was finally discontinued in 2023. Firstheld in 1949 as an Antique Auto Meet, the Secretary of State's Vehicle Show features some of Illinois' finest antique and classic vehicles, sports cars, motorcycles, trucks and tractors. The Vehicle Show draws 1,000 visitors to downtown Springfield annually with more than 600 Illinois drivers purchasing specialty plates. For more information or for a brochure, including a Vehicle Show Registration Form, please call 312-793-8876 or email vehicleshow@ilsos.gov. The plate order form and full show schedule is available at http://www.ilsos.gov/services/vehicle_show/home.html.


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LOCAL AND AREA



Past and present Mendota Community Consolidated District 289 employees were honored at the Regional Office of Education 35 Excellence in Education banquet on May 1. Left to right, are Ryan Myers, Assistant Regional Superintendent; Michelle Beetz, Blackstone School; Angela Kent, Northbrook School; Vanessa Holmes, retiree; Susan Ambler, retiree; Danielle Buettner, Lincoln School; Mary Kieffer, retiree; Sydney Wilhelm, Blackstone School; Jeff Strouss, District level; and Chris Dvorak, Regional Superintendent. (Photos contributed)



Past and present Mendota High School District 280 employees were honored at the Regional Office of Education 35 Excellence in Education banquet on May 1. Left to right, are Ryan Myers, Assistant Regional Superintendent; Todd Doyle, special education; Kellie Hochstatter, special education; Joe Masini, principal; Joe Hughes, science; Jayne Barnes, retiree; Zonnie Eiten, retiree; Denise Aughenbaugh, superintendent; Nicole Cromwell, assistant principal; and Chris Dvorak, Regional Superintendent. Not pictured: Marisela Cervantes, support staff; Deb Phalen, posthumous honoree.

Regional Office of Education #35 honors area school staff members

OTTAWA – A total of 167 school staff members were recognized May 1 at the 37th Annual Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to all those who serve in our schools — school support personnel, teachers, administrators, board members, certified support staff, and every individual who contributes to the growth and well-being of our students," said Christopher Dvorak, regional superintendent of schools for the Regional Office of

Education #35. "Your dedication, expertise, and care shape the future of education and make a meaningful difference in countless lives every day."

The event was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Ottawa and included a dinner by Stone Jug Barbecue in Peru and music entertainment by Steve Sharp.

The following honorees were chosen by their school district to be recognized:

Earlville Community Unit - Brooke Chapman, Shannon Cook, Elissa Barker, educator

award, Gary Ayala, retiring support staff award, Amy Schultz, support staff award;

Leland Community Unit - Lisa Featherston and Sara Miller, educator award, Jodi Moore, retiring educator award, Diane Morel, retiring support staff, Yessica Acevendo, support staff award;

Lighted Way - Laurie Joerger, educator award, Sara Nestler, support staff award;

Mendota Elementary - Angela Kent, Sydney Wilhelm, and Danielle Buettner, educator award, Susan Ambler, Vanessa

Dennin Holmes, and Mary Kieffer, retiring educator award, Michelle Beetz, Jeff Strouss, support staff award;

Mendota High School - Todd Doyle, Kellie Hochstatter, Joe Hughes, educator award, Deb Phalen, posthumously, Jayne Barnes and Janice Campbell, retiring educator award, Zonnie Eiten, retiring support staff award, Marisela Cervantes, support staff award;

Illinois State Board of Education - Dr. Christine Benson, ISBE Board Service Award.

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The Mendota Reporter

THE BACK PAGE

GARAGE SALES/NOTICES

GARAGE SALE
1703 Sunset Drive
Friday, May 16
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday, May 17
8 a.m.-noon
Large selection of
name-brand baby
(0-6 mos.) and kids'
clothes (5T-size 10),
kids' toys, home décor,
furniture, tools,
Hannamint Tuscany patio
table and chairs,
cycle board rover
3-wheel electric scooter,
name-brand women's (S-M)
and men's clothes (L-XXL),
cat supplies, small
kitchen appliances,
portable air conditioning
units and much more.
1t20r

BARN SALE
4019 E. 050th Road
Thursday, May 15
4-7 p.m.
Friday, May 16
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday, May 17
8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Furniture, antiques,
office equipment,
dog fence, children's
toys, household items,
women's, men's &
children's clothing.
1t20r

GARAGE SALE/NOTICE DEADLINE
• Monday 10 a.m.
to appear in Wednesday's Reporter.

SPRING SALES/HOT DEALS
2956 & 2972 Welland Road, Earlville
Saturday, May 17
8 a.m.-p.m.
Household items,
kitchenware, décor,
metal bed frames,
electrical items, mower,
gas grill, puzzles, helmets,
women's & men's clothes,
antique glassware,
baseball gloves and much more.
Some pictures will be posted on Facebook under garage sale sites.
Look for signs.
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YARD SALE
1512 Guiles Ave.
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
New fish tank (60 gal), twin bed, queen size 7-piece bedroom set, teens & adult clothes, shoes, medium size dog crates, stuffed animals, glassware, utensils, pots & pans, gas dryer. A little bit of everything.
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BLESSED EVENTS

PAXTON J. WIERSMA
Casey and Stephanie (Hitchins) Wiersma of Naperville are the proud parents of their newborn child, **Paxton James**, born Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Edward Hospital in Naperville. He weighed 4 pounds, 10 ounces. Maternal grandparents are Gary and Cathy Hitchins of Peru. Maternal grandparents are Len and Cindy Wiersma of South Beloit. Maternal great-grandmother is Myrtle Setchell Hitchins of Peru. Paternal great-grandmother is Daune Wiersma.

Incinerator hours

MENDOTA—Incinerator (burn pit) hours for the city of Mendota are as follows:
• Monday – 3-6 p.m.
• Tuesday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• Thursday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• Friday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• Saturday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The incinerator is located south of Mendota near the sewage treatment plant.

Sign ordinance

MENDOTA – The city of Mendota reminds you that it is unlawful under city ordinance 42.34 to hang, lean, or place any advertising materials on any street lamp, post, telephone or electric light pole within the city limits of Mendota. This includes garage sale notices.
This statute was designed to keep our neighborhoods clean and free of trash and debris. The city of Mendota officials ask for your cooperation in this matter.

POLICE BLOTTER

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED
Isaiah R. Drew, 19, of 1002 ½ Main St., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Main and Eighth streets at 8:57 a.m. May 6. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DOMESTIC BATTERY
Terrence L. Miller, 37, of 301 Fourth Ave., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to a call for service in the area of Fourth Avenue and Third Street at 8 a.m. May 10. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY
Sabryna R. Turner, 29, of Mark, was charged with criminal damage to property after police officers responded to a call for service at 111 S. 13th Ave., Lot C15, at 5:21 p.m. May 12. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

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AUG 23 BILL WATERS Memorial HANS SUPER LATE MODELS SWEET CUP PROGRESSIVE, 57000 LARS	SEP 13 MONSTER TRUCK BASH HANS SUPER LATE MODELS SWEET CUP PROGRESSIVE, 57000 LARS
AUG 15-17 STAN FARMERS ROCK NIGHT HANS SUPER LATE MODELS SWEET CUP PROGRESSIVE, 57000 LARS	OCT 18 LaSalle SNOWDOWN HANS SUPER LATE MODELS SWEET CUP PROGRESSIVE, 57000 LARS

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2. 1507 Lincoln Ave.	27. 511 6th Ave. Fri: 9-3, Sat: 8-3
3. 204 14th St.	28. 302 2nd Ave. Thur, Fri, Sat: 9-5
4. 108 16th St.	29. 501 2nd St.
5. 307 16th St.	30. 207 ½ 8th Ave.
6. 705 16th St. Thur: 2-6, Fri: 7:30-5, Sat 7:30-?	31. 308 8th Ave.
7. 909 16th St. Saturday only	32. 400 11th Ave.
8. 1708 Peri Dr. Wed: 5-7, Thurs: 11-4, Fri: 8-3	33. 1717 Char-lu Dr. Saturday only
9. 1511 Indiana Ave.	34. 1320 Jefferson St.
10. 1404 Guiles Ave.	35. 1015 Meadowview Dr.
11. 1512 Guiles Ave. Thurs-Sat 9-4	36. 1002 S. Park Ave.
12. 1305 Gilman Ave.	37. 1004 Westlawn Ave.
13. 408 12th St.	38. 1705 Hillcrest Ct.
14. 1402 Pennsylvania Ave.	39. 1410 Lakeview Dr.
15. 1205 Pennsylvania Ave.	40. 1404 Lakeview Dr. Saturday only
16. 910 Pennsylvania Ave.	41. 1322 Lake Dr. Thur: 4-7, Fri: 8-4, Sat: 8-1
17. 1109 Burlington Ave.	42. 160 E US Rt. 52 (By High School)
18. 704 Burlington Ave.	43. 2101 Diana Dr. Thur: 9-5, Fri: 9-5, Sat: 8-?
19. 407 3rd Ave.	44. 2011 Pine Ave.
20. 906 3rd Ave. In alley	45. 2013 Pine Ave. Fri: 8-4, Sat: 8-12
21. 1008 3rd Ave.	
22. 1011 3rd Ave.	
23. 1202 1st Ave. Thur: 9-4, Fri: 9-4, Sat: 9-12	Outside of City Limits
24. 702 1st Ave.	46. 3895 E 7th Rd.
25. 100 E 6th St. First United Methodist	47. 4149 E 050th Rd. Thur, Fri, Sat: 8-2

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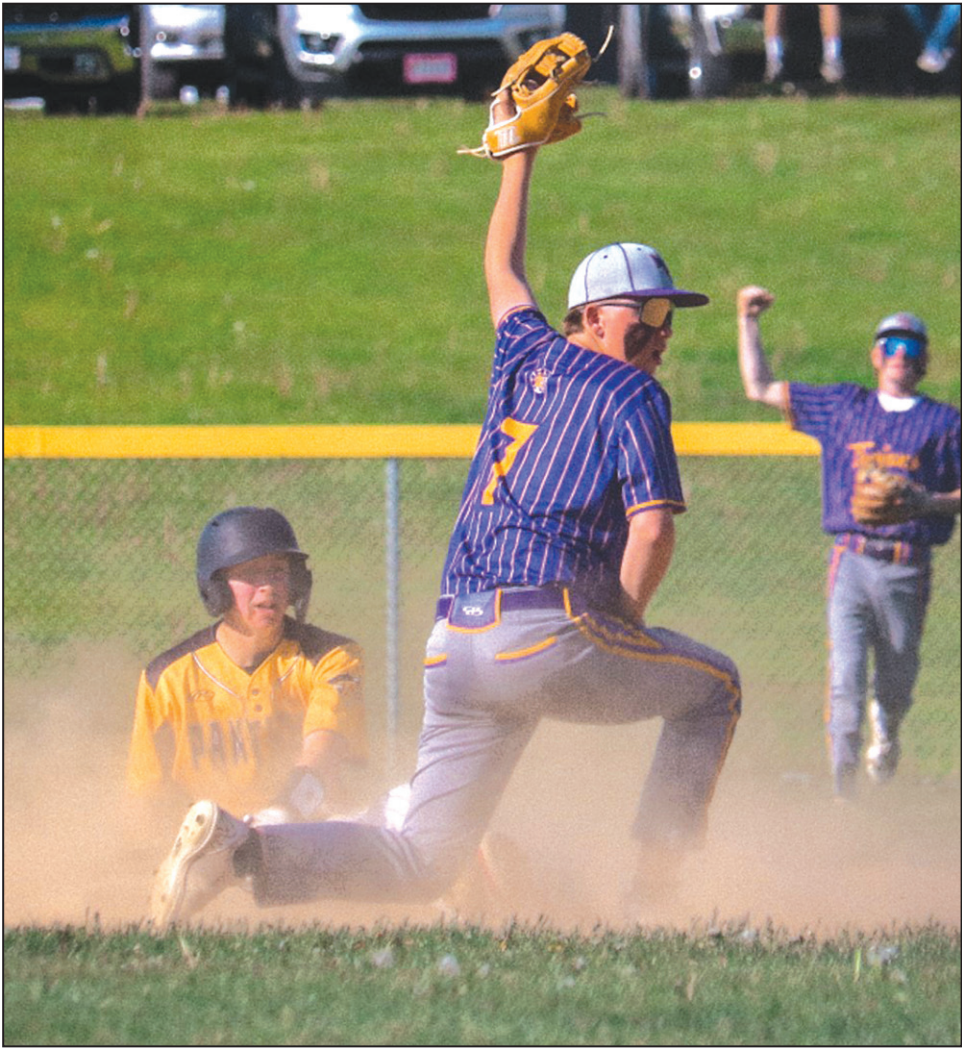
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SPORTS



Mendota's Collin Coss holds his glove up with hopes of getting an out call from the umpire during a game with Putnam County on May 9 at the MHS field. (Photo courtesy of Talia White, MHS)

Trojans rally past Putnam County

A defensive meltdown allowed Erie to post a 7-1 victory over Mendota in Three Rivers Conference varsity baseball action on May 5 at the MHS diamond. The Panthers scored twice in the first inning and that's the way the score held until the fourth when they pushed across five unearned runs on two hits, a walk and four Mendota errors.

The Trojans scored their only run in the bottom of the fifth when a bases loaded walk to Oscar Castaneda plated Evan McPheeters, who opened the frame with a solid single to center. Each team collected five hits. Braiden Freeman had a double for the Trojans. Esten Otero pitched four innings and took the loss. Dane Doyle finished up on the hill.

Mendota's bats were silent in an 11-1 conference loss to Newman on May 7 at the MHS field.

The Comets scored the first seven runs of the game before the Trojans tallied their only run in the bottom of the fifth. Doyle reached on an error and eventually came around to score on an errant

throw by Newman.

Newman completed the scoring with two runs each in the sixth and seventh frames.

The Trojans were limited to two hits – singles by Freeman and Collin Coss.

Coss was the starting and losing pitcher, working into the fifth before McPheeters and Karson Sundberg came on in relief.

Mendota got a much-needed 9-8 come-from-behind win over Putnam County on May 9 at the MHS field.

Trailing 8-7 in the bottom of the seventh, the Trojans scored twice with two outs to pull out the thrilling victory. Jack Gillespie singled in the tying run and then Gavin Evans raced home with the game-winner on a Putnam County wild pitch.

The Panthers owned a 4-0 lead after two innings. McPheeters had an RBI single in the third for Mendota's first run.

Each team plated four runs in the fourth, and then the Trojans made it a one-run game in the sixth on a two-run single by Freeman to set the stage for the exciting conclusion.

Freeman had three of Mendota's seven hits, while Gillespie and McPheeters had two apiece.

McPheeters pitched three scoreless innings in relief of Freeman to get the win.

Sterling defeated the Trojans, 7-2, on May 10 at Sterling.

The Golden Warriors led 7-0 after five innings before Mendota avoided the shutout with a pair of runs in the sixth. Freeman singled and Gillespie walked ahead of a two-run single by Brody Hartt.

Doyle pitched the first four innings and was tagged with the loss. Otero hurled the final two frames.

Erie-Prophetstown blanked the Trojans, 9-0, on May 12 at Prophetstown.

E-P pitcher Braedyn Frank carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning, but the Trojans (8-15-1, 1-9) broke it up with back-to-back single by Doyle and Rhett Watson.

Gillespie got the ball to start the game for Mendota and worked into the fourth inning before Coss and Otero relieved.

MHS, DePue to battle in soccer regional

MENDOTA—After closing out the regular season with a 6-0 loss at Dixon on May 12, the Mendota girls' soccer team has its sights set on the Mendota Regional after earning the number one seed in Sub-Sectional A of the Rock Island Alleman Sectional.

Mendota will take a 13-7-1 record into the regional to be played May 16 and May 20 at the MHS field. 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 championship 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)

Elam's 3 first-place finishes lead MHS girls to 5th in TRAC meet

□ Sophomore sets conference records in high jump, triple jump

MONMOUTH – Three first-place finishes by Mariyah Elam powered the Mendota girls' track team to a fifth-place finish in the Three Rivers Conference Meet on May 8 at Monmouth.

The Lady Trojans scored 59 points to land in the fifth position. Sherrard grabbed the conference title with 145.5 points, followed by Mercer County (97), Kewanee (69) and Newman (68).

Elam set personal bests in winning the 300-meter hurdles, the high jump and the triple jump.

She motored to the finish line ahead of the rest of the pack in the hurdles in a time of 46.35.

In the high jump, the defending Class 2A state champion topped out at a height of 5-8, to not only set a personal record, but also smash the conference record of 5-6.25 that she set last year. She also established a new school record with that leap. Elam claimed the state title a season ago at 5-4.5.

In the triple jump, Elam had a winning distance of 37-2.75, easily outperforming

the second-place finisher by nearly two feet. That too, was a new conference record as well as a school record jump.

Elam also had one of two second-place efforts by Mendota. She ran a time of 16.16 in the 100-meter hurdles, which was her best time this season.

Aby Buettner had the other runner-up place for the Lady Trojans, sailing 16-3.25 in the long jump.

"Mendota finished fifth as a team, which is the best we've finished in my five years here and I think the best we've finished in the last decade at least," said Mendota coach Joe Hughes. "Four individuals earned nine total medals/ribbons."

Hughes said field events started the team on a very positive note with one of Mendota's throwers hitting a new personal record in discus to set the tone early. Buettner took the lead in the long jump with her first jump that stayed as the top mark until a girl from Kewanee topped Buettner's mark with her second to last jump. Hughes added that Elam kept the momentum going by needing just one jump to claim the conference title in the triple jump.

"Mariyah was then able to turn her focus to high

jump where she was battling with a phenomenal freshman from Orion and she ended up clearing 5-8, which is a new personal best, a conference meet record, a Mendota High School record, and is now the top ranked high jumper for all girls' athletes in the state of Illinois," stated Hughes.

The Lady Trojans were able to continue to ride this momentum into the running events where they earned five more ribbons.

May 8 – Three Rivers Conference Meet @ Monmouth

Sherrard 145.5, Mercer County 97, Kewanee 69, Newman 68, Mendota 59, Princeton 54.5, Erie-Prophetstown 51, Rockridge 48, Riverdale 41, Orion 36.5, Monmouth-Roseville 23, Hall 9.5

Mendota 1st place: Mariyah Elam, 300m hurdles, 46.35; Elam, high jump, 5-8; Elam, triple jump, 37-2.75

Mendota 2nd place: Elam, 100m hurdles, 16.16; Aby Buettner, long jump, 16-3.25

Mendota 5th place: Rylee Woods, high jump, 4-11.75

Mendota 6th place: Buettner, 100m dash, 13.43; Buettner, 200m dash, 27.91; Hannah Kunz, 400m dash, 1:08.87



Mendota's Karson Doyle connects with a pitch for a solo home run against Mercer County on May 10 at Aledo. (Photo courtesy of Talia White, MHS)

Lady Trojans defeated by four league opponents

Erie dealt the Mendota varsity softball team a 13-1 loss in Three Rivers Conference action on May 5 at the MHS field.

Erie led 5-0 when Mendota scored its only run of the game in the bottom of the third. Ava Eddy smacked a double and came in to score when Karson Doyle reached on an error.

The Panthers continued to build on their lead until they went over the 10-run difference with four tallies in the sixth. The game ended when Mendota failed to score in the bottom of the frame.

Mendota totaled four hits.

Leah Henkel started in the circle for the Lady Trojans and Sydney Tolley came on in relief.

Mendota dropped another lopsided conference contest, this time to Princeton, 21-1, on May 6 at the MHS field. The game was halted in the fifth inning by the 10-run rule.

Princeton took a quick 3-0 lead in the first. Mendota pushed across its lone tally in the bottom of the frame. Eddy led off with a single and scored later in the inning.

Princeton pulled away in the third inning when it sent 14 batters to the plate and nine of them scored. Avah Oertel capped off the inning with a grand slam home run.

See Softball, Page B2

MHS softball to compete in Princeton 2A Regional

PRINCETON—The Mendota softball team has been assigned to the Princeton Class 2A Regional.

The Lady Trojans will open the tournament with a play-in game at Somonauk on Monday, May 19 at 4:30 p.m. The winner of that game will advance to the semifinal round to play top-seeded Morrison at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20 at Princeton. The other semifinal game will pit Princeton against Sandwich.

The two winners will meet for the regional title at 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 23.

The champion of the Princeton Regional will advance to the Woodstock Marian Sectional to face the winner of the Marengo Regional on Wednesday, May 28 at 4:30 p.m. The other sectional participants will come from the Richmond-Burton and Bureau Valley regionals.

Princeton Class 2A Regional Softball Tournament Monday, May 19

1 – (10) Mendota at (8) Somonauk [Coop] – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 20

2 – (1) Morrison vs. Winner Game 1 – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21

3 – (4) Princeton vs. (7) Sandwich – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, May 23

4 – Winner Game 2 vs. Winner Game 3 – 4:30 p.m. (championship)

MHS coaches, administrators react to 'Right to Play' bill

By **BRANDON LACHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA—In March, an Illinois House committee advanced a bill that allows high school student-athletes to participate in both school sports and non-school athletic activities in the same sport at the same time.

"Right to Play Act," officially House Bill 3037, would overshadow rules and restrictions in place by the Illinois High School Association.

Currently, the IHSA rules prohibit student-athletes who play school sports from being on a non-school team in the same sport during the IHSA sport's season.

The bill passed the Illinois House and moved to the Senate in April. On April 10, the bill had its first reading and was referred to the Senate's assignments.

If the bill becomes law, high school and outside athletics would change.

The question is how would they change in Mendota?

Nick Myers, MHS boys' and girls' soccer coach
"I'm all for kids having opportunities to play sports, but I do think this bill will ul-

timately be the death of high school sports. Some travel sports do not practice every day, play only on the weekends. Of course, kids are going to choose that over the grind of high school sports.



B. Zinke

break down from playing too much. Never allowing themselves to rest. Increase risk of injury. The other is in high school they have to stay academically eligible. In club, grades don't matter. So, a student could be failing classes, and it won't matter to them because they can still play travel sports.

Brock Zinke, MHS athletic director
"I don't think it will be beneficial to high school athletics. Two glaring issues for me are athlete overuse, which will lead to more

injuries and creating a pay-for-play system in sports. There are currently no systems in place where athlete injuries are communicated between high school athletics and an outside travel team. The athlete and parent are responsible for sharing the data on their own. This causes a concern. Also, athletes could potentially be playing too many games which can lead to injuries. The model seems to be moving toward playing more games especially on weekends, which should be reserved for rest and recovery.

"If this passes, theoretically rival leagues could arise that are not affiliated with schools. In that system, coaches and teams charge whatever they believe they need and many athletes and their families cannot and will not be able to pay to play in this system. School sports still allow students an opportunity to play a sport for little to no cost to the athlete.

Gary Barrera, MHS P.E. teacher, basketball coach
"My opinion is simple – student athletes should not be able to play in the same sport in the same IHSA sport season. I agree with the IHSA and its view of too much activity."
Matt Gehm, MHS basketball coach

"Part of me is fine with the bill. If kids love the game and want to play extra, like in a YMCA Sunday hoops league or run in fall 5Ks, that's great. I know kids who just want to play and compete in any arena they can, and it's hard to hold them back.

"My concerns, I think the high school team has to come first. The student-athlete has committed to their teammates and coaching staff, and that should always take precedence. My first concern comes with AAU-type leagues, where parents are paying money to showcase their child's abilities. The money aspect has been an issue already with student-athletes paying out-of-season sports, with a student on an AAU team for their fall or spring sport during basketball season, and they end up missing a high school game for an AAU tournament since their parent has spent money for the child to play on the AAU team.

"There is also the threat of injury from participating in these other events. Of course, a student-athlete could get injured at home while not participating. Both of these issues would be very rare occurrences, but still could have a negative impact on the high school team."

SPORTS



Three conference track champions
The Starved Rock Conference track and field meet was held May 5 at the Northbrook School track in Mendota. Northbrook's seventh and eighth grade girls' teams and the eighth grade boys' team were all conference champions. The Northbrook seventh grade boys' team finished in fourth place. (Photo contributed)

Mendota boys finish fifth, girls sixth in Illinois Valley Track & Field meet

OTTAWA – Mendota's boys' and girls' track teams met seven other area schools for the Illinois Valley Meet on May 12 at Ottawa.

The Trojans finished fourth in the team standings with 61 points, while the host Pirates earned the top spot with 135.5 points.

Mendota distance runners Anthony Kelson and Gavin Stevenson turned in the two first-place finishes for the Trojans. Kelson had a time of 4:51.90 in the 1600-meter run while Stevenson was clocked at 11:17.39 in the 3200-meter run.

In the girls' competition, the Lady Trojans scored 55 points and were fifth in the team standings. Streator claimed the number one position with 106 points.

Mendota took first in three events. Aby Buettner broke the tape in the 400-meter dash in 1:06.55, Mariyah Elam went 4-11.75 in the high jump and Rylee Woods had a height of 6-6

in the pole vault.

May 12 – IV Meet @ Ottawa (Boys)
Ottawa 135.5, Streator 123, Hall 62, Mendota 61, LaSalle-Peru 52.5, St. Bede 50, Marquette 47, Putnam County 21

Mendota 1st place: Anthony Kelson, 1600m run, 4:51.90; Gavin Stevenson, 3200m run, 11:17.39

Mendota 2nd place: Sebastian Carlos, 200m dash, 23.2; Kelson, 800m run, 2:05.49

Mendota 3rd place: Stevenson, 1600m run, 5:17.50; Komen Denault, pole vault, 10-11.75

Mendota 4th place: 4x100m relay (Jamal Lesley, Robert Botello, Jayden Lesley, Ethan Escatel), 47.54; Jamal Lesley, high jump, 5-6

Mendota 5th place: Botello, long jump, 17-10.75

Mendota 6th place: Carlos, 100m dash, 11.73; 4x200m relay (Jamal Lesley, Denault, Botello, Jayden Les-

ley), 1:39.73

(Girls)
Streator 106, LaSalle-Peru 99, St. Bede 97, Ottawa 95, Mendota 55, Marquette 51, Hall 34, Putnam County 2

Mendota 1st place: Aby Buettner, 400m dash, 1:06.55; Mariyah Elam, high jump, 4-11.75; Rylee Woods, pole vault, 6-6

Mendota 2nd place: 4x800m relay (Hannah Kunz, Savannah Lerner, Elaina Koch, Riley Erlenborn), 12:21.47; Buettner, long jump, 14-2.5

Mendota 4th place: 4x400m relay (Eden Pecher, Claire Knaff, Brooklyn Baxa, Kara Miars), 5:25.90

Mendota 5th place: Pecher, 100m hurdles, 19.8; 4x100m relay (Harlow Foltyniewicz, Knaff, Ambrielle Oquendo, Reushawna Durr), 58.93; Foltyniewicz, high jump, 4-6

Mendota 6th place: 4x200m relay (Erlenborn, Elam, Kate Strouss, Woods), 2:04.78

Ottawa outduels Trojans

OTTAWA – The Mendota boys' track team went up against Ottawa in a dual meet on May 6 at Ottawa. The host Pirates claimed first place with 78 points and Mendota had 48 points.

The Trojans finished first in six events. Individual top finishes went to Jamal Lesley in the 100-meter dash (12.20), Sebastian Carlos in the 200-meter dash (23.58), Anthony Kelson in the 1600-meter run (4:53.88) and Spencer Kain in the 3200-meter run (13:46.90).

Two relays also broke the tape for Mendota. The 4x100 squad of Jamal Lesley, Carlos, Jayden Lesley and Ethan Escatel ran a time of 46.17, while the 4x800 tandem of Gavin Stevenson, Hector Gonzalez, Carlos Toribio and Kelson was clocked in 9:23.09.

May 6 @ Ottawa
Ottawa 78, Mendota 48

Mendota 1st place: Jamal Lesley, 100m dash, 12.20; Sebastian Carlos, 200m dash, 23.58; Anthony Kelson, 1600m run, 4:53.88; Spencer Kain, 3200m run, 13:46.90; 4x100m relay (Jamal Lesley, Carlos, Jayden Lesley, Ethan Escatel), 46.17; 4x800m relay (Gavin Stevenson, Hector Gonzalez, Carlos Toribio, Kelson), 9:23.09

Mendota 2nd place: Jayden Lesley, 100m dash, 12.25; Gonzalez, 400m dash, 1:03.22; Stevenson, 1600m run, 5:11.91; Komen Denault, pole vault, 10-0; Jamal Lesley, high jump, 5-4

Mendota 3rd place: Josh Shakespeare, shot put, 34-9; Aidan Fisher, 800m run, 2:35.35; Escatel, long jump, 16-9

Mendota 5th place: Robert Botello, 200m dash, 26.6; Toribio, 1600m run, 5:37.04

Mendota 6th place: Shakespeare, discus, 70-7

Carlos wins 200, 400 at 'Bago

WINNEBAGO – Mendota competed against nine other teams in the Mike Mowan Track Invitational on May 9 at Winnebago. The host Indians won the event with 146 points, while the Trojans finished eighth with 43 points.

Sebastian Carlos had a pair of first-place finishes for the Trojans, claiming the 200-meter dash in 23.0 and the 400-meter dash in 50.01.

May 9 - Mowan Invite
Winnebago 146, Byron 128, Lena-Winslow 74, Oregon 69, Rockford Lutheran 69, Forreston 67, Rockford Christian 50, Mendota 43, Galena 36, Dakota 19

Mendota 1st place: Sebastian Carlos, 200m dash, 23.0; Carlos, 400m dash, 50.01

Mendota 2nd place: Komen Denault, pole vault, 11-2.5

Mendota 4th place: Anthony Kelson, 1600m run, 4:45.15

Mendota 6th place: Kelson, 800m run, 2:06.71; Jamal Lesley, high jump, 5-5

Trojan trackmen assigned to 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.

Mendota to host Stillman Valley in regional play-in game May 19

STILLMAN VALLEY – The Mendota Trojans' baseball team will compete in the Stillman Valley Class 2A Regional.

The Trojans will begin action by hosting Stillman Valley in a play-in game on Monday, May 19 at 4:30 p.m. The winner of that game will advance to the semifinals to square off with top-seeded Byron on Wednesday, May 21 at 4:30 p.m. at Stillman Valley. The other semifinal contest will be between Rock Falls and Oregon.

The two winners will move on to the regional championship game on Saturday, May 24 at 4:30 p.m.

The champion of the Stillman Valley Regional will continue on to the Mendota Sectional where it will battle the champion of the Johnsbury Regional at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 28. The other sectional teams will be the winners of the Richmond-Burton and Rock Island Alleman regionals.

Stillman Valley Class 2A Regional Baseball Tournament
Monday, May 19
1 – (9) Stillman Valley at (8) Mendota – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21
2 – (1) Byron vs. Winner Game 1 – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 22
3 – (4) Rock Falls vs. (5) Oregon – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 24
4 – Winner Game 2 vs. Winner Game 3 – 4:30 p.m. (championship)

LaSalle to host free kids' fishing tourney June 7

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.



Ace in the hole
Ashtyn Stamberger, a freshman at Mendota High School, hit the first hole-in-one of his career and the first of the season for the Mendota Golf Club on Tuesday, May 6. The accomplishment happened on Hole No. 7 with an 8-iron. Witnesses were Kooper Novak, Payton Gagliardo, Owen Aughenbaugh and Evan McPheeters. (Photo contributed)

Mendota QB Club golf fundraiser to aid MHS, youth football programs

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

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

The event is entirely open to the public.

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

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

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

IDPH issues its annual updated sport fish consumption advisories

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has issued its annual update of advisories related to the consumption of sport fish caught in Illinois waterways. The advisories are based on routine testing conducted by the Illinois Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program.

IDPH maintains an interactive Fish Advisory Map that includes consumption advisories for more than 100 publicly accessible bodies of water across the state. The advisories detail how frequently certain types of fish from various waterways can be eaten without posing a health risk. While there is no known immediate health hazard from eating contaminated fish from any Illinois water body, there are concerns about effects of long-term exposure to

polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), per- and polyfluoralkyl substances (PFAS), and methylmercury in fish. More information can be found at Fish Advisories (illinois.gov).

"Fishing in Illinois is a terrific recreational activity that often leads to delicious and nutritious meals," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "To make sure those catches are the safest possible, please visit IDPH's Fish Advisory Map to get the most up to date information on Illinois's consumption advisories."

Under this year's advisories:

- Five Illinois bodies of water have been added to the list: Duck Creek Lake, Schuy-Rush Lake, Rock Run Rookery, Waukegan South Harbor, and Waverly Lake.
- Advisories for six bodies of water have been updated.

The majority of updates were associated with mercury and continued PFAS testing, which was incorporated into statewide monitoring in 2023. Those bodies of water are: Cedar Lake, Chaminewood Lake, Dongola Lake, Dutchman Lake, Illinois River, and Wolf Lake and Indian Creek.

- Advisories were relaxed in four water bodies: Big Muddy River, Lake Bracken, Monee Reservoir, and Randolph County Lake.

In addition to this year's site-specific updates, a statewide methylmercury advisory remains in place for all Illinois waters. The advisory cautions women who are nursing, pregnant, or may become pregnant, and children less than 15 years of age to eat no more than one meal per week of predatory fish (e.g., bass, walleye, salmon).

Softball

Continued from Page B1

The Tigresses tacked on three runs in the fourth and six in the fifth.

Mendota managed just three hits.

Eddy was the starting pitcher and Tolley finished up.

A big first inning was enough to propel Newman to a 6-2 conference win over Mendota on May 7 at the MHS field.

The Lady Comets sent all nine batters to the plate in the opening frame and five of them scored on four hits, a walk and an error.

Henkel was the starting pitcher for Mendota and was replaced by Eddy to begin the second. Newman scored one run on three consecutive singles in the second to make it 6-0.

The Lady Trojans got on the board with two runs in the third. Alexis Nave was hit by a pitch and Eddy followed with a single to send Nave to third. Henkel delivered a sacrifice fly to plate one run and Emily Diaz singled in the other run.

Eddy managed to keep Newman off the board the rest of the way, but Mendota couldn't dent the scoreboard

over the final four frames, despite loading the bases in the fifth.

The Lady Trojans collected seven hits, led by Eddy with two singles and a double. Addison Perryman added a single and a double, while Doyle had a two-bagger.

Mercer County handed Mendota a 14-1 league loss on May 10 at Aledo.

The Lady Trojans scored their only run in the fifth when Doyle walloped a solo home run.

Eddy was the losing pitcher.

LAWN & GARDEN

There is always room for tomatoes

By Melinda Myers

Nothing beats the flavor of fresh-from-the-garden tomatoes. Keep them close at hand by growing one or more in containers on your patio, balcony, or front steps.

Any tomato can be grown in a pot, but determinate varieties are shorter and more compact, making them a bit easier to manage in a container. They produce fruit in a relatively short period of time, making them great choices for preserving as well as using fresh. Look for a D or determinate on the plant tag, seed packet or in the catalog description.

Indeterminate tomatoes, often designated with an I, are usually much taller and continue to grow, flower, and produce fruit until frost kills the plant or you pinch out the growing tip. These are usually staked or grown in wire cages to save space, reduce pest problems and make harvesting easier. Many new containers have built-in trellises or creative gardeners craft their own, making it easier and more attractive to grow these bigger plants in pots.

Semi-determinate varieties are in between these two. They are compact like determinates, often trailing but produce fruit throughout the growing season like indeterminate varieties.

You can now find compact varieties often sold as miniature and dwarf plants that grow well in small 4 to 8" pots. They are a great option for those with limited space, gardening on balconies, indoors in a sunny window or just about anywhere. Kitchen Mini tomatoes, Heartbreakers, Red Velvet and Micro Tom Thumb are just a few.

Grow one tomato per container for maximum productivity. Use a 5-gallon or bigger container for large



Growing tomatoes in containers allows you to start the season earlier. Just move the planter inside when the weather is harsh and back outside when the weather is warm and sunny.

varieties and at least a two to three gallon or similar size pot for smaller varieties. Some research suggests growing tomatoes in a pot that is at least 14 inches but preferably 20 inches wide will yield greater results. Adding flowers and herbs to the container boosts the beauty and diversity of your container garden but will reduce the number of tomatoes produced.

Growing tomatoes in containers also allows you to start the season earlier. Just move the planter inside when the weather is harsh and back outside when the weather is warm and sunny. As the weather turns cold at the end of the growing season, cover the planter or move it into a frost-free location as needed. Some gardeners even move a pot or two inside to finish off the tomato season.

Plant tomatoes in a container with drainage holes and fill it with a quality potting mix. Reduce the time spent watering with a self-watering pot that has a reservoir to hold water and extend the time between watering. Further reduce the need to water by adding an organic, sustainable soil amendment.

Water thoroughly when the top few inches begin to dry. Mulch the soil with evergreen needles, shredded leaves, or other organic mulch to keep the soil consistently moist and suppress weeds. Consistent soil moisture encourages more flowering and fruiting, while reducing the risk of blossom end rot, cracking, and misshapen fruit.

Harvest tomatoes when fully colored or leave them

on the plant a few more days for an even sweeter flavor. You'll enjoy the convenience of harvesting fresh tomatoes right outside your door for use in salads, sauces, and other favorite recipes.

(Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.)



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LAWN & GARDEN



A greater number of people are showing interest in gardening, which is a rewarding hobby that's good for the mind and the body. Those who are new to gardening may need a crash course to get started.

Tips for the gardening beginner

Gardening is a popular hobby all over the world. It is estimated there are 71.5 million gardening households in the United States alone. That translates to around 185.9 million people engaged in some form of gardening, which places the U.S. among other countries where gardening is wildly popular, including Australia and China.

A greater number of people are showing interest in gardening, which is a rewarding hobby that's good for the mind and the body. Those who are new to gardening may need a crash course to get started. These pointers can help anyone foster a newfound passion for gardening.

Choose the best location

Spend time in the yard and decide where to house a garden. A far-off corner may get the most sun, but will you forget about the garden if it is too far away? Ideally, the garden should be located where it will get at least six to eight hours of sun each day. There also should be a water source nearby. The spot also should be convenient so that it is easy to go and pick vegetables or prune flowers.

Start small

If you're new to gardening, begin with a small garden footprint so that you can get your feet wet. A raised garden bed can be a good starting point because it is contained and easy to maintain. As your experience (and garden) grows, you can add to the garden size the next time around.

Amend the soil

It's possible but unlikely that the soil in the backyard is the perfect mix to grow healthy plants. It's more likely that the garden will need some soil modification. You can test the soil makeup with do-it-yourself kits or work with a garden center. A garden typically requires a mix of compost to add nutrients to the dirt; peat moss or coconut coir to help with water retention and to make the soil lighter; and vermiculite that helps to retain water. A compost bin set up at the same time as the garden allows gardeners to continually produce nutrient-rich food to add to the garden.

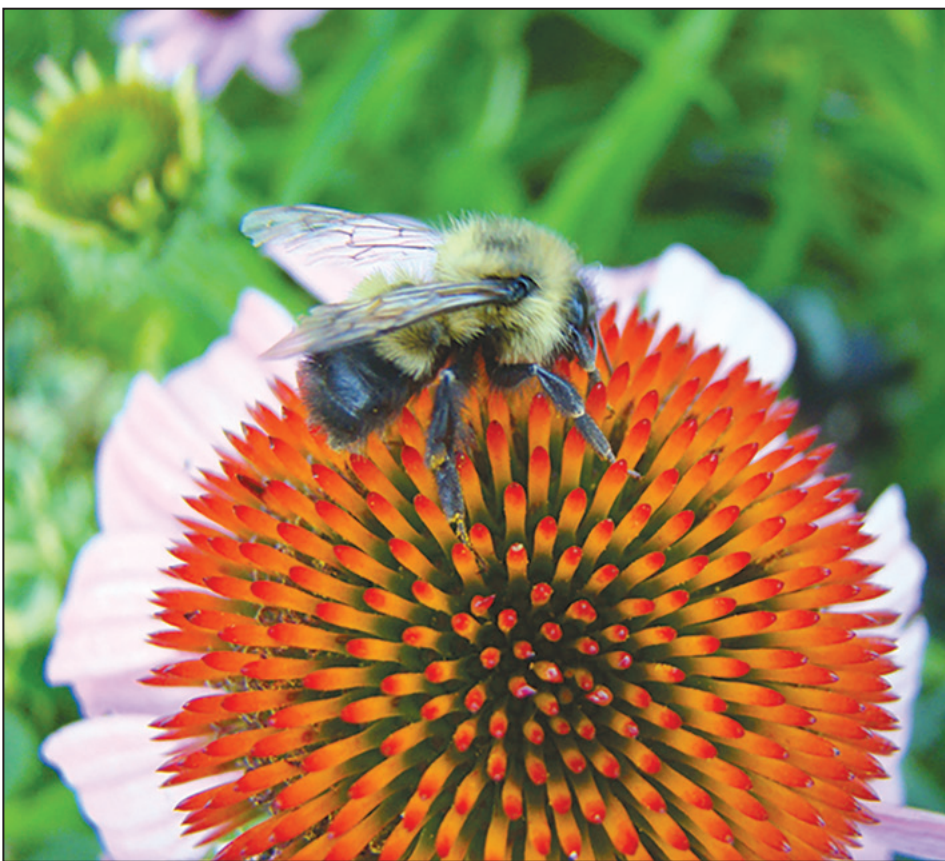
Plant starter guide

It's best to keep a few things in mind when planning the garden. Think about what will grow well in your climate. Consider how big the garden will be and the size of mature plants. A small garden will not be able to accommodate corn, for example. Also, how would you like the space to look and what will be its function? Is this a purely aesthetic garden or one that will be food-bearing?

Start seeds inside

If you'll be starting a garden from seeds, it's best to start indoors before your region's frost-free date. This way the delicate plants will get the needed care and can establish before they go outdoors in the ground. Keep them humid by covering the seedlings in plastic wrap. You can start the seeds in different containers, even empty egg cartons. Transplant to larger containers after the seedlings grow a second set of leaves. Once you're free from overnight frost, you can place the established, strong seedlings in the ground.

An automatic watering system, such as a timer hooked up to the sprinkler, can keep the garden well watered, which increases the chances of success. Then it will only be a matter of weeks before the garden can be enjoyed throughout the season.



Pollinators are vital to the health of the ecosystem. Without pollinators, food supplies would dwindle and the planet's plant life would suffer.

What's all the buzz about pollinators? They're essential for plant & animal life

Many people live busy lives, but when they stop to smell the roses they might see a pollinator balanced on the petals. It's easy to think of pollen only in terms of what it does to those suffering from seasonal allergies, but pollen is essential for plant and animal life.

The Ecological Society of America says pollen is a plant's male sex cells that must be transferred from one flower to the stigma of the same flower or another for the plant to produce fruit and seed. Although some of this pollination occurs naturally, such as that aided by the wind or among plants that are self-pollinating, the vast majority of plants cannot move pollen without helpers, or pollinators. Check out these facts about pollinators and pollination to learn why they're important to ecological health.

- Insects are the primary pollinators, although birds, bats and other creatures also can spread pollen around. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation credit honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, and beetles with pollinating the most plants. However, the ESA says between 200,000 and 300,000 invertebrate species are estimated to serve globally as pollinators.
- Bees and other pollinators play critical roles in food production. The United States Department of Agriculture says more than 100 U.S.-grown crops rely on pollinators.
- About 75 percent of all flowering plants rely on animal pollinators.
- Pollinator.org says blueberries, chocolate, coffee, vanilla, almonds, pumpkins, and peaches are just some of the foods and beverages that are produced with the help of pollinators.
- Most bee species native to North America are "solitary bees." They don't live in colonies and rarely sting unless physically threatened or injured. Bees largely can be left alone to do their thing and people can cohabitate comfortably nearby.
- Honeybees have different jobs than other species. A honeybee colony is made up of one reproductive queen, sexually undeveloped female workers and male drones. Drones mate with the queen so she can lay eggs, and the workers are responsible for caring for eggs, cleaning the hive and collecting nectar, pollen and other resources for the colony.

• Pollinators have been on the decline for a number of reasons. The Pollinator Partnership says threats to pollinators include pollution, pests, pathogens, changes in land use that degrades their habitats, and climate change. Honeybees, monarch butterflies and native bumblebees have all exhibited declines in recent years, according to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

• People can help protect pollinators by creating pollinator-friendly garden habitats with native plants best suited to local areas. Individuals also can select old fashioned varieties of flowers whenever possible, since breeding has caused some modern blooms to lose the nectar/pollen needed to feed pollinators. Also, install houses for bats and native bees to encourage them to take up residence, and avoid the use of pesticides around the landscape.

Pollinators are vital to the health of the ecosystem. Without pollinators, food supplies would dwindle and the planet's plant life would suffer.

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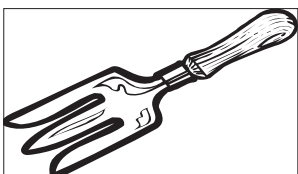
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LAWN & GARDEN

Attract winged friends with these bird feeders

Birds are beautiful creatures that can make a lawn and garden feel even more serene. Providing snacks to supplement what birds naturally find in the wild guarantees up close and personal interactions with the scores of species that call neighborhoods home.

Bird feeders are particularly important in colder climates and during wintertime when food may be scarce. Keeping birds well fed helps them survive over winter and continue to repopulate in the spring. Bird feeding isn't all for the birds, either. Ashley Dayer, an associate professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech, argues that feeding birds also is a benefit to humans because it stimulates compassion for the animals.

The type of bird feeder a person places in the yard determines which species may be drawn to the property. The following are various types of feeders to consider.

Suet feeders

Suet cakes are high-energy food sources that attract



birds like woodpeckers and nuthatches. They are particularly beneficial in colder months or regions where birds need extra fat for energy. These cage-like feeders snap around the rectangular suet cake and hang from a pole or tree.

Ground feeder

Ground feeders are simple screen-bottomed trays that sit several inches off of the ground or on a deck to help keep seeds and grain from coming in contact with droppings. Ground feeders are a favorite of juncos, sparrows, goldfinches, and cardinals, among others.

Sugar water feeder

These feeders come in different shapes, from tubes to round dishes, and are magnets to hummingbirds. They typically have red coloring to be more attractive to those high-speed flyers.

Nyjer bird feeder

Small birds like goldfinches love to dine on nyjer seeds, which are tiny, black thistle seeds. These feeders are tube-shaped mesh socks designed to hold this specific seed. The small feeding ports prevent seed waste and cater to the small beaks of finches.

Hopper bird feeder

These are the feeders

many people think of when they envision bird feeders. Hopper bird feeders hold a large amount of seed and often have a roof or a design that mimics a house or barn. The covered design helps to keep seeds dry and might be the best hanging feeder for people who live in areas with a lot of rain. Hoppers will attract blue jays, grackles, cardinals, and blackbirds.

Tube feeders

Tube feeders will attract an array of birds. They are cylindrical in shape with various ports to enable birds to perch and feed.

Window and smart bird feeders

These types of bird feeders attach to windows to allow homeowners to view the birds up close. Smart varieties have cameras on the feeders that will send a feed via an app to a smart phone or computer. Some even may identify the bird species on the feeder at any given point in time.

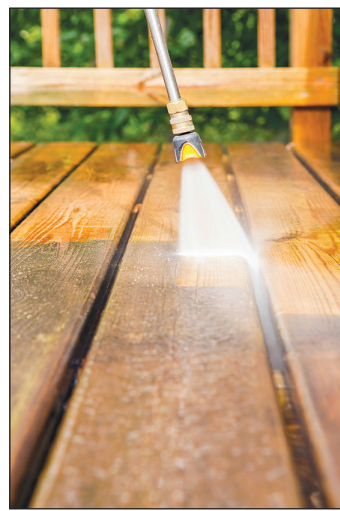
Bird feeders provide enjoyment for bird watchers and nutritious food for various species.

How to prepare outdoor spaces for entertaining

Memorial Day weekend is a popular time to entertain. For many, the weekend marks the first outdoor entertaining opportunity of the year, which is certainly something to look forward to.

As outdoor entertaining season begins, homeowners can take these steps to prepare their outdoor living spaces for the first big backyard get-together of the year.

- Break out the power washer. Pressure washing is an important component of spring home cleanup. The warmer temperatures of spring allow water from power washing to dry more quickly, which can decrease the chances that mold and mildew will grow on surfaces like siding. A freshly power washed home also makes for a welcoming entertaining space. A power washer also can be used on outdoor entertaining spaces to remove dirt and debris that built up over the winter. Just make sure to read manufacturer instructions before using a power washer to clean paving stones, decks and outdoor furniture.



Power washing a deck prior to outdoor entertaining season can make it a more welcoming space for guests.

- Inspect outdoor furniture. Now is a good time to inspect outdoor furniture if the task was not performed in late fall or early winter before items were moved into the garage or placed in storage. Check to make sure furnishings are still safe to use, addressing any issues before guests come over for a Memorial Day weekend gathering. Wash cushions for outdoor furniture and replace any that might be showing their age.

- Clean the grill. A thorough cleaning of the grill also is in order prior to summer entertaining season. Many homeowners do little or no grilling during winter, so now is the time to give grilling surfaces and the interior of the grill a deep cleaning. Check for leaks if using a gas grill, and scrub the interior of any grease that accumulated last season. Many grilling experts advise lighting a grill and letting it burn for roughly 20 minutes prior to putting any foods on the grates for the first time. Such a strategy allows residual fluids like soap, vinegar and de-greasing products used when cleaning the grill to burn off before food is placed on the grates.

- Inspect the landscaping, too. It's not just seating areas like patios and decks that need some investigation prior to outdoor entertaining season. Take a walk around the landscape and make sure there's no potentially dangerous spots where people could be injured when playing backyard games. Fill in any holes with soil and fresh grass seed, and inspect trees to see if any branches need to be pruned.

Summer entertaining season begins each Memorial Day weekend. Homeowners can take various steps to ensure their outdoor entertaining spaces are comfortable and safe.

Wise watering strategies to help a lawn thrive

A number of factors can affect how well a garden or lawn takes root. Watering is a key element of any landscape care strategy, and one that homeowners should educate themselves about if they want to maintain a lush, healthy lawn throughout spring and summer.

Homeowners hoping to keep their lawns lush and green throughout summer can learn some effective watering strategies to achieve that goal.

Check the irrigation system

Water Sense®, an EPA Partnership Program, advises following four steps at the start of spring: inspect, connect, direct, and select for clock timer-controlled irrigation systems. Make sure the system doesn't have any clogged, broken or missing sprinkler heads. Examine points where the sprinkler heads attach to pipes or hoses to make sure there are no leaks. The EPA says even a leak as small as the tip of a pen can waste 6,300 gallons of water per month. Adjust the sprinkler heads so that they only hit the landscape elements rather than sidewalks or driveways. Align the watering schedule with the seasons.

Invest in an impact sprinkler

An impact sprinkler on a tripod can be an effective option for those without built-in irrigation systems. These sprinklers rotate in circles to help deliver an even spray of water that mimics rainfall. It's easy to adjust their spray pattern and a sprinkler on a tripod can spray over the top of bushes and flower gardens.

Drip irrigation systems are superior



According to Rainbird.com, drip irrigation tubing and emitters slowly distribute water to the right spots of a landscape. They can be placed at ground level or buried underground. Water soaks directly to the roots, minimizing water loss from runoff and evaporation. Some research suggests drip irrigation can effectively cover 25 percent more area than the average sprinkler system. It also tends to deliver more than 95 percent water efficiency.

Skip the schedule

Watering a lawn or garden should not be ruled by a schedule, but other factors that will determine when water is needed. Daytime temperatures, wind conditions, soil type, lawn type, and recent rainfall will determine how much water the landscape really needs. Overwatering can be just as bad as underwatering. For those with underground watering systems, water sensors can trigger the system to turn on rather than a time

on a clock.

Avoid midday watering

The sun is hottest in the middle of the day. Watering during this time means that much of the water will be lost to evaporation before it can get to thirsty lawns and plants.

It pays to be smart about watering. Homeowners also can consider rain collection barrels to offset municipal or well water usage and be more eco-conscious about their watering efforts.

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RELIGION

Accessing God’s power through grace and faith

God has a great plan for each person’s life, and He wants us to enjoy every day of our lives. But we can’t do it if we live in fear and lack confidence. Confidence is the belief that you’re able to do what you need to do. God gives us confidence, but we need to know how to access it by faith. God-given confidence is actually the grace of God. We usually hear grace defined as God’s undeserved favor or God doing something for you that you don’t deserve. But it’s really more than

that. It was life-changing for me to learn that grace is also God’s power, freely given to me, to enable me to do with ease what I could not do on my own with any amount of struggle or effort. Think about this for a minute. Everyone who accepts Jesus as their Savior is taught that we’re saved by grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone

should boast.” But the same way we are saved is the way we are supposed to live. In other words, once we are born again, God wants us to do everything in life by grace through faith. This has been one of the greatest revelations of my life. I remember how exciting it was to realize that God is not just there to help us when we have an emergency. God wants to be involved in every single thing we do on a day-to-day basis. There’s nothing you’re involved in that God doesn’t care about, and He wants you to pray and ask Him to help you with every detail of your life. He doesn’t want you to live striving in your own effort to do anything. God wants to be your close, personal, intimate friend.

I was a Christian for years before I learned how to access God’s grace, or power, to live my everyday life. First, I had to get an understanding that once I was saved, God didn’t expect me to live right by my own strength. Just as I couldn’t “earn” salvation through my own works or effort, I also couldn’t really change my heart or behavior in my own strength. Jesus says in John 15:4 (NIV), “... No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”



Every day we need to come to God and tell Him, “God, I can do nothing without You. Nothing in my life is going to work without You. Apart from You, there is nothing good in me. My confidence is in You. I need You all the time. I believe You and trust You, Lord.” When we humble ourselves before God and ask Him for help, we can access His grace through faith. So, to help you do that, I want to share three things that commonly short-circuit our faith, cutting off our access to God’s power: complaining, self-pity, and pride. • Complaining is a negative attitude that keeps us from being thankful for all God has done, is doing, and will do. It is a sin we need to repent of, and then be determined to thank God in all things, at all times. His grace and blessings always outweigh the things we think are wrong in our life. • Self-pity is simply a “poor me” attitude. It is a form of idolatry because it causes you to focus on yourself and think,

“What about me?” But we can’t be pitiful and powerful at the same time, so let’s decide to give up all self-pity. • Pride takes credit for what God has done and steals His glory. It makes us independent of God, and we can’t bear good fruit apart from Christ. Before I learned how to live my life by God’s grace, I was a mess. I was a nagging wife, a manipulator, and controlling. And I wasn’t satisfied living like that. Then God helped me by opening my eyes to see that I couldn’t really change until I started taking His Word seriously and trusted Him to change me. When I made a firm decision to pray and study the Word in areas where I was weak, then God’s grace gave me the power I needed to overcome the things that were wrong. And I keep going forward in my journey with God the same way today. God has all the power you need to do anything you need to do. He loves you and wants to give you His power to live your daily life with joy. Lean

on Him with absolute trust in His wisdom and goodness, and live with God-given confidence. *** 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. 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. 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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101 LEGAL NOTICE

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 OF PUBLIC MEETING

On May 16, 2025 at 9:00 AM, a meeting conducted by Mendota Township High School #280 will take place at 2300 West Main Street, Mendota. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the district's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who attend private schools and home schools within the district for the 2025 - 2026 school year. If you are a parent of a home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of Mendota Township High School, you are urged to attend. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Dr. Denise Aughenbaugh at 815-539-7446.

No. 0506
(May 14, 2025)

NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on May 7, 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 Bodmer Repair located at 4019 E. 050th Road Mendota, IL. 61342.
Dated: May 7, 2025. Dennis Bodmer & Crystal Bodmer Applicants.
No. 0507
(May 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on May 6, 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 Rosales Landscaping (Lawn Service & Landscaping) located at 1102 Jefferson Street Mendota, IL. 61342.
Dated: May 6, 2025. Francisco Reyes Rosales Applicant.
No. 0508
(May 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

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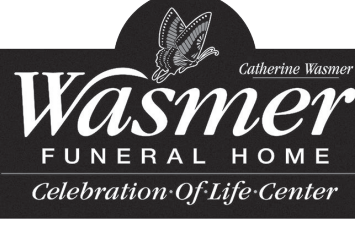
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Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce
800 Washington St.
815-539-6507

CONTRACTORS - GENERAL

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

DENTISTS

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

ELECTRICAL

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

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

ELECTRICAL/CONTRACTING

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

EXCAVATING AND SEWER

TJS Excavating
815-228-9845
Tjsexcavating.com

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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

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

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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

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

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

FIREPLACES

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

FITNESS

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

FLORISTS

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

FOOD TRUCK

Tacos Guzman
815-503-0839
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FUNERAL HOMES

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

FURNITURE

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

GROCERY STORES

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

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

HEALTH CARE CLINIC

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

HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS

Correa Heating and Air Conditioning
815-910-9876

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

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

HOME HEALTH/HOSPICE

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

HOUSE CLEANING

Illinois Valley Clean Team
815-228-5273

ICE CREAM SHOP

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

IDOT INSPECTIONS

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

INSURANCE

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

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

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

KITCHEN & BATH

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

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

KITCHEN & BATH

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

LIBRARY

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

LIQUOR STORE

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

MUSEUMS

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

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

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

OPTOMETRIST

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

PET GROOMING

Dirty Dawgs
1111 Main St.
815-538-2550

PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

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

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

POST FRAME BUILDERS

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

REALTORS

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

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

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

RESTAURANTS

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

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

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

SEAMLESS ROOFING

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

SOCIAL CLUB

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

TAX PREPARATION

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

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

THRIFT STORES

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

TRANSPORTATION

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

TOWING

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

VAPE/SMOKE SHOP

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

VETERINARIANS

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

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

WINDOWS & DECKING

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742



City of
Mendota

800 Washington Street
815-539-7459
www.mendota.il.us



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