

# Mendota is the recipient of a \$3 million Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Grant

Funds to be used for development of a new pedestrian & bicycle pathway

MENDOTA — Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) on May 21 announced \$139.2 million in funding through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) to improve local travel options and enhance the quality of life in communities across the state. Among the 66 projects selected is a \$3 million grant awarded to the City of Mendota for the development of a new pedestrian and bicycle pathway.

The Mendota project will create a safe and scenic walking and biking path connecting key points across the city—from the Amtrak train depot to the Lake Mendota sports fields and Lake Kankasha pier. Along the way, the path will include important stops at the Graves-Hume Public Library, the rear of Strouss Park, a crossing at Illinois Route 251, and the high school baseball field parking lot.

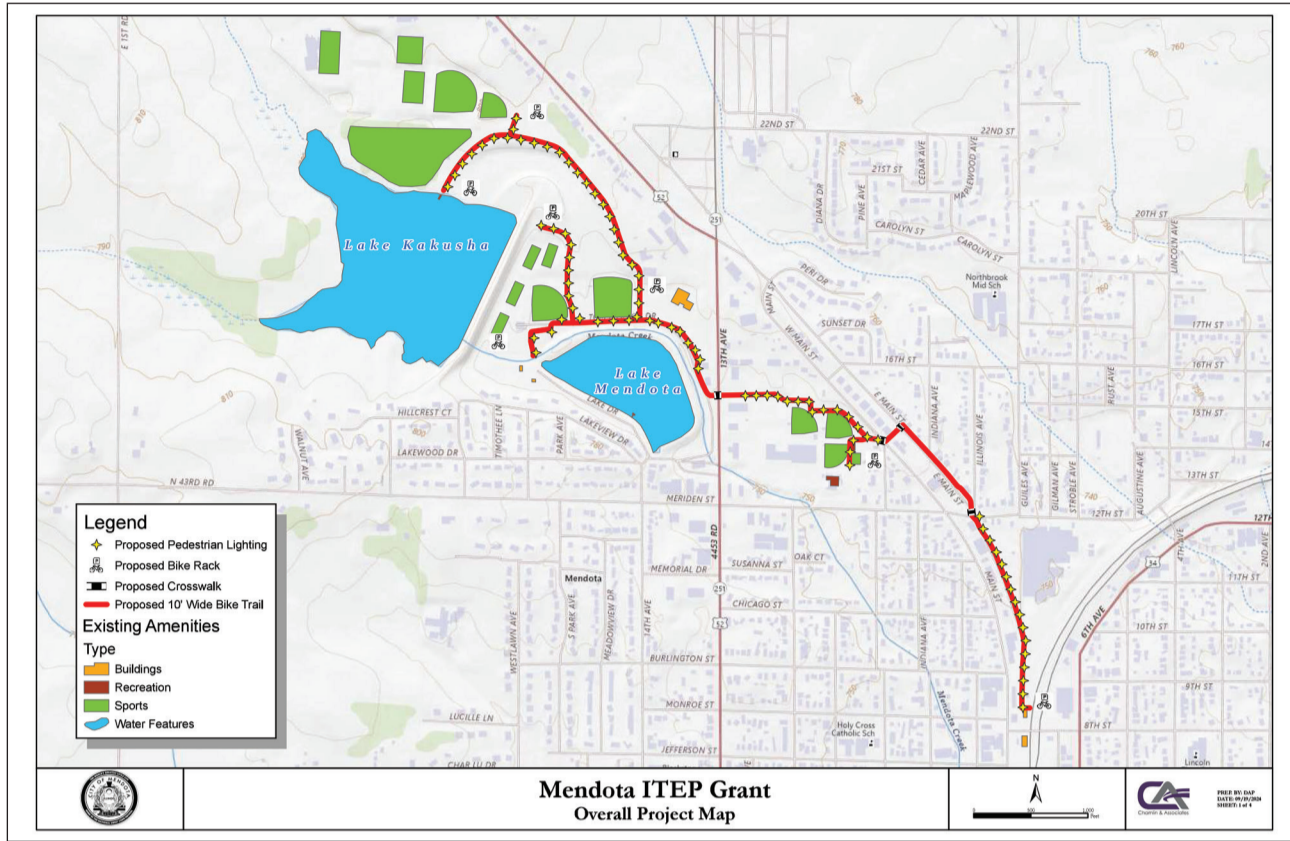
“This is a key element for our economic development strategy,” said Emily McConville, Mendota’s Economic

*“This is a key element for our economic development strategy. The new path will tie our historic downtown to the shopping and amenities on the north side of town, fostering greater connectivity and opportunity.”*

—Emily McConville, Economic Developer

Developer. “The new path will tie our historic downtown to the shopping and amenities on the north side of town, fostering greater connectivity and opportunity.”

“This project will provide safer access for residents on the south side to reach the many resources on the north side and will especially provide a safer path for students walking or biking to the high school,” Annie Short, Project



Director, added. “It will also be a fantastic amenity for tourists arriving by train. We’ve already begun conversations with bike rental companies to establish a presence at the depot for visitors to utilize and enjoy other parts of our community.”

Governor Pritzker emphasized the importance of the initiative as part of the broader Rebuild Illinois infrastructure plan. “The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program is a crucial part of Rebuild Illinois, helping make travel

safer and more accessible in the communities that need it most,” said Gov. Pritzker. “Today, I’m proud to announce the largest investment in the program’s history, with more than \$139 million going toward bike lanes, sidewalks, trails, and

other local improvements. This is just one part of the state’s larger effort to reverse decades of disinvestment and create more connected communities.”

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## MEMORIAL DAY & Military Appreciation



### Honoring America’s heroes

Mendota’s Memorial Day Service was conducted in front of a large crowd at Restland Memorial Gardens on May 26. The Veterans’ Memorial Council, The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4079, its Auxiliary, American Legion Post 540 and the Mendota Alumni Band participated in the program, the purpose of which is to honor and remember 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. Bill Hunt, Navy veteran, was the master of ceremonies. Jeff Simonton, COO of Black Bros. Co., was the guest speaker. (Reporter photos)

## Northbrook 8th graders earn diplomas

MENDOTA – The commencement ceremony for the Northbrook Middle School Class of 2025 was held May 22 at Mendota High School. A total of 112 eighth graders received their diplomas.

The students entered the gymnasium to the playing of Pomp & Circumstance. Students Mallory Beck and Christopher Komitas led the Pledge of Allegiance, then Paula Daley, Northbrook principal, and Theresa Komitas, School Board president, gave the welcome and introductory remarks.

Guidance counselor Megan Gatza presented the President’s Education Awards. Daley announced Abriana Klein as the recipient of the Reed D. Rydberg Memorial Award. The principal also presented the American Legion Awards to Brianna Betz and Zaydn Law, and the James D. Hume Citizenship Award went to Axel Ruiz. Previous award recipients included Lumen Setchell and Ava Mahaffey, John Ourth Award; Mallory Beck, Jeanne McKenzie Student-Athlete Award; and Kannon Delao, LaSalle County Board Student Excellence Award.

Beth LeBeau, assistant principal, gave the presentation of the Class of 2025, followed by the granting of certificates of promotion by K. Bradley Cox, su-



Award recipients for the Northbrook Middle School Class of 2025, left to right, are Axel Ruiz, James D. Hume Citizenship Award; Abriana Klein, Reed D. Rydberg Memorial Award; and Brianna Betz and Zaydn Law, American Legion Awards. (Reporter photo)

perintendent, and Theresa Komitas, Board of Education president.

Members of the Class of 2025 are:

Aisaac Arteaga, Candie Arteaga, Mia Arteaga, Rafael Arteaga, Samuel Arteaga, Sebastian Arteaga, Audrina Askin, Madison Baxa, Charles Beaty, Annalee Begera, Mallory Beck, Brianna Betz, Lila Bielema, Conner Bloomfield, Kylee Bonnell, Jacqueline Bryson; Lilliana Bucio, Bella Bute, Hunter Cagle, Brayden Calderon, Ember Castaneda, Jefferson Castro, Analee Castor-Villasenor, Hayden

Cedillo, Arian Chavez, Pryar Christmann, Parker Cole, Sergio Correa, Kyle Cox-Martinez, Jaxen Daley, Leighton Davis, Aliya Delao; Kannon Delao, Gabriela Diaz, Gina Diaz, Eliana Eames, Isaac Espinoza, Aiden Fisher, Evangeline Flores, Elizabeth Francis, Jeniah Francis, Bradley Fultz, Ari Gambrel, Aleeya Garcia, Illan Garcia, Kaitlyn Giberson, Giana Godina, Valeria Gomez; Vania Gomez, Felipe Gonzalez, Giovani Goy,

See Northbrook, Page A5



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# LOCAL AND AREA



**Storm Chasers visit 4-H**  
4-H Federation clubs from Bureau, LaSalle, and Marshall-Putnam counties sponsored the dynamic Illinois Storm Chasers weather presentation for students throughout each county. Students packed the gym at IVCC to learn about tornado formation, emergency weather warnings, lightning and electricity transference, and a live cloud formation. The activities focused on many 4-H project opportunities related to weather, energy, and electricity. To learn more about LaSalle County 4-H opportunities, call University of Illinois Extension, LaSalle County 815-433-0707, or email Toni Pienta at [fusinatt@illinois.edu](mailto:fusinatt@illinois.edu). (Photo contributed)

## What are your summer plans?

## Graves-Humes is jazzing up June 3 as Dr. John Cooper shares New Orleans, Chicago Era jazz

MENDOTA – Traditional jazz is timeless, and its appeal can span generations.  
Dr. John Cooper celebrates jazz as an American treasure through his presentation, Illinois Road Scholar Presents: Traditional Jazz: A Historical Perspective of Early Jazz



Kishwaukee College Registered Nursing graduates were honored at Kish's Spring 2025 Nursing Pinning Ceremony. Graduates were presented with a pin before family and friends during the ceremony, which recognized the successful completion of the program. (Photo contributed)

## Kish College recognizes 24 nursing students at Spring 2025 Pinning Ceremony

MALTA—Kishwaukee College nursing students were honored during a pinning ceremony on May 14 at the College. Kish recognized 24 students for completing the Registered Nursing program and presented each graduate with a special pin before family and friends during the ceremony.

The Registered Nursing graduates of Spring 2025 are Madolyn Bellah, Nicole Braasch, Keyle Brown, Foluke Esan, Amanda Gamauf, Leticia Garcia, Brent Gross, Xzaria Hansbrough, Leslie Hernandez, Melissa Huneke, Jasmine Kemp, Destiny Kennedy, Tasha Kimble, Michele Lidren, Kylie Mapes, Tyniya Patterson, Jacob Pierce, Alicia Salgado, Emily Stewart, Carly Summers, Abigail Taylor, Krystal Torres, Morgan Tuttle and Morgan Widick.

Brown, Esan, Gross, Hernandez, Kimble, Lidren, Mapes, Stewart, Summers, Taylor and Torres were recognized as Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honors Society members. Keyle Brown was named the Spring 2025 Outstanding Student. In her address, Brown acknowledged the perseverance of her graduating class.

"I want to acknowledge the sacrifice and determination it took to reach this point," Brown said. "These past two years, though demanding, have been deeply

rewarding. The growth, the connections, the support — we will carry it all forward. No matter where we go from here, we have earned our place in this field."

The ceremony included an address from Barbara Leach, Vice President of Instruction, and Angela Delmont, Director of Nursing. Delmont shared the significance of pinning ceremonies as the graduates take the next step in their college or career journeys.

"As the Director of Nursing, I am filled with a sense of pride and admiration for each of you sitting here tonight," Delmont said. "The pinning ceremony marks a significant milestone in your journey. It's not just a celebration of your academic accomplishments, but a testament to your passion to serve, your resilience in facing challenges, and your readiness to step into the noble profession of nursing."

During the ceremony, each graduate was pinned by a friend or family member who supported the student or acted as a mentor while completing the program.

The Registered Nursing program at Kishwaukee College prepares students to become fully licensed registered nurses in Illinois. Learn more about Kish's Registered Nursing program at [kish.edu/nursing](http://kish.edu/nursing).

from the New Orleans and Chicago Era at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 3 at the Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota. Cooper will engage listeners through playing literature common to the New Orleans Era of jazz.

The musician is currently faculty emeritus from

Western Illinois University having spent nearly 30 years teaching jazz at the university level. Cooper's goal is to promote and provide a greater understanding and appreciation for traditional jazz for Illinois audiences of all ages.

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# LOCAL AND AREA



**Blackstone Principal Award**  
Blackstone School Principal Award winners were honored with a pizza lunch. Front row, left to right, are Damian Evans-See, Sasha Harzheim, Amelia Albright, Ella Quijas and Leon Breitbarth. Middle row, Zoey Hensley, Gus Eich, Emmanuel Esparza, Samantha Reveles and Aria Darling. Back row, Kaedyn Landers, Colton Longmire, Carter Shirley, Robert Havenar, Aylani Wallace and Cash Gliatta. (Photo contributed)

## Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Thank you to all of the parents of incoming kindergarten students who attended our registration night on May 19. Parents were able to complete the registration process. The families were also able to meet the kindergarten teachers and take a walk around the school. If parents were unable to attend this event, please call our office at 539-6888 as soon as possible so we can help you finish registration for your child for kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year.

We had some visitors at Blackstone on May 19. The preschool students from Northbrook that will be coming to kindergarten next year had the opportunity to visit Blackstone. The students took a tour, visited kindergarten classrooms and got to play on the playground. Thank you to the Northbrook preschool staff for bringing the students to visit.

The first grade students were able to visit Lincoln School on May 22 in preparation for their transition to a new school next year. Thank you to the Lincoln staff and the second grade teachers for welcoming us to visit. It was nice for our students to meet staff, take a tour of the school and talk with current second graders

about their experience at Lincoln School. I'm sad to see our first graders leave us next year, but I know they're ready for second grade!

Congratulations to the May KIND KID winners at Blackstone. The students who won the award this month are Jaxson Krisch, Lorenzo Sanchez, Camden Weber, Magaly Lopez, Oliver Lauer, Noah Perez, Ryann Leavy, Armani Aguilar, Diana Suarez, Aaliyah Sester, Amelia Trumper and Leo Figueroa. We are so proud of all of our kind students at Blackstone.

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Myles Wheeler, Amelia Rosales, Paisley Nagy, Elianna Valdes, Romi Dominguez, Maybell Godinez, William Bautista, Asher Yarbrough and Leo Figueroa. The winners were Carter Shirley, Leon Breitbarth and Zoey Hensley. Congratulations to all of you!

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to donate chips or drinks for our end of year picnic. We had a great response and had so many people volunteer to help right away. We appreciate the support for this fun day for our students!

## Arukah announces two new locations to expand rural mental health care

PRINCETON — Arukah Institute of Healing has announced the acquisition of two new buildings to expand and enhance mental health and substance use services throughout the region — 526 Bureau Valley Parkway in Princeton (formerly Perry Plaza) and 4211 N. Columbus St. in Ottawa (formerly the LaSalle County Farm Bureau) will serve as new hubs for integrated care and support.

“These new spaces move us closer to Arukah’s mission: Accessible. Relational. Holistic. Rural Care,” said Dr. Sarah B. Scruggs, founder and CEO. “We’re committed to delivering compassionate, local mental health and substance use care — for anyone, anywhere, anytime.”

The Princeton location will house two major initiatives:

- Workforce Training Center — A professional, state-of-the-art training hub serving students from high school through

doctoral levels. The center addresses a significant shortage in healthcare professionals, as the region has 2.5 times fewer mental and primary care providers than the national average. The facility aims to strengthen the rural workforce through training on rural soil, creating a stronger local economy and better care outcomes.

- Integrated Behavioral Health Center — A comprehensive walk-in treatment and recovery center designed to overcome common barriers like stigma and transportation. It brings together multiple layers of care, offering best-practice services that improve patient outcomes and provide a stronger support network for individuals and families.

The new Ottawa location will become a dedicated Child and Family Center. It will provide enhanced access to behavioral health services for children, parents, and families

in the region. The center will offer a trusted space where families can seek care together and will also improve the Ottawa Living Room walk-in program. Over time, Arukah plans to expand psychiatric, counseling, crisis, and substance use services to meet the growing needs of the community.

“Arukah’s expansion into Ottawa couldn’t come at a better time,” said Brent Roalson, former Ottawa chief of police and current Arukah board member. “I’ve seen firsthand how much this work matters — not just for individuals, but for families, schools and public safety. These new services will have a lasting, positive impact on our entire community.”

“Arukah won’t stop until every person can access the care they need,” Dr. Scruggs added. “This is life-changing, life-saving work.”

## OSF HealthCare pharmacies earn ASHP Center of excellence designation

PEORIA — OSF HealthCare has become the first mid-to-large size integrated health system in the United States to earn the prestigious ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists) Certified Center of Excellence™ in Medication-Use Safety and Pharmacy Practice designation.

The certification process is used by health care organizations in the United States to accurately assess their level of performance in relation to established standards and to implement ways to continuously improve. Pharmacies which achieve this ASHP certification demonstrate the highest levels of pharmacy practice, medication safety, and pharmacy patient care services.

OSF earned the designation for 16 hospitals, six community pharmacies, one specialty pharmacy, one

home infusion pharmacy, one ePharmacy, and the integrated distribution center.

“OSF Healthcare Pharmacy Services has worked over the last eight years to innovate and elevate pharmacy care to deliver consistent safe, quality, cost-effective care so that all the communities we serve have access to the same standard of care. We tested our model and outcomes with external feedback from the single national certification body for such rigor. Delivery of high-quality care to our patients is a strong motivator for our OSF pharmacy Mission Partners (employees),” said Sandra Salverson, Senior Vice President Pharmacy Services, OSF HealthCare. “While it is common for tertiary academic medical centers to achieve such certification, it is important to additionally demonstrate

and validate excellence can be delivered in rural communities, community hospitals, and through novel models of care delivery such as our ePharmacy. This certification confirms the quality OSF pharmacy services offer and provides external peer feedback for on-going professional growth and innovation. All of this aligns with the Mission and values of OSF HealthCare.”

Becoming an ASHP Certified Center of Excellence™ in Medication-Use Safety and Pharmacy Practice allows organizations to differentiate themselves from others and demonstrates the following:

- Reflects use of contemporary best practices for hospital and health-system pharmacy practice
- Demonstrates commitment to excellence, continuous quality improvement,

and practice advancement

- Provides evidence of current, innovative pharmacy services leading to high quality care and improved

patient outcomes

- Validates pharmacy services externally through rigorous certification process

- Enhances credibility and value of pharmacy services to physicians, nurses, healthcare leaders, policy makers

## Master Gardeners conduct workshop on houseplant propagation

OGLESBY — The University of Illinois Master Gardener Program recently hosted an informative and engaging workshop on houseplant propagation at the Oglesby Public Library. The event, led by Master Gardener Cathy Flynn alongside Master Gardener Coordinator Bettyann Harrison, offered participants the opportunity to explore methods for creating new plants at no cost.

During the session, attendees learned about several propagation techniques, including stem, cane, leaf, and leaf bud cuttings. Additionally, the program covered plant division and rooting hormones to encourage successful growth. Each participant was given the opportunity to select a cutting, prepare it, and take home a new plant start. With these skills, participants gained the knowledge necessary to propagate a wide variety of

houseplants and expand their indoor gardens.

“We’re thrilled to share these propagation techniques with our community,” said Bettyann Harrison, Master Gardener/Master Naturalist Coordinator. “Houseplant propagation is not only a cost-effective way to grow new plants, but it also connects people to the joy of gardening and sustainability.”

The University of Illinois Master Gardener Program continues to offer educational opportunities for plant enthusiasts of all skill levels. Upcoming workshops will explore additional gardening topics, furthering the program’s mission to educate and support local gardeners.

To learn more about the Master Gardener program, call University of Illinois Extension at 309-364-2356 or email Bettyann Harrison at [bettyann@illinois.edu](mailto:bettyann@illinois.edu).

## Olivia, Liam once again the top baby names in America

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Olivia and Liam are once again America’s most popular baby names of the year 2024. It marks the sixth consecutive year that families chose to stick with both familiar names. Also, for the sixth consecutive year, Emma took the second slot for girls, and Noah for boys. The girls’ name Luna has dropped from its spot among the Top 10, replaced by Sofia, which enters at number 10 for the first time.

The top 10 boys’ names

for 2024 are: Liam, Noah, Oliver, Theodore, James, Henry, Mateo, Elijah, Lucas, William.

The top 10 girls’ names for 2024 are: Olivia, Emma, Amelia, Charlotte, Mia, Sophia, Isabella, Evelyn, Ava, Sofia.

Every year, Social Security celebrates Mother’s Day by announcing the 1,000 most popular baby names. For the full list, visit [www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames](http://www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames).

Most parents apply for their child’s Social Security

number (SSN) at birth, during their hospital stay. Commissioner Bisignano encourages families to take this vital step in ensuring valuable protection for any benefits their children may be eligible for in the future.

An SSN is needed to claim a child as a dependent for income tax purposes or to open a bank account in the child’s name and buy savings bonds. More information on getting a child’s SSN and card is provided in Social Security Numbers for Children.

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# Frederick Burnette

Memorials may be directed to Illinois Valley Animal Rescue (IVAR). Condolences may be left at [wasmerfuneralhome.com](http://wasmerfuneralhome.com)



In December, federal officials at the North American Electric Reliability Corporation—the nonprofit oversight agency for grid operators—designated the

Downtown Illinois' grid might run out of energy reserves as soon as 2034, per NERC. Northern Illinois' grid has more reserves but will face decreased levels throughout the next decade. If nothing is done to either reduce demand or increase supply, this means prices

The process could have become more complicated, some suggest, after the U.S. House passed a wide-ranging bill that could drastically alter federal energy incentives if it becomes law.

PJM Interconnection, the grid operator for northern Illinois, saw a roughly eight-fold jump in its most recent capacity auction compared to the year prior. Downstate's energy grid, Midcontinent Independent System Operator or MISO, saw more than a

Environmental groups clashed with business and labor over a provision meant to lower the energy burden brought by data centers. That proposal would require large energy consumers to build their own energy generation through renewable sources like wind or solar power or pay the state to do so.

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## DEATH NOTICES

**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](mailto:editor@mendotareporter.com).


## City Ordinance

### Grass clippings,

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

Penalty: Any person vi

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



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# Where is it... in Mendota?

## HOW TO ENTER:

If you know where this scene is located in Mendota, write the answer briefly and concisely on a slip of paper and drop it off or mail it to The Mendota Reporter Office. All entries must be received no later than noon on Monday. One correct answer will be drawn each week. Prizes must be picked up at the Mendota Reporter Office.

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Dist. 280 Board OKs Student Handbook changes; sets 2025-26 calendar

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School Board of Education met on May 19 for its regular meeting.

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

During the Principal’s Report, Joe Masini introduced Assistant Principal, Nicole Cromwell to report on the 2025-2026 Student Handbook. Cromwell thanked the Student Handbook Committee for its feedback and presented the proposed changes. A few of the changes included academic integrity and a new section on artificial intelligence. Graduation updates were also presented to update the removal of Driver Education

as a graduation requirement and the addition of FAFSA completion for a high school diploma. Finally, students are requested to register their vehicles parked in the school parking lot through Teacher Ease or paper form. The board discussed and approved the proposed changes.

Masini presented coaching recommendations from the Athletic Committee and summer worker recommendations. The board reviewed and approved the hiring of the following: head wrestling coach, Brent Montavon; head basketball cheerleading coach, Sydnee

Wright; and assistant football coach, Nick Crotty.

Jennifer Watson was hired as an adult summer worker.

Masini gave congratulations to the Class of 2025 on their successful graduation and to girls’ track athletes qualifying for state, Mariyah Elam and Rylee Woods.

**DISTRICT/BUSINESS REPORT**

Superintendent Denise Aughenbaugh provided the District/Business Report.

The board reviewed the first reading of the fiscal year 2025 budget amendment. A public hearing will be scheduled after 30 days of review.

Superintendent Aughenbaugh provided an overview of Press Plus 118 policy updates for the board’s first reading and consideration.

The “2-Sport Athlete” stakeholder meeting was held on May 12, and the group was thanked for attendance and feedback was shared with the board. The board requested another “2-Sport Athlete” meeting be scheduled to gather more participation and feedback. The meeting will be advertised for Monday, June 9 at 6 p.m. The exact location of the meeting at Mendota High School will be released closer to the date due to summer construction. It is very likely the meeting will be held at an outdoor pavilion/classroom.

The board approved the amended calendars for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. The new school year will have teacher institute dates on Aug. 13 and 14, 2025, and students will report to classes on Friday, Aug. 15, 2025. The last emergency date will be June 1, 2026. The earliest possible end date for students without emergency days used will be Friday, May 22, 2026.

**PERSONNEL ITEMS**

Following an executive/closed session, the follow-

ing action was taken by the board:

- Accepted the resignations from Matt Chism and Toni Zimmerman as school bus drivers.
- Accepted the resignation of Alisa Stewart as National Honor Society sponsor and hiring of Angela Priestley as NHS sponsor.

Finally, the board thanked the Nutrition and Culinary Arts classes under the direction of Melissa Stephens for the catering projects at monthly board meetings.

The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board will be Monday, June 16 at 6 p.m.

### Grant

Continued from Page A1

“Investing in safe, modern infrastructure is critical to both quality of life and long-term economic development,” said Senator Li Arellano Jr. (R-Dixon), of the 37th Senate District. “These projects are more than just paths, they’re investments in the future of our communities. I’m proud to see state dollars going directly into projects that improve daily life for residents and connect people to the places they live, work, and learn.”

While the project has been approved, the city must await additional contracting procedures, a formal bidding process, and final engineering design. Construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2026.

This grant is one of several secured by the City of Mendota this year as part of its overall revitalization strategy. “We’re fortunate to have a dedicated team supporting these efforts,” said Mayor Dave Boelk. “These are exciting times for our city and positive changes are coming to our community.”

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, projects were selected based on their construction readiness, connection to existing transportation infrastructure, and economic development potential.

ITEP is a statewide program that funds projects aimed at improving walking and biking infrastructure, enhancing access, safety, and sustainability across Illinois communities.

### Northbrook

Continued from Page A1

Joshua Granados, Emmanuel Guzman, Averie Hazelwood, Devin Hernandez, Kyndra Higgins, Brandon Hughes, Callum Indigo, Eli Kaecker, Abriana Klein, Gage Knight, Christopher Komitas, Zaydn Law’ Yuliza Magallanes;

Ava Mahaffey, Valerie Manz, Analay Martinez, Mikayla McLain, Allison McNutt, Alana Melendez, Elizek Milus, Benjamin Montgomery, Azaria Morris, Kenneth Mullins, Nevaeh Munoz, Jacob Nelson, Elizandro Orozco, Aileen Perez, Armani Perez, Giselle Perez;

Olivia Perryman, Sophia Ramos, Samuel Reyes, Nora Rhynedance, Ivory Rodriguez, Tatjana Ruick, Axel Ruiz, Christopher Salazar-Loera, Gianna Sanchez, Romeo Sanchez, Alexis Saylor, Georgia Schwaegerman, Juliana Seablom, Lumen Setchell, Tyler Springsteen, Myleigh Sproston;

Liam Strait, Samantha Stremmlau, Larnell Sykes, Moxie Taylor, Laurali Thompson, Kailen Thornton, Gavin Tolley, Cindy Valdes, Jonathon Valencia, Camila Vallejo, Emerson VanHorn, Dylan Welch, Brayden Wilhelm, Dane Williams, Maci Winn, Emma Work-Sibley.

## Paw Paw’s Lilja named to SRCCF Board

OTTAWA – The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation recently welcomed two new board members with a history of business success and nonprofit leadership.

Stephen “Steve” Aubry of Ottawa and Susan Lilja of Paw Paw have joined the Foundation’s 16-member board chaired by Tracy Bedeker.

“Susan is a seasoned leader with a passion for community development,” said SRCCF President Fran Brolley. “She brings over three decades of experience



Lilja

in banking, business management, and foundation experience to our board.”

“Steve is a remarkably accomplished businessman, entrepreneur and philanthropist. He brings knowledge of government, economic development and local history.

“The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation is significantly strengthened with these additions,” Brolley said.

As Regional Retail Support Manager for Heartland Bank and Trust Company, Lilja leads team effectiveness for 13 branches. Her career spans multiple industries, including agriculture and finance, and includes senior roles at DEKALB

AG, Tropp and Company, AMCORE Bank, and now Heartland.

Lilja is a former Treasurer for the Mendota Chamber of Commerce, an ambassador for the Sweet Corn Festival, and is currently President of the Parish Finance Council at St. James Church in Lee.

In 2019, she and her family co-founded the CSL Foundation to honor their sister’s memory. CSL partners with the American Farm Bureau to support “Ag in the Classroom.”

Aubry, owner and operator of “1000 Acre Grain Farm,” retired in 2018 as Vice President and General Manager at CIT Trucks LLC and managed the firm’s Peru facility. During his

time with CIT, the company grew from two dealerships to 14. Before joining CIT in 1988, he managed hardware stores in Normal, Pekin and Sarasota, Fla.

Aubry’s civic involvement includes representing District 22 on the LaSalle County Board, as a board member for North Central Illinois Council of Governments, and as the former President of the LaSalle County Historical Society, among other leadership roles.

For information on the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation, visit [srcf.org](http://srcf.org) or contact Director of Operations Janice Corrigan at [janice@srcf.org](mailto:janice@srcf.org) or (815) 252-2906.

## Rep. Fritts announces 2025 Summer Tour dates

DIXON – State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) has announced his 2025 Summer Tour of District 74.

“I am excited to begin my third annual summer tour to speak with constituents,” said Rep. Fritts. “These annual summer tours have become one of my favorite parts of being a State Representative. It allows me to meet with hundreds of constituents and have authentic conversations about their needs and priorities. Being able to assist them with state issues or bringing their ideas back with me to Springfield is what this job is all about.”



Fritts

The tour consists of coffee & conversation events and town halls held on most Wednesdays from June 4 to Aug. 27. Coffee & conversation events will all be held at locally-owned coffee shops and restaurants. Rep. Fritts will also be touring local businesses, attending community events, and more.

Rep. Fritts continued, “I look forward to meeting with as many of my constituents as possible this summer, as I work to better understand the needs of every community in the 74th District.”

Coffee & Conversation Tour events include:

- June 4, 8-10 a.m. – Lincoln Way Café, 137 N. Elm St., Franklin Grove.
- June 11, 8-10 a.m. – Shabbona Café, 114 W. Comanche Ave., Shabbona

- June 16, 8-10 a.m. – Ziggy’s Family Restaurant, 1212 First Ave., Mendota.
- July 2, 8-10 a.m. – Sunset Inn Restaurant, 1578 US 30, Amboy

Town Hall events included:

- June 4, 6-7 p.m. – Clinton Township Community Center, 160 W. Lincoln Highway, Waterman
- June 11, 6-7 p.m. – Leland Village Hall, 285 W. Genesee St., Leland
- June 16, 6-7 p.m. – Compton Village Hall, 766 Illinois 251, Compton
- July 16, 6-7 p.m. – Paw Paw Community Center, 362 Chicago Road, Paw Paw
- Aug. 6, 6-7 p.m. – Earlville Township Building, 1506 U.S. 34, Earlville

To view the full Summer Tour schedule, visit [RepFritts.com/SummerTour](http://RepFritts.com/SummerTour).

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# OPINION



**The Mendota Reporter**

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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.

## Consumers, small businesses will lose if Illinois interchange law takes effect

By **ASHLEY SHARP and BEN JACKSON**

A law called the Interchange Fee Prohibition Act (IFPA) was passed by the Illinois Legislature last spring as part of a last-minute political deal. Now it's set to take effect July 1 and will cause chaos for Illinoisans across the state.

There is a reason it was rushed through the Legislature -- it is a fundamentally flawed proposal that has been rejected in every other state that has considered it across the nation.

The law requires Illinois financial companies to refrain from charging merchants processing fees on the tax and tip portions of debit or credit card payments.

These processing costs, referred to as interchange fees, are business-to-business fees that benefit the consumer and the merchant by ensuring fast, convenient and virtually guaranteed payments for goods and services.

Merchants in recent years have chosen to saddle consumers with these costs, through a service or "convenience" fee that is often double the cost of the actual interchange fee. These annoying merchant fees won't go away under the new law.

Slicing off a portion of the interchange fee sounds simple. Yet the law requires massive changes that undermine the reliability and security of consumer payments. The IFPA also violates federal law, which is why our groups are challenging it in federal court.

Consumers won't benefit from the IFPA. When federal price controls on debit cards were adopted in the 2010s, data showed that consumers did not enjoy the promised cost savings -- big retail simply pocketed the money while consumer benefits disappeared. Debit card rewards, for example, are all but extinct today.

Likewise, Illinois' law will jeopardize consumer benefits like security, convenience, and reward points. Fast, convenient electronic payments will be diminished, leaving consumers with clunky, frustrating retail experiences that might include split payments or declined transactions.

Small businesses will also be victims of this law. A recent study shows that 40 of the largest retailers will soak up nearly 40 percent of the projected savings. Small businesses' savings will be a wash after considering implementation costs in the tens of thousands of dollars.

The IFPA will not save consumers money, and it will not erase those pesky retail "convenience" fees. It will harm local small businesses and financial institutions, and it will jeopardize credit card rewards and protections. Clearly, this law is a bad deal for Illinoisans. The Illinois Legislature should repeal the IFPA before July 1.

*(Ashley Sharp is senior vice president of State Advocacy and Legislative Counsel. Ben Jackson is executive vice president at the Illinois Bankers Association.)*

## Letters

## Mandatory retirement age needed

**Dear Editor:**

We need to amend the Constitution -- via a Convention of States -- to establish a mandatory retirement age of 75 years for all three branches of government. Entrenched political dynasties and forever politicians -- extremely wealthy and far removed from everyday American life -- lose touch (if they ever had it) with the people they claim to represent.

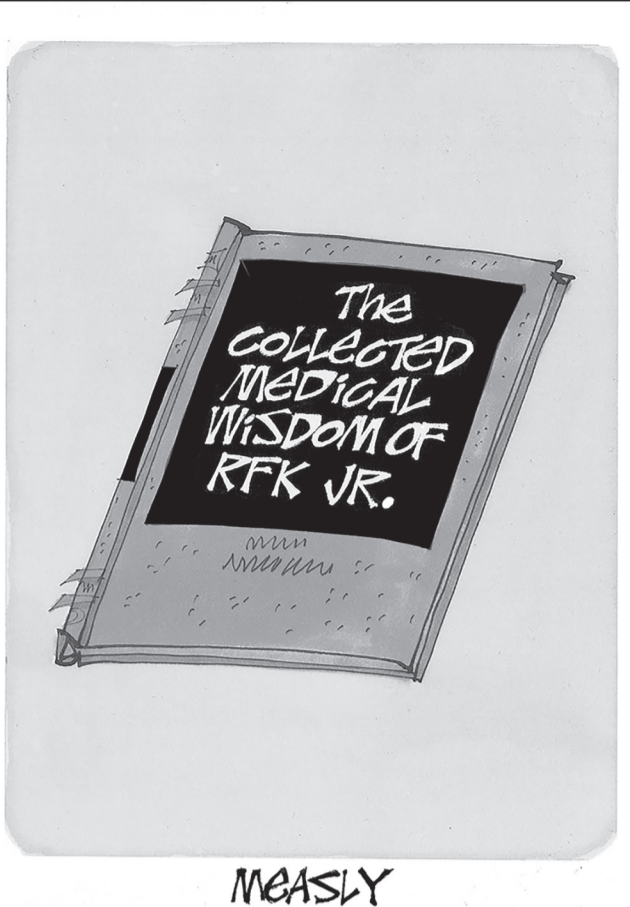
Competition breeds innovation. Leaders closer in age to the average American worker and taxpayer are far more likely to understand the economic, wellness, and social realities that Americans citizens face.

Stale leadership creates stagnation and cynicism. The kind we're drowning in right now.

The Biden administration avoided this conversation in an effort to hold on to power, and it had the exact opposite effect. Let's be honest: President Trump will be 79 on June 14. His Administration won't have an honest conversation about this, either. But we can.

Leadership is not ageless. At some point, physical and cognitive decline come for us all. That's the most real shared reality among us.

**Justin Bend,  
Mendota**



## Farmer's Market launched - 1994

*(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from May 26, 2004.)*

By **Jessica Nashold**

It was 10 years ago that the Retail Association of the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce decided to sponsor a Farmer's Market in Mendota. It would provide an outlet for producers as well as attract more customers for Mendota merchants. The market would occupy one block on Eighth Avenue, between Washington and Sixth streets. It would open at 8 a.m. on May 28, 1994, during Mendota's Sidewalk Sales, and close at 1 p.m. The same hours were apply on Saturday, June 25, 1994, and every Saturday thereafter, during the summer of 1994.

The Conkey family established a memorial award at Mendota Community Hospital. It was to be given to the nurse who had demonstrated the highest concern for and attention to patients during the previous year. On May 13, 1994, the award was presented to Roberta Patterson, at a luncheon, which also honored nurses who had completed service of varying lengths.

**The Conkey Memorial award was \$100.**

Frank Kobilsek, who had represented Mendota on the LaSalle County Solid Waster Committee, resigned his seat when he moved beyond the Mendota city limits, and was no longer an alderman.

**Alderman Rod Campbell was appointed to succeed him.**

On May 12, 1994, Mendota Community Hospital joined three other community hospitals to create a Community Hospital Network. It was intended to circumvent conditions detrimental to rural areas as a result of national health care reform. It was hoped that members of this network would be able to provide health care at reasonable costs by sharing resources. Charter members of the network were Gary Weeks, Mendota Community Hospital, 68 beds; Bob Thebeau, Kishwaukee Community, 75 beds; Larry Slade, Sandwich Community, 50

## Backtracks & Sidetracks

beds; Steve Zamstel, Rochelle Community, 42 beds. At this point in time, Dr. John Prebbaker was on the staff at three of the network hospitals, and was chief of staff at Rochelle Community.

Brother Patrick Cavegia, O.S.B., a monk at Conception, Mo., since 1972, was ordained into the priesthood on May 14, 1994. Bishop Raymond Borland, of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese, presided. Brother Cavegia had been involved with the management of the Printery House, nationally known publishers of Christian greeting cards. He had also served several years as subprior of Conception Abbey. He held a bachelors in philosophy from Conception Seminary College and a master's degree in administration from Notre Dame. He was completing work on a master's in systemic and moral theology at the Aquinas Institute of Technology in St. Louis.

The newly ordained Rev. Patrick Cavegia was scheduled to preside at the 10:30 service in his home parish of Holy Cross, on Pentecost Sunday, May 22, 1994.

**All are welcome.**

Members of the New Life Evangelical Free Church in Meriden dedicated 22 stained glass windows in their house of worship on May 15, 1994. Mike Dixon was pastor. The work was undertaken by Bill Peterson of Rockford when he learned the congregation had purchased the building and wanted to restore its stained glass windows.

**He contributed to a storm window fund to prevent future damage.**

Gov. Jim Edgar proclaimed May 1994 to be Groundwater Protection Month. He wanted to focus attention

on the danger of contamination to rural wells.

**They should be tested routinely.**

National Emergency Service Week was observed May 16-21, 1994. During that week, the REACT helicopter was on display from 6-8 p.m. in the east parking lot at Mendota Community Hospital. Vehicles used in the ambulance service and by fire and police departments were also shown.

**Personnel will answer questions.**

It was announced that changed had been made to the election process for choosing a Tri-County Fair Queen. The 1993 Queen, Jamie Ossman, had been chosen in competition at the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Her successor would be chosen in a competition at the Mendota Civic Center, July 22, 1994.

**Entrants must apply by June 1, 1994.**

Alderman Rod Campbell announced the Mendota swimming pool would open June 5, 1994. Just a few minor repairs needed to be completed.

Betty Snuffin and Barb Weekly, representing Aunt Mary's Yarn Shop, treated ladies of the St. Mary's Altar Society to a program on painting T-shirts. It was held in May 1994.

Among employment opportunities being advertised in May 1994, were openings for detassellers. Youngsters 13 years of age or older could earn an estimated \$55 during the summer.

**No experience required.**

The Del Monte plant needed inspectors and warehouse workers. Applicants had to be at least 18 years of age. Salaries ranged from \$4.50-\$6.18 per hour.

The city of Mendota was accepting bids for cleaning the municipal building during the summer months only. Specifications could be obtained from the city clerk.

**Bids must be received by May 22, 1994.**

## Introducing the Trump Doctrine

By **Rich Lowry**

President Donald Trump gave an important speech in Riyadh that may come as close to outlining a "Trump doctrine" as we'll probably see. It was a direct counterpoint to George W. Bush's second inaugural address. The simplistic way to put it is that what liberty was for Bush, money is to Donald Trump.

That's not quite right, though. The speech had values, they just weren't typical values -- accountable government, human dignity -- but simply prosperity and peace. If Bush wanted to spread freedom, Trump wants to spread gleaming high-rise buildings.

He hailed the rise in the Gulf of a Middle East "defined by commerce, not chaos, where it exports technology, not terrorism, and where people of different nations, religions and creeds are building cities together."

Notably, there is no liberty in this affirming sentence -- it's all economic activity. The speech was very critical of Iran, but his critique was that it isn't constructing anything. Instead, its landmarks "are collapsing into rubble and dust."

Trump's speech wasn't isolationist, or alien to American traditions. The address ran in the slipstream of the Hamiltonian tradition as famously outlined by Walter Russell Mead, with its emphasis on the role of commerce in foreign affairs. And there was, as always, a Jacksonian element, as Trump spoke of smiting America's enemies. There was, however, no Wilsonianism. In a passage that got attention, Trump rapped neocons and liberal nonprofits for trying, but failing, to develop the Middle East because they didn't know or respect the culture of the region.

There is merit in this charge. We had no idea what we were getting into in Iraq and Afghanistan, while George W. Bush's vision for the spread of democracy systematically failed to account for the influence of culture, and for the centrality of order to liberty and other social goods.

That said, both Afghanistan and Iraq were originally conceived as wars of self-defense in the wake of a terror attack that shook America to its core. It's also unpersuasive

to hold up the Gulf states as a counterexample of development -- anyone can run an emirate sitting atop gobs of oil and living under the U.S. security umbrella.

Trump's vision is actually as universalist as Bush's; Bush believed every country could become a democracy, and Trump believes that every country can prosper.

Iran can be "a wonderful, safe, great country, but they cannot have a nuclear weapon." Lebanon, too, can embrace "a future of economic development and peace." He'll reach out to anyone and bring them into this charmed circle of commerce and comity. "As I've shown repeatedly," he said, "I am willing to end past conflicts and forge new partnerships."

For Trump, it's the results that matter -- the prosperity and peace -- not how a given government achieves them. That's none of our business. "I believe it is God's job to sit in judgment," he pronounced. Trump's job is to promote "stability, prosperity and peace."

In sum, the speech was a deal-maker's realpolitik, or a doctrine that we won't really have a doctrine except for trying to get everyone rich and to get along with as many people as possible.

The address was certainly bracing. But values do matter. Liberal societies are, as a general matter, more reliably our friends, and more reliably achieve prosperity. If Bush's vision advanced an unrealistic view of what motivates mankind -- all yearning for liberty, no yearning for power or revenge -- Trump drastically simplifies human motivation in his own way. As history has shown, people will fight and die for faiths and ideologies when these have nothing to do with prosperity, or actively destroy it.

Also, it should be said that standing for democratic ideals is an enormous part of America's appeal around the world, and if we get into a competition with China purely over who is richer and can cut more deals, we are kicking away a major advantage. That's likely an insight for another president, though. Trump has his doctrine.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*  
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## LaSalle County Board

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

# LOCAL AND AREA

## Financial Literacy books donated to public libraries

SPRINGFIELD – Recognizing Financial Literacy Month in April, Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias celebrated with a generous donation of books that teach children about the value of financial literacy, which every Illinois public library received.

As part of its charitable endeavors, Walmart donated 1,500 copies of Mellody Hobson’s ‘Priceless Facts about Money’ to over 750 public library branches across Illinois.

An Illinois native, Hobson is the Co-CEO & President of Ariel Investments, a global value-oriented asset management firm founded in 1983 in Chicago. Hobson is a leader in corporate boardrooms, as former chairman of Starbucks Corporation and a current director of JPMorgan Chase. She was listed

among Forbes Magazine’s 100 most powerful women in the world.

Written for children, Hobson’s book illustrates with entertaining stories and facts how money works and introduces readers to fundamental principles of financial literacy and money management.

The Illinois Literacy Foundation, through the Illinois Secretary of State’s office received the books from Walmart and distribution of the books has been facilitated by the Illinois State Library.

“Mellody Hobson is one of the brightest financial minds of our generation and now children across Illinois can enjoy her book and learn valuable financial lessons at their local library,” said Giannoulias who serves as State Librarian. “We appreciate Walmart’s generous gift and

its effort to enhance financial literacy opportunities for our youth.”

“My life’s passion has been to teach our nation about the importance of financial literacy as an integral part of children’s education. My hope is that this book demystifies money for kids of all ages and helps the ‘grown-ups’ that love them,” said Hobson. “I am grateful to Secretary Giannoulias and Walmart for supporting a brighter, financially healthier future for the next generation.”

“Financial literacy is a life-changing skill that opens doors to opportunity. Mellody Hobson is a barrier-breaking pioneer in the world of finance, who through her book, ‘Priceless Facts About Money’, demystifies money and financial planning for kids and adults,”

said Walmart Regional Manager Adonis Clark. “This collaboration with Secretary of State Giannoulias and the Illinois Public Libraries, to ensure copies of Mellody’s best-selling book are available in every library across the state, is an example of the many ways Walmart is advancing financial literacy. We believe offering financial tools —like Mellody’s book—will empower people to live their best lives.”

Illinois Literacy Foundation (ILF) promotes literacy awareness and supports literacy programs throughout the state to benefit all residents of Illinois. The ILF supports an ecosystem of more than 100 literacy service providers, 640 public library systems and 852 public school districts to serve over 12.5 million Illinois residents.

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*We hold you in our  
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**Your loving family**

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June 20, 1921 - Nov. 26, 2005

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

**Your loving family**

**EDMUND CHARLES ROBINSON SR.**

Dec. 18, 1922 - March 6, 1990

*Thank you for the wonderful days we  
shared together. My prayers will be with  
you until we meet again.*

**Your loving family**

**HOWARD IRVING EAMES**

June 7, 1918 - Dec. 21, 2006

*The days may come and go,  
but the times we shared will always remain.*

**Your loving family**

**JOHN ELMER HENRY**

April 25, 1890 - Feb. 25, 1965

*Forever missed, never forgotten.  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

**Your loving family**

**JERRY SHANNON**

July 4, 1927 - Nov. 23, 2020

*May God’s angels guide you  
and protect you throughout time.*

**From your loving family**

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shared together. My prayers will be with  
you until we meet again.*

**Your loving family**

**ROSIE SHANNON**

July 1, 1928 - Aug. 19, 2012

*May God cradle you in His arms,  
now and forever.*

**From your loving family**

**NELLIE MAE HENRY**

July 5, 1896 - May 15, 1984

*Forever missed, never forgotten.  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

**Your loving family**

**NANCY SCHIEFELBEIN**

Nov. 16, 1936 - Oct. 9, 2017

*Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together  
My prayers will be with you until we meet again.*

**David Schiefelbein**

**SHERRY CATHERINE  
BIERWIRTH VEITH**

Aug. 12, 1956 - May 16, 1997

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

**Your loving family**

# LOCAL AND AREA

## H. Bomstad named president of OSF Saint Clare & Saint Paul

MENDOTA – Heather Bomstad, MSN, RN, has been named president, OSF HealthCare Saint Clare Medical Center and OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center. Her new position was effective May 25.



Bomstad

In her new position, Bomstad will lead OSF Saint Clare in Princeton and OSF Saint Paul in Mendota in aligning with the overall strategy of OSF HealthCare. She will be responsible for directing all internal operations while continuing to ensure that high quality and cost-effective health care is delivered to OSF patients which it is blessed to serve. Bomstad will carry forward a culture

of collaboration and integration that provides a safe Mission Partner and patient care environment.

“We are excited that Heather has accepted this tremendous opportunity,” said Dawn Trompeter, associate region chief executive officer, OSF Western Region, and president of OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Peru and Ottawa. “Heather’s leadership skills, knowledge, compassion and experience made her the right person to help lead our regional model of care.”

Bomstad most recently served as vice president and chief nursing officer for OSF Saint Elizabeth and OSF Saint Paul since 2018. In January of this year, she also began serving as interim vice president and chief nursing officer for OSF Saint Clare. She joined

OSF in 1997 and has held clinical and leadership roles throughout her career.

“I am beyond thrilled to accept the position of President for both Saint Paul and Saint Clare,” said Bomstad. “Over the years as chief nursing officer, I’ve grown as a leader and as a listener. I’ve learned to navigate complexity with compassion and clarity. Health care is rapidly changing, and with that change comes both challenge and opportunity. I am committed to supporting our teams through this transformation, ensuring we remain grounded in our Mission while embracing innovation and change.”

Bomstad earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing. She went on to earn a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix.



Heather Bomstad, left, vice president and chief nursing officer, and Dawn Trompeter, right, president, congratulate Marisa Kibble upon receiving the 2025 Conkey Award at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center. (Photo contributed)

## Conkey Family Award bestowed to M. Kibble at OSF Saint Paul

MENDOTA – The recipient of the 44th Annual Conkey Family Award was announced on May 12 at OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center as part of National Health Care Week. This year’s honoree is Marisa Kibble, a dedicated senior financial analyst.

A Mission Partner for nearly 20 years, Kibble lives in rural Dixon and was nominated by a colleague for her compassion, quiet leadership, and perseverance. Her impact extends far beyond her professional

responsibilities. Since 2019, when she accepted responsibility for the OSF Saint Paul Community Garden, Kibble has led every aspect of its success, coordinating volunteers, planting, weeding, harvesting, cleaning, and delivering produce, often outside of work hours, all while continuing to fulfill her job duties and care for her family.

Under her leadership, the garden now yields more than 1,000 pounds of fresh produce each season, all of which is donated to the local

food pantry to support individuals and families facing food insecurity.

The Conkey Family Award was established to honor Mission Partners whose actions reflect the values of the OSF Mission. Kibble’s selfless dedication truly embodies the spirit of this award and the legacy of the Sisters who serve with the greatest care and love. Established in 1982, the award has recognized exemplary service annually since its first presentation in 1983.

## Pawpaw Fest returning to Paw Paw in ‘25

PAW PAW – The second annual Pawpawfest in Paw Paw, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Veteran’s Memorial Park, hosted by the Paw Paw Lions.

This year’s festival will be bigger and better than the inaugural event with more trees and fruit for sale, more food trucks, a beer garden (with a pawpaw beer), live

music, and a 5K run to kick off the day.

Back from last year will be the biggest pawpaw weigh-in, informative speakers, kids’ events, and tram tours of local pawpaw trees.

Like the new Facebook page Pawpawfest in Paw Paw IL to keep up to date on the latest news and visit their website pawpawfest.org to find full details on the event.

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MAY 31

ILLINOIS VALLEY SHOWDOWN

MARS WIKICAMP

JUN 21

THE BUCKING BULLS

STANLEY ROCK HORSE

JUL 3

SHOOTBOX 40

NATIONALS

HUGE FIREWORKS SHOW

AUG 15-17

SRN

STANLEY ROCK HORSE

AUG 23

BILL WATERS Memorial

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SEP 13

MONSTER TRUCK BASH

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# THE BACK PAGE

## GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

**ENORMOUS 10-FAMILY GARAGE SALE**  
**2004 Diana Drive, Mendota**  
**June 5-6, 8 a.m.**  
**Household items, toys, clothing, electronics.**

1t22r



## Burn Ordinance

MENDOTA – It is unlawful to burn any materials other than small and dried quantities of branches, leaves, weeds or grass at any time. The burning of any material such as rubber, tires, leather, tar paper, old batteries or any material that emits an offensive odor when burned is unlawful within the city limits of Mendota.

Limited amounts of yard waste material may be burned provided the material is dry and does not create an offensive odor, nuisance or fire hazard due to excessive high winds. Combustible yard waste material may be kindled from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only. All fires must be constantly tended by a competent person, until such fire is properly extinguished. The continued smoldering of slow-burning combustible yard waste after 4 p.m. is a nuisance and anyone kindling such a fire that will emit obnoxious odors after 4 p.m. will be considered performing an unlawful act. Burning on Sunday by commercial establishments shall be considered an unlawful act.

## POLICE BLOTTER

**DOMESTIC BATTERY**  
 Richard E. Johnson, 63, of 1101 Third St., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to the 1100 block of Third Street for a disturbance at 1:10 p.m. May 20. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

**DUI**  
 Robert C. Rutledge, 60, of 100 S. First Ave., Lot 10, Mendota, was charged with driving under the influence

after a traffic stop at First Street and Third Avenue at 8:55 p.m. May 22. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
 Jennifer L. Watson, 49, of Yorkville, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Gilman Avenue at 12:03 p.m. May 26. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### Permission needed for dumpster on street

MENDOTA – All dumpsters needing to be placed on Mendota city streets are required to be cleared with Nick Stremlau of the streets, parks and public property departments. Please call 815-539-7287 for approval before placing dumpsters on city streets.

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## Hazardous waste disposal site in Rockford

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

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

Illinois residents can dispose of common household hazardous waste items. Commonly generated wastes include: aerosols,

corrosives, oxidizers, solvents, oil-based paints, waste oil, pesticides, fertilizers, batteries (no alkaline), and fluorescent lamps. Also, thermostats, thermometers, gauges manometers, barometers, vacuum gauges, mercury switches in children's light-up sneakers. All liquid wastes are required to be in containers of no more than five gallons.

Latex paint is not accepted.

There is no cost for dropping off household hazardous waste items for Illinois residents.

**STEAK Fry**  
 FUNDRAISER

Join us for a Steak Fry Dinner Fundraiser to help raise funds for the Mendota Jr Tackle Football Program.

**FRIDAY**  
**May 30, 2025**  
 at Mendota Elks Lodge  
 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**\$30** *Dinner includes: 12oz Ribeye, Baked Potato, & A Slice of Texas Toast*

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Bar will be open for drinks. Tables will be setup for Dine In. 50/50 Tickets will be sold.

Scan the QR Code to RSVP or call 815-538-3557

# GARAGE SALE TIME!



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

- 1. WHAT TO SELL**  
 Anything that still has usability and some value.
- 2. HOW TO PRICE**  
 Decide the price of each item and then tag that item.
- 3. LENGTH OF SALE**  
 Sales from Thursday through Saturday seem best.
- 4. HOW TO SET IT UP**  
 Make it easy for buyers to view the items and have a central place with sufficient change for them to pay.
- 5. HOW TO ADVERTISE**  
 The most effective place to reach more people is in The Mendota Reporter. We will be happy to assist you in placing your sale ad.

**GARAGE SALE DEADLINES\***

**MONDAY, 10 AM -**  
**To appear in Wednesday's Reporter**

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



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

# SPORTS

## Why do good things have to end?

Life is full of hiccups. Actual, literal hiccups where you're using a paper bag, holding your breath, and tapping your chest to try to get them to go away.

The figurative hiccups where a certain scenario or event isn't going your way. Someone says a comment



### Not the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance

as smooth as sandpaper, a package is lost in the mail, a bug gets stuck inside your TV screen, a hole in your favorite pair of socks, a dog you call an ankle biter really does bite, a co-worker who travels with you for work gets in your car with a dirty jacket and leaves your passenger seat dustier than a baseball infield in Illinois, mold on the last hoagie bun when you're ready to make a delicious sandwich or the team you picked to win Game 3 of the NBA Eastern Conference Finals, Indiana Pacers, gives up a 20-point lead to prevent a 3-0 series advantage when you're going to Game 4 and were anxiously anticipating being present for the series closer.

If you couldn't tell, all of these happened to me in the last two days.

Through the non-physical hiccups, there are many remedies depending on who you ask.

There is music, movies, TV, food, physical activity, sleep, spending time with loved ones, playing a video game, reading a book, podcasts, traveling, driving around the town square, shopping and...you get the point.

I've probably used every single one of these, but my go-to, ever since I knew what they were, is sports, in all varieties.

I played, I've coached, I do cover them for newspapers, radio and Edge of Your Seat Podcast and I also officiate five sports.

But my hiccup remedy involving sports began with TV.

I remember being super mad at my sister the day of the 1995 Super Bowl. I was 10 and she was 7, and the anger didn't go away until I was watching the game. There are many other examples I could list, but to avoid this column being 25 pages long, I'll get to why I'm writing this.

Through high school and all of its drama with fake friends, ruined relations with girlfriends, not being picked first for your real friend's dodgeball team (still drawing the line if this person was a friend or a faker) and college with some of the same issues as high school while adding becoming an adult with a long list of responsibilities, ESPN became my safe haven.

In particular, Around the Horn.

It was more than a highlight show. It was more than numbers. It was more than words.

It was a show where people could have real opinions and express them to others who may have a different opinion, and they'd settle it or debate it in an articulate, wise, entertaining, comedic fashion.

It mixed and mingled sports storylines of our favorite players and coaches with actual journalists who could break down numbers if they really wanted or needed to, while bringing in human elements such as emotion, anticipation, passion, criticism and strategy for discussion.

Host Tony Reali, called "Stat Boy" by Pardon the Interruption's Tony Kornheiser, who seemed like he drank four Monsters before the show started, was a little of all of the adjectives I used before as he was funny, interesting, witty, and questioned, tested each of the four panelists, the journalists, on every episode.

It was the epitome of what someone like me - going to college for journalism, a die heart sports guy, had the gift of gab and could debate with the best of them about anything - would dive into when it seemed like every other aspect of life was off its axis or could never be right.

Sitting down for 30 minutes every day to watch Around the Horn was always right.

As I graduated and got older, and technology had the advancement of podcasts, I didn't watch the show anymore, I listened to it. I can't remember the exact year I began listening to it on Spotify, but it has to be either 2015 or 2016, as I scan life events I can time stamp parts of life with.

Since then, I've never missed a show. I may not have listened to it on the exact day, but by Sunday, I listen to the Monday through Friday offerings.

In March, two months ago, it was announced Around the Horn was being canceled after 23 years on TV. When I first heard it, I thought, 'Well, all good things have to come to an end.'

Then I thought, 'Why, why do good things have to come to an end?'

The long list of hiccups never ends. They come in different shapes and sizes and continue to make us squirm, yell, turn red, drink more, or cry.

Why can't the aspects of life we enjoy always exist, just like the hiccups? Sure, they could come in other forms, like hiccups, but they're never the same. Once you like something, you like it, not the copy or the replacement.

I watched the last episode of Around the Horn on Friday, May 28 and then listened to it the next day on my way to get the dirty jacket. I tried to laugh as much as I could, get the most out of it, and remembered the moments in life Around the Horn helped me get through.

It sounds crazy (I called myself nuts), but I feel like I'm losing a set of best friends as Reali, Woody Page, J.A. Adande, Tom Cowlishaw (who went through sobriety on the show), Bill Plaschke, Kevin Blackstone, Jay Mariotti (before he got in trouble), Jemele Hill, and so many more, will no longer be talking to me every day.

I learned depths of sports and its figures I didn't previously know, I picked up debating techniques, the importance of stats, not too many numbers are too much, how to be funny and sarcastic instead of sarcastic and funny, and when enough is enough and it's time to move on.

I'll proceed to move forward, but not before saying thank you and sharing appreciation for a show, which helped me become a newspaper and magazine writer, a podcast host, a radio broadcaster and a more sensible, understanding person who can express it with emotion, passion, and comedy.

Thank you, Around the Horn, for being my favorite hiccup remover.

## Elam nabs 2nd in state high jump

□ Mendota High School sophomore finishes in 10th place in triple jump

CHARLESTON - Only one girl had a better high jump than Mendota's Mariyah Elam after all of the sectionals in the state, and it was the girl that bested her in the Sterling Sectional on May 14.

So, heading into the IHSA Class 2A State Track & Field Meet, Elam was not only trying to defend her state high jump title of a year ago, but also get revenge on Katie Kostro of Aurora Rosary for topping her in the sectional.

Unfortunately for Elam, the placement at state didn't change as Kostro edged out the Mendota sophomore to claim the Class 2A state high jump crown on May 22-24 at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Elam's best jump of the weekend was 5-5.75, while Kostro topped out at 5-7, so Elam had to settle for second place this year. As it turned out, the state high jump competitors that advanced out of the Sterling Sectional proved to be the cream of the crop as they took the top four positions in the state meet. After first-place Kostro and second-place Elam, Sterling's Kaylee Varden finished in third place with a height of 5-3.25 and Byron's Neve Schilling tied for fourth at 5-2.25.

Last year, Elam's state championship winning jump was 5-4.5, while Kostro tied for ninth place at 4-11.

"Mariyah had competed against Katie Kostro of Rosary twice already this season, at Indoor State Finals and again at the sectional," noted Mendota head coach Joe Hughes. "After many rounds of battling with all the other competitors, it was down to two, Mariyah and Katie Kostro. They went back and forth and raised the bar several heights before Mariyah exhausted all of her attempts to clear 5-7 after Kostro had successfully cleared.

"Mariyah is happy to have given her all and walk away with a second-place medal, but is already eager to get back to work for next year."

Elam also competed in three other events at Charleston. She finished in 10th place in the triple jump with a distance of 36-5.5. Taya Rice of Chicago Agricultural Science was first with a measurement of 39-5.

"In the triple jump, Mariyah has been consistently jumping around 11 meters for the last half of the season and was able to continue that streak at state," said Hughes. "Her best jump was at state 11.11 meters (36-5.5), which was good enough for 10th place, improving on her

20th place finish in the event a year ago."

Elam ran in both hurdles events, but did not make the finals. In the 100-meter hurdles, she had a preliminary time of 15.84, while her time in the 300-meter hurdles was 47.19.

"Mariyah ran her personal best time in the 100 hurdles, but did not earn a spot in the finals," stated Hughes. "She was in the lead for a large majority of the race in the 300 hurdles, but didn't have enough in the tank to finish the last 40 meters at her pace and was caught after the last hurdle."

Jordan Hamb of Chicago South Shore International College Prep won the 100 hurdles in 13.99 and Kendall Gray of Richton Park Southland College Prep Charter claimed the 300 hurdles in 44.29.

Mendota's only other state meet participant was freshman Rylee Woods. She competed in the high jump and had a preliminary mark of 4-11, but did not advance to the finals.

Normal University captured the team state title with 64 points. The rest of the top five teams included Tolono Unity (49), North Chicago (35), Richton Park Southland College Prep (35) and Chicago South Shore International College Prep (34). Mendota scored eight points for 34th place.

## Girls' soccer season ends in sectional

MOLINE - A highly successful season for the Mendota girls' soccer team came to a close after a 3-1 loss to Byron in the opening round of the Rock Island Allman Class 1A Sectional Soccer Tournament on May 24 at Moline. The Lady Trojans ended the campaign with a 15-8-1 record.

Crystal Garcia scored the lone goal for Mendota off an assist from Kaley Siemer. Ariana Sanchez collected nine goalie saves.

Garcia ended her senior season with 31 goals and 15 assists.

"We took a little too long to get our legs under us in this game," said Mendota coach Nick Meyers. "Being in our first sectional in over 12 years was noticeable. Byron played a very deep back line that caused us problems with our style of play in the first half. The girls fought hard though, through the first half. Byron was able to get two early goals in the first half.

"I thought we adjusted well after halftime and came out very aggressive and switched up our tactics, which caused Byron some problems. Crystal was able to get on the board with around 12 minutes left in the game to make it 3-1. After that we had a few more great chances to score but just missed. I was proud of the way we responded in the second half by not giving up. The girls were able to figure Byron out and found success in the second half with the way we did things."

Myers said the girls' program has been building up to get to the point this season

See Soccer, Page B2



Mendota's Addy Allensworth and Princeton's Bella Clevenger both get their head on the ball near the Mendota goal during the regional championship game won by the Lady Trojans, 1-0, on May 20 at the MHS stadium. (Photo courtesy of Bureau County Republican)

## MHS girls blank Princeton for first regional title since 2012

MENDOTA - Mendota survived inclement weather and a stingy Princeton team to win a 1-0 thriller over the Lady Tigers in the championship game of the Mendota Class 1A Girls' Regional Soccer Tournament on May 20 at the MHS stadium. It was the first regional title for the MHS girls' program since 2012 and only the second in school history.

The only goal of the game came off the foot of Mendota senior standout Crystal Garcia, who got a shot past the Princeton goalie at the 28:52 mark of the first half off an assist from Noemi Arteaga.

"It felt so good to score

the goal for us in the regional championship," said Garcia. "It was a fun experience. The entire game is going to be a core memory for me. It feels real rewarding to win the regional after winning one game when I was a freshman."

The Lady Trojans were only able to get three shots on goal compared to 11 for Princeton.

"I couldn't be happier for this group of girls," said Mendota coach Nick Myers. "They have been working hard the last three years to improve our team. The three seniors who are four-year players went from a one-win team as freshmen to setting

school records and winning our second ever regional title for girls' soccer.

"I thought our girls played a hard-fought game against Princeton. It was well played by both teams. Defensively, we were able to hold off multiple attacks by Princeton in both halves. Ariana Sanchez in goal made great save after great save. We absorbed their attacks pretty well the whole game.

"Crystal (Garcia) was able to make a great run to get in behind their defense in the first half. Noemi (Arteaga) found her with a perfect pass for Crystal to run onto for the goal."

## Northbrook track athletes bring home 7 state medals

By BRANDON LaCHANCE  
Staff writer

EAST PEORIA - There were not many events at the IESA Class 3A State Track Meet on Friday and Saturday, May 23-24, without a Northbrook School athlete since they were involved in 10 of them.

Success came at a high rate as seven medals were earned at the East Side Center in East Peoria.

"I'm not sure I've processed the whole weekend yet," said Heather Friedlein, Northbrook athletic director and track coach. "It seems like a dream. All the preparation, all the hours and work the kids put in, and just like that it's over. I miss it already.

"Going into the state meet, we knew our team could do some pretty incredible things based on their seedings and how they have been ramping up their performances through



Northbrook Middle School athletes competed in the state track & field meet May 23-24. Left to right, are coach Hanna Gallagher, Jeniah Francis, Tatjana Rucker, Ariana Francis, Aliya Delao, Lexie Saylor, Seriyah Elam, Graci Bloomfield, coach Heather Friedlein and coach James Schweinberg. Not pictured: Dane Williams, Laurali Thompson, coach Tom Slater. (Photo contributed)

sectionals. Qualifying in 10 events, bringing home seven medals and setting three new school records is incredible."

For the eighth-grade girls, Jeniah Francis was four-of-four as she medaled in each of

the events she was in. Francis took second in the 100-meter dash (12.7 seconds), fourth in the 200 (27.1), tied for fifth place in the high jump (4 feet, 11 inches, which is a personal best and school

record), and joined Ariana Francis, Laurali Thompson and Aliya Delao to run 53.22 seconds (personal best and

See Northbrook, Page B2

# SPORTS

## Northbrook

Continued from Page B1

(school record) for sixth place in the 400-meter relay.

“Jeniah leaves me speechless,” Friedlein said. “She was great in seventh grade, but she came into her eighth-grade season on a mission. Each week, she was earning her personal bests or re-breaking her own school records.

“In the high jump, she was tied with Mariyah Elam (sophomore at Mendota High School who won the state high jump title as a freshman and finished second this year) and took the record at state. In sprints, she is something to see. She hunts the other runners down. Jeniah thrives when there are runners ahead or near her, which she showed this weekend.

“Get ready for great things from her in high school.”

## QB Club golf outing nears

MENDOTA – The Mendota Quarterback Club will be sponsoring a public fund-raising 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.

There will be course games on various holes such as closest to the pin, longest drive, longest putt, etc.

Entry forms are available online at The Mendota QB Club Facebook page: facebook.com/MendotaQbClub or at the Mendota Golf Club.

## Soccer

Continued from Page B1

where it won a regional for the first time in over a decade.

“It was a great season for our girls’ team,” noted Myers. “We have been slowly getting to this point in the last few seasons. The girls have been getting better and making it a focus to get to better as well.

“We set the school record for girls’ soccer in shutouts and wins during a season along with achieving our goal of getting another regional championship. I am proud of the progress this group has made. We will certainly miss our five seniors who have been a big reason for the continued success here with girls’ soccer the last three years.

“We return a big portion of this team who hopefully take the success from this year along with the experience in these big games to help keep us improving into next season.”

## MHS boys’ track falls short of state bid

ROCHELLE – Mendota concluded its track season at the Rochelle Class 2A Boys’ Sectional Track and Field Meet on May 21. The Trojans did not qualify anyone for the state meet.

Sebastian Carlos came the closest to earning a trip to the state meet. He finished in fourth place in the 400-meter dash with a time of 51.24. The state qualifying time is 51.17.

The Trojans placed in the top seven in four other events, with Anthony Kelson taking fifth place in the 800-meter run (2:05.10), Carlos finishing sixth in the 200-meter dash (23.42), Komen Denault placing sixth in the pole vault (10-9) and Jayden Lesley earning seventh place in the long jump (19-5.25). Lesley’s distance was a personal record.

Three other Mendota track athletes posted their personal best times in the sectional. Robert Botello was clocked in 12.85 in the 100-meter dash, Gavin Stevenson had a time of 11:06.51 in the 3200-meter run and Spencer Kain ran the 3200-meter in 12:31.02.

Sycamore captured the sectional team title with 139 points. Mendota was 11th in the team standings with 17.5 points.

**May 21 – Rochelle Class 2A Boys’ Sectional**

**Sycamore 139, Dixon 100, Sterling 94, Rochelle 68.5, Plano 47.5, Byron 47, Aurora Central Catholic 40.5, Rock Falls 35, Galena 33, Sandwich 32, Mendota 17.5, Freeport 16, Rockford Boylan 16, Illinois Math & Science Academy 8, Pecatonica 4, Stillman Valley 4**

**Mendota 4th place:** Sebastian Carlos, 400m dash, 51.24

**Mendota 5th place:** Anthony Kelson, 800m run, 2:05.10

**Mendota 6th place:** Carlos, 200m dash, 23.42; Komen Denault, pole vault, 10-9

**Mendota 7th place:** Jayden Lesley, long jump, 19-5.25

## Byron takes down Trojans in regional semis

STILLMAN VALLEY – The baseball season came to a close for Mendota after it dropped an 8-1 decision to Byron in the semifinal-round of the Stillman Valley Class 2A Regional Baseball Tournament on May 21.

The base hits for both teams were even at five apiece, but top-seeded Byron dominated on the scoreboard with the help of eight walks, three hit batters and four Mendota errors to score its eight runs. Only three of the Tigers’ eight runs were earned.

Byron built a 6-0 lead after three innings off of Trojan starting pitcher Braiden Freeman. All told, Freeman allowed six runs (one earned) on just three hits. He walked

six, hit three batters and struck out nine.

Dane Doyle came on in relief in the fifth and gave up two hits and two runs over the final two frames. He walked two and fanned two.

The Trojans avoided the shutout with a run in the sixth. Brody Hartt drilled a one-out double to deep center. Cayden Taliani came in as a courtesy runner and scored on a wild pitch by Byron’s Caden Considine.

Hartt had two of Mendota’s five hits. The other safeties were by Freeman, Evan McPheeters and Collin Coss.

The Trojans ended with a 9-18-1 record, while Byron improved its record to 30-4, winning its 27th straight game.

## Youth & adult wingshooting clinics set in Amboy

AMBOY – Youth aged 12 and older and adults can now register online for the Briar Knoll Hunting and Fishing Club hunter level wingshooting clinic Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15 at Briar Knoll Hunting and Fishing Club in Lee County.

This clinic is designed for those above beginner and novice skill levels wishing to improve their clay target shooting skills. Registration is required and there is a fee of \$30 per participant. Go online to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website to register and to view the 2025 wingshooting clinics calendar.

Wingshooting clinics resemble actual field hunting situations, and participants will encounter presentations that mimic the flight characteristics of pheasants, quail, rabbits, doves, ducks, and other game species. There are two clinic sessions each day that begin at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. The clinics are taught by certified Illinois Department of Natural Resources or National Sporting Clays Association instructors.

This event is sponsored by The Briar Knoll Hunting and Fishing Club, The Illinois Conservation and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

**About IDNR**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is celebrating 100 years of conservation and service to the people of Illinois throughout 2025. The de-

partment was established July 1, 1925, as the Illinois Department of Conservation, bringing under one umbrella oversight of fish and game, forestry, public works, and lakes.

Today, IDNR’s work encompasses management of about 400 sites across Illinois, including state parks and historic sites; wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and natural heritage; Lake Michigan water allocation and coastal management; conservation police; mines and minerals; oil and gas; issuance of licenses, permits, and numerous grants; the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta; and the Illinois State Museum. Visit <https://dnr.illinois.gov> for more information.

## Kids’ fishing tournament

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.

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

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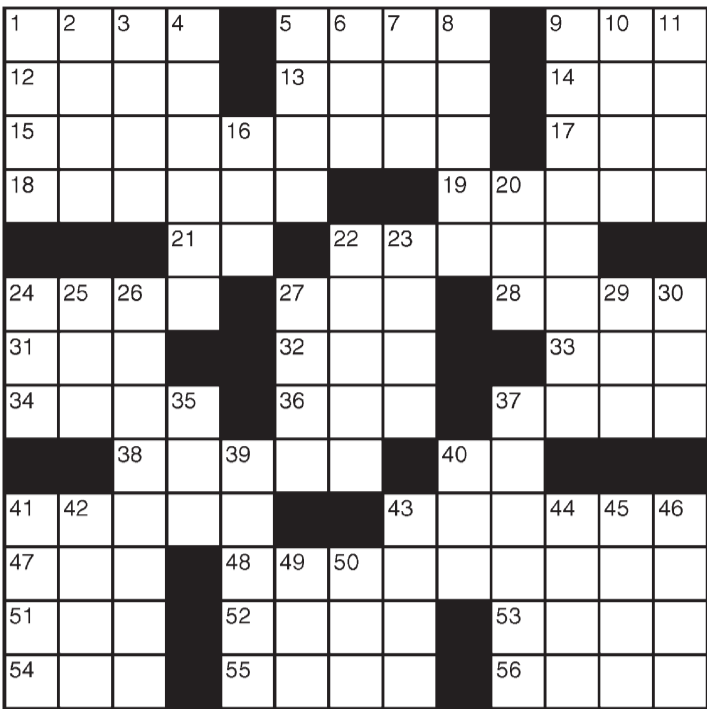
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Sprint  
5 Dalai —  
9 Humorist  
12 Twice cuatro  
13 Done with  
14 Here (Fr.)  
15 Impulsive  
17 Born abroad?  
18 Sweetheart  
19 Sequence  
21 Freudian concept  
22 Ersatz chocolate  
24 Lascivious  
27 "Wham!"  
28 Rain-delay cover  
31 MSNBC's Melber  
32 Night before  
33 "Gosh!"  
34 Gasp for air  
36 Scale members  
37 Despot  
38 Tub outlet  
40 Battery size  
41 Laugh track sounds  
43 Author Lurie  
47 "I love," in Latin  
48 Tropical cooler  
51 Writer Harper  
52 Theater award



- 53 Length times width  
54 "For shame!"  
55 Frees (of)  
56 Legendary loch  
**DOWN**  
1 Columnist Maureen  
2 Massage target  
3 Actor LaBeouf  
4 Dreadful  
5 Actor Rob  
6 Bird (Pref.)  
7 Gents  
8 Passion  
9 Motormouths  
10 Frozen drink brand  
11 Level  
16 Cover  
20 Hogwash  
22 Witch group  
23 Dazzles  
24 Napkin's place  
25 Geological period  
26 Namibia's capital  
27 Gilpin of "Frasier"  
29 Actor Stephen  
30 Apiece  
35 — -la-la  
37 East Asian country  
39 Silents star Mary  
40 Hearty brew  
41 Sentry's cry  
42 Iowa city  
43 Citrus drinks  
44 Beget  
45 Small bills  
46 Secret-protecting docs  
49 Slugger's stat  
50 Succor

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## Strange But True

### By Lucie Winborne

\* A Bangkok restaurant has been serving customers from a "perpetual stew" that has been cooking for more than four decades.

\* Each year, Americans spend more on beauty than education.

\* The Empire State Building generates more revenue from its observation decks than from its 85 floors of office space.

\* Vincent van Gogh fell in love with his cousin Kee Vos Stricker, and on one occasion proposed marriage, even putting his hand over a candle and saying he wouldn't remove it until they could marry. Kee's disapproving father, however, had other ideas: He blew out the candle and banned the artist from the house.

\* The stiletto heel was inspired by a dagger.

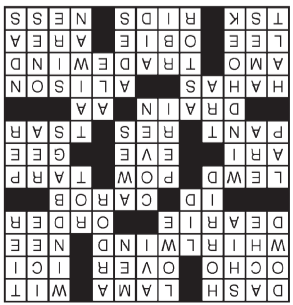
\* A convicted con man once sold a "solar-powered clothes dryer" in national magazines for the bargain price of \$49.95. Of course, buyers probably didn't consider it such a bargain when all they got for their money was a length of clothesline.

\* Actor Mark Ruffalo dreamed he had a brain tumor. The next day, a CT scan revealed a benign growth behind his ear.

\* The town of Idyllwild, California, elected their first, and most unusual, mayor in 2012 -- a golden retriever named Max. After he passed away the following year, he was succeeded by Maximus Mighty-Dog Mueller, aka Mayor Max II.

\* A study claims that falling in love comes at the cost of losing two close friends.

\* In 1996, two neighbors in Devon, England, hooted at each other for an entire year while believing they were actually communicating with owls.



Solution time: 25 mins.  
Answers  
King Crossword

## Couch Theater

"2025 American Music Awards" (TV-PG) -- Jennifer Lopez, the queen of everything in her mind, is hosting the 2025 American Music Awards ceremony this year, her second time after hosting back in 2015. Taking place at the Fontainebleau Las Vegas, the ceremony aired live on May 26 but can, of course, be streamed on demand afterward if you miss the live show. Recent Super Bowl halftime show headliner Kendrick Lamar leads with 10 nominations for the fan-voted award show, including Artist of the Year and Song of the Year ("Not Like Us"). Performers include artists like Benson Boone, Gwen Stefani, Gloria Estefan and The Weeknd. Meanwhile, Janet Jackson will be presented with the Icon Award. (Paramount+)

"The Better Sister" (TV-MA) -- Jessica Biel's last lead television role was in the 2022 crime-drama series "Candy," but it seems that television suits Biel more than movies, as evidenced by her performance in this upcoming thriller series premiering May 29. The series picks up as Biel's character, Chloe, stumbles upon her husband's dead body. Following the aftermath of his murder, which appears to be a "burglary gone wrong," Chloe's estranged sister, Nicky (Elizabeth Banks), shows up at her door to lend her support, even though she has her own string of issues. These two opposite sisters being forced together only adds to the increasing tension as the police work to solve

the murder. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Tucci in Italy" (TV-PG) -- About a month ago, Stanley Tucci's "Searching for Italy" lifestyle series from 2021-2022 was highlighted in this column, and now the follow-up series to the show has premiered with three episodes available to stream right now! Starting off in the Italian regions of Tuscany, Lombardy, and Trentino-Alto Adige, Tucci explores the cuisine, culture and history that has become an important of these regions. He ends his five-episode show with Abruzzo and Lazio, but don't be surprised if Tucci continues to find ways to showcase the great dishes the country has to offer and share his love of Italian food with us. (Disney+)

"Netflix Tudum 2025" (TV-MA) -- In 2020, Netflix held its first global fan event called Tudum. It took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and featured celebrities from its biggest shows at the time, like Lana Candor and Noah Centineo ("To All the Boys I've Loved Before"). Now the event has evolved to include live performances and will stream for fans all over the world to enjoy from the comfort of their homes. Lady Gaga, who recently dropped the album "Mayhem," will be performing a song from the album, and stars from shows like "Squid Game," "Stranger Things," "Outer Banks" and more will be present for interviews and exclusive news. This is not a night to miss for the dedicated Netflix fans out there! (Netflix)

## FLASHBACK

1. Which band used "Look What the Cat Dragged In" as the title for their debut album?
2. What were the two original names of the O'Jays?
3. Name the Starland Vocal Band's only No. 1 hit.
4. Which two artists released the duet "Endless Love"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Everybody's going out and having fun, I'm just a fool for staying home and having none."

### Answers

1. Poison, in 1986. Although not initially popular, within nine months the album went gold when it rose to No. 3 on the charts.
2. The Mascots and The Triumphs. Their biggest hit was "Love Train," but "Back Stabbers" topped the charts first in 1972.
3. "Afternoon Delight," in 1976. The group won Grammys for Best New Artist and Best Arrangement for Voices the following year.
4. Diana Ross and Lionel Richie, in 1981. Duo Luther Vandross and Mariah Carey followed with a cover in 1994.
5. "Oh, Lonesome Me," by Don Gibson, in 1957, with "I Can't Stop Loving You" on the B-side. The song stayed at the top of the chart for eight weeks.

## Celebrity Extra

### By Dana Jackson

**Q:** I was watching the original "Dexter" series. Who played the "Ice Truck Killer" in the first season? He's really good. I'm surprised he isn't a bigger star after this role. -- **L.K.**



Camargo

**A:** The actor who played the serial killer in season one of "Dexter" is Christian Camargo. He's been acting steadily since but nothing that really showcases his talents like "Dexter." (Maybe he can play a "Batman" villain someday?) He's mostly guest-starred on several notable prime-time series like "The Good Wife" and "Elementary." He's also appeared in the Academy-Award-winning film "The Hurt Locker" and two of the "Twilight" blockbuster films.

Since "Dexter," he's landed recurring or contract roles on two series: Showtime's "Penny Dreadful" with Eva Green and Apple TV+'s "See" with Jason Momoa. His upcoming projects are listed as a series titled "Camelot" and the comedy "Big Mike's Cabin." So far,

it hasn't been announced if he'll appear in the upcoming sequel series "Dexter: Resurrection" like John Lithgow and Jimmy Smits, despite their characters' deceased status in the original series.

\*\*\*

**Q:** How did "Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage" do in the ratings compared to "Young Sheldon"? Will it be back for another season? -- **K.C.**

**A:** "Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage" is a spin-off on CBS focusing on kid genius Sheldon's (Iain Armitage) older brother, his wife and her family. It won its time slot with 6.6 million viewers tuning in to CBS for its premiere episode this past October. The series finale of "Young Sheldon" drew 8.95 million viewers. "Georgie & Mandy" is a certified hit, however, and will return for its sophomore season.

The new season is said to focus on Georgie's ownership of the auto shop and Mandy's career as a local news broadcaster. While "Young Sheldon's" Zoe Perry and Annie Potts guest-starred in the first season of the spin-off, Armitage did not. Perhaps this will change in the upcoming season.

\*\*\*

## Hollywood

### By Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD** -- A last word about Ruth Buzzi, who recently passed on May 1. I met Ruth in 1964 at "The Garry Moore Show," in which she was Dom DeLuise's assistant in a magic act. To his chagrin, she revealed how his tricks were done, which was hilarious. I ran into Ruth a lot during her "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" days and during my time as a Hollywood paparazzi. She was one of a kind!

\*\*\*

Jacob Elordi shot to fame in the Netflix trilogy "The Kissing Booth" (2018-2021), which Elordi called ridiculous, stating, "I never wanted to make them." Then he starred in "Deep Water" (2022) with Ben Affleck and "He Went That Way" with Zachary Quinto, but both films failed to impress.

However, "Saltburn" (2023), featuring a much-talked-about bathtub scene featuring Barry Keoghan, got lots of attention but not enough to make the film a hit. Even his turn as Elvis in "Priscilla" (2023) failed to ignite box offices.

Elordi's next film "Oh, Canada" (2024), co-starring Richard Gere and Uma Thurman, also failed. In "On Swift Horses" (2024), even a same-sex love affair failed him, too. But his portrayal of Nate Jacobs in HBO's hit series "Euphoria," opposite Zendaya, has built him a solid fan following, and he's currently preparing for season three.

In a bold casting move, Guillermo del Toro has cast him as the monster in Netflix's "Frankenstein," due in November. In April, he finished playing Heathcliff to Margot Robbie's Kathy in the remake of "Wuthering Heights," opening in February 2026. Elordi will follow this up by starring opposite Margaret Qualley, Josh Brolin and Guy Pearce in Ridley Scott's "The Dog Stars," a postapocalyptic sci-fi film that will shoot in Italy.

\*\*\*

Word from the Vatican is that many voting cardinals who gathered to elect a new Pope after Pope Francis' passing on April 21, had been using the eight-time Oscar-nominated film "Conclave" as a research tool.

**Q:** What ever happened to Thomas Gibson? I was hoping that his character would be back for the new "Criminal Minds," but he's completely disappeared. -- **G.S.**

**A:** Before "Criminal Minds," Thomas Gibson starred in the hit sitcom "Dharma & Greg" without any reported issues. However, he was written out of the CBS series "Criminal Minds" after the 12th season due to being fired from the show for an on-set altercation with a producer. His character, Aaron Hotchner, went into the Witness Protection Program with his son after being targeted by a serial killer. The show went on for three more seasons on CBS and was then rebooted as "Criminal Minds: Evolution," where it currently airs on Paramount+.

Gibson likely made a big chunk of change while starring on the show for over a decade and probably doesn't have to work again. His acting credits stop in 2019 with the movie "Shadow Wolves," but it's not known whether his career was halted by choice or if he's been blackballed by the industry. He does have one upcoming project -- "The Writer's Bible," which he's not only starring in but also directing.

\*\*\*

Oscar winner Nicolas Cage ("Leaving Las Vegas"), who has made 127 films including the classic "Moonstruck" (which led Cher to her Best Actress Oscar), will soon have 130 films to his credit. His next three credits will be the drama "The Prince" with J.K. Simmons, then the horror film "The Carpenter's Son," and David O. Russell's sports drama "Madden." (Cage assumed the title role when Hugh Jackman dropped out.)

When Cage filmed "The Surfer" in late 2023, he was tossed so hard by an angry ocean that they called his surfboard a "tombstone." He admitted he took such a pounding by the waves that he could have died. And this past September, while filming in a Grecian cave, he was attacked by a swarm of killer bees.

Taking no chances, Cage recently completed voicing the titular character for "Spider-Noir," which will be an animated series on MGM+. After being pounded by the sea and attacked by bees, playing an animated Spider-Man was a Cage-y move!

## • Trivia Test •

1. ACRONYMS: What do the acronyms "AM" and "PM" stand for?
2. TELEVISION: What is the name of the Jack Russell Terrier in the sitcom "Frasier"?
3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which vice president went on to win a Nobel Peace Prize in 2007?
4. MOVIES: How many Infinity Stones are in "Avengers: Endgame"?
5. U.S. STATES: In which state would you find the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve?
6. GEOGRAPHY: What is Scotland's official national animal?
7. LITERATURE: Which cities are the settings for Charles Dickens' novel "A Tale of Two Cities"?
8. SCIENCE: Which two planets in our solar system have no moons?
9. HISTORY: Who was the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which branch of the U.S. military uses the recruiting slogan, "It's not just a job; it's an adventure"?

### Answers

1. Ante meridiem and Post meridiem (before noon and after noon)
2. Eddie Crane (real name is Moose).
3. Al Gore, vice president to Bill Clinton, won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in climate change.
4. Six.
5. Idaho.
6. The unicorn.
7. London and Paris.
8. Venus and Mercury.
9. Nancy Pelosi.
10. The Navy.

Check out an interesting fact about the Empire State Building in Strange But True!

### Weekly SUDOKU

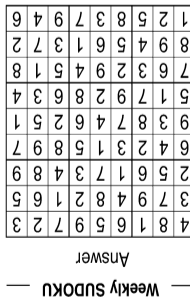
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		6			3		8	
6	4		3					7
9	3	8			6	2		
5	1			2				
7	6		2			5		8
8			5		1		7	2
	2	5		3	7	9		6

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answer

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## St. Bede Abbey and Academy raises \$264,000 in St. Benedict’s Day of Giving event in March

PERU – St. Bede Abbey and Academy announced the success of its annual St. Benedict’s Day of Giving, held in March. The campaign raised an impressive \$264,000 from 494 donors, including alumni, parents, friends, school staff, teachers and students.

“It was deeply moving to see our beloved St. Bede community come together, in unity, to make St. Benedict’s Day a resounding success. What this reaffirms is that the future of both our Abbey and Academy is in excellent hands, with the support of our alumni and friends whose generosity continues to strengthen our community,” said Michel Massamba, Director of Mission Advancement and Major Gifts.

The funds directly support the Saint Bede Annual Fund, which plays a crucial role in bridging the gap in tuition by covering costs associated with professional development for teachers, STEM and teaching resources, athletic, fine arts and student programs, Christian and faith

formation and maintaining campus facilities.

As an independent institution, St. Bede does not receive state or diocesan funding and relies entirely on the generosity of its donors.

To encourage participation on St. Benedict’s Day, donors who contributed \$50 or more received a St. Bede tote bag. Students were also actively engaged in the campaign - those who donated \$2 or more enjoyed a jean day on the day of the campaign, and had the opportunity to sign the Bruin Impact Wall, symbolizing unity and school spirit.

A key factor in the campaign’s success was the \$98,000 in matching gift challenges, which were unlocked throughout the day. Additionally, a generous donor contributed a \$50,000 donor rally challenge, which spurred an increase in participation in the campaign.

For more information about St. Bede’s St. Benedict’s Day of Giving, visit [www.st-bede.com/stbenedict-2025](http://www.st-bede.com/stbenedict-2025).

## St. Bede Academy recognizes students for athletic and academic excellence

PERU - St. Bede Academy hosted its 51st annual Honors Banquet on Tuesday, April 24. Students from all classes were presented athletic and academic excellence awards. The following were the recipients for the 2024-25 awards presented:

Senior of the Year – Phillip Gray

Distinguished Awards – Fr. Arthur Schmitt, OSB Service Award: Adeline Mitchell; Scholar Athlete Award: Madalyn Dittmar and Abraham Wiesbrock; IHSA All-State Academic Team Nominee: Madalyn Dittman and Greyson Marincic; Athlete of the Year Award: Bailey Engels, Greyson Marincic and Kaden Nauman; Fr. Gorman Award: Haiden Ator, Bailey Engels, Lacey Griggs, Greyson Marincic, Jack Maschmann, Mary Quinn McClain, Aidan Mullane and Kaden Nauman.; Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Award (HOBY): Eden Galvan, Lucy Maus, Stuart McGunnigal and Ariana Villava;

Illinois Principal’s Association John Ourth Student Recognition Award: Bailey Engels and Arthur van den Berg; Daughters of the American Revolution Award (DAR): Phillip Gray; Sons of the American Revolution Award (SAR): Jake Migliorini;

President’s Excellence in Education: Ziheng Gordon Chen, Yibo Frank Fan, Haiqing Helen Mao, Greyson Marincic, Mason Ross, Arthur van den Berg, Abraham Wiesbrock and Solomon Zhang; National Merit Commended Students: Greyson Marincic and Abraham Wiesbrock; Illinois State Scholars: Haiden Ator, Andrea Brandner, Madalyn Dittmar, Grady Gillan, Phillip Gray, Tyler Jordan, Greyson Marincic, Arthur van den Berg and Abraham Wiesbrock;

St. Bede Academy International Scholar: Ziheng Gordon Chen; Scholastic Top 10 (In alphabetical order): Haiden Ator, Andrea Brandner, Ziheng Gordon Chen, Madalyn Dittmar (Salutatorian), Yibo Frank Fan, Phillip Gray, Tyler Jordan, Greyson Marincic, Victoria Mendez and Abraham Wiesbrock (Valedictorian).

Academic Awards – Freshmen: Hope Antkowiak, Jacob Inman, Parker McClain, Lizet Yoltzin Morales Sanchez, Mary Simonetta and Hanna Waszkowiak; Sophomores: Ranbir Saini; Juniors: Noah Buck, Lillian Soliman, Ryan Soliman and Yannis Yong; Senior: Abraham Wiesbrock.

Citizenship Awards – Freshman: Johnathan Michael; Sophomore: Ari-

ana Villava; Junior: Emma Slingsby; Senior: Bailey Engels

Department Awards – Mathematics: Freshman Jieming Lisa Huang; Sophomore Ranbir Saini; Junior Alp Arslan and Senior Greyson Marincic; English: Freshmen Landon Balestri and Lizet Yoltzin Morales Sanchez; Sophomore Kyra Finley; Juniors Ruby Michels and Yannis Yong and Senior Jake Migliorini; Spanish: Johnathan Michael (Spanish I); Grace Gahan (Spanish II); Yannis Yong (Spanish III) and Bailey Engels (Spanish IV);

Science: Johnathan Michael (Honors Biology I); Ryan Soliman (AP Chemistry); Andrea Brandner and Ziheng Gordon Chen (Anatomy & Physiology); Arthur van den Berg (AP Computer Science Principles); Noah Buck, Aidan James Hermes, Ryan Soliman and Yannis Yong (AP Computer Science) and Greyson Marincic and Abraham Wiesbrock (AP Physics);

History: Yannis Yong (AP U.S. History), Weston Heersink (U.S. History), Kyra Finley (Honors World History) and Calen Cass (World History); Fine Arts: Mirella Haskell (Fr. Joseph Heyd, OSB Award).

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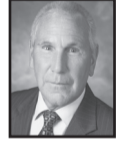
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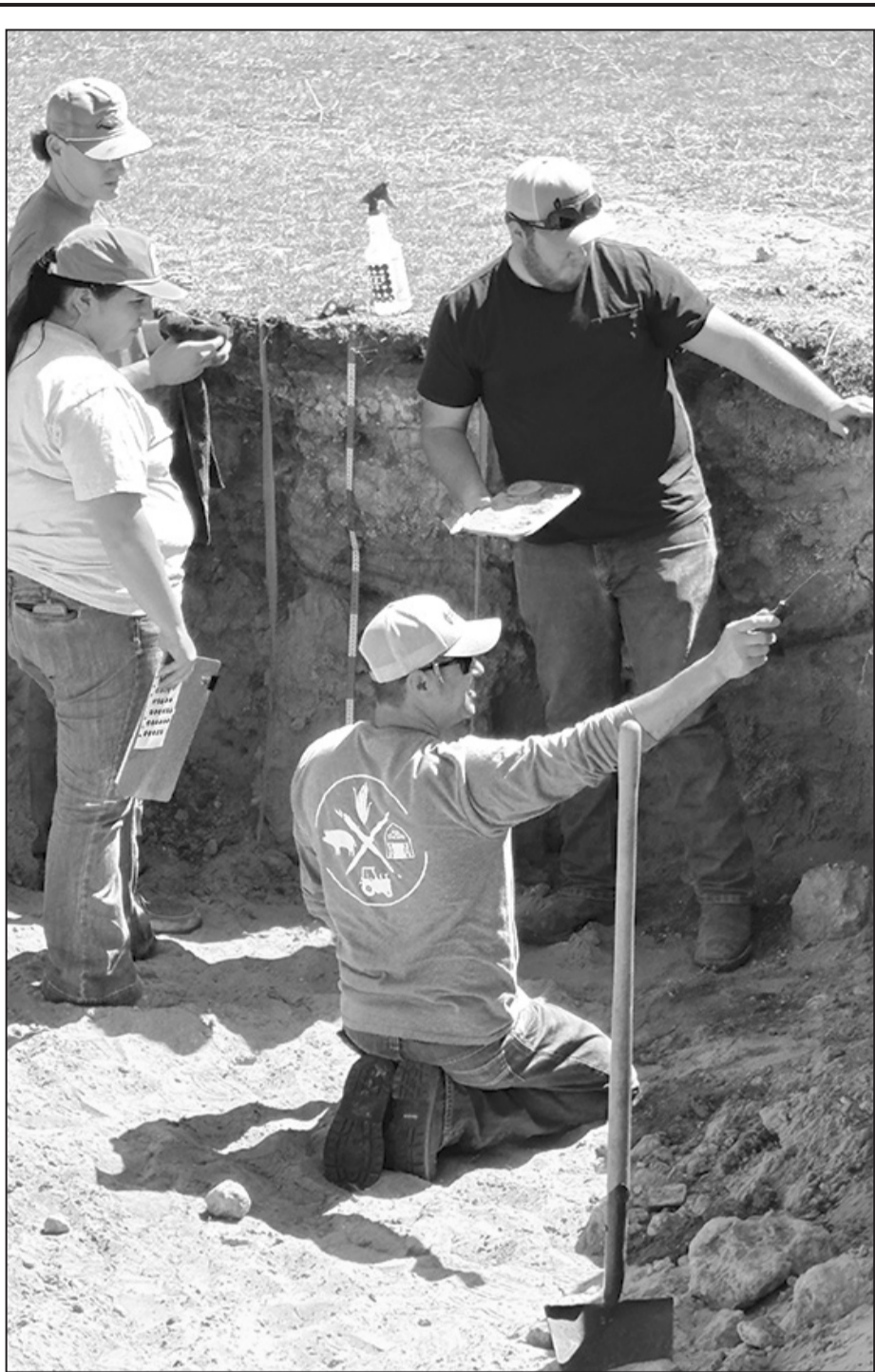
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# LOCAL AND AREA



## Soil interpretation

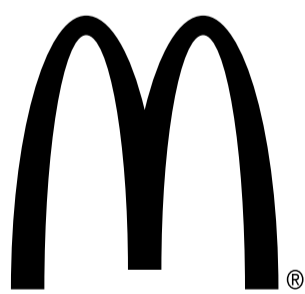
Three IVCC agriculture students and program co-coordinators Willard Mott and Jennifer Timmers recently attended the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) student judging conference at West Texas A&M University, where students Shelby Einhaus, Sam Sondgeroth and Hunter Staton competed in soils judging, ag business management, and ag mechanics. Einhaus, Staton, and Sondgeroth (with Mott kneeling) interpret soil samples in one of the test pits. (Photo contributed)



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Exercise at your own pace with an exercise video.

**JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30**

**TOPS CLUB**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

10 AM

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Anyone welcome.

**JUNE 2, 9 & 23**

**DOMINOES**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

All are welcome to join in the fun.

**JUNE 3, 10 & 24**

**Wii BOWLING**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

10:30 AM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

All welcome to come and enjoy the fun!

**JUNE 3**

**ILLINOIS ROAD SCHOLAR PRESENTS: TRADITIONAL JAZZ: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF EARLY JAZZ FROM THE NEW ORLEANS AND CHICAGO ERA**

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

Traditional Jazz is timeless, and its appeal can span generations. Dr. John Cooper celebrates Jazz as an American treasure through his presentation that will engage listeners through playing literature common to the New Orleans Era of Jazz. Sit back, relax, and enjoy an evening of Jazz.

**JUNE 3, 10 & 24**

**EUCHE**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

12 PM (Noon)

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

All are welcome!

**JUNE 4, 11 & 25**

**BEGINNING CROCHET CLASS**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM- 2 PM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

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

**JUNE 5 & 19**

**HEARING SCREENINGS**

Sponsored by Civic Center & M.A.S.S.

9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

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

**JUNE 5, 12 & 26**

**POKENO**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

12 PM (Noon)

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

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

**JUNE 5, 12 & 26**

**NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

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

**JUNE 6**

**COMMUNITY BINGO**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Anyone 18 and older welcome to join the fun!

**JUNE 6, 13 & 27**

**BINGOCIZE**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

10 AM

Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Open to anyone in the community.

**JUNE 6, 13 & 27**

**BINGO**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

**JUNE 6, 13, 20 & 27**

**LUNCH IN THE PARK**

11 AM - 1 PM

**JUNE 9 & 23**

**FOOD TRUCK MAINIA MONDAY**

Sponsored by Reimagine Mendota

4 PM - 8 PM

Illinois Ave.

**JUNE 10 & 24**

**BLOOD PRESSURE / BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

11 AM - 12 PM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Free to anyone in the community.

**JUNE 16**

**SUMMER READING CLUB REGISTRATION BEGINS**

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

10 AM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

**FREE**

Register starting Monday, June 16, 2025. Participate by READING as much as possible. For every reading log you complete, you get a ticket to enter our grand prize baskets.

Throughout July we will have fun family-focused programs every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Do you need to attend our programs? NO, but they will be FREE and lots of FUN!

**JUNE 16**

**SENSORY FRIENDLY STORY TIME**

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

5 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

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

**JUNE 17**

**THIRD TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION**

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

Choose

1 PM OR 6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

**FREE**

Stop by the library to pick up the book for the following month! The book for this month is, "Good Eggs" by Rebecca Hardiman.

**JUNE 18**

**FREE BLOOD PRESSURE AND BLOOD GLUCOSE CHECK**

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

2 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

**FREE**

Come to the library to get a free check of your blood pressure and glucose levels. No appointment necessary! Through In-Home Care Connections

**JUNE 20**

**SPRING GARAGE SALE**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

8 AM - 3 PM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

**One Day Sale Only!!**

Donations will be accepted beginning Monday, June 16th thru Thursday, June 19th

**JUNE 20**

**LUNCH IN THE PARK**

Sponsored by Mendota Rotary Club

11 AM - 1:30 PM

Veterans Park

For more info call

(815) 539-7743

Lunches include sandwich, chips, drink and desert treat - ala carte menu available. Proceeds benefit youth in the community.

**JUNE 21**

**LIVE AT THE LAKE**

Sponsored by Reimagine Mendota

5 PM - 10 PM

Mendota Civic Center

Food and music by Greenfield Station

**JUNE 24**

**JUNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

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

**JUNE 24**

**CAREGIVER COUNSELING**

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1:30 PM - 3 PM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

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

**JUNE 25**

**MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S. - "WICKED" (2024)**

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library & M.A.S.S.

3 PM

# The amazing truth about God's grace

But even though God loves us, we still have a problem: sin. It's important for us to learn how to confront sin and overcome it, because while God loves sinners, He hates sin. And He hates it because of what it does to us and how it keeps

Jesus paid a tremendous price for us so we could have abundant life. He willingly took all of our sin on Himself and

As a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), the Holy Spirit lives in your spirit, and you have His power to do God's will. This means we don't have to live with anger, unforgiveness, bitterness,

Do you know that an excuse is a reason stuffed with a lie? And God is not a liar. So when you're tempted to make an excuse (and we're all tempted sometimes), think about this:

I know this is a challenging message, but I'm sharing it with you because God loves you so much and He wants you to have a good life. His plans for you are better than you could ever imagine for yourself, and He wants you to be hopeful about your future. In Christ, we don't ever have to settle for a mediocre life filled with compromise. We can have God's best, because we are dead to sin and alive in Him!

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.

**The Mendota Reporter**  
703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL  
(815) 539-9396  
FAX: (815) 539-7862

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**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 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)

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)

**NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on May 20, 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 Sports-n-Stuff located at 804 Washington Street Mendota, IL. 61342.  
Dated: May 20, 2025.  
John Bresley Bresley5 LLC Applicant.  
No. 0510

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

## 113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies

that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting

a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

## 301 ANTIQUES

## 203 HELP WANTED

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

## 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

## 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject

to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial

status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept advertising for real estate

## 511 STORAGE UNITS

**MENDOTA STORAGE UNITS**  
210 N 4099th Rd., Mendota, IL. 61342

**Available:**  
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**Call**  
ADAM 815-830-4422 Janko Realty  
TRACY 815-791-4582 Advantage Property Mgmt  
Reserve online at [www.apm4rent.com](http://www.apm4rent.com)

## 203 HELP WANTED

The **City of Mendota** has an opening for a **full-time permanent** employee in the **Water Department**. Responsibilities include the maintenance and repair of all aspects of the water and collection systems as well as other related duties as assigned. Qualified individuals should possess the following:

- Have a mechanical background
- Experience with hand and power tools
- Experience with heavy machinery or be able to learn to operate backhoe, front loader tractor.
- The ability to trench and install tile
- The ability to operate snow plow
- Have or be able to obtain Class B CDL with air brake and tanker endorsements
- Have or be able to obtain State of Illinois Water Operator certifications
- Applicant must have a strong work ethic
- Applicants must be able to work well with others and work diligently without supervision.

Starting salary for this position is **\$48,225.75 - \$59,268.61** depending on experience and qualifications. Excellent benefit package provided including health, dental, vision and life insurance as well as IMRF pension system. Self-motivated individuals can send resumes to:

**City of Mendota**  
800 Washington Street  
Mendota, Illinois 61342

Or email to:  
[beinvolved@mendotacity.com](mailto:beinvolved@mendotacity.com)

Resumes must be received by **4pm on Friday, June 6th.**

The City of Mendota is an Equal Opportunity Employer

The **City of Mendota** is seeking a motivated, service oriented individual to provide **full-time office support** in the area of **utility billing**. Responsibilities include monthly water and sewer bill processing, customer and meter file maintenance, payment management and application, detailed account analysis, heavy customer contact, and other related duties as assigned. The ideal candidate will possess excellent communication skills, accounting skills computer skills, problem-solving abilities, strong attention to detail along with the ability to multi-task. Qualified individuals should possess the following:

- High school degree, or equivalent supplemented by training in office skills and/or general business courses.
- Strong customer service skills, with experience that demonstrates the ability to resolve customer issues.
- Prior service in utility billing is desirable, but not required.
- Bi-lingual abilities appreciated

Starting salary for this position is **\$50,000-\$55,000** depending on experience and qualifications. Excellent benefit package provided, including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, as well as IMRF pension system. Interested candidates should submit a resume by mail or in person at:

**City of Mendota**  
800 Washington Street  
Mendota, Illinois 61342

Or email to:  
[beinvolved@mendotacity.com](mailto:beinvolved@mendotacity.com)

Resumes must be received by **4pm on Friday, June 6th.**

The City of Mendota is an Equal Opportunity

## Employment Opportunity Outreach Specialist

### IMMEDIATE PART-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE

Assists elderly and disabled clients with various local, state and federal programs.

- Must be self-motivated, organized and enthusiastic. Ability to handle a busy environment with multiple tasks and changing deadlines. Basic computer skills are required and proficiency in Word, Excel and use of online databases is preferred.

- Some occasional travel and a background check is required.

- Previous experience working with aged and disabled population is preferred.

Submit letter of interest and resume to:

Rayanne Sester  
[mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com](mailto:mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com)  
Mendota Area Senior Services  
PO Box 376  
Mendota, IL. 61342

**NO PHONE CALLS ACCEPTED**

Deadline is May 30, 2025

## Employment Opportunity Information & Assistance Specialist

### IMMEDIATE FULL-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE

Assists elderly and disabled clients with various local, state and federal programs.

- Must be self-motivated, organized and enthusiastic. Ability to handle a busy environment with multiple tasks and changing deadlines. Basic computer skills are required and proficiency in Word, Excel and use of online databases is preferred.

- Some occasional travel and a background check is required.

- Previous experience working with aged and disabled population is preferred.

Submit letter of interest and resume to:

Rayanne Sester  
[mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com](mailto:mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com)  
Mendota Area Senior Services  
PO Box 376  
Mendota, IL. 61342

**NO PHONE CALLS ACCEPTED**

Deadline is May 30, 2025

## 601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

### 2021 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ Z71



2021 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ Z71, Blue, 63K Miles, GM Certified, 1-Owner, Local Trade, Leather Interior, Heated/Cooled Seats, LEER Topper, Running Boards & More!

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2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ, 74K Miles, White.....\$39,900	2021 Chevy 1500 Z71 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ Topper, 63K Miles, Blue.....\$36,900
2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT 4x4, 2.7L Turbo, 24K Miles, Gray.....\$38,900	2021 Chevy Traverse AWD Premier, 70K Miles, White.....\$29,900
2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab Custom 4x4, 2.7L Turbo, 21K Miles, Black.....\$35,900	2020 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab RST 4x4 Z71 Diesel, 68K Miles, Red.....\$34,900
2021 Chevy 1500 Crew Trailboss LT 4x4, 5.3L V8, 54K Miles, Radiant Red.....\$37,900	

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

2021 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4, Diesel, 83K Miles, Blue.....\$48,900	2019 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Crew Cab 4x4 SLT, 37K Miles, Black.....\$50,900
2021 Chevy Traverse LT, AWD, Silver, 111K Miles.....\$20,900	2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab Longbox LT 4x4 Z71, 77K Miles, Red.....\$25,900
2020 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab RST Z71, 105K Miles, White.....\$28,900	2017 GMC 1500 Double Cab SLE, 89K Miles, Gray.....\$22,900
2020 Chevy Equinox Premier AWD, 100K Miles, Maroon.....\$16,900	2016 Chevy Equinox AWD LTZ 4-cyl, 64K Miles, Silver.....\$13,900

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## HEALTH/PERSONAL/ MISCELLANEOUS

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

**Show & Sell**

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Mendota Reporter  
815-539-9396

**Browse & Buy**

**Subscribe:**  
Mendota Reporter  
815-539-9396

**All in the Classifieds!**

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

**Multimedia Sales Consultant**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Multimedia Sales Position**  
**Rochelle News-Leader**  
**ATTN: Will McMacken**  
**P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068**  
or email to  
[bmcacken@newsmediacorp.com](mailto:bmcacken@newsmediacorp.com)

**ROCHELLE News-Leader**

**ROCHELLE News-Leader**

**Part-time local delivery driver**

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

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

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

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

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

Interested individuals must fill out an application in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle.

No phone calls please.

03/26/2023

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Cory Biers  
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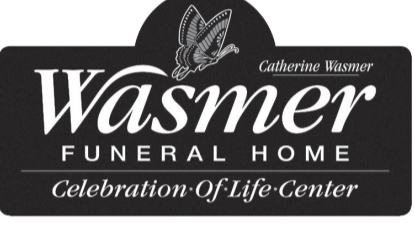
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**Mendota  
Area Senior  
Services**

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- Options Counseling
- Lending Closet
- Senior Health Insurance Program
- Educational Opportunities (Computer Lab & Resource Center)
- Advocacy
- Information & Assistance
- Congregate Meal Site
- Senior Center

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# COMMUNITY MATTERS

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## ASSISTED/INDEPENDENT LIVING

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

## AUCTIONEERS

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

## AUTO BODY REPAIR

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

## AUTO REPAIR

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

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

## ATTORNEY

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

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

## AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

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

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

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

## CABINETRY

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

## CABINETRY AND STAIRS

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

## CARPET & FLOORING

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

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

## CONTRACTORS - GENERAL

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

## DENTISTS

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

## ELECTRICAL

**Triple Service**  
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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**  
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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  
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## 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

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**Wasmer Funeral Home**  
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815-539-8500

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815-539-6263

## GROCERY STORES

**De La O**  
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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**  
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815-538-2550

## PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

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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.  
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## THRIFT STORES

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## TRANSPORTATION

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## 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

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