



The barrel train ride is an exciting attraction for children at Railroad Heritage Day in Mendota.

Railroad Heritage Day returning to Mendota

MENDOTA – The Mendota Historical Society is bringing back one of its most popular events this summer. Railroad Heritage Day will be held on Saturday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Union Depot Railroad Museum, 783 Main St., Mendota.

This one-day event will feature lots of great history focused activities and exhibits. The day will include activities

for people of all ages.

Among the outstanding things on the docket will be a display of antique cars and trucks, barrel train rides for the children and a vintage inspection car. In addition, the Old West Regulators will be there to stage a robbery of the on-site historic mail car.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase and music will be

provided by local favorite, Ray Tutaj. The event will go ahead rain or shine. This is going to be fun for the entire family.

According to Historical Society board member Alan Russell, “This event has always been a favorite with the community. After taking a break from it last year, we wanted to be sure to bring it back for 2025.”



Carlos Kain Toribio Kunz Lewis White

MHS students chosen for Boys, Girls State

MENDOTA – Six outstanding Mendota High School boys and girls have been selected to attend the Annual Premier Boys State and the Illini Girls State held at Eastern Illinois University in June. The programs, sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, are designed to teach young men about voting and the election process in a dem-

ocratic society and to teach young women to understand and appreciate their roles as United States citizens.

Mendota High School students attending Boys State include: Spencer Kain, son of Casey and Krysten Kain of West Brooklyn, sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary Post 4079; Sebastian Carlos, son of Rosa Escatel and Lauro Carlos of Mendota, spon-

sored by the Mendota Lions Club; and Carlos Toribio, son of Adriana DeLeon of Mendota, sponsored by the Mendota Elks Lodge.

Mendota High School students attending Girls State include: Talia White, daughter of Michelle Shaver of Mendota and Errol White Jr. of LaSalle, sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary Post 4079; Hannah Kunz, daughter of

Matt and Stephanie Kunz of Mendota, sponsored by the Mendota Lions Club; and Ella Lewis, daughter of Julie Lewis of Mendota, sponsored by the Mendota Elks Lodge.

Over 750 eleventh grade boys and approximately 600 eleventh grade girls from around the state will attend the week-long leadership seminar.



Alisa Stewart, left, a Mendota High School science teacher and director of the MHS Interact Club is leaving for Santa Cruz, Bolivia on June 9 to deliver items collected by the Club to an orphanage for disabled children. Leah Stamberger, right, soon-to-be MHS senior, is a member of the Club. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

MHS Interact Club offers joy to Bolivia orphanage

By BRANDON LACHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School Interact Club has a reputation of being involved and helping the Mendota community in any project or assistance available.

Now, it’s reaching a little further, to Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

“I think it’s really important to donate to the orphanage in Bolivia. We do a lot of different things in our community and we have a lot of opportunities to help out Mendota,” said Leah Stamberger, who will be a senior this fall and has been a part of Interact since joining the high school ranks. “It’s also exciting to go outside of Mendota and the country to help these kids that need help.

“When you think about community service, you think about just your community. But there is so much more we can do outside of our community to help people because a lot of people are struggling.”

The Interact Club started an Amazon Wishlist to gather items to take to Judah Qu, an orphanage for disabled children in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Alisa Stewart, an MHS science teacher who also directs the Interact Club and is heavily involved in the foreign exchange student program, had planned a trip to see 2019-2020 MHS exchange student, Carolina Velasco, who lives in Santa Cruz.

Stewart asked Velasco how the club could help and Velasco began reaching out to different orphanages.

See Bolivia, Page A5

New taxes on sports bets, nicotine products as Illinois passes \$55.2B budget

By BEN SZALINSKI
& JERRY NOWICKI
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Giving almost no time for public review, Illinois Democrats pushed through a \$55.2 billion budget for next fiscal year late on May 31, bolstering coffers with new taxes on sports bets, nicotine products and businesses.

The \$55.2 billion spending plan is supported by \$55.3 billion of revenue, including just over \$1 billion in new taxes and revenue changes.

The four bills making up the budget and capital spending plan, were part of a flurry of thousands of pages of legislation that went from introduction to passage in the final 48 hours of the legislative session.

The budget marked a roughly 3.9% spending increase from the current year, while Republicans criticized it for containing

few cuts. It raises about \$500 million more in new revenue than what Gov. JB Pritzker proposed in February to make up for declining base revenues.

The minority party also aired frustration with supermajority Democrats for providing next to no time for public review of the massive spending plan and other major bills.

“We’re rushing this process like we always do. ‘Let’s hide this stuff. Let’s hide it so that the public doesn’t see it until it’s too late,’” Rep. John Cabello, R-Machesney Park, said.

Democrats said it was the best budget they could manage in a difficult year. To address potential uncertainties stemming from federal

policy changes, they gave the governor authority over a new \$100 million “emergency” fund. And they frequently lobbed criticisms at President Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress.

“I am very pleased to be able to present a balanced budget crafted to be fiscally and socially responsible, because we see the decisions made in Washington right now are neither,” House Majority Leader Robyn Gabel, D-Evanston said. “Erratic leadership in Washington has affected our economic outlook, our revenue projections, and even threatened federal funding for our most crucial services.”

The GOP also took issue with the tax increases, although the measure did not raise or create new sales, income or service taxes.

Instead, the measures expand state taxes on foreign and out-of-state income for businesses, raise tax rates on tobacco, vapes and

sports gambling, and sweep fund balances from several lesser-known and utilized state funds.

The spending measure, Senate Bill 2510, passed the House 75-41 just before 10 p.m. The Senate followed around 11:30 p.m. with a 34-23 vote. The revenue and tax changes, House Bill 2755, and the budget implementation bill, House Bill 1075, both passed with relative ease before the constitution’s midnight deadline and only Democratic votes as well. Gov. JB Pritzker issued a statement saying he would sign it.

Another spate of tax increases included in a transit governance overhaul bill surfaced late but sputtered. The failed measure would have added a \$1.50 fee on food and package deliveries and taxed electric vehicle

See Budget, Page A5



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LOCAL AND AREA

Mendota YMCA programs give you plenty to do this summer

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Sometimes you’ll hear, “There is nothing to do in Mendota.” Well, whoever said it, must not have looked at a Mendota YMCA calendar.

Mendota YMCA Branch Manager, Stephen Donnell, YMCA Assistant Manager Omar Espinoza, and the YMCA staff make sure there is plenty to do in multiple areas.

“This is the beginning of the height of our program season. It’s a lot of phone calls and getting things set,” Donnell said. “With a young staff, college kids coming back, trying to get them the hours they ask for and keep them involved. It’s not just myself and Omar. We had several of our staff working on the golf outing.

“It’s great and exciting to have more people involved in each of our programs from year to year. There are a lot of kids and adults who want to be involved in something. Our soccer league exploded last year. There were five men’s teams last year and we’ll have six teams this year, while the women will have 4-6 teams.

“It’s so much fun. It’s fun to watch and they have fun playing.”

The Mendota YMCA 5v5 Soccer League runs June 14-July 26 at the Mendota Area



Golfers from Mendota and all over the Illinois Valley competed in the Mendota YMCA Golf Outing on Saturday, May 10. The golf outing was the first of many programs the Mendota YMCA had for you in the spring and has for you in the summer. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

Youth Soccer League fields at Lake Mendota. Women play at 5 p.m. on Fridays and men play at 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

Players, fee is \$45 each, have to be 16 years old or older, there is a max of 12 players per

4-12, will enjoy camp activities and games at the Lake Mendota West Pavilion.

Summer Adventure Camp is \$100 for a YMCA member and \$140 for a non-member. The deadline to register is June 5, but there is a \$15 late registration fee.

The YMCA partners with the Mendota Elks Lodge for the Elks Soccer Shoot. This year, the kids will take to the MAYS fields from 9 a.m.-noon June 7 and June 14. The winners will compete at Elks State Soccer Shoot in Springfield on October 4. Fill out the registration form at the Mendota YMCA.

A men’s softball league is kicking off this year with play from 6-8 p.m. on Thursdays from June 26-July 31 at the Lake Mendota Softball Field. The league is \$45 per player 18 years or older. There is a minimum of nine players per team and a maximum of 15 players per team. The registration deadline is June 20.

And don’t forget about the second annual pickleball tournament taking to the court during the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival the second weekend in August.

All program registration takes place at the Mendota YMCA, call 815-538-2900 or the QR code on fliers through the Mendota YMCA Facebook page.

Parliamentary Procedure Team represents Mendota FFA at state

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Summer is here, school is over, but the Mendota FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team is still excited and proud of what it was able to accomplish during the 2024-25 school year.

The team composed of Maren Atherton, Heather Mann, Daniel Pierce, Jessica Reel, Leah Stamberger and Karson Sundberg were juggernauts through the postseason.

Mendota finished second at the March 11 section event at Ottawa High School, won district on March 26 at Joliet Junior College and finished 10th at state on May 1 at Illinois Central College in Peoria.

“It was a very exciting opportunity. This is the third year I competed on the Parliamentary Procedure Team,” said Stamberger, who will be a senior in the fall. “My freshman year I was on a team of all seniors. I

was actually able to advance to state as a freshman, so I’ve kind of been working toward getting back to that point. We had a lot of night practices. We put in a lot of work and dedication to placing high or winning contests.

“I have a lot of fun with it. I enjoy Parliamentary Procedure because it made me fall in love with FFA. I’m excited we were able to do so well at section, district and state.”

Reel, only in her second year on the procedure team, said it took her the first year to understand what it really was.

But her second year, as a junior, proved she understood and enjoyed what the parliament of the procedure really means.

“We had a pretty young team this year with Leah and I being two of the oldest. It’s a good experience,” Reel said. “It takes a lot of dedication because there is so much that goes into it. I feel like we’ve become a family. When we found out we

won the district competition, we all got so excited. It was such an emotional, awesome experience.

“I feel like a lot of people doubted us. It was nice to prove them wrong and show our selves we can do it.”

If you don’t know what Parliamentary Procedure is, you can ask anyone on the team and they’ll tell you.

“Parliamentary Procedure is conduct of meeting. There are five of us on the floor and there is one of us who is the chair, the presiding officer,” Reel said. “You go into this room with a bunch of judges. Everyone gets a scenario and a required motion. You get a minute to look at the scenario and to start thinking about what you’re going to debate on and how you’re going to incorporate your motion.

“The chair leads the meeting and there is a lot of discussion as we change and alter the scenario

to make it how it’s supposed to be.”

Stamberger can add more layers.

“You’re given a main motion which is basically the thing you’ll be discussing in the meeting. You have to decide whether you’re for or against the main motion,” Stamberger said. “You’re given additional motions, which you’re expected to form recess, refer to a committee, and adjourn. You’re expected to know how to demonstrate those motions.

“There are a lot of aspects in it, but Parliamentary Procedure is a great opportunity because it’s something you can definitely use in the future. A lot of different meetings and organizations try to use Parliamentary Procedure but often times use it wrong. Competing in these contests gives us a chance to be the leaders of those meetings because we know how to use Parliamentary Procedure and



The Mendota FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team represented by, left to right, Karson Sundberg, Daniel Pierce, Jessica Reel, Leah Stamberger, Maren Atherton and Heather Mann finished second at sectional, won district at Joliet Junior College and finished 10th at the state event at Illinois Central College.

the laws.”

Also included are oral questions after the team uses its 11 minutes to demonstrate. There is also a 25-question written test.

Mann was the chair, while

Reel, Stamberger, Pierce, Atherton and Sundberg were on the floor.

The MHS FFA staff advisors are Matt Meyer and Dawn Dieter.

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LOCAL AND AREA



Live Well MENDOTA

A City of Mendota Program

Classes, activities, fun being offered by Live Well Mendota

MENDOTA – Live Well Mendota will present Explore New Likes events for youth this summer.

- Pickleball Basics – Wednesday, June 18, 1-2:30 p.m. Free for incoming 5th-12th graders at Lake Mendota courts. Register online by June 13. www.surveymonkey.com/r/25Pickleball

- Planting – Wednesday, June 25, 10-11 a.m. Cost is \$5 for incoming 5th-12th graders at Lake Mendota back shelter. Learn about plants. The fee covers the plant and pot. Pay at the door. Register online by June 19. www.surveymonkey.com/r/Planting25

- Auto Body Workshop – Wednesday, July 9, 1-3 p.m. Free for incoming 8th-12th graders at the Mendota YMCA. Learn how to repair dents, scratches and rust on your car. Register online by July 7. www.surveymonkey.com/r/Auto25

- Food Science Camp – Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25, 9-10 a.m. Free for incoming 6th through 12th graders at the Mendota Civic Center. Explore the science in our food. Register by July 14. <http://go.illinois.edu/FoodScienceCampMendota>

- Crochet Class – Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25, 11 a.m.-noon. Free for incoming 9th-12th graders at the Mendota Civic Center. Register online by July 14. www.surveymonkey.com/r/25Crochet

- Illinois Junior Chef – Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25, 1-3 p.m. Free for incoming 5th graders at the Mendota Civic Center. Learn easy-to-make recipes, tips to stay safe in the kitchen and information on eating healthy. Register by calling 815-433-0707.

For more information about any of the events, call Maria at 815-539-7459.

I-39 bridge work in LaSalle County

OTTAWA – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that construction on Interstate 39 in La Salle County was scheduled to start June 2. The work zone is located entirely on the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Bridge crossing the Illinois River.

Work will maintain the bridge expansion joints. The project will begin in the southbound lanes and one lane of traffic will be open. Work will later shift to the northbound lanes. The \$1.3 million project is expected to be completed by the end of July.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area and be prepared for slow and stopped traffic. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs

in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices, and be alert for workers and equipment.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,000 miles of highway and nearly 10 million square feet of bridge deck as part of the Rebuild Illinois capital program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Accomplishments through Year Five of Rebuild Illinois include approximately \$16 billion of improvements statewide on 6,541 miles of highway, 686 bridges and 986 additional safety improvements.

For IDOT District 3 updates on X, follow us at @IDOTDistrict3. View area construction details on IDOT's traveler information map at www.GettingAroundIllinois.com.

Young actors' theatre camp offered July 7-18 at St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Princeton

PRINCETON – Learning Stages in cooperation with Festival 56 in Princeton has a mission to bring educationally sound professional theatre experiences to young actors ages 8-14. This intensive experience is designed to allow its campers the opportunity to develop their acting, singing, movement, and dancing skills while creating alongside industry professionals assembled from across the country.

Camp 56 will be held weekdays from July 7– July 18 at St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Princeton with camp Co-Directors Reid Tomasson, Analisa Pisano and assistant Jordan Britt. The culmination of the camp experience will be an onstage appearance as part of the chorus ensemble in five to 10 performances (July 25-Aug. 3) of the Festival 56 production of The Little Mermaid.

Over the course of one month, campers will participate in a series of theatrical

experiences including auditioning, improvisation, design, make-up, prop making, technical theatre, management, and musical theatre. Campers will be cast in, rehearse and perform with experienced professionals from the Festival 56 company in this summer's mainstage production of The Little Mermaid as part of the company. Campers will be offered a unique perspective behind the scenes and backstage while gaining knowledge by participating in professional dress and tech rehearsals and seeing a show through from its opening until closing night. This summer opportunity allows campers the chance to gain a better understanding of a career in theatre as they meet and interact with seasoned professional artists.

Registration is available online at Festival56.com. The camp fee is \$125 per child. Need-based scholarships are available as are family discounts. Registration forms can be

picked up at the theater, or accessed online at www.festival56.com, under the education tab. Camp forms along with the registration fees, should be mailed to the Festival box office at 316 S. Main St., Princeton, IL 61356 or scanned and returned to LearningStage@Festival56.com. If you choose to pay for your registration online, please go to the ticketing site and click on Camp 56. Service fees apply when purchasing online. Registration deadline is June 30, 2025.

Camp 56 is grateful to its sponsors, including in part by the Illinois Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation, and Sun Foundation's "Community Arts Access Regranting Program, the Community Foundation of Central Illinois, the Princeton Closet, Bob Glaser, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and Monical's Pizza.

Women Inspired Network to embrace La Dolce Vita at signature summertime event

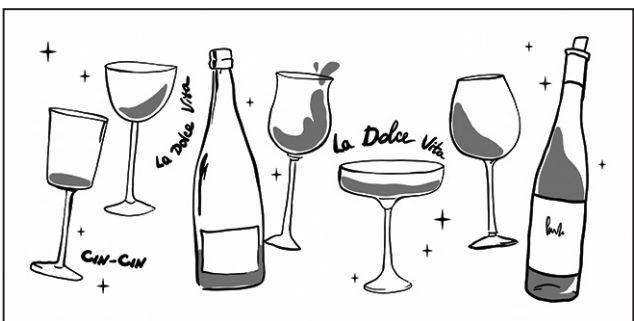
LaSALLE – The Women Inspired Network (WIN) is thrilled to announce its upcoming signature event, La Dolce Vita Night, on Wednesday, June 11, starting at 5:30 p.m., at The Detour, 325 Third St., LaSalle. This special evening promises to celebrate friendship, beauty, and the joy of living well, offering an opportunity for members and newcomers alike to connect and be inspired.

La Dolce Vita, or "the sweet life," embodies the essence of this event, where guests can enjoy an evening of connection, laughter, and unforgettable moments. Whether you're a longtime member of WIN or new to our community, join in meeting inspiring women who reflect the heart of WIN.

"We're excited to invite everyone to join us in celebrating La Dolce Vita!" said Cherie Reynolds, WIN Co-Founder. "This is more than just an invitation - it's a call to embrace joy, celebrate life, and connect in a truly meaningful way."

Attendees are encouraged to bring a friend to share in the magic of the evening. Reserve your spot and find more details about La Dolce Vita Night at <https://srcf.org/event/win-la-dolce-vita-night-2025/>

For more information, contact Janice Corrigan at 815.252.2906.



About WIN:

Women Inspired Network is a charitable giving circle of local philanthropic women who make annual contributions to empower and enhance the quality of life throughout our community. WIN is a component fund of the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation whose mission is to "connect people who care with causes that matter."

To learn more or to become a member <https://srcf.org/women-inspired-network-join-win/>

OSF DAISY Award received by Jana Trembly, RN

MENDOTA – As a partner in the international DAISY Award program that recognizes nurses' extraordinary clinical skill and compassionate care, OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center recently presented its DAISY Award to Jana Trembly, RN.

Trembly has been caring for patients in Mendota for nearly 20 years and currently serves in the infusion room within the Community Health Services Department. Her recent nomination came from a grateful patient's family member who shared a heartfelt experience: "Jana was our neighbor growing up. I haven't seen her in over 30 years. My mom came in for her annual infusion and Jana lit up; she remembered us instantly. She made us feel calm, at ease, and welcomed. She was so understanding of my mom's memory struggles at age 88 and made us feel so special. The check-in staff were just as kind. The whole experience was simply wonderful."

Heather Bomstad, vice president and chief nursing officer for OSF Saint Paul and OSF Saint Elizabeth



Heather Bomstad, left, vice president and chief nursing officer, and Dawn Trompeter, right, president, congratulate Jana Trembly, 2025 DAISY Award Winner at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center. (Photo contributed)

Medical Centers, said: "The DAISY Award gives us a meaningful way to honor our nurses' incredible impact. Jana's compassion and dedication are truly inspiring."

The DAISY Award program can be found in over

2,000 healthcare facilities in all 50 states and 14 other countries. OSF HealthCare encourages patients, family members, and fellow staff to recognize caregivers who have provided exceptional care and service by nomi-

nating them for an award to honor their dedication. For more information about the DAISY and Sunflower awards or to submit a nomination, visit: <https://www.osfhealthcarefoundation.org/gratefulpatient/>.

Meet your local Illinois Extension team this summer

PRINCETON – Did you know there is a University of Illinois Extension office in all of Illinois' 102 counties, including Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, and Putnam? As part of the state's land-grant university system, Illinois Extension delivers educational programs, extends knowledge, and builds partnerships that empower people, strengthen communities, and protect our environment.

University of Illinois Extension invites area residents to attend the Illinois Extension Roadshow. These open houses will allow you to meet local staff, explore programming, and discover how Extension can support your goals. Illinois Extension programs serve various interests, including youth development through 4-H, nutrition and wellness education, nature, gardening, and agriculture.

"We would like to invite our communities to visit our offices and learn more about all the services we offer," said County Extension Director Erin Orwig. "We look forward to showcasing all of our programs."

Open houses will be held at each of the following offices:

- Monday, June 9, 5-6:30 p.m. Bureau County Office, 850 Thompson St., Becker Professional Suites, Princeton.

- Tuesday, June 10, 5-6:30 p.m. LaSalle County Office, 1689 N. 31st Road., Ottawa.

- Wednesday, June 11, 5-6:30 p.m. Marshall-Putnam County Office, 509 Front St., Henry.

LOCAL AND AREA

Council OKs requests, hears several reports

By **KIP CHEEK**
Staff writer

MENDOTA - The Mendota City Council approved several requests and heard reports at its June 2 regular council meeting.

ALDERMANIC REPORTS

Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick presented two requests for the council's consideration, both of which were approved. The first request was from the Mendota Elks Lodge for the use of Veterans Park for the annual Flag Day ceremony. This year's event will be Saturday, June 14 at 7 p.m.

The other request was from Expressions Salon to block off three parking spaces in front of its place of business at 709 Illinois Ave. for its annual back-to-school free haircut event. This year's date is Saturday, Aug. 2 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Alderwoman Vicki Johnson gave a reminder of three events put on by the Reimagine Mendota group, all of which raise money for the Pavilion on Main Street project. Food Truck Mania is held from 4-8 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of the month in the 800 block of Illinois Avenue through October. The Queen of Hearts raffle is held every Thursday at 7 p.m. at The Chalet Sports Bar on U.S. 52 north. A Live at the Lake event is scheduled for 5-10 p.m. Saturday, June 21 at the Mendota Civic Center featuring the music of Greenfield Station.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Boelk put on record a personal conflict of interest declaration with the Mendota City Clerk and LaSalle County, stating he owns property within a TIF District in the city of Mendota.

Mayor Boelk stated more information will be gathered and an item put on the agenda of the next council meeting regarding several requests the city has received to allow golf carts and ATVs to operate on city streets.

OTHER ITEMS

Annie Short, city project manager, praised city workers for their efforts in getting the Mendota swimming pool operational for this summer season. She also recognized Nightengale's Thrift Shop for again supplying funds to allow for free admission to all swimmers throughout the season.

Short added that a ribbon-cutting ceremony was recently held for the opening of the newly redesigned disc golf course at Lake Kakusha/Lake Mendota.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, June 16 at 5:30 p.m.

SRCCF awards grant for livestock show

OTTAWA - The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation recently awarded a \$1,000 community grant for the third annual "Rumblin on the River Showdown," an elite livestock exhibition for youth ages 5 to 21.

The 2025 show, "Where Champions Roar," is expected to draw 250 to 300 exhibitors to the LaSalle County Fairgrounds, Saturday, June 28 and Sunday, June 29, said Rumblin on the River President Chris Utegg of Grand Ridge.

The event is an opportunity for youth to exhibit cattle, sheep, goats and swine.

"Our goal is to keep youth rooted in agriculture and to have a rewarding experience," said Utegg. "No exhibitor goes away empty-handed."

She said livestock exhibitors from north central and northern Illinois are "ecstatic" to have a show closer to home. Utegg has high expectations for the annual event.

"Our long-term goal is to become the elite 4-species jackpot weekend in the Midwest."



Rumblin on the River Showdown committee members Holly Marsh of Earlville and Carter Gualandri of Grand Ridge, with Starved Rock Country Community Foundation President Fran Brolley. The group recently toured the LaSalle County Fairgrounds, home of the Showdown on June 28-29. (Photo contributed)

Sublette Village Board awards bid for sidewalk project

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

SUBLETTE - Downtown Sublette is going to become a construction site in the near future.

The Sublette Village Board awarded a bid for the West Main Street Sidewalk Project at the May 12 meeting at the Ellice Dinges Center in Sublette.

"We received five bids by Monday, May 5. O'Brien Civil Works from Mt. Morris was the winning bid at \$94,905," said Sublette Village President John Stenzel. "Helm Civil bid \$151,014.80, Twin City Construction bid \$103,777, Gillan Construction bid \$123,987 and Stenstrom Excavating & Blacktop Group bid \$105,371.75."

"The motion was to award the West Main Street Sidewalk Project to O'Brien Civil Works on contingent of IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) approval. IDOT has to wait eight days for a grace period before it's actually awarded. In the motion, it also allowed the village president to sign supporting contracts and documents."

The project will be funded by the Rebuild Illinois Motor Fuel Tax funds, a \$25,000 infrastructure grant Sublette received, and \$29,000 from the local MFT.

"It's good to see this project move forward. From what I understand, O'Brien should be done by the end of October with the West Main Street Sidewalk Project," Stenzel said. "They will fix the sidewalk on the south side of West Main. It goes from the Main Street Business District to as far west as there is currently sidewalk."

"It's about two blocks, but it's actually four blocks because there isn't connecting streets on that side. There are a couple driveways and handicapped accessible street crossings that have to be addressed."

"We're also putting in two crossings for Main Street to go from the south side to the north side."

Other projects in the works include storm tile under U.S. 52 and West Main Street being resurfaced.

The U.S. 52 project is under Sublette's watch as Stenzel reached out

to Hoerr Construction and gave them videos taken of the tile to see if it can be a candidate to line the tile rather than replacing it.

"It won't be cheap, but it's cheaper than if we had to physically dig through the highway," Stenzel said.

Lee County is in charge of the West Main Street resurfacing. The county awarded the bid to Martin & Company out of Oregon. A work begin or end date hasn't been released.

In Stenzel's president report, he was mentioned at the last Northern Illinois Mayors Association meeting. A woman was there talking about Illinois America 250, which is a statewide commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States of America.

Stenzel doesn't know if Sublette is going to do anything yet, but he wanted the board to know it's coming and it's hard to believe the country is 250 years old.

For USA's 200th birthday in 1975, there was a committee, a parade, and restaurants had placemats with patriotic information.

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MENDOTA - Members of the Mendota Police Department would like to remind citizens of an important safety tip. Whether your vehicle is in your garage, driveway or parked on the street, always keep it locked.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Budget

Continued from Page A1

charging statewide among other changes. Talks on that bill could resume later this year.

New taxes on vaping, gaming, deliveries

The revenue bill creates a tax of 25 cents per wager for a sports betting licensee's first 20,000 wagers accepted, and 50 cents per wager after that.

Consumers will also see new taxes on tobacco products. The tax rate will rise to 45% from 36%. Vape products and nicotine pouches would also now be included under the tax.

The revenue plan amends state law to tax sales from all businesses that transact in the state, rather than only businesses with a physical presence in Illinois. The plan also eliminates a "safe harbor" exemption for businesses that move money outside the state.

Businesses that move profits to other countries would also be subject to the state's corporate income tax. The federal government currently taxes half of income moved offshore and Illinois would tax the other half under the revenue plan.

Businesses outside Illinois that sell \$100,000 or more to people in the state must also collect Illinois sales taxes even if the business doesn't have a physical location in Illinois. This would apply to businesses like Amazon.

"I will not support this betrayal of hard-working Illinoisans," Sen. Don DeWitte, R-St. Charles, said. "And if you care about the people who sent you here, if you truly represent them, you'll vote no too. Enough is enough. It's time for this body to stand with taxpayers, not stand up against them."

Another source of new revenue is a delinquent tax payment incentive program designed to help the state recuperate overdue tax payments. It will generate \$228 million, Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, said.

The state would also pause the final transfer of motor fuel sales tax revenue to the road fund in order to free up \$171 million, according to the governor's office's estimate.

A separate bill designed to lower prescription drug prices calls for levying a fee on pharmacy benefit managers based on the number of patients they insure. Money from that fee would go into a fund for the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to award up to

\$25 million a year in grants to independent pharmacies and pharmacies located in rural counties. The remaining money would go to the state's general revenue fund.

The measure also extends the state's Hotel Operators' Occupation Tax to short-term rentals like Airbnb and Vrbo.

Immigrant health cuts

A controversial program that provides health insurance to more than 30,000 noncitizens between ages 42 and 64 will be cut in FY26. The program's elimination saves the state \$330 million, but a \$110 million program for seniors will remain in place.

Together, the two programs have cost the state at least \$1.6 billion, according to an audit released in February, far exceeding budgeted costs for the program.

"We had to make some tough decisions here. That program grew at greater rates, financially, than we thought it would, and we had to make some hard decisions," Gabel said.

Federally Qualified Health Centers are set to receive \$40 million in the budget. The centers provide health services to low-income and uninsured people. Democrats touted that increase to provide care for immigrants who would have qualified for the health care program.

Illinois still risks losing some Medicaid funding under a proposal in Congress that threatens to slash reimbursements for states that provide health insurance to people illegally in the United States. But Gabel noted it's possible those reductions won't take place until 2027.

The budget also increases funding for safety-net hospitals with federal Medicaid funding cuts possible.

Education spending

The state's evidence-based funding model for K-12 schools calls for \$350 million in additional funding each year, with a portion of that going to a property tax relief fund and the rest directly to schools. The proposed budget fully funds the K-12 education portion at \$307 million but does not add \$43 million in property tax relief funds, according to Democratic leaders.

Funding for the Illinois Community College Board would also decrease by \$24 million, mostly because lawmakers reduced spending on a workforce development grant that Democrat leaders said was not being fully utilized.

Funding for state universities would only increase by 1%. Pritzker proposed a 3% increase for higher education even as most other areas of his budget would've increased by 1%. Senate Democrats' budget leader Sen. Elgie Sims, D-Chicago, said the budget allows for an additional 2% increase in FY26 if the federal government eliminates substantial funding.

Pensions

Despite more than a year of discussions, Illinois lawmakers did not tackle pension reform this spring. Illinois' Tier 2 pension system is likely out of compliance with Social Security's "safe harbor" law that requires pension benefits to be at least equal to Social Security.

Part of the budget package created a new Tier 2 reserve fund that can be accessed if there are violations of the "safe harbor" law. Lawmakers appropriated \$75 million for the fund this year, in line with Pritzker's proposal.

'Emergency' fund, raises, more

Notably not in this year's budget is an increase to the "rainy day" fund. Pritzker has taken pride in the fund's increases in recent years, as it's grown to a balance of \$2.3 billion, up from less than \$60,000 when Pritzker took office. The FY26 budget would suspend the monthly transfer for one year, freeing up \$45 million for general fund use.

The budget package also establishes a new \$100 million fund that the governor can tap into "in the event of unanticipated delays in or failures of revenues." The measure, an apparent nod to the uncertainty of federal funding amid ongoing congressional budget negotiations, will come from money swept from other funds.

"That will allow us to respond to actions by the federal government and challenges that present themselves and costs that have been diverted from the federal government to the state government," Sims said in a committee hearing.

The attorney general's office would get \$116 million from the general fund. Attorney General Kwame Raoul asked lawmakers to boost funding for his office as he engages in a growing number of lawsuits against the Trump administration. Raoul was hoping to receive \$120 million in funding.

Direct service providers are in line for an 80-cent per hour wage increase, but

Republicans said calling it a funding increase is "sleight of hand," because the measure would also reduce work hours for DSPs by the hundreds of thousands. That makes the increase negligible, Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, said in committee.

"It's not a great budget, but it is a good budget and it is the budget we need for this very difficult moment," Rep. Lindsey LaPointe, D-Chicago, said.

Lawmakers will see their salaries rise as part of the budget, going to a \$98,304 base salary from roughly \$92,000. That's an annualized rate of increase that is set by law.

"You raised our pay, you gave yourselves hundreds of millions of dollars of our taxpayers funds to spend on your pet projects," Rep. Amy Elik, R-Godfrey, said. "So I simply don't believe you anymore that you ever intended to be fiscally careful."

No Bears stadium funding

Lawmakers did not appropriate funding for the Chicago Bears to build a new stadium. But NASCAR would be the recipient of a \$5 million grant ahead of the sport's third downtown Chicago race in July, and the PGA Tour would receive a \$1 million grant as part of hosting the 2026 President's Cup in DuPage County. Those were two economic development measures criticized by Republicans during the Senate committee hearing.

The budget also contains \$200 million to prepare unused state properties to be repurposed for development, Sims said. Lawmakers removed another \$300 million that Pritzker had sought in spending aimed at offloading surplus property.

Gabel said the state's employee management department has negotiated more than \$100 million in health care cost savings as well.

Any remaining federal pandemic relief funding would also be sent to recipients that have not received payments in previous years before the funding expires in 2026.

(Jade Aubrey contributed).

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

Bolivia

Continued from Page A1

"We have an Amazon wish list. There are 18 kids in the Judah Quoy Orphanage and Mendota High School Interact Club is packaging stuff to give them such as coloring books, markers and kids' books," Stewart said. "I can take 110 pounds in two suitcases of things with me on the plane to Bolivia because I'm going over there to personally deliver the collected items. I can't wait to meet the orphans."

"We are lucky to have the resources we have at Mendota High School. The children with special needs, mentally or physically, are helped and go through the school system with any assistance they need. Socially, they're



here with the opportunity to form friendships and build those bonds.

"In Bolivia, it's not the same. When it is realized they are disabled, they're sent to an orphanage, or they are allowed to die. So, we want to send them some love from Mendota, America."

Stewart will be in Bolivia for a month. If you're interested in helping the cause, check out the QR code.

Be aware of DMV text scams

SPRINGFIELD – Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias is warning Illinoisans to keep on the lookout for text message scams claiming to be from the "Illinois State Department of Motor Vehicles" that threaten to suspend vehicle registration and driving privileges.

The text messages are phishing attempts designed to trick residents into giving up personal or financial information. Recipients should not respond or open any links found in unsolicited texts and emails.

"Phishing scams are unfortunately an increasingly prevalent threat in our

modern society, seeking to cheat Illinoisans out of their personal information and hard-earned money," Giannoulias said. "Please remain vigilant to avoid these scams and report them to protect yourself and others from falling victim to fraud schemes."

The office only sends text messages to remind residents about scheduled DMV appointments. It does not send text messages regarding driver's license or vehicle registration status.

Illinoisans are encouraged to report scam attempts to the Federal Trade Commission by visiting report-fraud.ftc.gov.



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OPINION



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

Illinois: A powerhouse for innovation and America’s digital future

By HARVEY HENSON
Southern Illinois University

Illinois has long been a hub for innovation. Our strategic location in the heart of the Midwest amidst a robust network of top-tier universities, and a rich legacy of collaboration among private, public, and academic sectors are just a few reasons innovation continues to thrive here.

Since 2014, the STEM Education Research Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale has played a vital role in this innovation ecosystem — building, sustaining, and advancing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education across local, regional, and national levels. At the heart of our mission is preparing the next generation of STEM educators and professionals and promoting STEM literacy through research, education, and service.

We believe Illinois is a powerful engine for American leadership in innovation. But that leadership can no longer be taken for granted.

A recent report from the Lexington Institute warns that America’s technological edge is facing serious threats from global competitors — chief among them, China. The Chinese government has made its ambitions clear: to lead the digital economy. To that end, China has already invested more than \$2.8 trillion in strategic technologies like artificial intelligence, while also engaging in aggressive efforts to steal American intellectual property and trade secrets.

Perhaps most alarming is China’s projected advantage in workforce development. Over the next decade, it is expected to outproduce the U.S. by 27.5 million STEM graduates. Meanwhile, unfilled STEM positions in the U.S. continue to rise, creating critical gaps in our high-tech workforce.

This moment demands serious reflection. Are we prepared to cede leadership in digital innovation to an authoritarian regime — one that promotes AI tools rooted in censorship and revisionist history? The answer must be no. We envision a digital future built on democratic values, grounded in facts, and supported by an open and accessible internet — where freedom of expression is a cornerstone, not a casualty.

Securing America’s tech leadership starts here in Illinois.

Our state has already made significant strides. We’re leading in emerging technologies like quantum computing, electric vehicle manufacturing, and agricultural innovation. Illinois has been recognized as a national tech hub, attracting millions in federal grants and spurring continued investment from the private sector.

But we can’t let up. What’s needed now is bold and sustained commitment from policymakers at every level — local, state, and federal — to strengthen and expand America’s innovation ecosystem.

We must accelerate investments in critical technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced computing, and quantum science. At the same time, we must resist the urge to overregulate. While it’s important to address risks, excessive regulation can stifle the very innovation we’re trying to foster — particularly for startups and entrepreneurs, many of whom call Illinois home. A thoughtful, measured approach to policy will ensure innovation continues to thrive here.

Equally vital is a renewed national focus on STEM education. Technology is reshaping every sector of our economy, and we must prepare students — beginning in early childhood and continuing through higher education — to be fluent in the language of the digital age. Every student deserves access to high-quality STEM learning opportunities so they can help build and lead our future.

In recent years, STEM has evolved into STEAM — adding Art to acknowledge the creativity and design thinking essential to innovation. I like to think the “A” also stands for All of Us. Because this future belongs to all of us. Building it will take all of us. And protecting it demands strong leadership and smart policy that empowers all of us.

(Harvey Henson is director of STEM Education Research Center at Southern Illinois University.)

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Draft registration day – June 5, 1917

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from June 4, 1997.)
By Jessica Nashold

Few days in the annals of our town have been more memorable than June 5, 1917, 80 years ago. On that day, young men throughout the country registered for the draft as the U.S. mobilized to take part in what had become a World War.

War was formally declared in April. Now, on June 5, men would provide information on which draft boards would rely when deciding who would and would not be called into service.

Many had already volunteered and the whole community turned out in support of the men now registering. A Registration Day parade was led by Captain George Anderson and three assistants, C.W. Hubbard, A.F. Fox and Harry Weygandt on horseback.

Church bells rang, factory and engine whistles blew as the parade stepped off. Of the 414 men who had registered in Mendota, 200 marched. A drum and bugle corps was on hand as well as Scoutmaster Eugene Mueller with a troop of Boy Scouts.

The draft will go into effect as soon as returns are all summarized.

Rain interfered with a ball game between single and married men who had signed up for the draft. This was postponed until June 14 when a Flag Day celebration was planned.

At a city council meeting on June 4, 1917, salary increases of \$5 per month were approved for the superintendent of water works and sewers, the water works engineer, his helper and the foreman of streets. Raises of \$10 per month were allowed for the chief of police and the night police. The driver of the hose wagon could anticipate an additional \$25 in his pay envelope.

There had been protests against a “smoke nuisance” created by Black Brothers’ steam plant. The solution –

The firm has decided to put in motors that will do away with the smoke.

Graduation exercises for eighth graders in both Lincoln and Blackstone

Backtracks & Sidetracks

schools were held at the Princess Theatre on June 6, 1917. Speaker was Dr. E. P. Page of DeKalb Normal School. His message –

The person equipped with a good education generally pulls down the best position and works the least.

It was emphasized that these 55 graduates would be the first to spend all four high school years in the new township high school, expected to be ready in the fall.

The first high school class to graduate since Mendota High had become Mendota Township High School received diplomas at the Princess Theatre on June 7, 1917. The stage was large enough to accommodate the 22 class members, the board of education, superintendent, principal, two members of the local clergy and “the orator of the evening.”

Dr. William E. Simonds, dean of Knox College, gave the graduation address. His topic was “loyalty.”

The sale of Liberty Bonds to finance the war was launched in spectacular fashion. On June 11, 1917, all church bells rang at 9 o’clock on the evening, then tolled four times. On June 12, the bells tolled three times, on June 13 two times, and on June 14, once. This served as a reminder to purchase Liberty Bonds.

The alumni group rose when the bells pealed and sang “America.”

Corbus B. Gardner, a graduate of Blackstone High in 1887, was toastmaster. He introduced many guests, among them a classmate, R.N. Crawford, mayor of Mendota.

The mayor said he recalled his school years very well, but actually had never received a diploma. Said he –

I always had the impression the teachers were wrong.

Over the years, Crawford was president of the Mendota National Bank, trea-

surer of LaSalle County and president of the local chapter of the Red Cross.

Odd Fellows and Rebeccas held a service in memory of deceased members. It was held in the chapel at Restland Cemetery, which was demolished some years ago.

Men who served in the Confederate army during the Civil War organized as United Confederate Veterans in June 1917 with headquarters in Washington, D.C. They were 200 strong.

Every one of them pledged his loyalty to the Union.

President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson paid their respects to the “courageous men of the South.”

On June 6, 1917, members of the GAR and WRC were milling around the Mendota depot waiting for a train to Bloomington where a GAR encampment was being held. A Fife & Drum Corps from Rockford gave an impromptu performance as they waited.

They enlivened the downtown district with martial music for about a half hour review previous to arrival of the noon train.

It was observed that “tears trickled down the faces of several of the old veterans” as they heard the familiar music.

One morning about 5:30, a large balloon passed over Sublette. It was manned by a captain from the Missouri Branch of the Aeronautical Service and four lieutenants. They were on a trial trip from St. Louis to Chicago. When hailed by a man on the ground –

They asked if they were going in the right direction for Chicago.

The balloon was traveling northeast.

Mrs. Karl Pohl was donating her services two days each week to supervise children at play in Blackstone Park. The Woman’s Club hoped to establish a public playground there. Mrs. Blackstone had donated \$50 toward his goal and the club planned to undertake fundraising projects to pay for further equipment.

The city has cut the grass and will install tables.

Vladimir Putin is playing Trump

By Rich Lowry

It was never going to be easy for President Trump to bring an end to the Ukraine war, but it’s even harder when he’s operating under an erroneous theory of the conflict.

The man who instigated the war and who is the chief obstacle to peace is Vladimir Putin. Yet, this enemy of the West, murderer of dissidents and serial perpetrator of wars of territorial aggrandizement has never been subjected to the same U.S. pressure campaign as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose fundamental offense is to be leading a country that his larger neighbor wants to subjugate.

After a much-anticipated phone call with Putin, Trump sounded optimistic and said Ukraine and Russia would keep negotiating, although there was no indication of anything new.

After the browbeating he took in the Oval Office a few months ago and a pause in U.S. intelligence assistance, Zelenskyy got the message. He’s done everything possible to portray himself as the reasonable one who’s interested in pursuing a deal.

A U.S.-proposed general ceasefire? Zelenskyy has said he’s willing to accept it. Russia’s idea for direct talks in Istanbul? Zelenskyy said he’d go himself.

He signed a critical minerals deal with the U.S. Putin, in contrast, has been at the receiving end of an all-carrots approach, and has reacted accordingly.

One of Trump’s advantages on the world stage is that he can make use of the “mad man theory,” the idea that he’s so unpredictable and potentially extreme that it’s best not to displease him. Against type, Trump has been less the madman with Putin than the therapist who speaks in dulcet tones, is understanding to a fault and is determinedly nonjudgmental.

Pretty much whatever Putin does, Trump says someone else would do the same in his circumstances. Putin could nuke Warsaw, and Trump might observe, “Well, it’s a shame and I hope he doesn’t do it again.”

Trump almost never strikes a pleading tone, but when Putin launched a large-scale strike on Kyiv last month, Trump

posted on Truth Social, “Vladimir, STOP!”

The play for the Kremlin is obvious here. It wants to keep inching ahead with territorial gains, and if it continues to string along negotiations, has to hope that Trump tires of the whole thing and cuts off U.S. aid to Ukraine. That would reward Putin’s intransigence with an important diplomatic victory -- a split between the U.S. and Europe -- and a chance to make major advances against an increasingly hard-pressed Ukraine.

Trump at times seems to realize this, and has referred to Putin “tapping me along.” But the master at establishing leverage in negotiations has failed to do so over Putin. In part, this is because the president has absorbed his MAGA base’s view that Putin isn’t really the problem -- the Russian leader was baited into war by globalists who took insufficient account of Russia’s interests and feelings.

Whatever one thinks of the policy of NATO expansion, Ukraine didn’t invade Russia, and Putin’s opposition to Ukraine’s existence as its own independently governed nation is at the root of the war.

So long as Putin believes that he’s winning and holds “all of the cards,” there’s no reason for him to become more pliable. Trump and other administration officials have floated further economic measures against Russia, but these would probably be of limited utility. If the administration stipulated that if Putin doesn’t drop his maximalist demands -- basically for a Ukraine that can’t defend itself -- it will back Ukraine to the hilt, that might change his calculations.

Russia’s gains have come at a hideous cost -- nearly a million Russian casualties since the start of the war. If Ukraine isn’t going to buckle and the U.S. isn’t going to abandon her, then the Russians could reach a point of exhaustion.

Short of that, Putin has every reason to think he can persevere when the world’s superpower has little sympathy for the victim of his unprovoked aggression.

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

HONOR ROLL

Northbrook Middle School

MENDOTA – Northbrook Middle School has named its third trimester high honor roll and honor roll students for the 2024-25 school year.

Fifth Grade High Honor Roll – Daniella Arteaga, Emilio Arteaga, John Bend, Lindsey Boege, Jersie Carr, Ruben Celis, Victor Correa, Harrison Coss, Oliver Davis, Gabriella Diaz, Aubrey Dinges, Sophia Dunley, Nina Escatel, Emilia Farrier, Alexxa Figueroa, Nikki Figueroa, Addison Gaspar, Brody Gilkerson, Evelina Gonzalez, Landon Kent, Krew Knaff, Adelynn Landers, Jacob Lengsfeld, Aubrey Mathieu, Kennedy McCollom, Kennedy Mellott, Liliana Montoya, Jacon Nunez Diaz, Ariel Pavnica, Lyla Pecher, Camden Phalen, Evelyn Quintana, Jaclynn Ridge, Aleeah Smith, Connor Stevenson, Maddie Strait, Reese Ward, Alexander Wickstrom, Austin Wire, Briana Zendeli

Fifth Grade Honor Roll – Omar Aranda, Rigoberto Arteaga III, Jude Borelli, Cameron Countryman, Peter Dunfrund, Josiah Enoch, Ella Escatel, Dana Falcon Santoyo, Charlee Fordham, Aubrey Gambrel, Julian Garcia, Triniti Garcia, Camila Garnica Avalos, Miles Gilkerson, Faelan Hagy, Kayden Hunt, Evan Komitas, Bailee Lambert, Izaiah Lopez, Daniela Magallanes, Jayvon Moss, Aria Olson, Gunner Owens, Freddy Perez, Brayden Piller, Easton Pyse, Molly Randa, Dylan Read, Mayra Renteria, Israel Rivera, Jayden Saylor, Wyatt Schroeder, Tyler Skaggs, Jalyessa Vernoy

Sixth Grade High Honor Roll – Jake Allen, Cruz Arteaga, Daniela Arteaga, Julian Arteaga, Bradley Betz, Jaxx Bonnell, Emiliano Casas Valle, Eliza Celis, Adam Cox, Kinsley Diaz, Brianna Escatel, Sophia Garcia, Elijah Godina, Sebastian Harzheim, Olivia Jomant, Collin Kleckner, Kate Kleckner, Leonardo Leek, Michelle Montes, Gianna Morano, Taylyn Piskie, Nadia Rodriguez, Kenyen Scott, Kayli Seablom, Lily Skjoldager, Brayden Thiele, Ruzdije Zendeli

Sixth Grade Honor Roll – Antonio Arteaga II, Olympia Becker, Mayson Desirena, Mason Fielder, Jayla Francis, Shelby Fultz, Grayson Goodlow, Liliana Krusch, Haylee Luebbing, Macy Mahaffey, Colton Mikulik, Hunter Noles, Mara Ohlendorf, Aaron Ortega, Tadeo Ortiz Manzo, Marley Pelka, Daniel Price, Arianna Quintana, Isabella Ramos, Kamilah Raya, Kaylynn Read, Emma Renoud, George Rhyndance VI, Alexander Rivera, Kayne Schneider, Drake Silva, Isabella Silva, Jaylah Sotelo, Ayden Stallings, Angie Vazquez

LaMoille High School

LaMOILLE – LaMoille High School has named its high honor roll and honor roll students for the spring 2025 semester.

High Honor Roll

Gabriella Martin, Dakota Wendelken, Corbin Engel, Jana Felton, Alexis Flanagan, Eli Olivares, Olivea Glasper, Gavin Leffelman, Jena Monroe, Brianna Smith, Wyatt File, Braden Fischer, Evan Flanagan, Lola Hauge, Aubrey Sadnick, Chloe Williams, Connor Deering, Keller Hult, Abigail Michael, Cody Winn, Elizabeth Boege, Sebastian Dobson, Isabella Fischer, Edward Fry, Catherine Griffin, Jack Heinzeroth, Owen Hunter, Claire Lovgren, Joshua

Seventh Grade High Honor Roll – Isaac Baltazar, Karly Beetz, Bristol Bonnell, Austin Brown, Kathleen Clark, Lila Coss, Aliya Escatel, Bellalyn Escatel, Janelly Escatel, Samantha Foltyniewicz, Aubri Gonzalez, Kayleigh Higgins, Albana Imeri, London Jones, Chloe Klein, Sebastian Magallanes, Dianely Mendez-Santana, Kendra Milus, Viridianna Perez, Kayne Phillips, Hunter Piller, Parker Ramer, Camilo Ramirez, Lyla Rodriguez, Evelyn Sims, Victor Solorzano, Adalynn Sondgeroth, Maycie Sproston, Gavin Stamberger, Harper Stamberger, Raelynn Sundberg, Elyse Waldron, Bailey Work-Sibley

Seventh Grade Honor Roll – Isayanna Arreola, Bentley Bejster, Kenna Brown, Jose Chavez Vidal, Caroline Correa, Holden Coss, Aaron Covarrubias, Aliya Eames, Taylor Erlernborn, Jayden Figueroa, Olivia Gallagher, Alejandro Gonzalez, Dominic Gonzalez, Gage Hanson, Herlinda Huizar, Skyler Kenny, Kathryn Loutsch, Elaina Ohlendorf, Jordan Olivarrez, Charlizze Pena, Maggie Price, Bailee Rambert, Nicolas Ramirez Bautista, Brooklyn Russell, Henry Schroeder, Kennie Stremlau, Armando Valdes, Wyatt Zimmerman

Eighth Grade High Honor Roll – Mallory Beck, Brianna Betz, Lila Bielema, Kylee Bonnell, Jacqueline Bryson, Arian Chavez, Gabriela Diaz, Eliana Eames, Ari Gambrel, Illan Garcia, Valeria Gomez, Vania Gomez, Kyndra Higgins, Callum Indigo, Ava Mahaffey, Allison McNutt, Alana Melendez, Olivia Perryman, Lumen Setchell, Liam Strait, Samantha Stremlau, Gavin Tolley, Camila Vallejo, Maci Winn

Eighth Grade Honor Roll – Aisaac Arteaga, Candie Arteaga, Mia Arteaga, Rafael Arteaga, Sebastian Arteaga, Audrina Askin, Charles Beatty, Annalee Becerra, Lilliana Bucio, Bella Bute, Hayden Cedillo, Sergio Correa, Leighton Davis, Aliya Delao, Kannon Delao, Gina Diaz, Isaac Espinoza, Aiden Fisher, Bradley Fultz, Aleeya Garcia, Kaitlyn Giberson, Giana Godina, Felipe Gonzalez, Joshua Granados, Averie Hazelwood, Devin Hernandez, Eli Kaecker, Abriana Klein, Gage Knight, Christopher Komitas, Yuliza Magallanes, Valerie Manz, Analay Martinez, Mikayla McLain, Jacob Nelson, Elizandro Orozco, Samuel Reyes, Nora Rhynedance, Axel Ruiz, Alexis Saylor, Georgia Schwaegerman, Juliana Seablom, Moxie Taylor, Laurali Thompson, Emerson VanHorn, Dylan Welch, Brayden Wilhelm

Martin, Jenna Pinter, Sadie Quest, Olivia Sadnick, Nickolas Spangler, Tate Sundberg

Honor Roll

Claire Drummer, Evelyn Morrison, Zayna Felton, Cole Monroe, Jasper Stockwell, Logan Bates, Alexander Lovgren, Gage Spangler, Breana Spencer, Harley Blair, Jhett Cowser, Katrina Hendricks, Colton Ladson, Jonathan Martin, Gavin Moore, Madelyn Wyatt, Brayden Ahlstrom, Jayden Brockhum, Madison Durdan, Grace Kelly, Daimien Pinkston, Ella Ryan, Tyler Billhorn, Richard Boege, Dakota Hardin-Coffman, Mylanichole Snyder, Evan Supan

SUBLETTE NEWS

ST. AMBROSE REUNION RETURNS TO SUBLETTE

The village of Sublette will be invaded by bees on Thursday, June 12 – St. Ambrose Fighting Bees.

Each year in June, St. Ambrose alumni, family and friends gather in large cities across the country for a Bee Happy Hour. For the past four years, Sublette has been included as a location for the bees to swarm.

The gathering will be held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at LaFiesta Restaurant in downtown Sublette. There will be light snacks and an open bar. This is a chance for the bees to get together and network with people who have an interest in St. Ambrose.

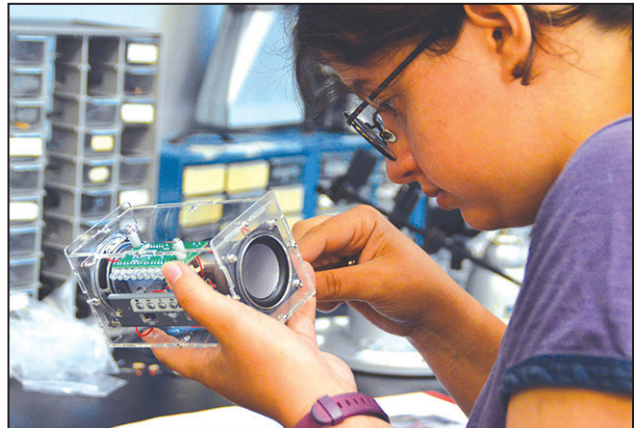
The event is being hosted by Linda Gray, Penny Farringer, Madison Althaus and Don Dinges. For more information, contact Grady at 815-883-1100 or Dinges

at 815-713-5675. More information is also available on the St. Ambrose website.

St. Ambrose University is located in Davenport, Iowa, and many students from the Rockford Diocese attend the school.

BLOODMOBILE SET FOR JUNE 10

A bloodmobile will be held from 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, June 10 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Hall. Walk-ins are welcome.



IVCC's Ed' Venture summer camps get underway in June

OGLESBY – More than 40 enrichment camps exploring everything from robotics to rockets, charcuterie cuisine to cybersecurity, and sculpting to soil science will get underway as part of Illinois Valley Community College's Ed' Venture Camp 2025.

Youths from 5-17 years old can participate in the camps from June through August. Most courses are in-person attendance, but some two dozen online camps are also available.

"IVCC summer camps are designed to keep kids engaged in enrichment activities during the summer... while still having fun! Many campers return year after year," said Kim Koehler, Community Program Manager for IVCC's Continuing Education Center.

Activities fill quickly, so early registration is recommended.

Career teen camps, introduced four years ago, have been well received, Koehler said.

Teen camps focus on career exploration in fields such as engineering, health-care, automotive technology, welding, or truck driving. This summer, participants in the GEAR UP camp will ride along with IVCC's Truck Driver Training faculty and use the new training simulators. GRIP students will work in the CAD lab with 3D printers and use soldering irons in the electrical lab.

The summer enrichment program attracts some 400 youths with an inviting list

of activities. In addition to returning favorites, new camps for children include leadership, ROBLOX Makers, Kids in the Kitchen: Kid-Cuterie, Dig In: Soil Science, "Leaf" It to Me, Sculpt It, AI Cyber Crusaders, and Summer STEAM Ed' Venture. New teen camps include Truck Driver Training, PLC (computer programming) Bootcamp and Yes, Chef Culinary Camp.

One new offering, AI Cyber Crusaders, will show children how artificial intelligence (AI) works, how to build and train chatbots, and how AI can program robots. Participants will work with a variety of robots while learning internet safety and how to identify and counteract cyber bullying.

Camp registration can be completed entirely online at <https://www.ivcc.edu/enroll> or by calling 815-224-0427. A full list of in-person camps can be found at <https://www.ivcc.edu/summerncamp>.

Online camps covering topics such as video game design, coding, computer programming and content creation run from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. or from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. for five consecutive days, with separate sessions geared to campers ages 8 to 11 and 11 to 14. Full Black Rocket camp descriptions and online registration information can be found at <https://www.blackrocket.com/online/ivc>.

Classes take place on the main campus in Oglesby and at Nell's Woodland nature preserve in Ottawa.

DINING & entertainment guide

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2025 EVENT SCHEDULE

MAY 30 TUMBLE TOWN 250 MARS WIKI CAMP	MAY 31 ILLINOIS VALLEY SHOWDOWN MARS WIKI CAMP
JUN 21 BUCKING BILLS MARS WIKI CAMP	JUL 3 40th ANNIVERSARY MARS WIKI CAMP
AUG 23 GRILL WARS MARS WIKI CAMP	SEP 13 MONSTER TRUCK BASH MARS WIKI CAMP
OCT 18 LASALLE SHOWDOWN MARS WIKI CAMP	

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE - CHECK FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS AT: WWW.LASALLESPPEEDWAY.COM

THE BACK PAGE

HAPPINESS IS

Happiness is...
All of the special cards and flowers I received for my 90th birthday. God bless.
Alta Stroyan

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

FAMILY GARAGE SALE
2104 Diana Drive
June 5-6
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Clothing, household & miscellaneous.
1t23r

DOWNSIZE-MOVING SALE
71 N. Main St., LaMoille
June 12
1-4 p.m.
June 13 & 14
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Collectibles, kitchen, crafts, X-mas houses, Rikes bears, baking, dishware, furniture.
1t23r

GARAGE SALE
32 E. U.S. Highway 34, Mendota
June 13
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
June 14
8 a.m.-noon
Seasonal decorations, jigsaw puzzles, clothing, cookbooks, household & glassware, pack 'n play, Precious Moments, child's picnic table, Frozen car, baby bed, pictures, antiques, roto tiller.
1t23r



POLICE BLOTTER

DOMESTIC BATTERY
Shannon D. Doyle, 40, of 1104 Indiana Ave., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to a call for service at the Doyle address at 2:25 p.m. May 28. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

LEAVING THE SCENE OF A CRASH
Linda L. Rhodes, 74, of 609 Second Ave., Mendota, was charged with leaving

the scene of a crash at 3:51 p.m. May 29. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED
Donald A. Ruffle, 67, of Van Orin, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at 13th Avenue and Main Street at 10:14 a.m. June 1. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Incinerator hours	
MENDOTA-Incinerator (burn pit) hours for the city of Mendota are as follows:	
• Monday – 3-6 p.m.	• Thursday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• Tuesday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	• Friday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	• Saturday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Prohibited Parking

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

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

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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.



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Thursday, June 12, 2025.



Make Father's Day A Fiesta!

Super Brunch Buffet For Father's Day

9 am - 1 pm

Buffet Includes: Fried Chicken, Enchiladas, Roast Beef, Mexican Omelet, Biscuits & Gravy, Ham, Chilaquiles, Bacon, Sausage Links, French Toast, Fresh Fruit Bar, Pastry Selection

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Day	Special	Price
Monday	House Margaritas	\$5
Tuesday	Beef or Chicken Tacos	\$1.75 each
Wednesday	House Margaritas	\$5
Thursday	Open 4-9 PM	
Friday	Shrimp Fajita	
Saturday	Skirt Steak Tampiquena	
Sunday	Al Pastor Chicken Wings	

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Bittersweet to sweet!

Bittersweet.
In full disclosure, bittersweet is the adjective I'm using to describe my trip to the NBA Eastern Conference Finals Game 4 between the New York Knicks and the Indiana Pacers on Tuesday, May 27 in Indianapolis.



Not the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance

But I wanted to go to my first NBA playoff game, I had vacation days and my original plans were changed, Indianapolis is only a 3 1/2-hour drive, I love basketball, and who knows when the Bulls will be good enough to host a playoff game.

This is where the bittersweet ended.
After the Bulls' factor, it was all sweet.
I'm going to fast forward to the end and then I'll come back, but one of the sweetest parts of the entire trip to Indy was, I was a member of the live audience for one of the Inside the NBA on TNT's last broadcasts as I was less than 10-feet away from Ernie Johnson, Shaquille O'Neal, Charles Barkley, and Kenny Smith.
I have been a basketball fan since Day 1. Football and boxing have taken turns for being second, but they were never close to my love for hoops.

Growing up a nerd, I would watch games, keep stats and tell people around me to be quiet when games or the pre-show or post-show were on so I could hear every insight. Who would have thought I've been a journalist, mostly in sports, for the last 20 years?

Most of the time (after the Bulls, Michael Jordan and NBC dominated NBA TV broadcasts in the 1990s), it was the Inside the NBA crew. They're funny, knowledgeable, real and picked on each other like real brothers. NBC has the NBA TV contract again and I believe the same crew is making the transition, too, but nothing is ever the same when a move like this is made, so it was special for me to be there for one of the last TNT shows.

Back to the game.
I didn't have a horse in the race, but I subconsciously sided with the Pacers because I saw their momentum coming in as they won the first two games of the series and lost the third because Karl Anthony Towns had a massive fourth quarter.

Also, Tyrese Haliburton is becoming one of my favorite players in the league because he plays unselfishly while putting his team on his back when need be. I bought a Haliburton city jersey/T-shirt to make my fandom official.

It was boosted more when Haliburton recorded a triple-double with 32 points, 15 assists and 12 rebounds. In my head, it was a quadruple-double because he had zero turnovers. Super crazy, although, his Game 4 performance puts him in a four-way tie for No. 8 (Chris Paul times two and Magic Johnson) on the list as Rajon Rondo and Norm Nixon tie for 19 assists without a turnover in a playoff game, while Magic Johnson, Robert Reid and Johnny Moore are listed with 17, and Paul and Jason Kidd were flawless with 16 assists.

Still, watching Haliburton do his thing in person was amazing.

It was also cool to see the Knicks' Jalen Brunson, Mikal Bridges, Josh Hart and Anthony Towns play in person because I hadn't yet.

The atmosphere was awesome.
I sat next to a University of Indiana student from Japan who is at the school for her first year of a two-year program. She had never been to an NBA game, regular season or playoffs, and was just as excited or more excited than I was to be there (although I will debate).

In front of me were two drunk Pacers' fans who playfully talked smack to a group of six or seven Knicks' fans who had hilarious comebacks. They made a great game even better.

Prices for anything (I had a few beverages and purchased two T-shirts, while the third was given to every chair in the Gainbridge Fieldhouse) were cheaper than I would have had to pay in Chicago. I think I got two Coronas (I double fisted so I didn't have to come back) for what I would have paid for one at the United Center.

Oh, there was also the score, the Pacers won 130-121 to take a 3-1 Eastern Conference Finals Series lead. The Pacers won the series 4-2 on Saturday, May 31.

Now, I'm trying to find my next sport, game, location for a weekend trip because, schedule and commitments pending, this is now a thing.

Hunters have a record turkey harvest in spring

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois turkey hunters harvested a preliminary record total of 18,189 wild turkeys during the 2025 spring turkey season. This year's total compares with the previous record total of 17,208 turkeys harvested in 2024.

The top five counties for harvest in 2025 were Jo Daviess, 628; Jefferson, 518; Pike, 468; Marion, 428; and Pope, 425.

Harvest totals for area counties are: Bureau 195, DeKalb 18, LaSalle 111, Lee 113, Ogle 275, Whiteside 212.

The 2025 total includes the record youth spring turkey season harvest of 2,099 birds, which compares with the previous record of 2,010 birds set in 2024.

This year 89,687 permits

were sold compared to 86,083 last year.

Spring turkey hunting was open in 100 of Illinois' 102 counties. The 2025 regular season dates were April 7 through May 8 in the south zone and April 14 through May 15 in the north zone. The 2025 youth spring turkey season was March 29-30 and April 5-6 statewide.



4 MHS softball players earn all-conference honors

MENDOTA – Four Mendota softball players were recognized with Three Rivers Conference East Division all-conference honors for the 2025 season.

Senior Ava Eddy topped the list with a unanimous selection to the first team as an infielder. Eddy is a repeat first-teamer from her junior campaign.

Two Lady Trojans made the second team. Sophomore Addy Perryman and freshman Leah Henkel were both chosen as infielders.

Mendota's other all-conference selection was freshman Karson Doyle to the honorable mention list as an infielder.

FIRST TEAM

Pitchers – *Wynn Renkes, So., Erie-Prophetstown; *Kalleigh Gale, Jr., Kewanee; *Reese Reviglio, Jr., Princeton

Catchers – Kiyra Morris, So., Princeton; Hannah Ryan, Sr., Erie-Prophetstown

Infielders – *Lucy Oetting, Jr., Newman; *Ava Eddy, Sr., Mendota; Avah Ortel, So., Princeton; Jaylynn Hamilton, Sr., Erie-Prophetstown

Outfielders – *Alyssa Padia, Jr., Erie-Prophetstown; *Caroline Kuetzer, Jr., Princeton; Remy Hicks, So., Kewanee

Utility – Ellie Harp, Sr., Princeton (* Indicates unanimous selection)

SECOND TEAM

Pitchers – Gianna Vance, Fr., Newman; Brynn Blair, Jr., Hall; Piper Hansen, Fr., Princeton

Catchers – Macee Pickering, So., Kewanee; Caroline Morris, So., Hall

Infielders – Rylee Blades, Fr., Kewanee; Kelsea Klingenberg, Sr., Princeton; Lillian Swatos, Jr., Erie-Prophetstown; Leah Henkel, Fr., Mendota; Addy Perryman, So., Mendota

Outfielders – Paezleigh Hudgin, Sr., Erie-Prophetstown; Keely Lawson, Jr., Princeton; Amiya Rodriguez, Sr., Newman

Utility – Hannah Ryan, Sr., Erie-Prophetstown

HONORABLE MENTION

Pitchers – Charlie Pellegrini, Jr., Hall; Ayden Klendworth, So., Erie-Prophetstown; Lyric Duytschaver, So., Kewanee

Catchers – Samantha Woolley, Sr., Princeton; Kaylee Benyo, So., Newman; Kayler Pritchard, So., Erie-Prophetstown

Infielders – Addy Yepsen, So., Kewanee; Sylvie Rutledge, Jr., Princeton; Kierny Abernathy, So., Kewanee; Brenleigh Cook, Jr., Newman; Leah Burkart, So., Hall; Karson Doyle, Fr., Mendota

Outfielders – Isabella Olvera, So., Erie-Prophetstown; Charlie Pellegrini, Jr., Hall; Audrey Clucas, So., Kewanee

Utility – Ella Sterling, Sr., Hall; Chloe Stock, Sr., Erie-Prophetstown
(Final standings: Kewanee 9-1; Princeton 8-2; Erie-Prophetstown 7-3; Newman 3-7; Hall 3-7; Mendota 0-10)



Disc golf ribbon cutting

Members of the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Mendota, the designers of the course, and many sponsors (businesses, organizations and individuals had the opportunity to sponsor a hole) assembled for a ribbon cutting of the Lake Kakusha Disc Golf Course on May 30. The course, which was around Lake Mendota, was moved to Lake Kakusha to give the previous nine holes breathing room and added nine more as it is now a full 18-hole course. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

Little 10 picks top baseball players for '25

EARLVILLE – The Little Ten Conference baseball coaches have selected the players for All-Conference recognition for the 2025 season.

• **Newark (10-2)** – **Jackson Walker (Sr...3B); **David Ulrich (So...C); **Eastin McBroom (Fr...P); Toby Steffen (Jr...SS); Kiptyn Bleuer (So...P/OF)
• **Hinckley-Big Rock (10-2)** – **Martin Led-

better (Sr...C/P/1B) – Four Time Unanimous Selection; **Skyler Janeski (Jr...P/SS) – Repeat Unanimous Selection; **Jacob Orin (Jr...IF/OF/C) – Repeat Unanimous Selection

• **Somonauk (9-3)** – **Noah Brandt (Sr...IF/P/C) – Repeat Unanimous Selection; **Aldo Resendez (Sr...P/IF) – Repeat Unanimous Selection; Luke Hart-sell (So...IF/P)

• **Earlville-Leland Coop (6-6)** – **Aaden Browder (So...P) – Repeat Unanimous Selection; Grady Harp (Sr...OF); Declan Brennan (So...3B/P)

• **Hiawatha (3-9)** – **Thomas Giebel (Sr...P/3B)

• **Serena (3-9)** – **Beau Raikes (Sr...P/SS) – Repeat Unanimous Selection
(* Denotes a unanimous selection)

5 health benefits of tennis

Tennis is a wildly popular sport across the globe. Even though popular tennis stars Serena Williams and Roger Federer recently traded in their racquets for retirement, the sport continues to surge on a global scale. Sponsorships recently increased by 40 percent, according to the sports and entertainment research platform SponsorUnited. And since tennis is one of the rare sports played nearly year-round, it attracts a global and diverse fan base.

Tennis tournaments are entertaining and often draw celebrities, but the sport is even more exciting to play. Tennis also offers several health benefits. Explore these reasons to hit a tennis court near you.

1. Better your brain

Playing tennis may help improve critical thinking, mental alertness and tactical thinking by fostering connections in the brain. According to Elite Clubs, tennis also might help regulate serotonin, a brain chemical linked to body functions like appetite and sleep cycle.

2. Improve balance

Tennis requires agility, balance and coordination. By getting on the courts regularly, players can hone these skills.

3. Help the heart

The Better Health Channel in Australia reports tennis can be a great cardiovascu-



lar workout that increases aerobic capacities, reduces resting heart rate, lowers blood pressure, and improves metabolic functions. Playing tennis also can help burn calories, so it may help you lose weight, which also is beneficial for the heart.

4. Get social

Tennis is played in doubles or singles, meaning there will be at least one other person on the court with you. That provides an opportunity to socialize and build new relationships.

5. Build stronger bones

The United States Tennis Association advises that tennis can help build muscle and strengthen bones, which can be advantageous for older adults who are worried about bone loss. The USTA also reports one long-term study found playing tennis added 9.7 years to players' lives compared to sedentary individuals.

Tennis offers a wide range of health benefits that make it an ideal activity for players of all ages.

Free Fishing Days coming June 13-16 in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The 2025 Illinois Free Fishing Days celebration will take place June 13-16. During this four-day celebration of fishing in Illinois, anglers of all ages can fish without purchasing a fishing license, salmon stamp or inland trout stamp.

Discover the fun of fishing or introduce your kids to the outdoor adventure of fishing during these free fishing days. If you're new to fishing, go online to <https://www.ifishillinois.org/> to find helpful information about fishing in Illinois.

Kids' fishing tournament set in LaSalle

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

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

Participants should bring their own tackle (one pole and one hook). No artificial lures are allowed. Bait will be provided.

Snacks and drinks will be provided to the participants. The tournament is sponsored by the Better Fishing Association of Northern Illinois, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Peru Rescue Station, in association with the cities of LaSalle and Peru.

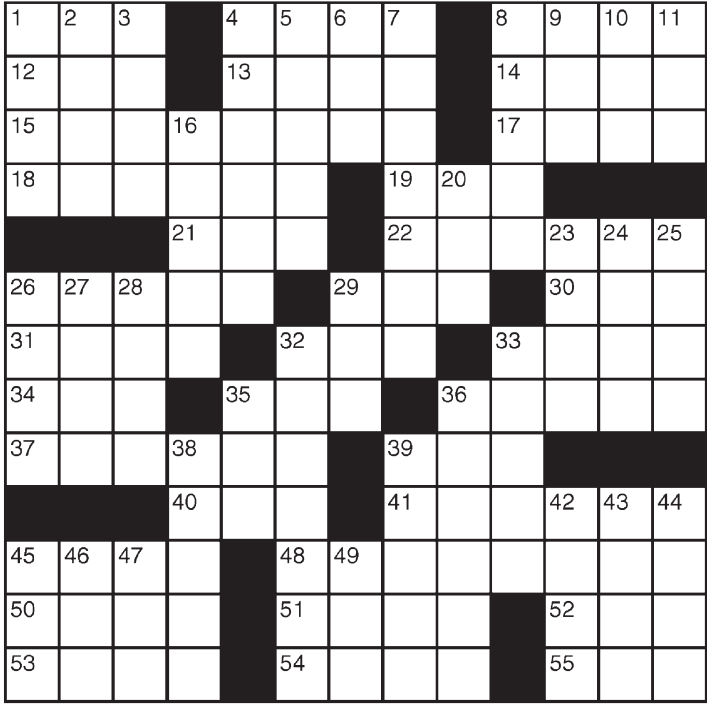
For more information, call 815-223-2382 or 815-488-2035.

ENTERTAINMENT

King Crossword

ACROSS

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8 Baby carriage
12 Mode lead-in
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27 Landed
28 Jet type
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35 TiVo precur-
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36 Foes
38 Hawkeye
39 "For — sake!"
42 Actress Merrill
43 Eve's grand-
 son
44 Without
45 Busy insect
46 Sgt., for one
47 Corn spike
49 Chopper

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Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Has Hugh Jackman officially divorced his wife yet? Is he still dating Sutton Foster? -- **K.D.**

A: Despite separating two years ago, actor Hugh Jackman ("Deadpool & Wolverine") and his wife of almost 30 years, Deborra-Lee Furness, only recently took the next step toward divorce, with Furness finally filing to end the marriage. Jackman has been quietly dating actress Sutton Foster ("Younger"), but it's not known for how long. The two starred in the revival of "Music Man" on Broadway in 2022. Depending on which gossip column you read, the consensus seems to be that Jackman and Foster are living together in the penthouse that was once home to Furness.

Q: I've never seen any other actor with more energy than Tom Cruise. Now that the newest "Mission: Impossible" film is out, what does he have coming up next? Would he ever do a TV series? -- **A.E.**

A: "Mission: Impossible -- The Final Reckoning" made an estimated \$79 million at the box office during

Memorial Day weekend, adding to Tom Cruise's long list of blockbuster hits throughout his career. The 62-year-old movie star has no plans to stop anytime soon. Production on "Top Gun 3" is expected to begin in late 2025 or early 2026. In addition, he has five films in production or preproduction currently, so I have no clue how he's going to squeeze the follow-up to 2022's "Top Gun: Maverick" into his crazy schedule.

First up is the untitled Alejandro G. Inarritu Film with Jesse Plemons ("Killers of the Flower Moon") and John Goodman ("The Righteous Gemstones"). Then there are three films listed to be in preproduction: the World War II drama "Broadsword" with Henry Cavill ("The Witcher"); a remake of the 1977 Clint Eastwood film "The Gauntlet"; and the untitled Tom Cruise/SpaceX project, which will be filmed on the actual International Space Station.

Cruise has also recently expressed a strong desire to play Les Grossman again, the loudmouth, hairy studio executive he portrayed in the 2008 comedy film "Tropic Thunder."

Cruise has yet to star in a series, however. He seems to be the last major Hollywood holdout who focuses exclusively on the big screen. Perhaps when he enters his seventh decade of life, he'll slow down and compete for an Emmy Award. Perhaps the Les Grossman script could be turned into a limited Netflix series?

Q: Is it true that "Duck Dynasty" is coming back? Will it feature the same family members? -- **D.S.**

A: It's hard to believe it's been 10 years since we saw the Robertson family of Louisiana on our TV screens. Their fans are mourning the recent loss of family patriarch Phil but will be thrilled to know that his legacy will live on in a new series on A&E this summer.

The new series will center around Phil's son Willie, wife Korie, and their children and grandchildren. Phil's brother, Si, is also expected to appear. A&E has such confidence that the show will be a hit that it's already ordered two seasons' worth of episodes. "Duck Dynasty: The Revival" will premiere on Sunday, June 1, on A&E.

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD--Jeremy Allen White, winner of two consecutive Emmys for "The Bear," will take on Austin Butler ("Elvis") in "Enemies." The \$25-million low-budget crime drama will shoot -- where else? -- in Chicago. The dynamic duo are squaring off as a detective and an infamous contract killer who collide in a deadly cat-and-mouse game.



Butler

White completed shooting for "The Mandalorian and Grogu" (opening on May 22, 2026) and is now wrapping up his portrayal of Bruce Springsteen in "Deliver Me from Nowhere." (Springsteen has given his blessing and visited the set several times to watch shooting.) It opens later this year. In addition, White's fourth season of "The Bear" drops on June 25.

Meanwhile, Butler's completed "Eddington" with Joaquin Phoenix, Pedro Pascal and Emma Stone (hitting theaters on July 18). He has also finished up Darren Aronofsky's black-comedy

crime film "Caught Stealing," co-starring Matt Smith, Zoe Kravitz, Leiv Schreiber and Carol Kane. It completed shooting in late November 2024 and will be released on Aug. 29.

Stanley Tucci, who scored big with Meryl Streep and Amy Adams in "Julie & Julia" (2009), made cooking all over Italy fascinating to watch in CNN's "Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy" (2021). Now he's booked another go-round to pasta land, this time for National Geographic's "Tucci in Italy" -- a 10-part docuseries exploring different regions of Italy through his perspective on Italian cuisine and culture.

But first and foremost, he's a film actor who recently starred in the eight-time Oscar-nominated film "Conclave." The film won its only Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay, written by Peter Straughan. His script was so accurate that cardinals who elected the current American Pope used it as their bible!

As a big fan of Valerie Harper's "Rhoda" series (1974-78), I loved Julie Kavner, who played her sister, Brenda. I wondered where she's been, and guess what?

She's been hiding in plain sight as Marge Simpson in "The Simpsons" from 1989 to the present day.

Kavner, now 74, will be on screen in writer/producer/director James L. Brooks' (of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" fame) comedy drama "Ella McCay." It also stars Woody Harrelson, Kumail Nanjiani, Albert Brooks, and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Curtis' long-awaited sequel "Freakier Friday," with Lindsay Lohan, is arriving on Aug. 8, and she also produced Apple TV+'s "The Lost Bus," starring Matthew McConaughey and America Ferrera. McConaughey's crime thriller "The Rivals of Amziah King," co-starring Kurt Russell and Cole Sprouse, is due later this year.

Jason Statham has scored with more than 50 action-packed hits like "The Beekeeper" in 2024 (\$162.6 million grosses with a \$40 million cost) and "A Working Man" in March (\$99 million grosses with a \$40 million cost). He's next hitting screens in "Mutany," out on Jan. 9, 2026, and then he'll be back on screens in "The Beekeeper 2," which will be less about tending bees and more about raising Cain!

Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* According to legend, and the official story from Nathan's, four immigrants held the first hot dog eating contest at Nathan's Famous stand on Coney Island on July 4, 1916, to prove who was the most patriotic.

* Koala bears have no sweat glands, so they cool themselves by licking their arms and stretching out as they rest in trees.

* Asbestos used to be a common sight on film sets. The carcinogenic mineral was a common substitute for snowflakes in film-making until shortly after World War II.

* No matter how hot your summer day feels, you won't actually be able to cook an egg on a sidewalk. That's because you'd need a temperature of at least 158 F, and the highest recorded only reached 131 F. Besides that, concrete isn't a good heat conductor.

* When it comes to wine, and Sauvignon Blanc in particular, a cat pee-like aroma is often indicative of a high-quality vintage.

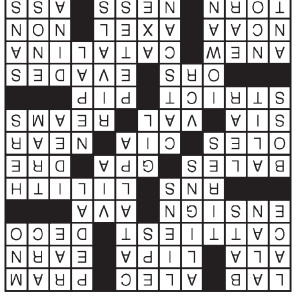
* Inazawa Grand Bowl bowling center in Japan is the world's largest bowling alley, with 116 lanes.

* Mars' dust storms, the planet's defining weather feature, are the largest in the solar system and can last for months.

* Despite producing 95% of the world's bourbon supply, Kentucky's official drink is milk.

* A museum in Helsinki, Finland, has been infested with *Loxosceles laeta*, venomous recluse spiders, that originally came from South America. The spiders are extremely resistant to attempts to kill them, and no one knows who imported them.

* A male cheetah can cause a female cheetah to ovulate by barking at her.



Solution time: 26 mins.

Couch Theater

"Sinners" (R) -- This supernatural horror flick from director Ryan Coogler ("Black Panther: Wakanda Forever") has become one of the biggest film releases of the year, hopefully making it one to watch during next year's award season. Taking place in 1932 Mississippi, the film follows twin brothers Smoke and Stack Moore, as well as their cousin Sammie, as they start up a local juke joint for the Black community in their town. Despite a pastor's warnings that the blues can summon supernatural spirits, Sammie and other local musicians perform blues songs during the juke joint's opening night. Little do they know that their entrancing tunes beckon a vampire clan closer and closer, and a massacre is sure to follow. Michael B. Jordan stuns in the dual role of Smoke and Stack, and Ludwig Goransson's soundtrack is the perfect finishing garnish to this incredible film. Available to rent on June 3. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Straw" (R) -- Tyler Perry's films are often centered around telling underrepresented Black stories that often evoke intense emotions in their characters and their audience. His latest release, which is available to stream on June 6, puts this same formula to work with Taraji P. Henson being a force to reckon with in the lead

role. She portrays single mother Janiyah, who is at her wit's end after a series of events cause her to lose out on money for her daughter's medical bills. With nowhere left to turn, Janiyah heads to the bank, preparing to commit a robbery. Once she's there and in the thick of the action, cooler heads like bank manager Nicole (Sherri Shepherd) and Detective Kay Raymond (Teyana Taylor) attempt to talk Janiyah out of making a terrible mistake. (Netflix)

"Stick" (TV-MA) -- Owen Wilson takes on his first leading role since the trainwreck that was "Haunted Mansion" (2023), and this time, it seems like this role is a bit more his speed. Wilson plays Pryce Cahill, a "long washed up" professional golfer who lacks a purpose after both his golfing career and marriage went south. While teaching golf basics to the elderly, Pryce encounters a teen boy named Santi (Peter Dinklage), whose golf swing shows serious potential. So, Pryce decides to take Santi under his wing and sign him up for an amateur championship tournament to see if Santi can win it all! The first three episodes premiere June 4, with subsequent episodes releasing every Wednesday. (Apple TV+)

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FLASHBACK

1. Where did the melody for The Toys' "A Lover's Concerto" come from?
2. Name the Chicago song that includes the lyric "Eh, cumpari, ci vo sunari."
3. Which group released "Nightshift"?
4. Name the artist who wrote and released "Young Turks."
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Here we come, walking down the street, We get the funniest looks from everyone we meet."

Answers

1. The melody is Minuet in G Major by Christian Petzold, in 1725. For a long time it was believed that it had been written by Johann Sebastian Bach because the song was found in a compilation by Bach's sister.
 2. "Saturday in the Park," in 1972. The Italian lyric comes from "Eh, Cumpari" by Julius La Rosa, in 1953.
 3. The Commodores, in 1985. The song charted around the globe.
 4. Rod Stewart, in 1981.
 5. Theme song from "The Monkees" television show, 1966-1968, starring Micky Dolenz, Michael Nesmith, Peter Tork and Davy Jones. The show was canceled after the second season due to a dispute: The band wanted more guest stars and the TV network didn't. Meanwhile, the show's exposure did make the group very successful.
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• Trivia Test •

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are male bees called?
2. TELEVISION: Which TV streaming network plans to host a new series based on the "Harry Potter" books?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many months have 31 days?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to appear on television?
5. MATH: What is the Roman numeral MMXXV in Arabic numbers?
6. MOVIES: What is the name of the spaceship in the movie "Alien"?
7. LITERATURE: "Nicholas Nickleby" is a novel written by which author?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which airline uses the slogan "Fly the Friendly Skies"?
9. ACRONYMS: What phrase does the real estate acronym DTI stand for?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What are the seeds of a pomegranate called?

Answers

1. Drones.
 2. HBO Max.
 3. Seven: January, March, May, July, August, October and December.
 4. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
 5. 2025.
 6. Nostromo.
 7. Charles Dickens.
 8. United Airlines.
 9. Debt-to-income ratio.
 10. Arils.
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Weekly SUDOKU

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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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RELIGION

The cure for the insecure

I once heard a story about a little boy named Johnny who was visiting his grandparents. Johnny had just received his first slingshot and practiced in the woods nearby, but just couldn't hit a target. When he came back to his grandma's backyard, he noticed her pet duck. On an impulse he took aim and shot a rock. The stone hit—and killed—the duck. Of course, he panicked. His sister saw the whole thing, but said nothing.

After lunch that day, Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash dishes." But Sally said, "Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen...didn't you Johnny!" She leaned over to him and whispered, "Remember the duck." So Johnny did dishes with Grandma.

Later that day, Grandpa offered to take the children fishing. But Grandma said,

"I'm sorry, but I need Sally to help make supper." Sally smiled and said, "Johnny wants to do it." Again, she whispered, "Remember the duck." And Johnny helped Grandma prepare dinner while Sally went fishing with Grandpa.

After several days of doing both his and Sally's chores, finally he couldn't stand it anymore and confessed to Grandma that he had killed her duck. "I know," said Grandma, giving Johnny a big hug. "I was standing at the window and saw the whole thing. But I love you, so I forgave you. I wondered how long you would let Sally make a slave out of you."

That may be a cute, funny little story, but it conveys a very serious truth: God's love for us is about so much more than the things we do. He loves us...period. Nothing we

do will ever change that. Nothing.

Too many Christians live their lives like slaves—to the devil—because they believe his lies more than they trust God. His tactic is to deceive God's people into believing that we must do everything right in order to be accepted and have favor with God. He lures them into a legalistic view of life, making them "slaves" to their good works, because they believe this is what makes them righteous, or pleasing to God.

So, when they're doing "good" things, they feel like they're alright with God. And when they feel like they're not doing well, they believe God is angry with them. This is where the enemy becomes like Sally, Johnny's sister. The devil knows that some people are unable to separate their "who" from their "do" or simply accept that they have been made righteous because of what Christ did—not what they do. He likes to constantly remind us of all our weaknesses, mistakes and sins, setting us up to live an endless cycle of comparison and competition with others, shame, judgment and a constant, nagging feeling of not being good enough.

On the contrary, God is not like that at all! Ephesians 1:4-5 tells us that "he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will" (NIV). Verse 7 says, "In



him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

God loves you! You were chosen, a unique, wonderfully made creation, for relationship with Him. He wants each and every one of us to understand that He sent His Son to die for our sins, to bring us into fellowship with Him—not because of anything we do, have done, or ever will do... it is simply because He loves us.

I really want you to get this: Nothing we do will ever make God stop loving us! He sees the things we do. And when we make mistakes, all He wants is for us to realize that there is no reason to hide. Our righteousness is based on what Jesus did, nothing more or less. We do not have to live under guilt and condemnation when God is ready and willing to forgive us when we repent of our sins (1 John 1:9). God is gracious, and His mercies are new every day...we can count on that!

So, no matter where you are on this journey of faith, you can say, "I'm

okay and I'm on my way," because you are secure in the knowledge of who you are in Christ! Don't worry about your "arrival," or how far you have to go. Just keep living by faith, knowing that God is in control and He will lead you by His Holy Spirit, according to His purpose and plan for your life.

Learn what God's Word says about you...and believe it! Learn to live more and more in your new nature of righteousness. When you know who you are in Christ, the result is you will not live a mediocre, compromising life, but you will live without guilt and condemnation. You won't live to try to impress anyone, to prove you're good enough. You will no longer be tormented by the lies of the enemy, but you will be free to be who God created you to be: righteous by faith in Christ.

Learn to agree with God! Your past—whether it's your childhood, yesterday, or just five minutes ago—is over. You don't have to live with guilt or regret. Give your failures to God, and He will be able to use everything for your good and for His glory! Af-

ter awhile, the devil will no longer be able to torment you because you will be able to counter each one of his lies with the truth: I am the righteousness of God in Christ!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource God Is Not Mad at You. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 150 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life program, which is broadcast to millions in over 110 languages. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org

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Where are the AUCTIONS?

See Page A5!

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

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 Bresleys LLC Applicant.
No. 0510
(May 28, June 4 and 11, 2025)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2024-JA-33 and 2024-JA-34
TO: Ashley Dippel, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 7th day of August, 2024 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by David A. Greer, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Bentlee Schuh and Huxley May, minors', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 2nd day of July, 2025, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will

be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

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

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

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and an order or judgment entered.
Dated: May 23, 2025
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0601
(June 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

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119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

301 ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES WANTED:

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2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT 4x4, 2.7L Turbo, 24K Miles, Gray.....	\$38,900	2021 Chevy 1500 Z71 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ Topper, 63K Miles, Blue.....	\$36,900
2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab Custom 4x4, 2.7L Turbo, 21K Miles, Black.....	\$35,900	2021 Chevy Traverse AWD Premier, 70K Miles, White.....	\$29,900

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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	2016 Chevy Equinox AWD LTZ 4-cyl, 64K Miles, Silver.....	\$13,900
2020 Chevy Equinox Premier AWD, 100K Miles, Maroon.....	\$16,900		

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MENDOTA-TROY GROVE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SUMMARY OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2025			
Cash Balance.....	April 30, 2024		
	Money Market Account,		
	First State Bank Mendota.....	\$	92,662.88
	Checking Account, First		
	State Bank, Mendota.....		5,168.55
	9 month CD, First State Bank Mendota.....		102,715.45
	28 month CD, First State Bank Mendota.....		102,476.86
Cash Receipts.....	Schedule I.....	\$	252,528.44
		\$	555,552.18
Cash Disbursements.....	Schedule II.....	\$	230,991.50
	April 30, 2025		
	Money Market Account,		
	First State Bank Mendota.....		101,977.71
	Checking Account,		
	First State Bank Mendota.....		9,237.05
	9 month CD, First State Bank Mendota.....		106,541.21
	28 month CD, First State Bank Mendota.....		106,864.71
		\$	555,552.18
Schedule I			
Statement of Cash Receipts for the Year Ending April 30, 2025			
Amount Received From County Collector, LaSalle County			
Tax assessed by District for LaSalle County:			
	Jul. 5, 2024		37,956.98
	Aug. 5, 2024		70,485.72
	Sep. 5, 2024		18,253.62
	Oct. 4, 2024		34,853.06
	Dec. 20, 2024		4,202.09
	Dec. 20, 2024		123.08
		\$	165,874.55
Amount Received from County Collector, Bureau County			
Tax assessed by District for Bureau County:			
	Sep. 3, 2024	\$	7,325.27
	Oct. 31, 2024		2,977.06
	Feb. 28, 2025		30.37
		\$	10,332.70
Amount Received from the Treasurer of the State of Illinois			
For Illinois Replacement Tax:			
	Jun. 12, 2024	\$	11,115.01
	Aug. 13, 2024		11,800.23
	Oct. 9, 2024		7,584.35
	Dec. 12, 2024		2,372.81
	Feb. 12, 2025		6,298.02
	Mar. 12, 2025		2,594.98
	Apr. 9, 2025		2,462.49
		\$	44,227.89
Interest Received from Money Market Account and CD's:			
	First State Bank M/M.....	\$	3,089.06
	First State Bank 9m CD.....		3,825.75
	First State Bank 28m CD.....		4,387.85
			11,312.67
Miscellaneous Income:			
	Municipal League		4,966.88
	Out of Dist. Income		15,813.75
		\$	20,780.63
Total Items of Cash Receipts.....		\$	252,528.44
Schedule II			
Statement of Cash Disbursements for the Year Ending April 30, 2025			
Utility Bills, Troy Grove Station:			
	Ameren	\$	3,071.36
	AT&T FirstNet		419.22
	Nicor		1,110.85
		\$	4,601.43
Administration Expenses:			
	First State Bank engine		70,752.88
	First State Bank loan intr.		2,945.08
	Illinois Finance truck pay		7,750.00
	Jack Huggins (comp. rpt)		85.00
	MABAS		351.00
	Mendota Reporter		52.50
	Ottawa Fire Dept. grant		1,000.00
	Expenses \$1000 or over:		
	CT		4,629.05
	Comm Direct/Baycom		1,672.52
	Dinges Fire		24,192.65
	ESO		1,055.60
	Geneva Equipment		23,750.00
	Grainco F.S.		2,754.90
	MES		1,030.92
	Mendota Fire Dept.		7,121.88
	NIAB		1,570.00
	Nicholson Comm		7,298.00
	Visa		3,610.87
	Zips		1,109.98
		\$	82,275.65
Compensations Paid:			
	Attorney for Dist.	\$	1,424.50
	Secretary		3,000.00
	Mendota clothing		3,500.00
	Trustees		1,800.00
	Troy Grove allow.		16,140.00
	Troy Grove Chief		800.00
	City of Mendota		4100.00
	Fire Protection.....		4100.00
	City of Mendota		
	Ambulance Serv.....		5500.00
	Mendota Chief		800.00
	Troy Grove Captain		350.00
	Troy Grove Lieutenant		400.00
		\$	37,814.50
Insurance:			
	Leffelman	\$	1,068.00
	Liberty Mutual		1,521.00
	McNeil		14,588.00
		\$	17,177.00
All other disbursements less than \$1000 each.....		\$	6,126.46
Total Items of Disbursements.....		\$	230,991.50
APPROVED			
Trustees Mendota Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection			
State of Illinois)			
County of LaSalle)			
I, Barry Sutton, Secretary of the Mendota-Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection District in the Counties of LaSalle and Bureau, State of Illinois, Do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year Ending April 30, 2025.			
No. 0602			
(June 4, 2025)			

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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.

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

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

**Multimedia Sales Position
Rochelle News-Leader
ATTN: Will McMacken
P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068
or email to
bmcmacken@newsmediacorp.com**

ROCHELLE
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RNLHOUSE

203 HELP WANTED

ROCHELLE News-Leader

Part-time local delivery driver

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

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

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

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

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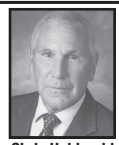
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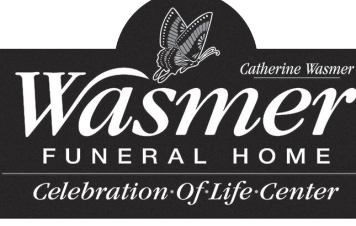
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