

# Brownstown School Board May Meeting

The Brownstown Community Unit School District #201 Board of Education met on Monday, May 18.

In new business, the board approved several memberships as annual formalities, including membership in the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), the

Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools (AIRSS), and the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB).

The school board also renewed their Child Nutrition, Illinois Free Lunch and Breakfast, and Food Distribution programs for the 2026-27 school year.

The board also approved a bid from Prairie Farms to provide milk for next school year.

A contract with Stacy Gibson to serve as the district's speech pathologist was approved.

Registration fees for the 2026-27 school year were set

as follows: Elementary - \$95; Jr & Sr. High - \$120; Drivers' Education - \$50; Ag Mechanics - \$10; and AgI/AgII - \$7.

Two new hires were approved for employment. Bailey Holman was hired as a second grade teacher and Johanna Howell was hired as a BES evening custodian.

# Behind the Bit Drill Team Wins Championship at Iowa Horse Fair Drill Competition

Behind the Bit Drill Team proudly captured the championship title at the prestigious Iowa Horse Fair Drill Competition held May 8-10 in Des Moines.

Competing against talented teams from across the region, Behind the Bit delivered a standout performance showcasing precision horsemanship, teamwork, creativity, and dedication in the arena. The team's hard work, long practice hours, and passion for their horses were on full display throughout the weekend competition.

"Going into this drill competition, I had zero expectations, especially since we have never competed before but I thought it would be a good experience for them. What I didn't expect was the amount of hard work, dedication, and heart this team would pour into every practice and their winning performance. Watching these cowgirls grow, encourage one another, and give it their all has made this experience more rewarding than I ever imagined," said Emily Draege

The Iowa Horse Fair is one of the Midwest's premier equine events, bringing together horse enthusiasts, competitors, clinicians, and vendors for a weekend celebrating the equine industry and western heritage.



Behind the Bit Drill Team extends appreciation to families, sponsors, supporters, and the event organizers for helping make the experience unforgettable.

The team looks forward to continuing its successful season and representing the sport of equestrian drill with excellence, sportsmanship, and community spirit.

Behind the Bit Drill Team is a group of dedicated young riders, ages 11 to 17, coming together from multiple towns in Illinois to share

their passion for horsemanship and performance. With a strong focus on teamwork and growth, they bring both heart and grit to the arena.

The team was formed in September 2021, starting with a handful of lesson students given the opportunity to join a local rodeo drill team. By March 2022, they made their debut at the Illinois Horse Fair with thirteen young cowgirls ready to take on the journey together. Now in their fifth season, they continue to build on that

foundation with determination and pride.

Performing at rodeos, saddle clubs, fairs, and parades, Behind the Bit is known for showcasing courage, respect, and strong horsemanship while setting a positive example for the next generation of riders.

For more information about Behind the Bit Drill Team, follow the team on social media or contact: Emily Draege, Edraege23@gmail.com



This week's scrambler: On tac fo ndsnseik, on tamtre owh laslm, si vere seatdw.

Can you unscramble it? If so, call The Leader-Union at 283-3374 by 5 p.m. next Monday.

Last week's scrambler: We accept the love we think we deserve.

Unscrambling it were: Ruth Ann Garrison, David Dunn, Mary Cripe, Donna Knebel, Juanita Workman and Dan and Cheryl Willis

## MEALS ON WHEELS MENU

### Thursday, May 28

Italian beef on hoagie bun, parsley potatoes, California blend veggies, chilled peaches

### Friday, May 29

Herbed baked chicken, baby baker potatoes, green beans, apricots, black bean brownie

### Monday, June 1

Salisbury steak, whipped potatoes, peas, mandarin oranges, oatmeal cookie

### Tuesday, June 2

Sub sandwich on hoagie bun, lettuce and tomato, broccoli/cauliflower salad, cantaloupe

### Wednesday, June 3

Fried chicken, potato salad, carrots, hot apple crisp, biscuit

### Thursday, June 4

Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, corn, apricots, whole grain roll

### Friday, June 5

BBQ pulled pork on whole grain bun, au gratin potatoes, bean salad, baked apples

2% milk, bread, and margarine are served with every meal. Substitutions will only be made in emergencies.

Please call at least one day in advance to reserve a meal. For any questions, contact 618-283-1040.

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# Rotary Hears Program on Diabetes and GLP-1 Medications

The Rotary Club met May 19, 2026, for a program presented by Brent Frey on diabetes awareness and the growing use of GLP-1 medications for treating Type 2 diabetes and weight loss.

Frey shared his personal experience after being diagnosed with diabetes last year following his first physical in two decades. He discussed lifestyle changes, monitoring blood sugar, and beginning GLP-1 treatment earlier this year.

During the presentation, Frey explained how GLP-1 medications work by helping regulate insulin, slowing

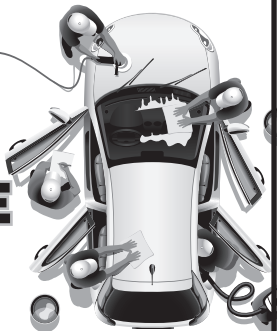
digestion, reducing blood sugar levels, and increasing feelings of fullness. He also reviewed the history and development of the medications, including their origins from research involving Gila monster venom and the evolution from daily injections to newer once-weekly treatments.

The program also covered the rising cost of diabetes care, potential side effects of the medications, and the importance of regular health screenings, healthy eating, exercise, and weight management in preventing Type 2 diabetes.



Patrick Click and Brent Frey

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# House Passes Bost Bill To Protect Veterans' Second Amendment Rights

U.S. Rep. Mike Bost (IL-12) today applauds the passage of H.R. 1041, the Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act. This legislation introduced by Bost prevents the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from stripping veterans of their Second Amendment rights solely because they require financial assistance in managing their benefits.

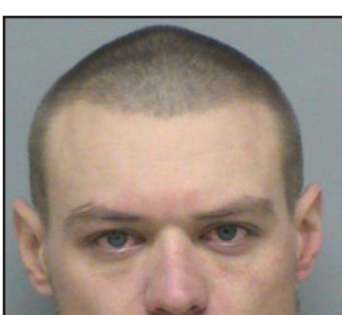
"Tonight the House passed my Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act. No veteran should lose their Second Amendment rights simply because they need help managing their finances, but that is exactly what's been happening," Chairman Bost said. "Without a judge's ruling or any finding that a veteran is a danger to anyone, a VA bureaucrat could

report them to the FBI's background check system and strip them of their right to bear arms. That is not how we treat the men and women who defended our Constitution. This bill puts a permanent end to that injustice, and as a Marine, proud gun owner, and Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I could not be more proud to have led the

charge for its passage."

The Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act prevents the VA from sending a veteran's information to the DOJ background check system based only on a fiduciary determination. It also requires the VA to notify the Attorney General when past referrals were made on that basis alone.

# Vandalia Man Sentenced to IDOC for Drug Charges



A Vandalia man was sentenced to six years in the Illinois Department of Corrections last week following his arrest on drug charges in 2024.

Ryan W. Smith, 40, of Vandalia pled guilty to unlawful possession with intent to

deliver methamphetamine and was sentenced to six years to be served at 75% in IDOC.

In September of 2024, Smith was charged in Fayette County with multiple Class X and Class 1 felonies for possessing and intending to deliver between 100 and 400

grams of methamphetamine.

Smith had previously pled guilty in 2018 to multiple drug distribution and possession charges involving heroin and methamphetamine in Jefferson and Clinton Counties. He was sentenced to six years in prison in 2018.

## Attention Leader Union News Customers:

There will be an early deadline for the June 11, 2026 issue. All ads and editorial need to be submitted by Tuesday, June 2 at noon. Thank you for your continued support!

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