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Kevin Realzola, co-owner of Carmina's Mexican Restaurant in Elgin, is opening two new businesses in East Dundee: Carmina's Breakfast and Banquets at 521 Dundee Ave. and The Good Dogs Co. hot dog stand at 212 River St. **GLORIA CASAS/THE COURIER-NEWS PHOTOS**

Carmina's owner opening spinoff and hot dog stand

East Dundee spots offer dining options

By Gloria Casas
FOR THE NAPERVILLE SUN

Carmina's Mexican Restaurant in Elgin is getting into the breakfast business with its second location in East Dundee, which will also offer a banquet hall.

Co-owner Kevin Realzola plans to open Carmina's Breakfast and Banquets at 521 Dundee Ave., which he renovated down to the infrastructure and to which he's adding such features as granite walls, arches, a bar and an area where homemade tortillas will be made daily.

"We're trying to create more of a modern Mexican luxury breakfast but at a good cost," Realzola said. "There are a lot of breakfast restaurants around, but (many) don't offer authentic Mexican breakfast. I'm trying to bring the flavors of how my mom and grandmother made breakfast. I want people to come in and get that feeling of home."

Simultaneously, he and his wife are also opening a hot dog stand, The Good Dogs Co., at 212 River St. in downtown East Dundee.



Carmina's Breakfast and Banquets is slated to open in January in East Dundee. The original Carmina's Mexican Restaurant is located in Elgin.

Both have a targeted January opening date, he said.

Opening two businesses at the same time can be daunting, Realzola acknowledged.

"It's scary because of the economy," he said. "A lot of restaurants are closing, but we have to take advantage of what we have and maximize it. You have to keep your eye on the prize."

His plan for Carmina's Breakfast and Banquets is to be open until 3 p.m. and then be available for weddings, quinceañeras, funeral receptions, business meetings and other events, said

See **CARMINA'S** on Page A3

D300 looks at Plan B for funding projects

School board's action follows voters' rejection of $355.5M referendum

By Gloria Casas
FOR THE NAPERVILLE SUN

The Community Unit District 300 school board met this week for the first time since its $355.5 million referendum failed, but put off any discussion of what it plans to do next regarding the projects that had been proposed.

"We respect the community's decision," said District 300 school board President Christine Birkett, reading from a prepared statement. "We recognize that community members brought different perspectives and concerns to this vote. Whether you voted yes or no, thank you for taking part."

Voters who live within the portions of four counties included in District 300's boundaries rejected the referendum, which was to fund 20 capital improvement projects and build a new Career and Technical Education Center.

According to Birkett's statement, the needs identified in the Master Facility Plan remain, and now officials must determine its next steps.

"In the coming months, district leadership will present options for addressing priority facility needs within available funding," she said.

District 300 Superintendent Martina Smith and communications chief Anthony McGinn did not respond to requests for comment on possible plans or when an announcement of how they will proceed might be made.

Algonquin resident Bruce Batt, a former District 300 staff member, told the board at its meeting that it had work to do if members want to bring the community together.

"I ask you to reflect on the defeat of the Nov. 3 referendum," Batt said. "While the results may have been close, I see something more significant: a divided community and a school board that needs to rebuild public trust. A majority of voters rejected the referendum. That message deserves serious reflection and action.

Batt also asked if opposing viewpoints were genuinely considered.

"I recognize education requires adequate funding, but that must be balanced with transparency, fiscal accountability and a willingness to listen. Listening to the community should not just be part of the process; it should help shape your decisions," he said.

Batt also questioned what might

See **D300** on Page A2

Judge: State can enforce ban on THC products

Ruling is a major setback for hemp businesses that had sued to block law

By Olivia Olander
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A federal judge on Thursday cleared the way for Illinois to enforce statewide restrictions on sales of intoxicating hemp products, a major setback for businesses that had sued to stop the law from being implemented.

U.S. District Judge Martha Pacold denied a motion by an industry group and other businesses to temporarily block full enforcement of the new law, which went into effect earlier this month but was paused for those who sued until Thursday's hearing.



Store manager Mireya Coriano gets a variety of THC hemp products for a customer at Chitiva in the South Loop on Nov. 9. An industry group and other businesses sought to temporarily block full enforcement of a new state law. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The ruling means the businesses that sued must stop selling hemp-derived THC drinks, gummies and other intoxicating products, as other retailers across the state have had to do since the ban took effect last week. Attorneys

See **BAN** on Page A3

IDNR investigating apparent cyberattack on Algonquin Dam

By Tess Kenny
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Amid a string of cyber incidents that have unsettled the country in recent days, the Algonquin Dam on the Fox River was subject to a cyberattack early last week, officials said.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources on Friday said it was investigating an apparent cyberattack on the dam, which sits about 45 miles northwest of Chicago, that occurred on Monday.

IDNR's Office of Water Resources, which operates the dam, identified the attempted cyberattack and "took immediate action to keep the dam secure and fully operational," officials said.

IDNR provided scant details on the incident. A department spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for further details Friday night.

The incident comes after a slew of cyber-related outages and attacks this month.

On Thursday, the personal information of thousands of JPMorgan Chase customers was leaked onto the internet after third-party vendors at the bank were targeted in a cyberattack. Earlier this week, an unrelated outage left customers across the country unable to access online accounts at several major U.S. banks.

Also last week, a system outage that lasted for more than 90 minutes forced Chicago-based United Airlines to delay departing flights Monday, and a classified communications network at the National Security Agency went down Tuesday.

Days earlier, a major Microsoft outage affected several of its services, including Outlook, Teams and AI assistant Copilot. And an

See **DAM** on Page A2

WEATHER FORECAST TODAY H:58 L: 31 | MON. H:42 L: 27 | TUE. H:39 L: 32 Complete Chicagoland forecast on back page

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Vol. 152 No. 126