

Food Truck Nation: An Ottawa native is back on Cooking Channel

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★

Facebook's new currency plan under scrutiny

By Marcy Gordon
AP BUSINESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facebook's ambitious plan to create a financial eco-system based on a digital currency faces questions from lawmakers, as it's shadowed by negative comments from President Donald Trump, his treasury secretary and the

head of the Federal Reserve. Congress begins two days of hearings Tuesday on the currency planned by Facebook, to be called Libra, starting with the Senate Banking Committee. Meanwhile, a House Judiciary subcommittee will extend its bipartisan investigation of the market power of Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple.

Trump tweeted last week that the new currency, Libra, "will have little standing or dependability." Both Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Fed Chair Jerome Powell have expressed serious concerns that Libra could be used for illicit activity.

The Treasury Department has "very serious concerns that Libra could be misused by money laun-

derers and terrorist financiers," Mnuchin told reporters at the White House on Monday. "This is indeed a national security issue."

Facebook has "a lot of work to do before we get to the point where we're comfortable with it," Mnuchin said.

Already under intense scrutiny from regulators and Congress

over privacy and market dominance, Facebook stirred anger on Capitol Hill with the unveiling of its plan to create a financial ecosystem based on a digital currency. The planned digital currency is billed as a "stablecoin" backed by deposits in sovereign currencies such as the dollar, euro and Japanese yen — unlike bitcoin or other digital currencies.

How many Top 10 students are leaving Illinois?



NEWSTRIUNE PHOTO/TRACEY MACLEOD

La Salle-Peru Township High School graduate Jacob Pocivasek practices his backstroke at the Illinois Valley YMCA; this fall he'll start college at Truman State University in Missouri where he'll swim competitively. Pocivasek is among the local Top 10 students leaving Illinois for college.

Students say they're going for better programs, financial opportunities and to explore

By Ali Braboy
NEWSTRIUNE REPORTER

Going out of state for college and away from family is a bit nerve wracking for Yogini Patel. "It's going to be a whole new world," said the recently graduated La Salle-Peru Township High School graduate. Although she's a bit nervous, the Peru student is excited about starting a new chapter in her life.

Patel is among the Illinois Valley's Top 10 graduating seniors leaving Illinois for college.

Outmigration has never been higher for Illinois high school students leaving the state for college, based on recorded numbers from the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

At least 17 graduated Top 10 seniors plan to leave Illinois for college from Hall, La Salle-Peru, Princeton, Putnam County and St. Bede high schools (Mendota doesn't recognize a Top 10).

Three students from Princeton didn't indicate where they plan to go as of this spring.

Patel will attend Emory University in Georgia, and everything besides her travel expenses will be free.

The financial help was made possible after she applied to the

nonprofit program QuestBridge, which links students with opportunities at some U.S. colleges and universities.

The number of out-of-state migration totals in Illinois climbed from 22,936 students in 2002 to 35,445 students in 2016.

'BEST BUDGET IN A GENERATION'

Is there anything Illinois can do to keep students here?

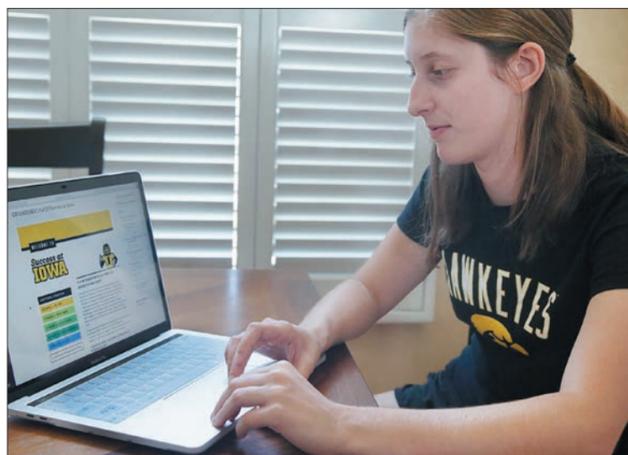
The state and colleges could incentivize more out-of-state students from the U.S. and the world to come here to create a more diverse culture, Patel said.

The state could also make college more financially affordable, she said — adding that a new offer at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a perk for students.

The number of students leaving is concerning, said Nyle Robinson, interim executive director for Illinois Board of Higher Education.

There are benefits when it comes to Illinois funding post secondary education. There's a "very heavy return" on investments in students, at least a 6 to 1 in return on investment in local areas as well as the state economy, he said.

Other benefits include less



NEWSTRIUNE PHOTO/SCOTT ANDERSON

Hall High School valedictorian Morgan Filippini works on some online orientation work for the University of Iowa, the college she'll be attending this fall. Outmigration has never been higher for Illinois high school students leaving the state for college, based on recorded numbers from the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

dependence on welfare, drug use, alcohol use and smoking, he said.

But Robinson is happy about Illinois' new budget that he called the "best budget in a generation."

Illinois' Fiscal Year 2020 budget includes an 8.2% increase from last year for operations and student assistance in higher education. State funding for public universities decreased from covering 72% of costs in fiscal year 2002 to 35% of costs in fiscal year 2018, according to the IBHE.

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Disc golf and fishing pier at Rotary Park?

La Salle is seeking a grant and wants public opinion

By Ali Braboy
NEWSTRIUNE REPORTER

The City of La Salle is applying for a grant to expand Rotary Park with a walk/run path that leads to Prairie Lake.

The grant also would include a fishing pier, disc golf, pollinator garden, covered benches, picnic tables, safe shelter/restroom and picnic pavilion.

The grant is through the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development program with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The project will cost \$802,000. The maximum avail-

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Oglesby forms group to review Seneca Square feedback

By Tom Collins
NEWSTRIUNE SENIOR REPORTER

Oglesby's mayor isn't sure yet where people stand on the proposed Seneca Square project, but he was sure was happy with the growing feedback.

"It's been a great response," Dom Rivara reported Monday at the Oglesby City Council meeting, thanking residents for taking the time to complete the half-page questionnaire mailed recently with utility bills.

Seneca Square is the outdoor plaza to be located east of city hall. Rivara completed a city initiative to secure \$400,000 in state grants but has also insisted not only on public feedback but also on operational, marketing and business plans before forging ahead with the project.

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TONIGHT

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COMING TOMORROW

SNAP, CRACKLE,
POP Variations on
Rice Krispie treats



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