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# OGLE COUNTY LIFE



VALLEY SHOPPER

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 38

**MONDAY**  
Dec. 4, 2023

**FREE**

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## KNOW IT TODAY



### Oregon Lions visit CMAAA

The Oregon Lions recently visited the newly-established Coliseum Museum of Art, Antiquities and Americana in Oregon. **A4**

### WEATHER

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>40 30</b>	<b>38 27</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>37 30</b>	<b>44 31</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>49 34</b>	<b>46 31</b>

### OBITUARIES

- Ellen Brueggeman
- George Davis
- Kenneth Foss
- Sandra Law
- Roger Messenger
- Keith Willing, Sr.

### INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Byron County Market
- Polo Fresh Food
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- Snyder Pharmacy
- Rockford Rescue Mission
- Byron Tigers Championship Section



### Tigers win state

On Nov. 24 in the IHSA 3A State Championship football game at Illinois State University, the Byron Tigers routed the Mt. Carmel Golden Aces 69-7 to win their second state title in three years. Ogle County Life staff attended the game and took in the sights and sounds to bring home to readers. See Section C for more. (Photo by Tonja Greenfield)

## Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District marks 50th anniversary

*'They're there for their families and their community. And you don't see a lot of that anymore'*

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — November 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District's formation in 1973.

The district provides protection for approximately 135 square miles surrounding the City of Rochelle and is comprised of four separate stations within the rural areas surrounding Rochelle in Creston, Flag Center, Hillcrest and Steward. The OLFPD has partnered with the city since 1974. The Rochelle Fire Department responds to all of Ogle-Lee's calls and Ogle-Lee responds to RFD's larger calls. RFD Chief Dave Sawlsville serves as the OLFPD district chief.

The OLFPD has 65 paid on-call members. RFD has 22 full-time firefighter/paramedics and 21 paid on-call and six part-time members of the team.

"This team provides Rochelle and the surrounding areas with approximately 114 people trained to help whenever they're called upon," Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows said. "I really appreciate this. It's probably one of the strongest rural districts anywhere around and all of the people can be very thankful that we have it to protect us."

See FIRE page 3

## Ogle County Life presents voluntary pay proceeds to area senior centers

*'Each year we're blessed to see the support from our readers'*

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — On Nov. 28, the Ogle County Life presented the proceeds from its most recent voluntary pay program cycle to the directors of the Polo Senior Center, the Mt. Morris Senior Center, and the Rock River Center.

With the Ogle County Life being offered free of charge to county residents, each year readers have the chance to give voluntarily to ensure continuing coverage of Ogle County happenings. Part of the program involves 10 percent of the money raised being donated to the three area senior centers.

See CENTERS page 2



From left to right: Ogle County Life General Manager Mike Feltes, Polo Senior Center Director Kathy Wragg, Rock River Center Executive Director Jamie Nobis and Mt. Morris Senior Center Executive Director Melissa Rojas

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# LOCAL NEWS



## Bakers celebrate 60th wedding anniversary

**CHANA** — Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Baker of Chana recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 16 with a family gathering. Gerald Baker and Mary Louise Nave were married Nov. 16, 1963 by Rev. Boniface Martin in St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Dalzell. They are parents of two sons, Jerry (Lisa) Baker of Mt. Morris and John (Lindee) Baker of Mt. Morris. They have two granddaughters, Abigail and Haylee Baker. Those wishing to send cards may email them to 6616 E. Illinois Route 64, Chana, IL 61015.

## Angel Project is underway in Forreston

**FORRESTON** — The Forreston Lions Club will hold its annual Christmas Angel Project. Angels are available at Solutions Bank and Koeller's Hardware store. To participate, pick up an angel at one of the two locations. Buy a \$20 gift for the child listed on the angel. Return the wrapped gift with the angel attached to either of the two locations no later than Wednesday, Dec. 13. The Lions Club will also deliver food baskets on Saturday, Dec. 16. Anyone who knows of someone who could use a food basket is asked to contact Larry Dikers at 815-266-1856 or Randy Ludwig at 815-238-2700. The Forreston Grade School will also be collecting canned goods for the food boxes.

## Mt. Morris first responders start Toys for Kids campaign

**MT. MORRIS**—The Mt. Morris Police and Fire Departments wish to announce that it is once again time to start off the 2023 "Toys for Kids" campaign. This program, with your help, provides Christmas gifts for the less fortunate children in the Mt. Morris Fire Protection District. Last year over 100 children had a happier holiday because of this program. Help put a smile on a child's face at Christmas. Cash donations & checks payable to Mt. Morris Fireman's Association will gladly be accepted at the Mt. Morris Police Department or Village Hall, located at 105 W. Lincoln, Mt. Morris, IL 61054. Names, ages, and addresses of needy children, within the Mt. Morris Fire District, can be left by calling (815) 734-4106.

## Polo Lions Club draws meat raffle winners

**POLO** — During the Polo Lions meeting that was held on Tuesday, Nov. 21 the five winners of a meat raffle were drawn. The winners are: First place quarter beef with freezer Betty Miller, second place quarter beef with freezer Phil Pieper, third place half hog Janice Deets, fourth place half hog Evan Janco and fifth place \$100 Polo Fresh Food Market certificate John Carbough. Thank you to everyone that bought tickets. Thank you to all the Lions members for selling tickets and to the places that help sell tickets. Thank you to our donors: Johnson Processing-Chadwick, Deuth Family Farms-Polo, Stone Feed, Polo Fresh Food Market, Greg Cross and Knie Appliance & Furniture.



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## CENTERS: Donation to be used for programming to fill critical needs

*From page 1*

"Each year we're blessed to see the support from our readers with the voluntary pay program," Ogle County Life General Manager Mike Feltes said. "It makes it even more meaningful to be able to give back and support our seniors and the beneficial programs these centers offer."

The donations were presented by Feltes and accepted by Polo Senior Center Director Kathy Wragg, Rock River Center Executive Director Jamie Nobis and Mt. Morris Senior Center Executive Director Melissa Rojas. Wragg said the money will be used for programming, which has been expanded this year and therefore more costly. "Programming is so important to us," Wragg said. "We're trying to do a bigger outreach and get more people in from younger age groups. We've just added some more meals to our service, so that's helping. We also just added a new computerized keyos system that the funds will be used for as well."

Rojas said the MMSC would not survive without donations from the community. The donation from the voluntary pay program will be used for programming at the center. "Our biggest thing is to keep seniors active," Rojas said. "Just having different things going on that different people like and trying to have something for everyone."

Nobis said the RRC offers programs using donated funds as well. It also fills critical needs for the community such as information & assistance, caseworker assistance, and transportation by its three buses. "All of our programs are run basically only on donations," Nobis said. "Even our grant-funded programs require a match on our part. The donation and the continued support from the Ogle County Life is very much appreciated."

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# LOCAL NEWS

## FIRE: Ogle-Lee Protection District hits 50-year-old mark

From page 1

Former RFD Chief and OLFPD District Chief Tom McDermott said the story of the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District's inception started in 1930 when the City of Rochelle purchased a Boyer community fire truck and started a subscription rate for people who lived outside the city limits because they had no fire protection.

McDermott, who also serves as a city councilman and as a historian for the Flagg Township Museum, said that concept wasn't ideal for rural homes and went over poorly. From 1949-1959 the system involved an hourly charge per call outside of the city limits. The first public meeting to form a rural fire protection district was held in 1958 and a committee was established to set boundaries.

In 1960, there was a State Inspection Bureau ruling that there was no competent response for fires out of the Creston Fire Department. In 1962, Rochelle raised its out-of-district response rates, which stood until 1973. The Village of Hillcrest contracted with Rochelle for fire service in 1965. In 1972, Bill Lower made efforts to form fire protection for rural homes by fee or district. Villages were not included in that effort. The city paid for the cost of the referendum in 1973, which passed.

In 1974, Steward and Creston were added to the district and the district contracted with the City of Rochelle to respond to fires that same year. A Flagg Center Station was built in 1979. McDermott was named district chief in 1985 and served until 1993. After a move to separate the district, a change was made to Jim Asselborn as district chief

for a short time in 1993 before McDermott became district chief again in 1993. The Hillcrest station was built in 2000.

Back in 1973, the original OLFPD trustees were Jack Connolly, Irvin Becker and Elmer Raleigh, along with Attorney Phil Nye.

"The foresight of those founders saw the importance of providing fire and emergency medical care to the rural areas of Rochelle," Bearrows said. "Most recently, the partnership has grown even more as a joint venture by the OLFPD and the city to construct a regional training facility in Rochelle which will benefit all health and safety personnel. I want to thank the current OLFPD trustees who continue to support and carry out that vision that everyone saw was needed in 1973."

McDermott said the city's partnership with Ogle-Lee is needed for guaranteed response to rural areas outside of Rochelle. Ogle-Lee firefighters work day jobs and need to leave them and get to the fire station when calls come in. With the partnership, when a call comes in, RFD immediately mobilizes to the scene of rural calls.

The former RFD chief said the partnership's importance to fire safety in the area can't be overstated.

"It's lowered the fire protection insurance for the whole district," McDermott said. "It helps the city, too. When we need mutual aid or help in Rochelle, they're there. When there's a building fire in Rochelle, 4-5 firefighters is not enough. Our volunteer situation is pretty poor right now. We can get there with our fire engine and our second

crew with another vehicle and we can call Creston, Steward, Flagg Center and Hillcrest and they will all send an engine and staff. That gives us access to 60-70 more firefighters, four fire engines and a few medical vehicles. It's really been a great thing."

Rural fire protection districts that work with nearby cities are not uncommon, but those that work as closely together as RFD and Ogle-Lee do are uncommon, McDermott said. Firefighter/paramedics are trained the same and have the same training officer in RFD's Tyler Carls. That training will continue to improve with the new fire training facility. RFD and the OLFPD share a radio frequency as well.

RFD's full-time firefighter/paramedics receive the bulk of the training and work, but McDermott praised Ogle-Lee's paid on-call staff.

"They know their skills and limits," McDermott said. "They get there and they do it. And they do it continually. And they do it for not much money. It's a hell of a system and a good system. It's basically volunteers. Rochelle has almost lost its volunteer firefighters/paramedics due to unions and rules and stuff like that. But Ogle-Lee is still the old-time, like 85 percent of the firefighters in America. They're there for their families and their community. And you don't see a lot of that anymore."

When asked about notable fires involving Ogle-Lee and RFD in the past 50 years, one stood out to McDermott from his time as chief, when a senior citizens apartment building east of the hospital caught fire. RFD arrived on scene and got ahead of the fire, and Ogle-Lee arrived



This photo provided by former Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District Chief Tom McDermott shows an OLFPD firefighter on the scene of a structure fire. November 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the OLFPD's formation in 1973.

and helped evacuate over 100 residents from the building.

"Ogle-Lee took care of it and I never had to worry about it again," McDermott said. "I saw their firefighters putting on their masks and going in and escorting elderly people out and putting them in ambulances and transporting them to nursing homes and hospitals in town. That was the value of the joint training. And we didn't have to worry. That's

my favorite call, because as a little town we accomplished a hell of a lot in the first 45 minutes and it went so smoothly with so little effort. That wouldn't have worked without Ogle-Lee. Other mutual aid would've been 30-45 minutes away."

McDermott said the system RFD and Ogle-Lee have in place can sometimes even work better than it's designed to.

"There's something about having people sitting at home that are listening

to radio traffic and what's going on, and by the time they get toned out, they're en route," McDermott said. "They heard it, went to the station and got ready and waited to get called out. The system works even better than it's supposed to work. There's no rule that says Ogle-Lee personnel have to listen to their scanners. But the beautiful thing about having the same radio frequency is that they can. And they do."

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### Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for Byron Community Unit School District No. 226

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Byron Community Unit School District No. 226 for 2023 will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Central Time, at the Board of Education Meeting Room in Byron High School, 696 N. Colfax Street, Byron, Illinois 61010.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Superintendent Buster Barton, 696 N. Colfax Street, Byron, Illinois 61010, telephone number 815-234-5491, ext. 221.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$22,989,334.13.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$24,885,199.00. This represents an 8.25% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$3,628,763.97.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 are \$2,991,569.00. This represents a 17.56% decrease over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were 26,618,098.11.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$27,215,416.00. This represents a 2.24% increase over the previous year.

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR POLO COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 222

1. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy for the Polo Community School District # 222 for 2021 will be held on December 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm at Centennial Elementary School in the community room at 308 S Pleasant Avenue, Polo, IL 61064.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Dr. Kelly Mandrell, Superintendent, Polo Community School District, 100 S. Union Avenue, Polo, IL 61064 at 815-946-3815.

2. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended for 2022 were \$4,293,513.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$4,582,969. This represents a 5.57% increase over the previous year.

3. The property taxes extended for debt services and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$898,315.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commissions leases for 2023 is \$928,706.10. This represents a 1.0338% increase over the previous year.

4. The total property taxes extended for 2022 were \$5,191,828.10.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$5,511,675. This represents a 4.67% increase over the previous year.

Melanie Near,  
Secretary  
Polo Board of Education



# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Ellen Elizabeth (Dahlin) Brueggeman

**PECATONICA** — Ellen Elizabeth (Dahlin) Brueggeman, 76, of Pecatonica, IL, earned her angel wings on November 23, 2023. Ellen was born on February 27, 1947 in Rockford, IL. She is one of 7 children born to Earnest and Birdie Dahlin. Ellen was a deeply devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Ellen graduated from West High School Class of 1966. She went on to earn her associate's degree from Rock Valley College. She met the love of her life Gary Brueggeman, they were married March 23, 1968. They shared three beautiful children and 51 years of marriage. Ellie loved spending time with her grandkids and supporting their activities. She also enjoyed bingo, fishing, vacations, the Chicago Bears and playing games with friends.



She is survived by her son Paul (Stacy), daughter Dawn (Sean) and grandchildren Tyler, Alexis, Shaylie, Mekenzie, Luke and Lexy. She was welcomed into Heaven by Gary and Jerry. A Funeral Mass of the Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 am Saturday December 2, 2023 in St. Mary Catholic Church 126 W. 5th Street Pecatonica, IL with Fr. Dennis Morrissy officiating. Burial will be in North Burrirt Cemetery. A visitation will be held in McCorkle Funeral Home - Pecatonica Chapel 203 W. 5th St. Pecatonica, IL from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Friday December 1, 2023. To share memories, watch the live stream or order flowers, please visit: <https://mccorklefuneralhome.com/obituaries/ellen-brueggeman>

### George C. Davis

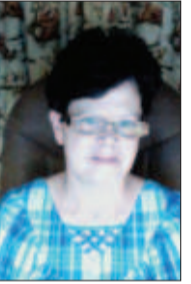
**OREGON** — George C. Davis, age 75, passed away at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon on November 22, 2023 surrounded by his family. He was born in Chicago on August 19, 1948 to Harold and Betty (Chapel) Davis. He married the love of his life, Susan Wheeler on April 20, 1968. They spent many years in La Grange, IL before relocating to Oregon. George worked as the property manager at LOMC prior to retirement. He was an involved member of All Saints Lutheran Church in Byron and was on the Synod Council of Northern Illinois. George loved the outdoors and enjoyed going on camping trips in his RV where he could relax and fish. He believed in caring for the earth as God's creation and therefore was an active member of the Care of Creation.



In his spare time; he could be found building model rockets or watching NASCAR races. The biggest joy in his life was his family and he adored being a father and grandfather. He is preceded in death by his parents. George is survived and missed by his wife of 54 years, Susan Davis; sons, Michael Davis of Burr Ridge, IL and Mathew (Nicole) Davis of Tucson, AZ; grandchildren, Jordan Davis, Jena Davis, Cassandra Davis, Mason Davis, and Charlize "Charlie" Davis; and sister, Renee. A memorial service to celebrate George's well lived life will be held at a later date. Memorials may be directed to Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com)

### Sandra Lee Law

**OREGON** — Sandra Lee Law, age 73, passed away at Serenity Hospice and Home of Oregon on Friday, November 24, 2023. She was born the daughter of Francis L. and Virginia R. (Hoefke) Kania in Chicago, IL, on February 16, 1950. In 1969 she graduated high school in Downers Groves. Shortly after graduating she married the love of her life Robert "Bob" Law on July 26, 1969, in Downers Grove. Throughout her life Sandra worked out of her home selling flowers, breeding puppies and even had a daycare center. When she wasn't working, she loved gardening, taking care of her flowers, and spending time with her dogs. For a brief period, Sandra was the President



of the Newcomers Club in Oregon. She is preceded in death by her parents and Son Robert Sean Law. She is survived and dearly missed by her husband Robert Law of Oregon; twin sister Sue (Mike) Blazier of Frisco, TX; sister-in-law Georganne Law of Downers Grove, IL; nieces Gail (Richard) Bowers of Corinth TX, Andrea (Alejandro) Russo of Flower Mound, TX, Jenny Law of Downers Grove, IL; and nephew Larry (Sandra) Law of Woodridge, IL. Sandra will be laid to rest with her son in Daysville Cemetery in Oregon, IL. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in her honor please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com).

### Roger D. Messenger

**STERLING** — Roger D. Messenger, age 72, of Sterling, died Monday, November 27, 2023 at Rock River Hospice and Home. Roger was born September 27, 1951 in Dixon, the son of Charles and Ethel (Quaco) Messenger. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War and later worked at Swenson Spreader in Lyndonwood retiring in 2012. He married Betty Mitchell on November 17, 1969 in Polo. She preceded him in death on February 28, 2020.



He is survived by one son, Michael (Bridget) Messenger of Ashton; one sister, Tracy; one brother, Edward; three grandchildren, Makaylah (Justin) Malston, Gage Messenger, and Heather Messenger; and four great grandchildren, Kinsley, Dominic, Brinley, and JR. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother. Cremation rites will be accorded. There are no services. Online condolences may be sent to [www.mcdonaldfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mcdonaldfuneralhomes.com).

### Keith William Willing, Sr.

**FREEPORT** — Keith William Willing, Sr., 81, of Freeport, passed away on Wednesday, November 29, 2023. He was born August 10, 1942, in St. Charles, IL, where he was raised. He was the youngest son of Paul and Freda (Becker) Willing. Keith grew up farming alongside his family on their dairy farm. He was a 1960 graduate of St. Charles High School. On June 26, 1965, Keith married Ginger Richardson, who also happened to live on the farm next door. Keith worked for various farmers throughout most of his life. He farmed for 32 years with Alan Barry in Leaf River, IL. In retirement, Keith enjoyed assisting local farmers in the fall and spring, working with Pro-Auctions of German Valley, and having coffee with his Culver's coffee group in Freeport. Keith is survived by his children — Cindi (Gary) Mielke of Ridott, Paula Pierce of Freeport, Keith (Michele) Willing, Jr. of Stillman Valley, and Becky (Matt) Garcia of Senoia, GA. Keith was the adopted dad of Toni (Craig) Lund of Oregon. Keith is also survived by his many grandchildren — Jake (Abby)



Mielke, Kayla (Shawn) Hoefle, Ashlynn (Austin) Tornow, Tom (Molly) Pierce, Branden (Kaylie) Pierce, Garrett Pierce, Zachary (Emily) Garcia, Elijah Garcia, Henry Garcia, Emma Garcia, Jacque (Brandon) Schmidt, and Brett (Danielle) Alexander, thirteen great-grandchildren, and his faithful dachshund companion, Bella; sisters-in-law: Gail (Ed) Bove of Homewood, and Barbara Willing of Pecatonica, as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. Keith is preceded in death by his spouse of 54 years, Ginger; his parents, and two brothers, Eugene and Roger Willing. The family is planning a celebration of life for Keith in June of 2024. One of Keith's favorite activities was to visit local county fairs each year. His family would like to place a memorial bench at the Stephenson County Fairgrounds in Freeport. Donations can be sent to Cindi Mielke at 5779 E. River Road, Ridott, IL, 61067.

### Kenneth F. Foss

**MT. MORRIS** — Kenneth F. Foss, age 84, passed away peacefully at Allure of Pinecrest, in Mt. Morris, IL, on Wednesday, November 29, 2023. He was born the son of Henry and Anna (Leifeld) Foss on February 19, 1939, in Hastings, MN. He married the love of his life, Donna DalPorto, on Dec. 28, 1963, in Chicago, IL. Ken was truly an outdoorsman, which was shown through his love of things like landscaping, taking walks, and watching the birds. He would always have a project around the house whether it was with his model railroads or just working on something, he always loved to stay busy. Ken is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Jerome and Duane Foss, sister Andrea, and son Jody. He is survived and dearly missed by his wife Donna of Mt. Morris, IL; sons Kevin (Patti) Foss of Bella Vista AR,



and Brian (Renee) Foss of Oregon, IL; brothers Donlad (Deanna) Foss of MN; William (Linda) Foss of MN; Dennis (Shirley) Foss of MN; Marvin (Margie) Foss MN, and Raymond Foss of WI; and his grandchildren Justen (Victoria), Kelsey (Bird), Jenna, Kyle, and Brianna (Jacob). Funeral services will be held in his honor on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home starting at 12:00 pm with Father Joseph Naill of St. Mary's Catholic Church presiding. A visitation will be held prior starting at 10:00 am until the services at 12:00 pm. Kenneth will be laid to rest at St. Mary's Cemetery in Oregon, IL following the services at the funeral home. The family has asked if you wish to attend the services that you, please wear a mask to prevent the spread of Covid. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in his honor please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com)

#### Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the Oregon Police, Byron Police, Polo Police, Mt. Morris Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

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Oregon Lions Visit CMAAA

The Oregon Lions recently visited the newly-established Coliseum Museum of Art, Antiquities and Americana in Oregon. Director Michael Glenn explained the mission of the museum, which is focused on organizing, operating, holding and displaying items of art, antiques, Americana and history in the Coliseum in downtown Oregon. They display exhibits from artists whose work includes paintings, ceramics, glass, sculpture etc. They are also able to host business meetings, recitals receptions, and social events. From left to right Oregon Lion Lori Peterson, Rob Bry, Glenn and Oregon Lion Dr. Tom Champley



# LOCAL NEWS

## Yager announces candidacy for 37th state senate district

**GENESEO** – On Nov. 29, Tim Yager, Geneseo farmer, Henry County Board member, and Henry County Farm Bureau Board member, officially announced his campaign for the Illinois State Senate. After filing nearly two times the required number of signatures needed for ballot access and forming his official campaign committee, Yager cited the need for leaders in Springfield who understand the issues facing the typical Illinoisian and leaders who know how to fight for the solutions necessary for the residents of the 37th District.



“We need leaders who lead,” Yager said. “We have legislators who go to Springfield looking for a better job, not to serve their constituents or Illinois taxpayers. That has to stop. We must elect legislators who go to Springfield to make good policy, stand for commonsense values, and who bring ideas and incentives that make our economy, and our lives, better, safer, and healthier.”

Farming continually since 1992, Yager is the sixth generation to farm in Henry County and his combined experience in agriculture and business represents decades of front-line leadership in the region. Yager started a successful wireless company (iPCS Inc.) that grew rapidly and was publicly traded before eventually being acquired by Sprint Nextel. He continued on to successfully rebuild another financially distressed wireless company that was then also acquired. After completing the turnaround mission successfully, he began farming with his family full time in 2014.

Yager’s standing as a forward-looking and re-

sponsible conservative has already earned him significant early support with more coming every day as the campaign grows. “Illinois faces massive economic challenges but they can be solved if we have sensible leadership working on sensible solutions,” said former state Senator Todd Sieben. “Having a candidate of the caliber of Tim Yager, with the character and experience he brings with him, is a good thing for the 37th District and for Illinois. As the former Senator from the Illinois 37th and someone who has known Tim his entire life I couldn’t be happier that he is running to represent us.”

Yager’s record of service, from Henry County Board to Farm Bureau Board to Congressman Darin LaHood’s Agriculture Advisory Council, exemplifies a track record of public service leading to the call to seek higher public office. “I will be a voice for voters of the 37th District. We live in a great state that is abundant in natural resources and hard-working people. I am tired of friends and family leaving this state because of woke policies and high taxes. When people are paying significantly more than they were last year for a tank of gas or groceries, we know it hurts. When we look west to Iowa and see our neighbors paying significantly less than we pay in Illinois, we know it’s a self-inflicted problem that needs to be solved.”

Yager is pro-life. He is an avid supporter of the 2nd Amendment. He believes schools should be controlled locally, representing the values of the communities they serve without State and Federal unfunded mandates. He supports law enforcement unequivocally and believes

basic law and order are necessary for strong communities. Yager supports agriculture and the property rights of landowners. He believes in legal, merit-based immigration and simplification of the naturalization process for those who seek to be United States citizens but firmly believes illegal immigration must be stopped at the border by our Federal Government.

Tim and his wife of 35 years, Kelly (Anderson) Yager, are both deeply connected to the region through generations of family in Henry County. They live on their farm outside of Geneseo, where they enjoy spending time with their four adult children and five grandchildren. Tim’s faith and family are the cornerstones of his strong beliefs in building a legacy for future generations.

“My experience in the boardroom, on the farm, and as a husband and father prepared me to serve in the General Assembly,” said Yager. “People know the kind of Senator I’ll be for our region because of my proven track record, and I am asking for their prayers, support, and vote.”

The 37th District serves approximately 217,000 residents and includes all of Lee and Whiteside Counties and parts of Bureau, DeKalb, Henry, LaSalle, Marshall, Ogle, Peoria, Rock Island, Stark, and Woodford counties. Incumbent Sen. Win Stoller (R-Germantown Hills) announced his retirement in August after two terms. The primary election is Tuesday, March 19, 2024, and the general election follows on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024.

## 2023 Ogle County Tentative Multiplier announced

**SPRINGFIELD** - Ogle County has been issued a tentative property assessment equalization factor of 1.0000, according to David Harris, director of the Illinois Department of Revenue.

The property assessment equalization factor, often called the “multiplier”, is the method used to achieve uniform property assessments among counties, as required by law. This equalization is particularly important because some of the state’s 6,600 local taxing districts overlap into two or more counties (e.g. school districts, junior college districts, fire protection districts). If there were no equalization among counties, substantial inequities among taxpayers with comparable properties would result.

State law requires property in Illinois to be assessed at one-third of its market value. Farm property is assessed differently, with farm homesites and dwellings subject to regular assessing and equalization procedures, but with farmland and farm buildings assessed according to standards based on productivity.

The equalization factor is determined annually for each county by comparing the sales price of individual properties sold over the past three years to the assessed value placed on those properties by the county supervisor of assessments/county assessor.

If this three-year average level of assessment is one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be one (1). If the average level of assessment is greater than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be less than one (1). And if the average

level of assessment is less than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be greater than one (1).

Assessments in Ogle County are at 33.02 percent of market value, based on sales of properties in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The equalization factor currently being assigned is for 2023 taxes payable in 2024.

Last year’s equalization factor for the county was 1.0000.

The tentative factor is subject to change (one) if the County Board of Review takes actions which significantly affect the county assessments or (two) if local officials or others can present data showing that the Department of Revenue’s estimates of the average level of assessments in the county should be adjusted. A public hearing on the tentative multiplier will be held between 20 and 30 days after the tentative factor is published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county.

A change in the equalization factor does not mean total property tax bills will increase or decrease. Tax bills are determined by local taxing bodies when they request money each year to provide services to local citizens. If the amount requested by local taxing districts is not greater than the amount received in the previous year, then total property taxes will not increase even if assessments may have increased.

The assessed value of an individual property determines what portion of the tax burden a specific taxpayer will assume. That individual’s portion of tax responsibility is not changed by the multiplier.

## County ZBA meeting for Dec. 28 canceled

**OREGON** - Due to lack of business, the regular monthly meeting of the Ogle County Zoning Board of Appeals scheduled for

Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023 has been cancelled.

The next meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 25,

2024 at 6 p.m. at the Old Ogle County Court House, Third Floor County Board Room #317, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon.

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**Tails PET OF THE WEEK**  
Humane Society  
815.758.2457  
www.tailshumanesociety.org

**Jenna**

Hi there! I'm Jenna, I'm 5 and I weigh 45lbs. I'm at the age where I'm mature, sensible and calm but far from "over the hill". I enjoy going for walks and will walk nicely along with you. If it is tricks you want, I have several to pull out and entertain your guests. I get rather nervous around little children but am fine with older ones. If you need a sweet, gentle companion to share your life with, I hope you'll consider adopting me. I'd love to have a home for the holidays!

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## OGLE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)



*Funding mental health services to the residents of Ogle County since 1969.*

The services being rendered by our non-profit funded agencies are effective, efficient and comprehensive. In every case, the agencies are licensed, certified and accredited by all appropriate regulatory bodies; meeting or exceeding all standards.

The goal of these services is to provide cost effective care that will frequently lead to greater independence and productivity.

Our county's funded agencies have and continue to wisely use our mental health dollars for the betterment of those county residents in need. We remain grateful for the kind and generous support of Ogle County taxpayers and pledge our continued vigilance in the monitoring of our county's mental health services.

### EASTERSEALS

Serving Chicagoland and Greater Rockford  
730 N. Church St. Rockford, IL 61103  
Phone: 815-965-5069 Fax: 815-965-6021  
Email: [KKurtz@eastersealschicago.org](mailto:KKurtz@eastersealschicago.org)

**Mission Statement:** In response to our communities, Easterseals provides comprehensive services for individuals with disabilities or other special needs and their families to improve the quality of life and maximize independence.

**Target population:** We serve children (birth through twenty-one) with disabilities and other special needs and their families.

**Program Purpose:** Easterseals purpose is to change the way the world defines and views disabilities by making profound, positive differences in people's lives every day.

**Services Provided:** Family Support Services assists parents of children with disabilities with information and referral, consultation, respite services, sibling workshops, parent/professional trainings, social activities, and mom/caretaker retreats. The program provides resources and contacts with other families that allow parents to build the information and support networks they need to facilitate the development of their children.

**Autism Therapeutic School:** Our school offers a private school setting for students whose primary disability is autism. In addition to following a student's IEP, we offer art classes, vocational training, occupational therapy, speech therapy, behavior interventions, and social stories. The goal is to transition the students back into their home school environment. 8301 Mitchell Road, Machesney Park, IL 61115 815-623-4800.

**SERVICIOS HISPANOS**  
815-570-3111

### HOPE OF OGLE COUNTY

P.O. Box 131, Rochelle, IL 61068  
24/7 Hotline: 815-562-8890  
Phone: 815-562-4323  
Fax: 815-562-5756  
Oregon: Crisis: 815-732-7796  
E-mail: [hopeogle.admin@hopedv.org](mailto:hopeogle.admin@hopedv.org)  
[www.hopedv.org](http://www.hopedv.org)

**Mission Statement:** To advocate on behalf of domestic violence victims and their children in a welcoming environment. Caring professionals provide safety planning, support, shelter, and referrals while empowering survivors to build a safe and peaceful future.

**Target Population:** Victims and survivors of domestic abuse and their children.

**Program Purpose:** To provide safety, counselling and support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and their children.

**Services Provided:** HOPE provides a 24-hour hotline, support groups, individual and family counseling, temporary shelter, resources and referrals, advocacy, court advocacy, medical advocacy, and Latinx and rural outreach services. All services are free and available in Spanish. Counseling and outreach services are available in Rochelle, Oregon, and Polo. HOPE provides prevention education to students, and community presentations about domestic abuse, strangulation prevention, and HOPE services.

#### 708 BOARD MEMBERS

[occmh708bd@gmail.com](mailto:occmh708bd@gmail.com)  
**Dorothy Bowers** – Pres  
**Kathleen Wilson** – VP  
**Renee L. Barnhart** – S/T  
**Cindy Bergstorm**  
**Jenae Bothe**  
**Marcella Haushahn**  
**Amy L. Zbinden-Henkel**  
**Joe Simms** – OCB Liaison  
**Judy Tatlock**  
**Justine Messenger** – Sec.

## LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS

1261 IL Rt. 38, Nachusa, IL 61057  
Phone: 815-284-7796  
Fax: 815-284-6162  
[www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org)

**Mission Statement:** Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) brings healing, justice and wholeness to people and communities.

**Target Population:** LSSI provides critical programs for the state's most vulnerable residents, including services for youth, adolescents, and adults.

**Program Purpose:** The LSSI Programs strive to preserve, unify and stabilize individuals and families through foster care and youth service programs. LSSI also provides treatment services to those experiencing mental health and substance abuse. Other programs are focused on prevention of substance abuse and violence.

**Services Provided:** LSSI provides a wide range of services through multiple programs and sites. Services available locally include foster care, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, substance abuse and violence prevention, affordable senior housing, and residential programs for people with developmental disabilities.

### ROCKFORD SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELING

412 W. Washington, Oregon, IL 61061  
815-732-0000  
815-636-9811 (24 hrs.)  
[Rockfordsexualassaultcounseling.org](http://Rockfordsexualassaultcounseling.org)

**Mission Statement:** Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, Inc. (RSAC) responds to the needs of victims of sexual assault/abuse and their families/significant others through emergency services, emotional support, counseling, referral,

advocacy, and education, and promotes awareness and understanding of sexual assault. The focus of RSAC is to provide services to survivors of sexual assault/abuse and to educate the community to reduce the risk of sexual violence.

**Target Population:** Survivors of sexual assault and abuse, age 3-adult, and their significant others. Prevention education programming for all community members.

**Program Purpose:** The goal of Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling is to make comprehensive services available to all survivors of sexual violence so that they may heal from the trauma. In addition, we provide educational programs to increase awareness, knowledge and skills.

**Services Provided:** Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling provides 24-hour crisis intervention, medical and legal advocacy, counseling, prevention education and professional training. All services are confidential, free and available in Spanish.

### SERENITY HOSPICE AND HOME

P.O. Box 462, 1658 Illinois Rte. 2 South,  
Oregon, IL 61061  
Phone: 815-732-2499  
e-mail:  
[hospice@serenityhospiceandhome.org](mailto:hospice@serenityhospiceandhome.org)  
[www.serenityhospiceandhome.org](http://www.serenityhospiceandhome.org)

**Mission Statement:** Believing in the dignity of life, Serenity Hospice and Home offers care to the terminally ill and their families. This care encompasses the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the family unit with emphasis on the desires of the patient and family. Serenity Hospice and Home believes that living continues until the moment of death and our focus is on promoting optimal living through this final journey of life.

**Target Population:** Individual residents of Ogle County who need care and support through a terminal illness and those grieving the loss of a loved one.

**Program Purpose:** To provide support and assistance throughout all stages of loss and grief; to alleviate needless suffering; and to help people find the new path for their life. Good interventions will afford clients healthy lifestyle choices, good outcomes and tools to lead productive, healthy lives.

**Services Provided:** Our services include but are not limited to: Evaluation and assessment of needs, group interactive meetings, individual sessions, literature and information available for educational purposes, and programs and in-services directed toward different life situations and ages.

### SHINING STAR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

215 E First St. – Suite 110  
Dixon, IL 61021  
815-284-1891  
Fax: 888-901-3617

E-mail: [icash@shiningstarcac.org](mailto:icash@shiningstarcac.org)  
[www.shiningstarcac.com](http://www.shiningstarcac.com)

**Mission Statement:** The mission of Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center (SSCAC) is to transform victims of child abuse into survivors. The purpose is to reduce the trauma of child abuse through identification, offender accountability, advocacy, counseling, and education on the path to

eliminating child abuse.

**Target Population:** Children who have been affected by child maltreatment and their non-offending caregivers.

**Services Provided:** Services are provided and needs met through forensic interviews, specialized medical exams, case management, mental health services, advocacy and support, referral for other victim services, and court updates. The Counseling program is designed to reduce trauma and the anxiety associated with child maltreatment, while providing clients with the tools to implement appropriate, healthy coping skills. SSCAC is accredited with the National Children's Alliance.

### SINNISSIPPI CENTERS, INC.

100 Jefferson Street, Oregon, IL 61061  
Phone: 815-732-3157  
1321 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Rochelle, IL 61068  
Phone: 815-562-3801  
24-hour, toll-free number: 1-800-242-7642  
[www.sinnissippi.com](http://www.sinnissippi.com)

**Mission Statement:** It is the mission of Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. to provide Quality, Coordinated, and Responsive behavioral healthcare services to individuals, families and communities.

**Target Population:** Children, adolescents, adults, and families of Ogle County who have a behavioral healthcare need, including:

- Alcohol or drug problem
- Mental health, emotional, or family concerns

**Program Purpose:** The professional staff of Sinnissippi Centers is dedicated to strengthening and enhancing lives through a commitment to building healthy individuals, families and communities. The goal of Sinnissippi Centers is to provide the highest quality of care through individualized treatment and support services, which are available at two convenient locations in Ogle County - Oregon and Rochelle.

**Services Provided:** Individual and group treatment for abuse of alcohol and other drugs, (Intensive Outpatient, Outpatient, Aftercare); day treatment for individuals with a mental illness; screening and assessment (including after hour evaluations); family and youth services; divorcing parents program; domestic violence intervention programming; specialized groups (including Anger Management); prevention and therapy services in schools; psychiatric services; intensive community-based treatment; residential treatment for serious mental illness; recovery home services for addictions.

### VILLAGE OF PROGRESS, INC.

P.O. Box 418, 710 S. 13th St, Oregon, IL 61061  
Phone: 815-732-2126 Fax: 815-732-3228  
e-mail: [bbrooks@villageofprogress.org](mailto:bbrooks@villageofprogress.org)  
[www.villageofprogress.org](http://www.villageofprogress.org)

**Mission Statement:** Village of Progress, Inc. will assist Ogle County adults with disabilities to reach their potential in all environments.

**Target Population:** Individuals ages 16 or older who are residents of Ogle County and have a developmental disability (mental retardation, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism). Approximately 15% of those enrolled are not developmentally disabled but have one or more other disabilities.

**Program Purpose:** To provide a day training environment that will promote greater independence in all aspects of the recipient's life.

Our 28,000 square foot complex is located on twelve acres of land in Oregon. We take pride in the fact that 55% to 60% of our annual operating budget comes as a result of contributions and the work we perform for the business community by way of our janitorial service and industrial subcontracts. We maintain the highest status for accreditation and licensing from all appropriate regulatory bodies.

**Services Provided:** Services include, but are not limited to: Evaluation & Assessment; Job Training; Supported Employment; Job Placement & Follow-up; Language, Physical & Occupational Therapy; Skills for Daily Living; Recreational & Social Experiences; Special Olympics; Health Maintenance; Daily Lunch Service; and Transportation.

**A stronger tomorrow is worth the time today.**  
**Assistance found within.**





# LOCAL NEWS

## Ag in the Classroom book grant allows Kings students to 'plant' underwear

**KINGS** - Ms. Tammy Greene of Kings School received a book grant on soil from the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program, the IAA Foundation, and the Illinois Farm Bureau. Her fourth-grade class will be learning about soil throughout the year.

The mission of the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) program is to bring accurate and authentic agricultural information to students in grades PreK-12 across Illinois.

"Each year, our teacher grant program is very competitive, and our judging panel is amazed at the unique programs teachers use to infuse agriculture into their curriculum. Our grant recipients are ready to jump into units of study highlighting agriculture. We see 2023-2024 as a prime opportunity for teachers to infuse their curriculum with agriculture," Kevin Daugherty, director of the Illinois Center for Agricultural Engagement and IAITC, said.

Ms. Greene's class started the year "planting" underwear. This is a fun, hands-on activity where students can understand what makes soil healthy by burying pairs of cotton underwear and watching them decompose over time.

They recently dug up their underwear to see much of it was missing due to the many organisms in the soil.

Susan Moore, director of the IAA Foundation, added, "We take pride in providing resources so teachers can continue engaging and inspiring students. These grants are a meaningful way for the IAA Foundation to partner with like-minded organizations to fulfill our mission to support the future of agriculture through education."

Partner organizations of IAITC include Illinois



Students in Ms. Greene's fourth-grade class learn about soil and decomposition during the "Soil Your Undies" learning activity.

Farm Bureau, Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE), University of Illinois Extension, Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Corn Growers, Illinois Pork Producers, Illinois Soybean Association, Midwest Dairy Association, Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In addition, annual donors include agribusiness partners and event participants with

an interest in supporting the future of agriculture. For information on how individuals can contribute, visit [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org). For information on IAITC, visit [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org).

Ag in the Classroom is offered through the University of Illinois Extension in partnership with Ogle County Farm Bureau, Carroll County Farm Bureau, Ogle County Soil & Water, and Carroll County Soil & Water.



Pictured left to right: Mrs. Beth Mock and Mrs. Andrea DeKing (Rochelle Township High School art department), Mrs. Amy Henkel (OCEC associate director of special education), Alivia Henkel (RTHS AP art student), Mrs. Janda Henkel (Sargent Art director of marketing and sales)

## Local school districts receive art supplies donations from Sargent Art

*OCEC, RTHS, Oregon, Polo, Creston awarded*

**OGLE COUNTY** — Sargent Art is a leading United States manufacturer and importer of fine quality art materials for education, fine art, and crafts. Sargent Art took its name after the famous American artist "John Singer Sargent". For over 100 years Sargent Art has been the trusted brand for schools and artists around the world as products are distributed globally. They have been an established member of the Art and Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (ACMI) since 1936. Sargent Art is in Hazleton, Pennsylvania near the famous "Pocono's Mountain Region". They became a division of Pidilite USA in 2006, a wholly owned subsidiary of Pidilite Industries Limited, India (a listed company with the Mumbai stock Exchange).

Sargent Art will be closing at the end of the year, so they developed a donation opportunity for school districts to participate in to give back to the schools that have supported them over the years. Since there was a limited amount of product available to be distributed, this program was implemented through word of mouth. Initially, districts were being contacted randomly, but that wasn't very successful as some districts perceived the gesture as too good to be true and discarded it as a scam. Since that time, a coordinated effort to make connections with the school districts and distribute the supplies was enacted through collaborative efforts. All the products allocated for the donation have been finalized and will be shipped by the end of October.

Local school districts in Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Counties accepting donations include: Ogle County Education Cooperative, Rochelle Township High School, Oregon Community School District #220, Amboy Community Unit #272, Polo Community School District #222, Creston Consolidated District #161, Dixon

Public Schools #170, Sterling, Rock Falls Elementary and Faith Christian School.

Mrs. Amy Henkel, OCEC associate director, reports that Ogle County Education Cooperative in cooperation with Pine Rock Township stored supplies until program students could assist in sorting and delivering the substantial donation of art supplies to teachers and students, as part of their service learning initiative. Students also participated in efforts to give back to others and service learning by offering some supplies to the Village of Progress, Kings School and Hope of Rochelle. Staff and students at Chana Education Center and the PLUS Life Skills programs will benefit. Both programs incorporate art lessons and projects into their instruction, ranging from crafting to neurographic art designs. OCEC is pleased to see supplies being directly put into the hands of teachers and students.

Mrs. Beth Mock and Ms. Andrea DeKing, art teachers at RTHS, indicate they will use the majority of supplies to supplement and enrich students' art experience in our classroom and include them in our curriculum for years to come. This will provide the opportunity to explore media students may not have been able to and open possibilities that they might not have had. They plan to spread their good fortune. For those supplies that don't fit in with the art curriculum, they will offer those to clubs and teachers at the high school and then to D231 if any are left over. It is truly exciting that there will be an infusion of art all across school buildings.

Ogle County Education Cooperative and RTHS wish to sincerely thank Sargent Art, led by Mrs. Janda Henkel, for their generosity. Staff and students look forward to the many pieces and expressions of artwork to come from this opportunity.

## Oregon's Brandt attends Central College's Scholar Day

**PELLA, Iowa** — NASA and the moon landings connected curious minds at Central College as 150 prospective students attended a Scholar Day in November. These events welcomed admitted students to campus to learn about the college and to earn additional academic scholarships, up to full tuition.

Attending from Oregon was

Maison Brandt.

This year Central introduced a new group challenge - the moon landing past and future and the theoretical exploration of the dark side of the moon. Scholarship candidates prepared for the day by learning more about the Apollo project and hearing NASA astronaut, Raja Chari, discuss his experience as an astronaut.

During Scholar Day, participants were interviewed by faculty and invited to discuss how NASA team members embody engaged citizenship and how skills like critical thinking and working collaboratively made space missions possible. The group challenge is designed to showcase students' collaboration, creativity and communication skills.

## OCSWMD releases information on holiday season food waste

**OREGON** — In a world where millions go to bed hungry, it's disheartening to know that a significant portion of the food we produce ends up in landfills. Food waste not only squanders precious resources but also contributes to environmental degradation. However, the good news is that we can take meaningful steps to solve this issue through waste reduction and composting.

Some ideas to reduce food waste include:  
**Smart shopping:** One of the easiest ways to reduce food waste is to plan your meals and create a shopping list. Stick to what you need, and avoid buying in bulk if you won't use it all. Be mindful of expiration dates and choose products with a longer shelf life.

**Portion control:** Prepare and serve reasonable portion sizes. Leftovers often end up in the trash because we serve more than people can eat. Consider using smaller plates to help control portions.

**First in, first out:** Organize your pantry and refrigerator to ensure older items are used before newer ones. This strategy can prevent unnoticed food items from expiring and becoming waste.

**Preserve food:** Store your food properly. Use airtight containers, put items like vegetables in cloth produce bags, and use the freezer to extend the life of perishable goods.

**Creative cooking:** Get creative with leftover ingredients. Soups, stir-fries and casseroles are excellent ways to use up odds and ends from your fridge.

### Composting food scraps

**What can be composted:** Not all food waste belongs in the trash. Items like fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, and even some non-greasy paper products can be composted.

**Avoid composting meat and dairy:** These items can attract pests and create unpleasant odors in your compost bin. It's best to avoid composting them at home.

**The golden ratio:** Maintain the proper ratio of materials in your pile: two to three parts carbon-rich material (browns) to one part nitrogen-rich material (greens).

**Composting systems:** There are various composting methods to choose from, including backyard compost bins or worm composting (vermicomposting). Pick the one that suits your lifestyle and space.

**Turning waste into gold:** Composting isn't just a waste reduction method; it creates a valuable resource. It enriches soil, helps retain moisture, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.

Reducing food waste and embracing composting practices not only helps us save money but also makes a significant contribution to the environment. It reduces methane emissions from landfills, conserves water and energy used in food production, and enriches our soil. By making some simple changes in our daily lives, we can collectively take a big step towards a more sustainable future, one plate at a time. Please call the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department at 815-732-4020 or visit [www.oglecountyil.gov](http://www.oglecountyil.gov) for more information on food waste reduction and composting.

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**CLASSIFIEDS**



# LOCAL NEWS

## Mt. Morris Goodfellows accepting donations for the holidays

**MT.MORRIS**—A wonderful Mt. Morris tradition continues. For the past 70 years, the Goodfellows have provided food assistance and fruit baskets to residents in Mt. Morris, thanks to the financial support of the community. The Goodfellows are accepting monetary donations for those in need this holiday season. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Donations can be mailed to Mt. Morris Goodfellows, P.O. Box 75, Mt. Morris, IL 61054 or dropped into a Goodfellows donation can located at local businesses. Participating Mt. Morris businesses are Sterling Federal Bank, Union Savings Bank, Rockford Bell Credit Union, Cimino's Pizza, The Idle Hour, Moose Lodge, Peppermill Restaurant, Sharky's, Shell

Express, Sullivan's Grocery, Village Hall, Mobil, Eclips Hair Salon, Campus Café, Mullarkey's Bar & Grill, Nava Family Restaurant, Mt. Morris Pharmacy and Garden View Family Restaurant. If you have any questions regarding Goodfellows, please call Jerry Griffin at 815-440-4440. The Mt. Morris Goodfellows appreciate your support. Thank you.

## McCombie offers Winter Clothing Drive

**SAVANNA** - This Giving Tuesday, House Minority Leader Tony McCombie is encouraging area residents to give back to those in need. Leader McCombie launched a winter clothing drive, which is a great opportunity for residents looking to make an impact this Tuesday. McCombie's Winter Clothing Drive accepts any winter gear like coats, hats, gloves, or scarves in all sizes from infant to adult. The winter items will be collected at Leader McCombie's District Office in Savanna, 9317B Illinois Route 84, and then donated to the Regional Office of Education for distribution to area families. Additional collection sites include the Jo Daviess, Ogle, and Stephenson County

Farm Bureaus, which will accept drop-offs Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Carroll County Farm Bureau will accept drop-offs Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Village of Winnebago Village Hall will also be a drop-off location from Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On-site donations in Savanna will only be accepted on Wednesdays. "I encourage you to consider donating any gently used winter items that you may not use or need anymore," said Leader McCombie. "I am hosting this drive to help those in need stay warm this winter, and I know our community will come together to get the job done!" The drive will run until Dec. 8.



From left to right - Ruth Carter, Oregon Lion Dr. Tom Champley and Oregon Lions President Lori Peterson

## Oregon Lions Donate to Hope of Ogle County

**OREGON** — Ruth Carter, director of HOPE of Ogle County, a domestic abuse agency in Rochelle, spoke to the Oregon Lions at their meeting on Nov. 9 at the VFW in Oregon. She explained the services that her agency provides. They include temporary shelter for adults and their children, individual counselling for survivors of abuse, weekly support groups for adults and their children, assistance in obtaining orders of protection and support through the legal process, and a 24-hour hotline that offers emotional support and referrals to outside resources. This can be a vital resource for those who experience abuse. Persons who abuse others do so to

gain control over them. Most research shows that the longer one stays in an abusive relationship the more violent and frequent it becomes. Abuse and violence are most often learned behavior that is reinforced when the abuser learns that they can control with abusive behavior. Those in need of these services in an emergency can call 911 or the Ogle County Sheriff's Office at 815-732-6666 or the Lee County Sheriff's Office at 815-284-6631. There are HOPE offices in Oregon, Byron, Mt. Morris, Polo and Forreston and those numbers can be found online or provided by the Lee and Ogle Sheriff's Offices. Oregon Lions donated \$500 to the agency.

## DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

<b>Alcohol Abuse Counseling &amp; Recovery</b>	
A.A. Hotline	800-452-7990
<b>Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.</b>	
Oregon	732-3157
Rochelle	562-3801
<b>Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline</b>	
HOPE of Ogle County	562-8890 or 732-7796
Counseling Services, Court Advocacy, Latina Advocacy, and Shelter programs	
<b>Education</b>	
University of Illinois Extension-Ogle County	
421 W Pines Rd, Oregon 61061	732-2191
<b>Low Income Housing</b>	
Ogle County Housing Authority	
200 W Washington, Oregon	732-1301
<b>Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County</b>	
P.) Box 628	
Oregon, IL 61061	732-6855
<b>Mental Health</b>	
Family Counseling Services	962-5585
<b>Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.</b>	
Oregon	732-3157
Rochelle	562-3801
The Serenity Shed Grief Services	732-2499
<b>Senior Citizens Services</b>	
Hub City Senior Center	562-5050
Mt Morris Senior Center	734-6335
Polo Senior Center	946-3818
Rock River Center	732-3252
Oregon, IL	800-541-5479
<b>Sexual Assault/Abuse</b>	
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling	
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412 W Washington, Oregon	732-0000
<b>Therapeutic</b>	
Pegasus Special Riders	973-3177
<b>Veterans' Services</b>	
Rock River Center	732-3252
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499
Medical Transportation	677-6515
<b>Wellness Services</b>	
Ogle County Health Dept	
907 Pines Rd, Oregon	562-6976
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle	562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499

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# LOCAL NEWS

## BMS students complete blankets community service project

Over 100 seventh grade students from Byron Middle School recently completed a community service project. Students chose tie-blanket kits in a variety of designs and made the blankets cooperatively with their classmates during a recent community day at BMS. The students then chose where to donate the blankets. Five different organizations were chosen including Noah's Ark Animal Shelter, Project Linus, Ronald McDonald House in Madison, Generations at Neighbors, and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Next, in writing class, the students each wrote a paragraph about why they should be chosen to deliver the blankets. Finally, 12 students were chosen to deliver the blankets to the various organizations along with Mrs. Carrie Bell and Mrs. Amy Bukoski. The delivery day was very rewarding for all involved. Special thanks to Riley Shine from McDonald's, Marci Barnes from Project Linus, and Brooke from Noah's Ark for taking time out of their busy day to meet with the students and talk about their organizations. Great job, BMS seventh graders! Way to show your Tiger pride in our local and surrounding communities!



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Dec. 8**  
House Minority Leader Tony McCombie is launching additional traveling office hours around the 89th District. McCombie has hosted regular events like this to help accommodate constituents across the 89th legislative district, which includes all of Carroll & Jo Daviess counties, as well as parts of Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Ogle and DeKalb counties.  
"Our next round of office hours is a continuation of my office's efforts to help area residents with questions or concerns about state government

or state agencies," McCombie said. "I encourage anyone who is in need of assistance to stop by when we are in your area!"  
Reaching every corner of her legislative district remains a priority for Leader McCombie, and she encourages area residents to stop by the upcoming events:  
Dec. 8 in Oregon: 10-11 a.m., 115 N. 3rd St. Dec. 8 in Byron: noon-1 p.m., 232 W. 2nd St. Dec. 8 in Stillman Valley: 1:30-2:30 p.m., 120 N. Walnut St.  
Leader McCombie recently launched a winter clothing drive to help those in

need stay warm this season. The office will be collecting items at the above events; if you have new or gently-used winter gear like coats, hats or gloves, please consider bringing them by any of the above events. With questions about the office hours or the winter clothing drive, please contact Leader McCombie's office at 815-291-8989.  
**Dec. 16**  
The Leaf River Lions Club will be serving a "Breakfast With Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 16 in the Bertolet Memorial building. The menu of pancakes, waffles, french toast, scrambled

eggs, whole hog sausage, applesauce, orange juice, milk and coffee will be served from 7-10 a.m. (strawberries with whipped cream will be available as well as blueberry and chocolate chip pancake options). Santa will be arriving around 9 a.m. and will stay till breakfast is over. For this special occasion children 10 and under will eat free! There will be opportunities to have pictures taken with Santa. Pricing for breakfast will be age 11- adults \$8 and all you can eat for \$10. Mark your calendar and plan to come and eat breakfast with Santa.

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# VIEWPOINT

"Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech or of the press"

Published every Monday  
Mike Feltes, General Manager  
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

The Ogle County Life is a division of  
News Media Corporation.

## Take a chance..... it just may pay off

OVER my lifetime I have had many people give me a chance and in turn, I have given many people a chance as well. As my time at News Media Corporation comes to an end after 24 years, as I am officially retiring, I've had time to reflect on the chances that were given to me.

In December 1980 my employer, Swift & Company, was closing. I worked there for three years. What was I going to do? The unemployment rate was 18 percent in Illinois. I did not have a college education but was always willing to work. Houston, Texas and Las Vegas, Nevada were booming at the time. Well of course I chose Vegas. My wife was just a girlfriend of mine at that time. She had two girls left to get her nursing degree and was not moving. We took a chance that we could make it work long distance, and get married after she graduated. Toughest two years of our life. We took a chance. It paid off. We have been married for 40 years.

We lived in Vegas for 18 years. I took a job at a casino as soon as I moved there. I started out as a blackjack dealer before being promoted to a table game supervisor, then becoming a pit boss. We started a family in 1995 and grew somewhat tired of Vegas. My father and mother-in-law had passed away and we weren't sure Vegas is where we wanted to raise our family anymore. We decided we wanted to move back to Rochelle and take care of Linette's father. But what was I going to do for a job? It was time to take another chance, hoping it would pay off once again.

Just prior to moving back, a friend of mine, Tom Cross, who was the publisher at the Rochelle News-Leader at the time, stopped at the casino to see me. He was in town because they were looking to buy another newspaper in Page, Arizona. He asked if I ever considered moving back to Rochelle, which I was considering. There was a position opening up to be a manager trainee for the Ogle County Life newspaper. I had zero experience in anything affiliated with newspapers. I said sure. Tom interviewed me. I hooked him up with a suite at the casino. We ordered some beers, and the interview started. Even though Tom was the publisher, he was leaving the hiring of me up to his general manager, John Shank. We did a couple of phone interviews but I wasn't sure he was going to hire me. John didn't know me from Adam and couldn't understand why someone would move from Vegas to Rochelle. But John took a chance on me, and it paid off.

Dec. 1, 1999 was the start of my time at the Rochelle News-Leader. I started out as a manager trainee for the Ogle County Life to then managing the Rochelle News-Leader as well. Then I became general manager/publisher. No college education. Just the willingness to do whatever was asked of me. John Shank took a chance on me. John will be forever my friend and my mentor. News Media Corporation has been very good to me for 24 years. Small town newspapers continue to strive. Many people have come and gone throughout my 24 years. Some fond memories for sure.

I take away the many life skills I learned from the people who took a chance on me. I believe I am a better husband, father and employee from my journey. It's time to end my chapter at the Rochelle News-Leader and enjoy my "golden years" with my wife, Linette, two children Emily (Alex) Bueno and Jenna (Tim) McBride, and my precious grandchildren, Kyler, Preston, Zoey and Teagan. It's time to be papa. Now get me a beach chair and a margarita. I'm out.....

*Mike Feltes is the general manager of the Rochelle News-Leader and Ogle County Life.*

## LIFE letters' policy

Concise letters are most likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of management. All letters must be signed or they will not be considered for publication.

During election times, no letters written by the candidates endorsing themselves will be considered for publication.

Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. Writers are urged to use discretion and refrain from sarcasm or personal attacks.

Criticism of individuals or organizations that is not broached tactfully will jeopardize the publication of a letter. Letters will be published in the order that they are received, unless there is a time factor involved, space permitting.

## The older I get

AS Alan Jackson sings in "The Older I Get",  
The older I get

The longer I pray  
I don't know why, I guess that I've

Got more to say  
And the older I get  
The more thankful I feel

For the life I've had  
and all the life I'm living still

Looking in the mirror I realize that the days of youthful exuberance have long passed me by. As I tell my son Will, "I can still do most of the things I did at age 30, it just takes me twice as long." As I grow older I pray I've gotten a little wiser and I know I have come to enjoy the little things in life more. So for the heck of a chuckle and to entertain this old man here are some of the things getting older have taught and brought to me.

When one door closes and another opens, you are probably in prison.

I remember when I could get up in the morning without making sound effects.

Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer it comes back reincarnated as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.

It's the start of a brand new day and I'm off like a herd of turtles.

These days I run like the wind-ed.

My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of

nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. They are called cops.

You know you are getting old when you bend down to tie your shoe laces and start to wonder what else you could do while you are down there.

You are only young once but you can stay immature indefinitely.

It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of growing old doesn't appeal to anyone.

By the time you turn 80 years old you have learned everything. You only have to remember it.

As you get older three things happen. First, your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two.

I was thinking how people tend to read the bible more as they get older; then it dawned on me — they are cramming for their final exam.

I'm 67 and people call me middle-aged. How many 134-year-olds do you know?

I don't drink alcohol anymore. I can get the same effect just standing up.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or starts to leak.

The older I get the fewer things I find worth waiting in line for.

I had my patience tested. It came back negative.

I'm so old my blood type is "discontinued."

The older I get the more clear-

ly I remember things that never happened.

I'm at the age where my back goes out more often than I do.

I have successfully negotiated the 30-year transition from wanting to stay out late to wanting to go to bed.

When I was young I was called a rugged individualist. When I hit my 50s they called me eccentric. Here I am today doing the same things I did in my younger days, and they call me senile.

Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes, that's boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head — that'll scare ya!

When you are sitting on a park bench and a stranger sits down next to you just stare straight ahead and ask "Did you bring the money?"

When someone asks me what did you do over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why? What did you hear?"

I complain about the years flying past, but then I look in the mirror and see that very few of them actually got by.

First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up, then you forget to pull your zipper down.

Last one from the time-tested great — Ann Landers...

At age 20, we worry about what others think of us. At age 40, we don't care what they think of us. At age 60, we realize they haven't been thinking of us at all.

*Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.*



Ron Kern

## Written checks are disappearing

"PAPER checks are dead and cash is dying."

When I read that headline in the Washington Post last week, I cringed.

According to the Post article, back in 2000, six out of 10 non-cash payments were made with a paper check. Today it is one in 20.

Or consider this: 57 percent of Americans haven't written a check in the past month. None. Nada. Zero. Zip.

If check writing is going the way of the dinosaur, I must be a regular Tyrannosaurus rex. I still pay my bills by check.

I line up my bills on my desk and pay each of them with the swoop of a ballpoint pen. To me, it screams financial responsibility.

But soon those giant, oversized, foam board novelty checks will be the last remnant of what was a 20th Century fiscal icon.

I was thinking about that at a recent Downtown Springfield Kiwanis meeting when a local merchant presented a grant via one of those gigantic emblems of generosity.

I found their use of this symbol curious because when I tried to make a purchase from the same store last month, they wouldn't take my check. A clerk informed me they quit accepting customer checks two years ago.

Hmmm, they'll give a symbolic check but not accept a real one?

I remember when merchants preferred checks. Credit card companies charge them between 1.5 percent and 3.5 percent of each transaction. More than a few times, I've negotiated a discount on merchandise by offering to pay with a check rather than a charge card.

Destiny Nance-Evans, a senior vice president at Security Bank in Springfield, tells me that checking accounts remain popular. But increasingly customers don't use them to write checks.

They are using debit cards and electronic transfers to draw money from the accounts.

She said she personally prefers these types of transactions to ones involving paper checks because they are more secure. She noted every paper check has a routing number and account number printed on its bottom and if an unscrupulous individual were to get hold of the information it could be misused.

Still, I can't help but think something is lost as the written check goes by the wayside.

I opened my first checking account when I was 11. My dad thought it was important that his sons have experience operating their own businesses. My brother raised hogs. I raised cattle.

I purchased bull calves from dairy farmers across Knox County, took them home and raised them on a bottle.

(Dairy calves are raised on formula because humans drink their mother's milk.)

I felt like a regular Rockefeller writing a \$25 check for a Holstein calf.

My mother taught me to carefully record each transaction in my check-

book: milk replacement, feed, a pitchfork. Checks were about responsibility and accountability.

When I received a check in the mail from Bill Robinson, the farmer I eventually sold the calves off to, I felt a sense of accomplishment. Holding something tangible in my hands was a reward for hard work.

In college, my peers griped about their parents monitoring their activity by reading the cancelled checks the bank mailed home with a statement each month.

"You're writing a lot of checks to Domino's Pizza. Why aren't you eating in the dorm cafeteria?" annoyed parents would exclaim.

Decades later when I wed, the checking account became a point of contention.

Spouses have to communicate with one another. And nothing requires communication more than a joint checking account.

My wife, God bless her, has a phenomenal memory and can remember all of her transactions. But somehow, she'd forget to tell me about them.

It was a recipe for checks bouncing higher

than a super ball.

We experimented with separate checking accounts. But that created a mindset of: "his money" and "her money" — never a good idea. In marriage everything should be "ours."

Eventually, we tried a joint account again and learned to communicate better. It wasn't just good for the finances but for the marriage.

A young man I do business with needed to pay me and asked about sending me a Venmo payment. I told him I didn't have an account. This exasperated, college-educated, 20-something then asked how he was supposed to get the money to me. I told him to mail me a check.

He had to watch a YouTube video to learn how to fill one out.

As the written check fades away, the American lexicon will be altered. Terms like: "Grip and grin;" "Rubber check;" "The check is in the mail" and "Paycheck Fridays" will slowly disappear from our language.

Future students may ponder these words of '60s radical Jerry Rubin:

"The individual who signs the check has the ultimate power."

Will those future scholars ponder this statement or simply ask: "What's a check?"

*Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinois-times.com.*



Scott Reeder



# LOCAL NEWS

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

### Officers respond to hit and run

**OREGON** - On Nov. 21 at approximately 5:16 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the 10,000 block of North Illinois Route 2 in reference to hit and run injury accident. After arrival, deputies learned a gray Dodge Charger driven by John Arberry, 56, of Byron, was traveling southbound in the 10,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. An unknown make white truck was traveling northbound at the same time when it entered the southbound lane and side swiped Arberry's vehicle. The vehicle then left the scene northbound without stopping. Arberry was transported to Swedish American Hospital for non-life threatening injuries by Byron Fire and EMS. The accident remains under investigation. If anyone knows any information about the offending vehicle or driver, please contact the Ogle County Sheriff's Office at 815-732-2136.

On Nov. 23 at approximately 6:37 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of South 4th Street and Clay Street in Oregon. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Christopher T. Staley, 33, of Moline for no valid driver's license. Staley was additionally issued citations for suspended registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Staley was released on a notice to appear.

On Nov. 24 at approximately 2:38 a.m. deputies attempted to stop a black Ford Escape in the 9,000

block of West Illinois Route 72. The vehicle attempted to flee from deputies and continued at a high rate of speed. The pursuit was terminated as the vehicle entered the Village of Forreston at a high rate of speed. A short time later the vehicle and the driver, Luis Terrazas Jr., 30, of Baileyville, were located on Avon Street in near Locust Avenue in Forreston. Terrazas was placed under arrest for aggravated fleeing to elude a peace officer, driving while license suspended and unlawful use of a weapon. Terrazas was also cited for speeding, operating a vehicle with suspended registration, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, no front registration, failure to notify the secretary of state of an address change, and improper turn signal. After further investigation, damaged property was reported in the 6,000 block of East Illinois Route 72 and on scene was part of the bumper and license plate of the Terrazas' Escape. Terrazas was additionally cited for leaving the scene, improper lane usage and driving on the shoulder.

On Nov. 24 at approximately 6:39 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the Shell gas station parking lot in the 8,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Luis Marrero, 50, of Montgomery, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Marrero was additionally issued citations for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration and operating

an uninsured vehicle. Marrero was released on a notice to appear on scene with a future court date. While on scene, deputies learned of another driver who had a revoked license in a different vehicle. After investigation, deputies placed Jonathan Marrero, 36, of Montgomery, under arrest for driving while license revoked. Jonathan Marrero was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released on a notice to appear with a future court date. On Nov. 26 at approximately 11:51 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of West Washington Street. After investigation, deputies placed Byron Jones, 32, of Chicago, under arrest for driving while under the influence of drugs. While placing Jones under arrest, he began resisting arrest before being placed in handcuffs. Jones was additionally charged with three counts of resisting a peace officer and resisting a peace officer resulting in an injury (class four felony) and possession of methamphetamine (class two felony). Jones was additionally cited for improper lane usage. Jones was transported to KSB Hospital by Oregon EMS before being released and transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held pending an appearance in front of a judge. Oregon Police officers assisted with the incident.

*All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.*



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# LOCAL NEWS

## OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Driver cited for operating uninsured vehicle

**Nov. 13**  
At 11:31 a.m., Oregon Police issued Ryanne M. DeHaan, 21, Oregon, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 500 block of South 4th Street.

At 1:23 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 200 block of South 4th Street involving a 2014 Chevrolet driven by Kaylee N. Johnson, 21, Oregon, and a 2013 Audi driven by Taylen C. Arvigo, 27, Oregon. Johnson was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

**Nov. 14**  
At 11:42 a.m., Oregon Police took a report of a traffic crash that had occurred earlier at approximately 11:10 a.m. in the McDonald's Restaurant drive thru located at 211 S. 4th St. involving a 2012 Kia driven by Tiffani D. Griffin, 57, Oregon, that was struck by a 2017 Jeep driven by Katryna M. Holm, 33, Mt. Morris. No citations were issued.

**Nov. 16**  
At 8:37 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 1,100 block of Illinois Street involving a 2002 Mercury driven by a 16-year-old of Oregon, and a parked Ogle County Sheriff's Office squad car. No citations were issued.

At 3:25 p.m., Oregon Police issued Raven Brewer, 34, Oregon two city citations for violating the ordinance of having two dogs running at large. These violations occurred in the 800 block of Rhoads Place.

**Nov. 17**  
At 8:07 a.m., Oregon Police issued Bailey M. Milburn, 24, Rochelle, citations for operating a vehicle with a tinted windshield and operating a vehicle with illegal front window tint. These violations occurred in the 1,000 block of Jefferson Street.

At 9:47 a.m., Oregon Police issued Carla Gerardo, 21, Elgin, a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration for non-insurance. This violation occurred in the 300 block of West Washington Street.

At 7:02 p.m., Oregon Police took one 16-year-old male juvenile, Oregon, into limited custody for the offense of curfew and theft. The juvenile was released into his parent's custody with a referral being sent to the State's Attorney's Office.

At 9:36 p.m., Oregon Police issued a 17-year-old of Chana a citation for operating a vehicle when registration is suspended. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

**Nov. 18**  
At 12:01 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Devon

M. Adams, 25, Sterling, for driving while license suspended. Adams was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 400 block of North 4th Street.

At 7:35 a.m., Oregon Police issued Cladedric G. Gross, 35, of Chicago Heights, a citation for speeding 65 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 1,200 block of West Washington Street.

At 9:14 a.m., Oregon Police issued Matthew A. Wolf, 48, Oregon, a citation for disobeying a stop sign. This violation occurred at the intersection of South 10th and West Washington Streets.

At 2:28 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a three-vehicle traffic crash in the intersection of South 5th and Clay Streets involving a 2011 Nissan driven by Marine C. Kuethe, 94, Oregon, and a 2020 Chrysler driven by Ray G. Gruber, 77, Byron. The Chrysler was pulling a 1976 homemade trailer belonging to Boy Scout Troop 52 of Oregon. Kuethe was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

At 7:42 p.m., Oregon Police issued Kole E. Mowry, 24, Chana, a citation for operating a vehicle while registration suspended. This violation occurred in the 700 block of West Washington Street.

**Nov. 19**  
At 8:37 a.m., Oregon Police issued Cynthia D. Torres, 48, of Chicago, a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 10:03 a.m., Oregon Police issued Wendy P. Huska, 38, Oregon, a citation for use of a cell phone while driving. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Gale Street.

At 10:48 a.m., Oregon Police issued Alexander T. Mera, 43, Machesney Park, a citation for speeding 57 miles per hour in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 1,200 block of Pines Road.

At 12:44 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jacquelyn L. Isham, 35, Stillman Valley, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 10:04 p.m., Oregon Police issued Anthony J. Epps, 23, Dixon, citations for improper use of registration, operating a vehicle with an expired registration, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 100 block of North 4th Street.

Twenty one verbal warnings were issued during the week of Nov. 13-19.

*Please note: Any arrests listed below are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.*

## MT. MORRIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Man arrested for aggravated domestic battery

**MT. MORRIS** — On Nov. 12 at approximately 10:45 a.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the 10 block of South Ogle Avenue for the report of a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, David J. Walker, 44, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with aggravated domestic battery, violation of order of protection, aggravated battery to a peace officer, resisting/obstructing resulting in injury to a peace officer, and criminal damage to government-supported property. Walker was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held without bond.

On Nov. 17 at approximately 8 a.m. Mt. Morris Police made contact with a subject, Anthony S. Brenner, 56, Mt. Morris, who was wanted on an Ogle County warrant. Brenner was taken into custody and transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Nov. 18 at approximately 7 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of South Ogle Avenue. After an investigation, Kayla M. Martin, 31, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with possession

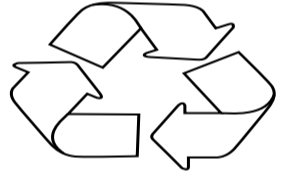
of a controlled substance and possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine. Martin was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released with a notice to appear.

On Nov. 23 at approximately 12:15 p.m., Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of East Front Street. The driver, David D. Lowtharp, 55, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended/revoked. Lowtharp was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On Nov. 23 at approximately 3 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 300 block of East Lincoln Street. The driver, Joseph H. Camire, 40, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and disobeying a traffic control device. Camire was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

*These charges are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.*

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## Ogle County football players named to BNC All-Conference team

**OGLE COUNTY** — The Big Northern Conference football all-conference teams were recently named following the 2023 season.

Byron had seven players named to the defensive first team, including defensive linemen Braylon Kilduff, Jared Clauch and Josh Harris. Tiger linebackers Caden Considine and Jacob Ross made the team as well, along with Byron defensive backs Ashton Henkel and Kye Aken.

Stillman Valley's Jacob Rhodes and Byron's Nick Ingram were named to the second team defensive line. SV's Johnny DeKlerk and Oregon's Anthony Bauer were second-team linebackers. The second-team defensive backs from Ogle County were SV's Keaton Rauman and Oregon's Hunter Bartel.

Byron's Braden Knoll was a first-team running back. Oregon's Josh Crandall was a first-team tight end/receiver along with Byron's Kyle Jobes. The first team offensive line included SV's Malachi Bagg, Byron's Nolan Brass and Oregon's Briggs Sellers.

Nick Drake of Byron was the first-team kicker.

The second-team running back was Logan Weems of Oregon. Austin Egyed of Oregon was the second-team wide receiver. The second team offensive line included SV's Anthony Weimeschurch and Byron's Jacob Barber.

Honorable mention players included Jace Wagner and Carsen Behn of Byron, Jack Washburn and Jackson Glendenning of Oregon, and Braden Rogers and Kaenan McDevitt of Stillman Valley.



### SVHS's Salas-Godinez chosen as member of the ILMEA All State Choir

Over 2,000 students auditioned to be a part of the ILMEA All State Choir and Stillman Valley High School freshman chorus student Guillermo Salas-Godinez was selected. This is a huge honor reserved for students who are considered the best in the state based on their performance in auditions and their participation in the ILMEA district festivals. Guillermo will be traveling to Peoria in January to sing alongside other all-state students from across the state at the Illinois Music Educators Conference.

"We are so excited to have Guillermo represent us in the ILMEA All State Choir this year! This is an incredible accomplishment that not every student will have the opportunity to experience during their high school career. Guillermo is a natural talent who has developed a strong sense of musical independence," SVHS Choir Director Abby Risner said. "I am looking forward to seeing his continued growth in choral singing as a member of the all-state choir. Way to go, Guillermo!"



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### IS WALL STREET BUYING UP ALL OF THE HOMES IN AMERICA?

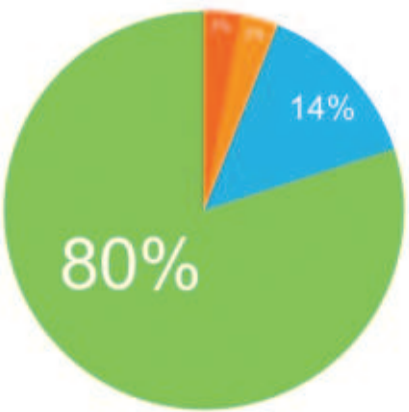
If you're thinking about buying a home, you may find yourself interested in the latest real estate headlines so you can have a pulse on all of the things that could impact your decision. If that's the case, you've probably heard mention of investors, and wondered how they're impacting the housing market right now. That could leave you asking yourself questions like:

- How many homes do investors own?
- Are institutional investors, like large Wall Street Firms, really buying up so many homes that the average person can't find one?
- To answer those questions, here's the real story of what's happening based on the data.
- Let's start with establishing how many single-family homes (SFHs) there are and what portion of those are rentals owned by investors.
- According to SFR Investor, which studies the single-family rental market in the United States, there are eighty-two million single-family homes in this country. But how many of them are actually rentals?
- According to data shared in a recent post, sixty-eight million (82.93%) of those homes are owner-occupied — meaning the person who owns the home lives in it. If you subtract that sixty-eight million from the total number of single-family homes (82 million), that leaves just about fourteen million homes left that are single-family rentals (SFRs).
- Do institutional investors own all of those remaining fourteen million homes? Not even close. Let's take it one step further. There are four categories of investors:
- The mom & pop investor who owns between 1-9 SFRs
- The regional investor who owns between 10-99 SFRs
- Smaller national investor who owns between 100-999 SFRs
- The institutional investor who owns over 1,000 SFRs

These categories show that not all investors are large institutional investors. To help convey that even more clearly, here are the percentages of rental homes owned by each type of investor (see chart below):

### Who Owns All the Single-Family Rentals?

Investor Categories with the Percentage of Single-Family Rentals (SFRs) Each Owns



- Institutional Investors (over 1,000 SFRs owned)
- Smaller National Investors (100-999 SFRs owned)
- Regional Investors (10-99 SFRs owned)
- Mom & Pop investors (1-9 SFRs owned)

As you can see in the chart, despite what the news and social media would have you believe, the green shows the vast majority are not owned by large institutional investors. Instead, most are owned by small mom & pop investors, like your friends and neighbors. What's actually happening is, that there are people out there, just like you, who believe in homeownership, and they view buying a home (or a second home) as an investment. Maybe they saw an opportunity to buy a second home over the last few years to use it as a rental and generate additional income. Or maybe they just decided to keep their first house rather than sell it when they moved up. So, don't believe everything you read or hear about institutional investors. They aren't buying up all the homes and making it impossible for the average person to buy. That's just not what the numbers show. Institutional investors are actually the smallest piece of the pie chart.

#### Bottom Line

While it's true that institutional investors are a player in the single-family rental marketplace, they're not buying up all of the houses on the market. If you have other questions about things you're hearing about the housing market, connect with a RE/MAX of Rock Valley agent so you have an expert to give you the context you need.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Byron made everyone believers

**M**AKE no mistake about it. The 3A state football championship was played in the semifinals between Byron and Lombard Montini.

The state title game against Mt. Carmel was simply fodder and identical to all the other beatings Byron put on everyone not named Montini. Offensively and defensively, the Tigers put on their best performance of the year in the 69-7 trouncing of Mt. Carmel.

It was good theatre for inquiring minds throughout the state of Illinois who had heard about Byron but hadn't seen them in person. Those of us in the northern part of the state know all about them because of personal eyewitness accounts and copious local media attention.

Those yet to be convinced were from the two camps – the downstaters who had memory of Monticello and Williamsville beating Byron in the finals, and the elitist suburbanites who feel small-school football is vastly inferior to what is played around the Chicagoland.

By the time the game was over, no, by the time the first half ended, everyone all over Illinois were true believers in the power of Byron football. After the Tigers went up 49-0 at half, the only question remaining is

how many minutes into the third quarter before Peoria's record of 805 points would fall.

In a complete contrast to pass-happy Peoria, Byron broke the record by running, which is paradoxical to such an accomplishment. But, when you average over 10 yards a carry, points come easy.

Of course, now the comparisons come in. How would Byron fare in 4A or 5A? Would they ever want to petition up a class?

Then, there are those already crowning them 2024 state champs and beyond because of new-found freshman quarterback Andrew Talbert and sophomore all-stater Caden Considine.

How about letting them enjoy being 3A champs. Yes, they made it look easy in 13 of their 14 games, but with teams like Montini and IC Catholic getting in the way, it's never that easy.

Being in 3A is plenty tough enough, especially when petitioning up to 4A puts you in the cross hairs of an even more famous public school power in Rochester. Besides, Byron is already one of the smaller schools in 3A.

In terms of knowing how Byron would have fared against larger teams, we found out at

Lombard, who played several good teams tough. Hence, Byron would be competitive far beyond the BNC, making strides in the CCL, as well.

Be it high school, college or pro, another factor is that a lot can change in a year. Levels of maturity, interest, dedication, leadership and ability can vary.

In Byron's hierarchy of doing things, they have stability in those variables.

An example of how things can change from one year to the next was found in Camp Point Central's 14-0 shutout of Lena-Winslow. A year ago, Le-Win crushed Camp Point and were favored to win again in the 2023 1A state title game.

Winners of 32 straight games, a line that outweighed Camp Point 50 pounds a man and a domination of NUIC opponents – why wouldn't they be favored?

A year later, the returning Camp Point players proved to be quicker and more physical than Le-Win. It was a joy to watch the way they pursued to the ball, especially sophomore Kaden Niekamp.

Credit to Le-Win for making it 32 games undefeated and winning three straight titles. The future looks bright for Le-Win, though, as I

counted seven freshmen on their roster over 215 pounds.

How did kids get so big?

When I played, we didn't have a single kid on our varsity roster that big, let alone underclassmen. Another major difference is that kids are more athletic now.

Additionally, more young kids play varsity than "back in the day" and are major contributors. Cary Grove, who upset supremely-talented East St. Louis in the best game of the finals, relied on a sophomore fullback to carry the load on a 19-play, 10-minute drive to victory. Just like Con-

sidine and Niekamp.

For the first time in IHSA history, a team with five losses won a state title in Nazareth Academy (5A), who started the year 0-4. What a rebound and a testament to surviving a meat grinder of schedule that included all kinds of highly-ranked teams, 8A and 7A playoff teams, defending state champs and runner-ups.

In what could be an all-time record, they ended up facing 10 teams that had nine or more wins.

They're young too, with six sophomore and one freshman start-

ing. Add in 10 juniors returning as starters and you can see why there is so much rancor over private schools have an alleged advantage in talent over publics.

The same was true in 7A and 8A, as Catholic powerhouses Chicago Mt. Carmel and Loyola Academy dominated and ended the year as the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the state.

At least we still have Byron.

*Andy Colbert is a longtime Ogle County resident with years of experience covering sports and more for multiple area publications.*



Andy Colbert

### The 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients: Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.



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• **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:  
**In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest, Colonial Flower Shoppe and Hub City Senior Center**  
**In Oregon at: Merlin's**  
**In Dixon at: Shining Star**  
**In Mendota at: The Mendota Reporter/Amboy News office**

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### AREA SPORTS

#### Oregon boys bowling competes in Rockford

The Oregon boys bowling team was in action on Friday, Nov. 24 at Don Carter Lanes, Rockford for the NIBPA Invitational, consisting of NIC-10 and Northern Illinois Bowling Conference schools. In the 13-team field Oregon finished in fifth place with a five-game total of 4,862. The Hawks were led by eighth-place overall finisher Gavvin Surmo with a 1,077 series (204,216,209,226,222) followed closely by 10th-place finisher Brady Davis with a 1,060 series. Completing the varsity group was Matthew Stahl with a 930 series, RJ Keene with a 923 series and Codey Dunbar with a 872 series. Oregon also entered three teams into the 20-team JV Division with Oregon Red finishing in fifth place, only 45 pins out of second. The JV was led by eighth-place finisher Aiden Currier with a 921 series, 15th place Caleb Ehrler 850 series and 22nd-place finisher Immanuel Arellano.

#### Oregon bowling teams host double dual match

The Oregon bowling teams hosted a five-person team double dual match in

Mt Morris at Town & Country Lanes on Saturday, Nov. 25. In the initial match Oregon defeated West Central 2,982-2,161. The Hawks were led by Gavvin Surmo with a 646 series (214,245,187) followed by Matthew Stahl's 635 series, RJ Keene's 602 series, Brady Davis' 592 series, Codey Dunbar's 290 series (two games) and Ethan Smice's 217 game. In the second match Oregon defeated Abingdon 2,898-2,387. The Hawks were led by Brady Davis with a 650 series (189,226,235) followed closely by Gavvin Surmo's 637 series, RJ Keene's 613 series, Matthew Stahl's 519 series, Aiden Currier's 186 game, Ethan Smice's 164 game and Codey Dunbar's 129 game.

The Oregon girls do not have enough to compete as a team this season, they did have three girls bowl in an exhibition contest with both Abingdon and West Central. In the West Central contest the girls were led by Ahren Howey with a 338 series, followed by Katy Miller's 287 series and Destiny Donaldson with a 251 series. In the Abingdon contest Oregon was led by Ahren Howey with a 410 series, followed by Katy Miller with a 329 series and Destiny Donaldson with a 249 series.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## AREA SPORTS

### Oregon boys bowling defeats South Beloit

The Oregon boys bowling team traveled to Viking Lanes, South Beloit on Nov. 27 and the varsity delivered a 3,416-2,970 victory. Oregon was led by RJ Keene with a 645 series (146,243,256), followed by Codey Dunbar's 577 series, Brady Davis' 562 series, Ethan Smice's 547 series, Gavvin Surmow's 545 series and Matthew Stahl's 540 series. The overall team effort overcame two outstanding performances by the Sobos: James Strong's 700 series and Reece Binder's 689 series. The win raised the season record to 5-1. The JV also had an excellent night, winning its match by over 1,100 pins, 3,128-1,958. The JV was led by Aiden Currier with a 599 series, Zakk West with a 567 series and Caleb Ehler with a 549 series. The JV team remains undefeated on the season. The JV2 also bowled and Ivan Hernandez rolled the second highest score of any Oregon bowler on the night, on any level, with a 624 series.

## OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Oregon Public Library is a Toys for Tots location!

### Lucy!

An original solo musical based on the life of Lucille Ball—Monday, December 4th at 1:00pm. Lucille Ball was the most famous American comedienne of all time. She was also an actress, singer, and producer, and the first female head of a major Hollywood studio, Desilu. She and her husband, Desi Arnaz, created and produced the first American situation comedy, I Love Lucy, which ran for six years on CBS when television was in its infancy. Desilu Studios also produced many of their major shows during television's early years. Lucy! takes her from her shaky family beginnings in upstate New York, through Broadway, and finally to Hollywood, meeting and marrying Desi along the way—their volatile but passionate marriage, her reign as Queen of the Bs, and finally to her zenith as the Lucy character on TV, and her eventual successful marriage to actor/comedian/producer Gary Morton. You get to peer into the deep recesses of Lucy's mind and emotions, her struggles and her triumphs. Exhaustively researched, brilliantly written, and radiantly performed, Lucy! is another feather in the cap of Jillann Gabrielle's original solo musical series. Registration required, call (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

### December Distraction- It's Back!

Monday, December 4 through Monday, December 18, when Oregon Public Library District cardholders check out reading material, they may receive a scratch-off ticket for every 3 reading material items for a chance to win some readable prizes. Scratch off your ticket and see if you win! Winning ticket holders may select one of the prize packages that are now on display at the Library. Ask one of our librarians for more info

### Holiday Movie Binge Boxes

Registration ends December 18th. Holiday Movie Night Binge Boxes are back! Inside each

box are DVDs hand-picked for you by our librarians plus a festive treat and gift. Call (815) 732-2724 or visit our website to complete your registration for your box. Once your box is ready, you will be notified to pick it up at the Library. Must be an Oregon Library Card holder.

### Surviving the Holidays with Lori Gottlieb

Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00pm. Lori Gottlieb, New York Times bestselling author of Maybe You Should Talk to Someone, and co-host of the "Dear Therapists" podcast joins us for a thought-provoking conversation about mental health in anticipation of the winter holiday season. Gottlieb will share tools to help in everyday life and especially as you prepare for the holidays. Lori Gottlieb is a psychotherapist and New York Times bestselling author of Maybe You Should Talk to Someone, which has sold over a million copies and is currently being adapted into a television series. In addition to her clinical practice, she is co-host of the popular "Dear Therapists" podcast and writes The Atlantic's "Dear Therapist" advice column. She has been on the Today Show, Good Morning America, CNN, and NPR's "Fresh Air" as a therapy expert and her 2019 TED Talk was one of the most watched of the year. This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Registration required https://bit.ly/ILP\_LoriGottlieb

### HOLIDAY TRIVIA at Cork N Tap

Thursday, December 14th at 6:30pm. Get in the holiday spirit by joining us for an evening of Holiday Trivia. Great prizes, holiday snacks, treats and drinks. All ages welcome. Register required,

register your team of 6 at (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

### Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, December 18th at 6:00pm Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and are thinking about them. All designs include beautiful colored cardstock, gorgeous designer series paper, detailed stamped images, die cut pieces, matching ink, ribbon, and embellishments. All cards come with matching envelopes. Whether you're a new card maker or a seasoned pro, our kits are suited to every skill level. Don't wait! Sign up today to reserve your spot. Oregon Patrons only. Registration required (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com

### Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, December 19th at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your time slot). Macrame Christmas Key Chains—Learn to macramé a key chain for yourself or it makes an easy homemade gift! All supplies are provided. Registration required, (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

### Story Time

(18 months-6 yrs.) Mondays, 10 am. Story Time is on Mondays, through December 18, with stories, activities, and fun! Go online or call to register for this session.

### Book Clubs

Cocktails and Crime Book Club will meet December 10, at 2 pm at Ogle County Brewery. The 2WBC Book Club meets December 13, at 12:30 pm to discuss A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, December 20 at 1 pm to discuss Comfort and Joy by Kristin Hannah. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet on December 19 at the Library to discuss The Unbroken by C.L. Clarke. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, December 28 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss A Slow Fire Burning by Paula Hawkins.

## AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

### BYRON

#### ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sunday Worship Service held at 9:00 am. A recording of each Sunday's worship service is available on our Facebook page and our website later in the day. Communion is served every Sunday. Sunday School for ages 3 through Adult is held at 10:00 am September through May. Confirmation studies for 7th and 8th grade students are held each Sunday morning at 10:00 am. Monday afternoon Bible Study is held at 1:30 pm via Zoom. In person Bible Studies are held Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm and Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 pm. Book Club and The GATHERING meet monthly; quilters meet twice monthly. Visit our website <http://www.AllSaintsByron.org> or call the church office for further information.

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Service of Meditation & Prayer: 8:15am- 8:45am  
Adult Sunday School Hour: 9am  
Kids Sunday School: (for ages 3 thru 5th grade) 9:30-10:15am  
Coffee & fellowship time: 9:30am - 10:30am  
Main Worship: 10:30am  
Spark Youth Group (for ages 6th grade thru 12th grade) - Sundays, 5pm-7pm  
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Pastor: Gary Cortese  
Service Times: Sundays at 10AM; Wednesday night Faith-Lift at 6:30PM  
Find us on Facebook/Beacon Hill Assembly of God

### CHANA

#### CHANA UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Josh Brown, 606 Main Street, Chana, IL 61015. Church office 815-732-7683. (E-mail address: [chanauwc@gmail.com](mailto:chanauwc@gmail.com)) Adult & Children's Education 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month. At Chana Church you will find Open Hearts-Open Minds-Open Doors.

### DAVIS JUNCTION

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### DIXON

#### LOST LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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815-973-5981 9:00am Church Service  
90 W. Flagg Road www.lostlakechurch.org  
Dixon IL 61021

### FORRESTON

#### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

402 2nd Avenue, Forreston, IL 61030, Phone 815-938-3203 Pastor Scott Ralston  
Sunday Worship 9:00 am; Sunday School 10:00 am

#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

402 First Ave., Forreston, IL Phone: 815-938-2380  
Pastor Sung-Eun Kim  
OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS  
Worship at 9:00 a.m. (childcare provided) with coffee and fellowship immediately following. Sunday School Age 3-Adult, 10:15 am.  
AA meets Mondays, 8:00 AM. Monthly United Methodist Women's meetings.  
God is Good, All the Time, All the Time, God is Good!

#### ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Karen Tews  
West Grove Rd. At Columbine Rd.  
Worship Service 10:30 am. Communion is served every Sunday.  
"Singing the Song of Christian Faith in Worship, Service, Learning, Outreach and Welcome" in a beautiful rural setting.  
Everyone is cordially invited to be with us.

### LEAF RIVER

#### ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

9106 Cedar St. in Adeline, Leaf River, IL 61047 • Ph:815-541-4863 Sunday Services: Sunday School 9:00 am, Worship Service 10:15 am VISITORS WELCOME

#### LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Billy Hardy  
Live Sermon Streaming: Sundays at 10:00 AM at [www.facebook.com/LEAFRIVERBC/](http://www.facebook.com/LEAFRIVERBC/)  
Archived Sermons on our YouTube channel: Leaf River Baptist Church (Until further notice)  
9:30 Church Service. Nursery available, 11:00 Sunday school for all ages.  
Nursery available  
6941 N Mt Morris Rd, Leaf River, IL 61047  
815-738-2205 leafriverbc@gmail.com

### LINDENWOOD

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS

immanuel-lindenwood.org (for sermons, events, etc.)  
16060 E. Lindenwood Road, Lindenwood, IL 61049  
815-393-4500 • office@immanuel-lindenwood.org  
Sunday Mornings: Divine Service @ 9am; Food & Fellowship @ 10am; Sunday School and Adult Bible Study @ 10:30am  
Food Bank: 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 9am-12pm  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock  
pastor@immanuel-lindenwood.org

#### LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

101 N Galena st, P.O box 67  
Lindenwood IL  
815-393-4658  
Worship- 10:00 am  
Coffee Fellowship following service

### KINGS

#### ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068 • Pastor Mary Jacobs  
Phone 815-562-6811 E-mail: [goelimchurch@gmail.com](mailto:goelimchurch@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.goelimchurch.org](http://www.goelimchurch.org)  
Sunday morning worship 10:00 am

### MOUNT MORRIS

#### DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"By God's grace in Christ, we LIVE, LOVE, and SERVE"  
All are welcome here!  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship with Communion open to all, followed by fellowship hour  
10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sep. - May)  
102 N. Maple Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054  
815-734-4853 secretary@disciplesumc.org  
www.disciplesumc.org  
Pastor Marcia Peddicord

### EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

102 S. Seminary Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054 815-734-4942 www.efcmm.org  
Senior Pastor: Bruce McKanna. Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship. 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Childcare and Children's Church.

#### MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BROTHERN

409 W. Brayton Road, Mt. Morris, IL 61045 Phone 815-734-4573  
Pastor-Rodney Caldwell. Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship time and Sunday School. Worship service available online, call for details.  
Email: [mtmorriscob@gmail.com](mailto:mtmorriscob@gmail.com)

#### MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 E. Brayton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL Phone: 734-6354 Rev. Josh Ehler  
Worship Services: Saturday 5:30 PM; Worship Sunday 9:30 AM. Sunday Church School - follows Worship Service (Sept.-May) Chime Choir  
Wednesday 6:00 PM

#### LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

409 W Brayton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL 61054 (Church of the Brethren Basement Entrance) Worship Services: 10:00 AM Sunday Morning, 7:00 PM 1st & 3rd Sunday Evening, 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Wednesday Evenings of the Month.  
Pastor: Norman Reinford 779-861-3700

### OREGON

#### EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

East Oregon Chapel Church of God  
The Sharing is Caring Church  
Pastor Jesse Allen EOCOGministries@gmail.com 107 N Daysville Rd. Oregon, IL Phone: 815-732-2960  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. with Sunday Worship following at 10:30 a.m.  
Breakfast is served every fifth Sunday beginning at 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday evenings both Adults (all year) & Youth (during the school year) meet weekly beginning at 6:30 p.m.  
In the event that Oregon Schools are not in session the Youth group does not meet on Wednesdays.  
Thursday morning Women's Bible study meets at 10:30 a.m.  
We look forward to meeting you!

#### EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

2997 N. German Church Rd., 815-732-6313  
3 miles east of Oregon on Rt. #64 then 2 miles north on German Church Rd. • Rev. Josiah Youngquist  
[www.EBENZERREFORMED.com](http://www.EBENZERREFORMED.com) • Sunday school 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.

#### LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Dave Rogula 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 lighthouseUMC@yahoo.com  
Worship at 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month. Lighthouse will live up your life!

#### OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

860 W. Oregon Trail Road Oregon, IL Phone: 732-6847 or 732-2604 Pastor Michael Hoffman; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Morning worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday activities: Adult, Children, and Youth Groups 7 p.m. At the church.

#### OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

505 Hill St. Oregon, IL 61061 Phone: 732-2642  
Pastor: David Snow "A Christ-centered, Bible-believing, family-oriented ministry."  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

#### OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

200 S. 4th St, Oregon, IL 61061 • 815/732-2994  
[www.oregonumc.org](http://www.oregonumc.org) • Pastor Rev. Megan Smick  
9:00am Fellowship/Sunday School; 10:00am Worship with music, meditation & Fellowship; 10:15am Announcements begin.

#### RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

609 S. 10th Street, Oregon, IL 61061  
Pastor Craig Arnold ~ 812-236-1213  
Sunday Service @ 10:45 AM ~ contemporary style worship with coffee and doughnuts in our cafe! Online worship is also available via Facebook.  
We believe in sharing Communion every Sunday as an act of worship.  
RiverKids Service @ 10:45 AM for nursery-6th grade ~ provides a safe and fun environment where kids can learn about who God is and who they are because of Him.  
Encounter Youth Ministry for kids in 7th-12th grade meets on Sunday afternoons. Please see our Facebook page for scheduled dates and times.  
For complete ministry info and events, visit us online at [Riverstonecc.com](http://Riverstonecc.com) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/RiverStoneChristianChurch](http://facebook.com/RiverStoneChristianChurch)

#### ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 Highway 64, West (Hwy 64 W & Mongon Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon • 732-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George  
Webpage: [saintbrides.org](http://saintbrides.org) • E-mail: [saintbride.church@gmail.com](mailto:saintbride.church@gmail.com) •  
Worship Services: Sunday 10 am Holy Communion with Hymns Christian Education Available

#### ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

114 S. 5th St. Oregon, IL Phone: (815) 732-2367  
Website: [stpaulnalcoreganil.weebly.com](http://stpaulnalcoreganil.weebly.com)  
10:15 a.m. Fellowship/Education hours  
11:30 a.m. Worship

### POLO

#### ST. MARY CHURCH

Rector/Office: 211 North Franklin Ave., Polo, IL 61064  
PHONE: 815-946-2535 • Rev. Joseph P. Nail  
Masses: Sun 10:30am, Tuesday Mass 8 a.m.  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: First Sunday of each month after 10:30 mass  
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
[www.stmarypolo.org](http://www.stmarypolo.org)

#### CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

302 S. Franklin Ave., Polo, Illinois • 815-946-2848 • Luke N. Schier, Pastor  
Sunday Worship: 9:30am We include our children in our Sunday Worship Experience. "THE GRAND Kids Class" Ages 3-10 are then dismissed right after Praise & Worship. Blended Services. "Passion for God" "Compassion for People" Visit our website: [PoloOpenBible.org](http://PoloOpenBible.org)

#### CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

Meeting Sundays @ 10AM Service  
205 N. Jefferson Avenue, Polo ~ 815.837.5255  
[polo@crossroadscn.com](mailto:polo@crossroadscn.com)  
We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us after services for coffee, snacks & fellowship. Kidzink Children's Ministry (nursery-5th grade) ~ during 10AM service  
Crave Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~ Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st.  
Visit our website: [www.crossroadscn.com](http://www.crossroadscn.com)

#### FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

801 W. Oregon St., Polo • 815-946-3588 • Jeremy Heller, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Worship Service 10:00 a.m., Nursery Available, Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. We are an independent non-denominational Christian church. Visitors are always welcome.

#### FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

702 E. Dixon Street, Polo, IL 61064 • Tel:815-946-3212  
Sunday School for all ages 9am followed by Worship at 10am  
Pastor Brian LeBaron  
Website: [www.faithumcpolo.com](http://www.faithumcpolo.com) • facebook.com/Faithumcpolo

### STILLMAN VALLEY

#### RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

Pastor Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns | Associate Pastor David Bogner  
207 W Roosevelt Road (Rte 72), Stillman Valley.  
815-645-2526 | [www.theredbrickchurch.org](http://www.theredbrickchurch.org)  
Sunday: Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am. Sunday School at 9:00 am.  
Wednesday: AWANA (Sept - April) from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.  
Men, women, youth Bible Studies throughout the year.  
See website for all activities or contact the church office.

#### KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8195 Kishwaukee Road, Stillman Valley, IL 61084 / 815-965-1940  
Rev. Nick Garner, Pastor  
[www.kishchurch.org](http://www.kishchurch.org)  
Sunday Schedule: Discipleship Hour 9:00 AM, Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM  
Gathered Worship 10:00 AM  
For complete ministry schedule check out our website or call the church office.

#### VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Lead Pastor Barry Norris  
103 S Maple St, Stillman Valley, IL  
815-645-8872 | [www.valleycov.org](http://www.valleycov.org)  
Sunday Morning 9am "Gather" for learning & conversation, 10:15am Worship both onsite and online at [facebook.com/VECCFSV](http://facebook.com/VECCFSV)  
Home of Valley Covenant Preschool 815-645-8882 Director Jill Huber  
Bible Studies, Youth Group, Bread of Life Food Pantry  
Please visit website for more information or contact the church office M-F 9am-2pm

#### GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

Pastor Brad Pittman [www.graceisforyou.com](http://www.graceisforyou.com)  
10479 E. High Rd., Stillman Valley, IL 61084 • 815-973-1369  
Worship Service: Saturday at 5pm

### WINNEBAGO

#### MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

12473 Montague Road, Winnebago, IL 61088  
Located West of Tower Road on Montague Rd.  
Sunday: Worship Service at 9:30 am.  
Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Friday 9am-2pm.  
Phone: 815-335-2609. Email: [middlecreekchurch@gmail.com](mailto:middlecreekchurch@gmail.com)



# LOCAL NEWS

## BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

### SNOW REMOVAL

Bertolet Memorial Library is accepting bids for snow removal from our sidewalks. Following an overnight snowfall, snow will need to be removed by 10:00 AM, and some daytime snow removal may also be necessary. Please submit your written proposal to the library in person or by email to [bertolet705@gmail.com](mailto:bertolet705@gmail.com). For more information, please contact Linda at (815)738-2742.

### Mitten Tree

Mittens to wear; Hats for their hair; Scarves for their neck; Gloves too? Check. Our annual Mitten Tree is now on display through the end of December. Please help decorate our Mitten Tree with thick, warm mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for all ages. Items will be distributed through New Life Community Center in January.

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

#### Drop-In Craft Night

Monday, December 18th, 5-7 PM Kids & Teens: Drop in to the library to make a Christmas Craft to take home.

#### Stories with Stacey

Thursdays at 10:00 AM Join Miss Stacey for fun stories for your toddlers and preschoolers! No Stories on December 28th or on January 4th.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### December Book of the Month

The Christmas Bookshop by Jenny Colgan: Carmen and Sofia are sisters who do not get along. Carmen begrudgingly moves in with Sofia to help care for her children and be closer to her new job. As Carmen settles into redesigning an old bookstore and attracting new clients into it,

she learns more about herself and people. Can this new perspective on life heal the sisters' relationship? Stop by the circulation desk to pick up your copy.

#### December Take & Make Craft

Welcome in winter with this pretty star and the options are endless to make it. Stop by the circulation desk to pick up your kit.

#### Create-a-Card

We will formally resume in the spring, but supplies will be available year round for independent access.

#### Plastic Recycling

We ask that you make sure plastic is clean with no debris in the donation. \*No animal feed bags are allowed\* Also please remove any ziploc-type seals and paper/sticker labels. Thank you for your cooperation.

### NEW RELEASES

#### Adult Books

The Edge by David Baldacci  
Midnight at the Christmas Bookshop by Jenny Colgan  
The Laws of Attraction by Mary Connealy

#### Chapter Book

The Boy Who Failed Dodgeball by Jordan Sonnenblick

#### Picture Books

Hanukkah by Louise Nelson  
I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Dreidel by Caryn Yacowitz

#### DVD

Kandahar

## BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Did You Know

That there's more to the Byron Library's "Library of Things" than just WiFi hot spots? Use our portable turntable to listen to albums from the library's vinyl collection, or try Netflix, Disney+ or Hulu by checking out one of our Roku streaming devices. Use our Dungeons and Dragons kit to start your own DnD group, or check out one of the many STEM kits offered in in the teen and children's departments. A full list of equipment available in the "Library of Things" can be found at <https://www.byronlibrary.org/library-of-things/>.

### Did you know

That you can get your CDs, DVDs, and video game discs cleaned at the Byron Library? For a fee of \$1.00 per disc, our special disc cleaning machine can wipe away smudges and buff out most scratches. If you have a disc that won't play correctly, bring it to the library and we'll make it good as new!

### Creative Studio Open

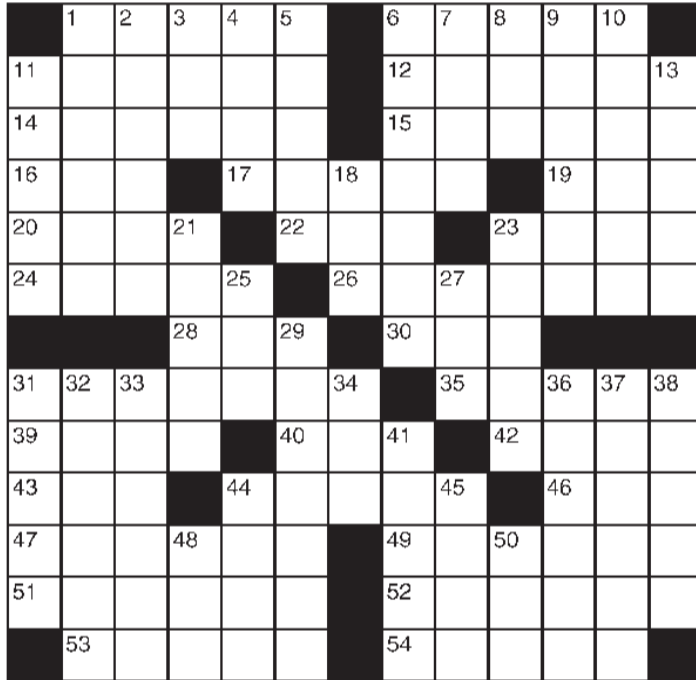
Our Creative Studio is now open on Sunday afternoons and two evenings a week, so stop by for monthly crafts and to use our maker space equipment! Crafts out on the tables are free of charge, while some other projects will incur a cost depending on materials. Middle school and high school youth can use some of the materials while with an adult, or during Teen Time. Creative Studio hours: Sunday 1 - 5:00 pm, Monday 9:00 am-1:00 pm & 5 - 8:00 pm, Tuesday 9 am - 1:00 pm & 5 - 8:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

## Weekly Brain Busters

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 Yard activities
- 6 Measuring device
- 11 Wig
- 12 Show up
- 14 Hang around
- 15 Vocalist
- 16 Big bother
- 17 Formal pronouncements
- 19 Yoko of music
- 20 Spill the beans
- 22 Bear hair
- 23 Coaster
- 24 Black-and-white movie, e.g.
- 26 90210, for one
- 28 Always, in verse
- 30 Mongrel
- 31 Swings from side to side
- 35 "Gone With the Wind" star
- 39 Look lasciviously
- 40 Three-man vessel?
- 42 Intend
- 43 Grazing area
- 44 Filleted
- 46 Suitable
- 47 Identify
- 49 Sarcastic remark
- 51 Stag's lack



- 52 With malice
- 53 Butcher's wares
- 54 Keglers' venue
- 9 tainer
- 10 51-Across of a sort
- 11 Tied
- 12 "The Republic" man
- 13 Large beer glass
- 14 Goller Palmer
- 15 Schlep
- 16 — out (supplemented)
- 17 Helvetica lack
- 18 Stomach-related
- 19 Met melody
- 20 Grecian con-
- 21 Wear away
- 22 Since, slangily
- 23 Belgian city
- 24 "Get lost!"
- 25 Conger or moray
- 26 Boxer
- 27 Cutting responses
- 28 "Look Homeward,
- 32 Anti-elderly bias
- 33 Quick look
- 34 Baltimore newspaper
- 36 Snoopy, e.g.
- 37 Boutonnieres' sites
- 38 Access
- 41 Watch-crystal holder
- 44 Ernie's pal
- 45 Prima donna
- 48 — long way (last)
- 50 Diarist Anais

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### MAGIC MAZE ● GOOD —



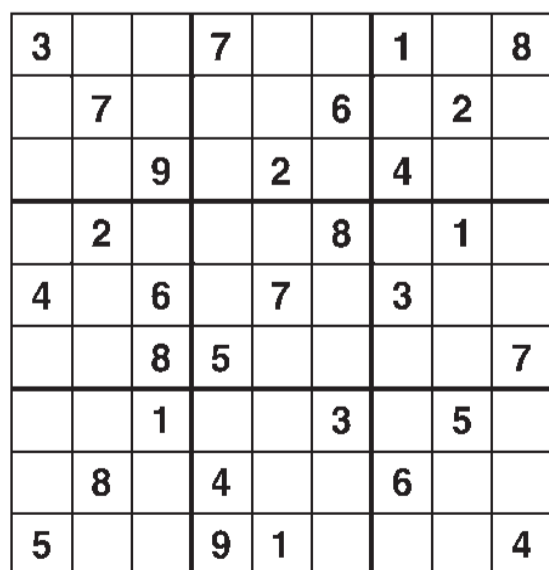
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

- Behavior
- Book
- Breeding
- Cheer
- Company
- Day
- Deal
- Evening
- Excuse
- Food
- Fortune
- Friday
- Humor
- Luck
- Morning

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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.

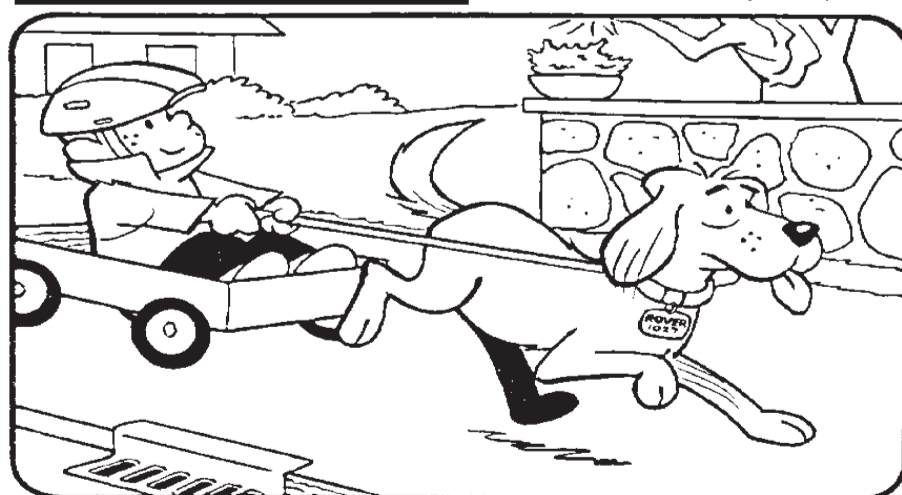
### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

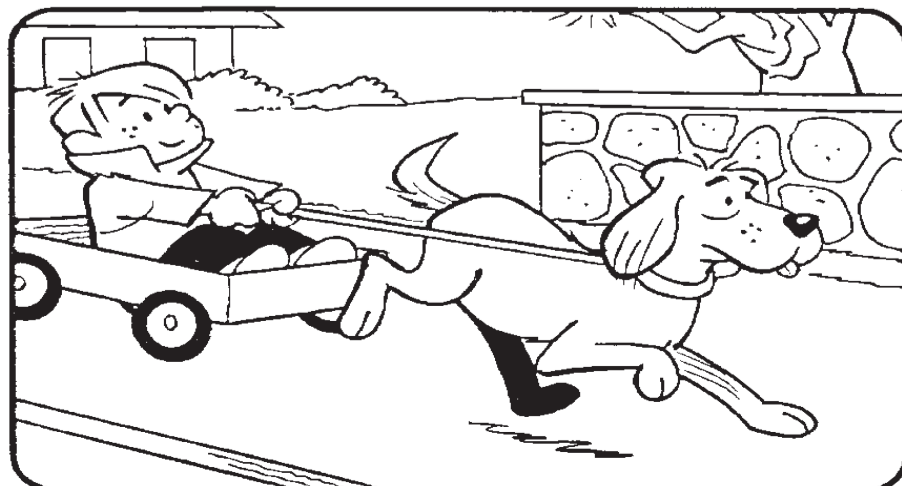
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



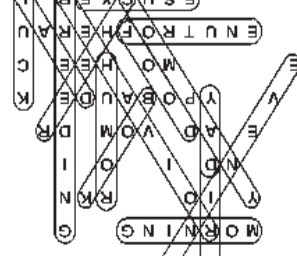
Differences: 1. Helmet is missing. 2. Drain is missing. 3. Tail is shorter. 4. Flower pot is missing. 5. License tag is missing. 6. Tongue is smaller.



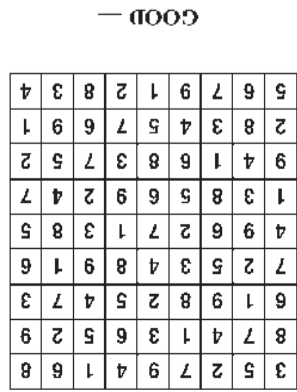
Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



GOOD



Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



# LOCAL NEWS

## MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

The following events are happening at the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center!

### Christmas Gift Drive

The Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center, along with Allure of Pinecrest, is happy to be helping to organize gifts for our local nursing home residents. If you would like to purchase a gift for a resident (or a couple) please call the office at 815-734-6335 as soon as possible. We would love for you to be able to serve some long-time members of our community and help them to feel the Christmas spirit. All gifts will need to be delivered to Allure by December 18th. Call us with any questions.

### Christmas on the Village Square

The Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center will help ring in the Christmas Season with Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 2. Join us from 8:00am – 10:00am.

### Cookbook Club

The first Tuesday of each

month. Go to the Mt. Morris Public Library and choose a recipe. On club day make your dish. Bring the dish along with a serving spoon (or whatever is appropriate) and a plate, bowl, cup and silverware for yourself to the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center. Enjoy trying each dish and hearing about the challenges. Join us on Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 pm!

### Advancing the Science: The Latest in Alzheimer's and Dementia

Join the Alzheimer's Association to learn more about the science of dementia, the impact of Alzheimer's disease, and the latest in research, including new studies that highlight the importance of lifestyle in reducing the risk of developing dementia. There is no need to RSVP, but if you have any questions please call Melissa at 815-734-6335.

## JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

### Storytime at the Library

Join us at the library, every Wednesday at 10 a.m., for songs, stories and crafts! Ages 2-5. Space is limited: call to register: 815-645-8611.

### Teen Challenge: Holiday Trivia

'Tis the season for some festive holiday fun. Bring some friends to get quizzed on all things "merry" from movies and candy to fashion and history! Thursday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. Ages 13-18. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Holiday Storytime

Join us in your jammies for a special evening full of festive good cheer. We'll read "How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney?" by Mac Barnett, play games and create a craft sure to make the season merry and bright. Thursday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. Ages 4-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Winter Reading Challenge: Read on the Quiet Side

Embrace the solitude of the season with our Winter Reading Challenge! When you take a

"Read on the Quiet Side, you can win big in one, two, or THREE ways...just for doing the thing you love to do. So, grab a book and put your feet up: you deserve it! To get started: download the Beanstack app! This year's Winter Reading Challenge begins January 1, 2024.

### Tween Scene: Family Feud

It's time to play Family Feud! Complete against other tweens to see if you can guess the most popular answers to survey questions about a range of topics. Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 6 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Introduction to Ancestry and Genealogy Basics

Are you a newbie to genealogy research? This class is intended for you. Join us for a very basic introduction to family history and using Ancestry Library Edition. Monday, January 15 at 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Holiday Hours

The library will be closed December 23-25 and Dec. 30 – Jan. 1 for the holidays.

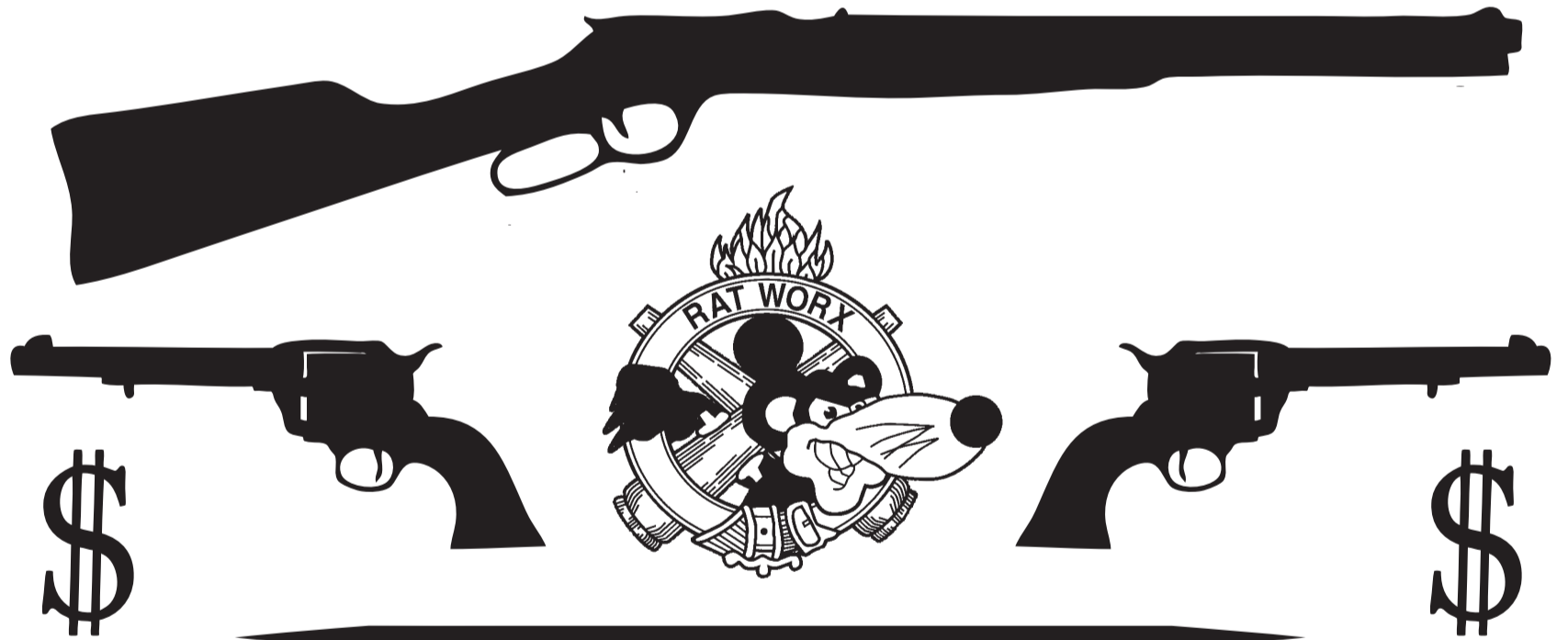
★

## Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent through the CLASSIFIEDS

★

# WANTED

\$\$\$ WE BUY GUNS \$\$\$



## RAT WORX

112 E. Hitt St.

# MT. MORRIS, IL.

◀ 815-734-7346 ▶

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 Morris, IL  
  
**815-734-7346**  
[guns@ratworxusa.com](mailto:guns@ratworxusa.com) | [www.ratworxUSA.com](http://www.ratworxUSA.com)



# LOCAL NEWS

## MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Story Time!

Mrs. Donna will be reading books and children will create a craft this Wednesday, 12/6. Story time is every Wednesday @11:15, bring your little ones to enjoy stories and a craft at the Mount Morris Library!

### Christmas Decoration Exchange

It's beginning to look a lot like the holidays! Mt. Morris Library will be opening our doors and tables to the annual exchange of Christmas decorations! Donations of trinkets, baubles, ornaments, tchotchkes, knickknacks, etc. will be accepted or exchanged for new homes. Donations should be in good shape and working order. The exchange will start on Monday, November 13th through Monday, December 4th.

### Lego Club

Lego night is the third Thursday of each month. Stop by on December 21st, from 6 – 7pm! Bring a friend and build some fun with Lego bricks! All children and parents are invited every third Thursday of the month. Children under 8 need to bring a parent with them.

### Axis360 is changing to

### BOUNDLESS

Your library's Axis 360 digital service has been upgraded to Boundless. The library can provide you with information about the transition to Boundless. All your user info and history, including holds position, bookmarks, notes, and other saved data will be seamlessly transitioned to the new Boundless platform.

### Adult Book Club

The December book is "A Christmas Memory" by Richard Paul Evans. Described as "From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Christmas Box and the Noel Collection comes A Christmas Memory, a poignant, deeply felt novel about loss, grief, the healing power of forgiveness, and the true meaning of the holiday season." Everyone is welcome to join

this book club group! Copies of the book are available at the library. Contact the library for more information about when this group meets.

### Cookbook Club Next Meeting December 5th!

Join us as we explore The Cookbook Club! Wonderful recipes combined with friendship creates something both beautiful and delicious! Stop by to choose your recipe from this month's book and bring your dish to pass at our next meeting! Join us on the first Tuesday each month, 6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!

### Ink with a Friend: Card Making at the Library

The holidays are here and we know what a great time it is to make some lovely home-made cards to send to family and friends. We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Thursday, December 14th from 5-7! You will get all the materials to make two beautiful cards to take home. Stop by to see the samples, fees are by donation. Registration is limited so call the library or stop by to save your spot before December 7th!

### Display Case Showings

Mount Morris local, Jo Ward, is sharing her family's historical memorabilia about her father's time in the service! Stop by to see all of wonderful treasures she is sharing. We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to share their treasures in our display cases. If you are interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

### Explore More Illinois

Explore More Illinois is easy to use with your library card. Visit the library's website to browse attractions. You can find the information on our website, www.mtmorris-il.org under the resources page.

### Adult Programming

We are trying to get back into the swing of offering monthly programs for adults. We would love to hear from you. Do evenings or weekends work better? Do you have any program ideas? Do you have a program you would like to share? Contact Mary Cheatwood at the library through email at mmlib@mtmorris-il.org or call 815-734-4927.

### Memorial Gifts

Give a gift that lasts, brings joy to many, and doubles in value. Your memorial gift to the library is matched by the Mt. Morris Library Foundation, doubling your generosity! Many thanks to all who gave memorial gifts in 2023.

### Newspaper Available!

We will now be receiving the Dixon Telegraph daily! We receive the Ogle County Life, Sauk Valley, and Mt. Morris Times. If you want to keep up with the local news-stop on by!

### Curbside Service is available!

We want to remind everyone that you still have the option of having your materials delivered to your vehicle. If you have holds waiting for you, call us to tell us you are on your way, and we will bring them out to your vehicle when you arrive. Call us if you need more information.

### Additional Services Offered

We make copies (\$0.25 per black and white page). We fax (\$2 for the first page and \$0.50 each additional page). We can scan a document and send it to email (\$2 per document). You can use a computer without a library card for \$1.00. Resume software is available on our computers. Come visit us and let us help you!

Monthly board meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the library unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend.

The Mount Morris Public Library is located at 105 S. McKendrie Ave. Mt. Morris IL 61054 – 815-734-4927 Fax-815-734-6035 www.mtmorris-il.org

# Classified Marketplace

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### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, OGLE COUNTY  
Request of Brian P. Higgins  
Case Number 2023MR 40  
Filed November 15, 2023.  
There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from Brian Paul Higgins to the new name of Breanna Paula Higgins.  
The court date will be held on January 3, 2024 at 9:00am at 106 5th St., Oregon, Ogle County, in Courtroom #304.  
No. 1125 (Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and 11, 2023)

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE AMENDMENT OF TITLE 2, CHAPTER 6 – WATER RATES-GENERAL, SECTION: 2-6-1 AND TITLE 2, CHAPTER 7 – WATER RATES-APPROVED RATES, SECTION 2-7-2 OF THE DISTRICT'S ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE TO DEFINE WATER SERVICE CHARGES IN THE LOST LAKE UTILITY DISTRICT OF OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS ORDINANCE NO. 07-2023  
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the Lost Lake Utility District of Ogle County, Illinois as follows:  
1. That TITLE 2, CHAPTER 6, WATER RATES GENERAL: SECTION 2-6-1 WATER SERVICE CHARGES be amended by striking paragraphs (A), (B), and (D) and inserting in their place the following:  
\*\*\*\*

The Basic User Charge and the Water Availability Charge shall be reviewed annually by the Board and shall be increased each year by a minimum of 3 percent (3%).  
\*\*\*\*  
(A) Basic User Charge per month: \$50.00  
\*\*\*\*  
(B) Within the Lost Lake development and the Flagg Estates Subdivision a.k.a. Lost Nation New Landing: \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons, after 10,000 gallons.  
\*\*\*\*  
(D) A Water Availability Charge of \$15.00 per month shall be required of the owner of each undeveloped property: a residential user whose home/residence extends beyond one lot shall not pay a water availability on a lot that has any portion of the house or existing driveway encroaching on an adjacent lot and/or a lot that has a septic field and any part of a septic system located on it. (this does not include fences, sheds, or any temporary buildings, or detached building except for the primary garage)  
\*\*\*\*  
2. That TITLE 2, CHAPTER 7, WATER RATES-APPROVED RATES: SECTION 2-7-2 WATER RATES be amended by striking the introduction paragraph and paragraphs (A), (B), and (D) and inserting in their place the following:  
\*\*\*\*  
Water rates in effect at the time the DISTRICT makes service available to the Consumer shall be charged to and paid by each Consumer. A minimum rate of \$50.00 per month shall be paid by those Consumers. The Basic User Charge and the Water Availability Charge shall be reviewed annually by

the Board and shall be increased each year by a minimum of 3 percent (3%).  
\*\*\*\*  
(A) Basic User Charge: \$50.00 per month;  
\*\*\*\*  
(B) Consumers residing within Lost Lake development and Flagg Estates subdivision: \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons after 10,000 gallons;  
\*\*\*\*  
(D) A Water Availability charge of \$15.00 per month shall be required of the owner of each undeveloped property; a residential user whose home/residence extends beyond one lot shall not pay water availability on a lot that has any portion of the house of existing driveway encroaching on an adjacent lot and/or a lot that has a septic field and any part of the septic system located on it. (this does not include fences, sheds, or any temporary building, or detached building except the primary garage).  
\*\*\*\*  
3. This Ordinance shall be in full force from and after its passage and approval as provided by law.

Passed by the Board of Trustees of the Lost Lake Utility District of Ogle County, Illinois and approved by the Chairman of said District this 21st day of November, 2023.  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE AMENDMENT OF TITLE 3, CHAPTER 2 – WASTEWATER SERVICE CHARGES, SECTION: 3-2-1 OF THE DISTRICT'S ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE TO DEFINE WASTEWATER SERVICE CHARGES IN THE LOST LAKE UTILITY DISTRICT OF OGLE COUNTY, ILLI-

ASK ABOUT OUR  
Print & Web Ad  
Bundle Rates

## GET HIRED

Full-Time & Part-Time Openings Available Now  
Check out the Help Wanted section of the Classifieds

Start earning now!

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

## NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION

NEW, USED SCRATCH & DENT  
• Refrigerators • Freezers  
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We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

6331 11th Street, Rockford  
815-262-3900

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# Classified Marketplace

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OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

NOIS ORDINANCE NO. 08-2023

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY the Board of Trustees of the Lost Lake Utility District of Ogle County, Illinois as follows:  
1. That TITLE 3, CHAPTER 2 - WASTE-WATER SERVICE CHARGES, SECTION 3-2-1 be amended by striking paragraphs (A) and (C) and inserting in its place the following:  
\*\*\*\*

The Basic User Charge and the Availability Charge shall be reviewed annually by the Board and shall be increased each year by a minimum of 3 percent (3%).  
(A) Basic user charge: \$62.50 per month within the Lost Lake development and Flagg Estate subdivision.  
\*\*\*\*

(C) An availability charge of \$15.00 per month per lot shall be required of the owner of each undeveloped property within the Lost Lake development and Flagg Estate subdivision. A residential user whose home/residence extends beyond one lot shall not pay a sewer availability charge on a lot that has any portion of the house or existing driveway encroaching on an adjacent lot. (this does not include fences, sheds, or any temporary buildings or structures, or detached building except for the primary garage).  
\*\*\*\*

2. This Ordinance shall be in full force from and after its passage and approval as provided by law.  
Passed by the Board of Trustees of the Lost Lake Utility District of Ogle County, Illinois and approved by the Chairman of said District this 21st day of November, 2023.  
No. 1202  
(Dec. 4, 2023)

**NOTICE**  
**BID SOLICITATION**  
FROM:

1.01 The Owner (hereinafter referred to as Owner):  
Byron Forest Preserve District  
7993 North River Road  
Byron, IL 61010  
1.02 And the Engineer (hereinafter referred to as Engineer):  
Fehr Graham  
515 Lincoln Highway  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
1.03 TO: POTENTIAL BIDDERS  
A. Sealed bids for the construction of Jarrett Center Building Landscaping Improvements

will be received by the **OWNER** at the address indicated above until 10:00 a.m., December 18, 2023 for the above referenced project.  
B. Project Description / Location: Jarrett Center Building, 7993 North River Road Byron IL 61010.  
C. This project is being financed entirely with local funds.  
D. There will be no pre-bid meeting for this project.  
E. Bid documents may be obtained from the Engineer's company website at [www.fehrgraham.com](http://www.fehrgraham.com). Upon accessing the website, Bidders will see a link titled, "Obtain Bidding Documents". Clicking this link will take Bidders directly to the Quest Network Service, and will display all projects available for bid through Fehr Graham. On this page, project ads will be listed in the left-hand column with project numbers assigned by Quest displayed. Potential Bidder can enter the Quest Project Number 8864371 in the field provided to view the full ad for the Jarrett Center Building Landscaping Improvements, and download a complete set of bidding documents from this page for a non-refundable fee of \$25.00. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com) for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. Hard copies of the bid documents may also be obtained and examined from the office of the Engineer at 515 Lincoln Highway Rochelle, IL 61068 upon receipt of cash or check in the amount of \$100 for one set (non-refundable).  
F. Documents may be viewed at the Office of the Engineer at Fehr Graham, 515 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, IL 61068.  
G. All bids must be accompanied by a bank check, cashier's check, certified check, or bid bond payable to Owner for five percent (5%) of the total amount of bid.  
AUTHORIZATION BY: Todd Tucker  
Title: Executive Director  
Date: November 29, 2023  
No. 1206  
(December 4, 2023)

**105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**113 FINANCIAL**

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

**119 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS**

FURMAN'S Lawn Care and Tree Work. Mowing, bushes, spring clean up, weeding and much more. Call Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please leave a message will return call ASAP. Fully insured, in business since 1999. Servicing Rochelle and surrounding areas.

**201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE**

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the

**101 LEGAL NOTICE**

This publication does not knowingly accept

fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

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**101 LEGAL NOTICE**

This publication does not knowingly accept

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**

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email [dickharms@hotmail.com](mailto:dickharms@hotmail.com)

**ANTIQUES WANTED:**

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

**307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

BUNDLED Newspaper - \$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

**405 HOUSES FOR SALE**

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**Double YOUR IMPACT with Print & Online ADVERTISING!**

**501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

**OREGON/MT. MORRIS**  
Newer 1, 2 & 3 BR APTS. Water, sewer, garbage inc. w/most units. HOUSES some w/garages, all in like new condition. Starting at \$425/mo. 815-734-4348 815-590-2302

**511 STORAGE UNITS**

**K&P SELF STORAGE**  
1563 Kysor Drive, Byron (next to D&W Garage)  
**815-247-8518**  
OUTSIDE STORAGE NOW AVAILABLE  
Storage Unit Sizes:  
5' x 10' 10' x 10'  
10' x 15' 10' x 20' 10' x 30'

**Show & Sell**

Place an Ad: Rochelle News-Leader 815-562-4171 Ogle County Life 815-732-2156

**Browse & Buy**

Subscribe: Rochelle News-Leader 815-562-4171 Ogle County Life 815-732-2156

All in the Classifieds!

**203 HELP WANTED**

**Byron School Transportation Open Positions**

• **Bus Drivers**

Call Barb at x 4400  
815-234-5491 or apply online:  
[www.byron226.org](http://www.byron226.org)

Click the 'About Us' tab, then Employment Opportunities tab



Byron CUSD #226 Job Posting

**IT SPECIALIST**  
(Anticipated)

Additional information and application process Found at [www.byron226.org](http://www.byron226.org) "About Us" Tab Employment Opportunities - Technology Category

**oglecountylife.com**

**Class-A CDL Drivers Wanted**  
\$500 Sign on bonus  
Earn up to \$33/per hour  
Local Trucking Company seeking full time, year-round driver to haul grain.  
**815-938-3644**  
Please leave message.  
09052023

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For Free Help or Information Call **815-562-8890** 24 Hours  
All Calls Are Confidential.

Support, Advocacy, Referral Services, Shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children.  
**HOPE of Ogle County**

P.O. Box 131  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Public Service Announcement

**103 AUCTIONS**

**AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY**

**A&T Auction Services, LLC**  
Travis Cunningham  
(815) 297-4595  
Located in Forreston, IL

**Lenny Bryson**  
Sales Of All Kinds  
**815-946-4120**

**Chana 64 Auctions**  
620 S. Stone Hill Rd., Chana  
**815-830-3898**  
• Pick Up Service Available "UWANNASELLITCALLUS"

**Hack's Auction & Realty Service, Inc.**  
Auctions - Real Estate Appraisals  
Online Auctions Now Available  
**Pecatonica, IL**  
**815-239-1436**  
[Hacksauction.com](http://Hacksauction.com)

**Remmer Schuetz Auction Service**  
Case Tractor Collector  
5936 S. Watertown Rd.  
**Ashton, IL**  
**847-878-1491**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

**103 AUCTIONS**

**RANCH & FARM AUCTIONS**

**LAND AUCTION**

**83 AC± | 1 TRACT OGLE CO, IL AUCTION:**  
LIVE AND ONLINE AT [RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM](http://RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM)  
**AUCTION DATE: 12/12/23**  
**AUCTION TIME: 11:00 AM**  
**AUCTION LOCATION: PLUM CREEK CLUB 641 PALMYRA RD, DIXON, IL 61021**  
IN COOPERATION WITH WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE, LLC  
TODD HENRY, AGENT: 815.997.2256  
[RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM](http://RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM)

**FIND Your New Home!**

In The Classifieds!

**103 AUCTIONS**

**HOME AUCTION**

**1.02 AC± | 1 TRACT WHITESIDE CO, IL AUCTION: ONLINE AT RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM**  
**TIMED ONLINE ONLY**  
**BIDDING ENDS: 12/14/23 AT 3:00 PM**  
**OPEN HOUSE:**  
11/28 | 2 - 6 PM & 12/9 | 11 AM - 3 PM  
23120 ORCHARD LN, ROCK FALLS, IL  
**BIDS STARTING AT ONLY \$700,000!**  
IN COOPERATION WITH WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE, LLC  
TODD HENRY, AGENT: 815.997.2256  
[RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM](http://RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM)

**Hometown Holiday Wishes**

'Tis the Season for **Goodwill & Gratitude**

Advertise with Us and Share in the Joy **Monday, December 18**

**Place an Ad:**  
Ogle County Life  
815-732-2156

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



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815.234.5626  
1445 IL Route 2 North, Oregon  
815.732.7956  
101 East Main St., Stillman Valley  
815.645.2266  
stillmanbank.com



## Rochelle Community Hospital

Your Local Healthcare Resource.

900 N. 2nd St., Rochelle  
815.562.2181  
rochellehospital.com

## RE/MAX of Rock Valley



606 E Washington St.,  
Oregon, IL

**815-732-9100**

RockValleyProperties.com

*Each office is independently owned & operated.*

### ANTIQUE STORE

#### Sweet Revival

12554 IL-64, Kings  
815.761.5643  
sweetrevivalantiques.com

### BAR/GAMING/ENTERTAINMENT

#### Legacy Bar & Gaming

116 E. Main St., Stillman Valley  
facebook.com/legacybarandgaming/

#### Oregon VFW Post 8739 & Mess Hall

1310 W. Washington St., Oregon  
815.732.6851  
facebook.com/oregonvfwpost8739

### BLACKTOP & SEALCOATING

#### King Blacktop

3499 N. Tower Rd., Byron  
815.234.4171  
kingblacktop.com

### BOUTIQUE

#### Oregon Soap Shoppe & Green Art Etc.

91C Daysville Rd., Oregon  
866.411.6614  
oregonsoapshoppe.com

### CONSIGNMENT SHOPPING

#### ReRuns

120 W. 2nd St., Byron  
815.406.8060  
rerunsbyron.com

### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

#### Stillman Bank

608 W. Blackhawk Dr., Byron  
815.234.5626  
1445 IL Route 2 North, Oregon  
815.732.7956  
101 East Main St., Stillman Valley  
815.645.2266  
stillmanbank.com

### GARDEN CENTER

#### Hidden Timber Gardens

462 S. Chana Rd., Chana  
815.751.4162  
hiddentimbergardens.com

### HEALTH SERVICES

#### Rochelle Community Hospital

900 N. 2nd St., Rochelle  
815.562.2181  
rochellehospital.com

### HVAC SERVICES

#### Hurst Heating & Cooling

102 Pacific St., Monroe Center  
815.757.4383  
hursthvac.com

### MANUFACTURING

#### Coilcraft

9 Clay St., Oregon  
815.732.6834  
coilcraft.com

### MENTAL HEALTH/COUNSELING SERVICES

#### Changes Counseling, LLC

121 S. 4th St., Oregon  
815.501.2088  
changescounselingllc.com

#### Sinnissippi Centers

100 Jefferson St., Oregon  
815.732.3157  
1321 N. 7th St., Rochelle  
815.562.3801  
sinnissippi.org

### PARKS & RECREATION

#### Byron Forest Preserve

7993 N. River Rd., Byron  
815.234.8535  
byronforestpreserve.com

### Oregon Park District

#### Nash Recreation Center

304 S. 5th St., Oregon  
815.732.3101  
oregonpark.org

### TITLE COMPANY

#### Rock River Title

412 W. Washington St., Oregon  
815.732.5291  
rockrivertitle.com

### REAL ESTATE AGENCY

#### RE/MAX of Rock Valley

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815.732.9100  
rockvalleyproperties.com

### SENIOR SERVICES

#### Rock River Center

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815.732.3252  
rockrivercenter.com

### TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

#### Walters Accounting

202 N. Walnut St., Stillman Valley  
815.645.8979  
walterstax.com



## WALTERS Accounting Inc.

202 N. Walnut St.,  
Stillman Valley  
815.645.8979  
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## Byron Forest Preserve District

7993 N. River Rd., Byron  
815.234.8535  
www.byronforestpreserve.com

## bar & gaming Legacy

116 E Main St, Stillman Valley, IL, 61084  
https://www.facebook.com/legacybarandgaming/




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# Byron Tigers State Champs Class 3A

## History at state

# Byron Tigers pounce on 2nd championship in 3 years

### Byron breaks records for the season, state championship game

BY BRANDON LACHANCE  
NEWS MEDIA CORPORATION

**BLOOMINGTON** – Last season was crushing for the Byron football team.

After winning the IHSA Class 3A state championship in 2021, the Tigers wanted to win back-to-back, but fell to IC Catholic in a semifinal.

This year, the Tigers were set on not letting the sour taste of defeat return.

“Going into the game you could see how locked in and excited everyone was since the loss last year to IC Catholic,” Byron senior running back Ashton Henkel said. “We got up every day and were in the weight room at 5 a.m. even if we were in a different sport. It showed off in the state championship.”

“This senior group is resilient, and we just didn’t want a loss like last year to happen again. A week later, we were in the weight room, on the field, and got to work.”

The weight room, the remembrance of defeat, comradery between the upperclassmen and underclassmen, and the coaching strategy fueled Byron to a 69-7 victory over Mt. Carmel in the 2023 IHSA Class 3A State Championship on Friday, Nov. 24 at Illinois State University in Bloomington.

During the title triumph, Byron set state records.

The Tigers (14-0) scored the most points in a 3A title game (69), recorded the largest point differential in the history of all classes of Illinois state championship games (62), recorded the most points scored in a season (823), had the most rushing touchdowns in a season (109), and the largest point differential in IHSA history in a season (scored 823 and allowed 94 for a difference of 729).

“All I can say is this group of kids is unbelievable. The season that these guys just had, first and foremost, state champs, that was the goal,” said coach Jeff Boyer, who has a 115-27 record and four state championship games (two wins, two runner up finishes) in 12 years. “But then, to put an exclamation point on it here and kind of prove that they’re one of the best teams in Illinois history. It was business as usual. We tried to stay in the exact same routine that we did in 2021. We warmed up the same way. These guys certainly saved their best for last.”



**Byron Junior #1 Brayden Knoll broke free and saw the end zone in sight during the the Tiger’s Class 3A State Championship game. Knoll rushed six times for 103 yards and two touchdowns.**  
Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life

“We didn’t think we were going to have a game like this. Our goal was just to be 1-0. It wasn’t about records. It just happened. It was about winning a football game and getting a state championship for these kids.”

Against Mt. Carmel, Byron scored 10 rushing touchdowns while giving up one touchdown to the Golden Aces in the third quarter.

In the first quarter, sophomore Caden Considine scored on a 15-yard carry, senior Ayden Shank took a one-yard rush to paydirt, and freshman backup quarterback Andrew Talbert ran a 29-yard keeper into the endzone.

With a 21-0 first quarter lead, the Tigers added 28 more points in the second quarter with a 38-run from Talbert, a 31-yard run from junior Brayden Knoll, a 77-yard run from Talbert (his third and final touchdown of the game), and a 17-yard run from Considine (his second score).

With a 49-0 halftime lead, Knoll scored his second touchdown of the game in the third quarter with a 24-yard run and senior Carsen Behn had

“All I can say is this group of kids is unbelievable. The season that these guys just had, first and foremost, state champs, that was the goal. But then, to put an exclamation point on it here and kind of prove that they’re one of the best teams in Illinois history. It was business as usual. We tried to stay in the exact same routine that we did in 2021. We warmed up the same way. These guys certainly saved their best for last.”

Coach Jeff Boyer

a six-yard carry into the endzone for a 63-7 lead going into the fourth.

Byron senior Carter Groharing was the only player to find the endzone in the fourth quarter with a running clock (issued in the entire second half) on a 13-yard carry for the 69-7 final.

“We were just ground and pound like we usually are. We run a lot of short plays in a row and then every once in a while, we break a big one,” Considine said. “That has been our offense for the entire year. I really focused on taking care of the ball. In a Wing-T offense, you really can’t fumble the ball. The rest is just on the go. When I have the ball, I decide if I want to run them over or



put a move on them. “It was huge to not have any turnovers, while our defense had five takeaways. It was a big goal of ours to force turnovers on them, but for us to take care of the ball. If we put the ball on the ground, it

could have been a tight game. Against Mt. Carmel we knew that, and everyone kept the ball secure.”

Considine had a game-high 17 carries for 153 yards and two touchdowns (had 100 yards in the first quarter), while Talbert

The Byron defense held Mt. Carmel to nine first downs, 191 total rushing yards, 15 passing yards, and seven points total in their 69-7 win over Mr. Carmel on Friday, Nov. 24 at Redbird Arena on the campus of Illinois State University. Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life

had a game-high 154 yards and three scores on five carries. Knoll also had over 100 yards as he rushed for 103 yards and two touchdowns on six carries.

See CHAMPS page 2

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# Byron Tigers State Champs Class 3A

## CHAMPS: Coach gives all credit to the kids

From page 1

“It’s special. This team is special, and I just wanted to help out in any way I could to pull out the victory,” Talbert said. “I’m grateful for the opportunity. Coach Boyer trusts me, and I trust him. He’s the greatest coach I’ve ever had.”

“These seniors are a great group, and it has been special playing with them. This team has a lot of depth with me, Considine, and a lot of others. I’m excited for next year. We just have to keep going and follow in the footsteps of this senior class.”

Boyer, who has only lost seven games since 2018, had full confidence in every player on his team.

During the IHSA post-game conference and in a one-on-one interview, all credit went to the kids. His players, who he felt played the best game of their lives.



Byron senior #23 Jacob Ross breaks through Mt. Carmel defenders in the Tigers’ Class 3A State Championship match. Ross had one carry for 10 yards.  
Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life

“We have a very, very strong group of seniors. Those guys are going to be hard to replace, but the younger kids have stepped up throughout the season,” Boyer said. “Junior Brayden Knoll had a huge game in the semifinal with three touchdowns. Sophomore Caden Considine has been steady for us all season long and proved

he is an all-state fullback in the state championship. Freshman Andrew Talbert comes in at quarterback and runs the option. He follows stuff well and he’s an explosive kid.

“I think we stayed fresh all season long with the way that we practiced. We were able to stay healthy over the season. A lot of the kids got a lot

of playing experience. A lot of the kids that played in the first half of the state championship, played a first half every week this year. That’s not a knock on the teams that we played this year, that’s just kind of how it was.

“It allowed us to stay fresh playing and it allowed us to peak at the right time.”



Byron’s #81 senior Braylon Kilduff and #25 senior Everett Wichman take down their Mt. Carmel opponent during the Tigers’ Class 3A State Championship match. Kilduff recorded four tackles and Wichman recorded one tackle.  
Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life

The Byron Tigers crowd around the Class 3A State Trophy after their crushing 69-7 win over Mr. Carmel on Friday, Nov. 24 at Redbird Arena on the campus of Illinois State University.  
Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life



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# Byron Tigers State Champs Class 3A

## Game Day Snapshots



Byron sophomore #37 Caden Considine, runs through the line of Mt. Carmel defenders. Considine ran for 153 yards and two touchdowns in the Tiger's Class 3A State Championship match.  
Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life



Byron senior Kye Aken #29 rushed for 15 yards in the championship game.  
Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life



Byron Junior #1 Brayden Knoll rushed six times for 103 yards and two touchdowns in the Tigers' Class 3A State Championship game.  
Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life



Byron's #81 senior Braylon Kilduff and #37 sophomore Caden Considine chase after Mt. Carmel running back #23 Sitaleki Militoni. Kilduff and Considine each recorded four tackles during the state championship game.  
Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life



The Byron Tigers pose for a group picture with the Class 3A State Championship trophy.  
Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life

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# Byron Tigers State Champs Class 3A

## Game Day Snapshots



Byron Junior #1 Brayden Knoll broke out and carried the ball six times for 103 yards and two touchdowns.  
Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life



Byron's #5 Ashton Henkel tried to avoid the Mt. Carmel defenders during the state championship game. Henkel carried the ball five times for 34 yards.  
Tonja Greenfield/Ogle County Life

## The Tigers' perfect 2023 season through the weeks



- Week 1 (Aug. 25): Byron Tigers 77, Rock Falls Rockets 6
- Week 2 (Sept. 1): Byron Tigers 64, Rockford Lutheran Crusaders 0
- Week 3 (Sept. 8): Byron Tigers 70, Rockford Christian Royal Lions 14
- Week 4 (Sept. 15): Byron Tigers 69, North Boone Vikings 0
- Week 5 (Sept. 22): Byron Tigers 51, Oregon Hawks 0
- Week 6 (Sept. 29): Byron Tigers 52, Genoa-Kingston Cogs 12
- Week 7 (Oct. 6): Byron Tigers 62, Winnebago Indians 0
- Week 8 (Oct. 13): Byron Tigers 49, Dixon Dukes 6
- Week 9 (Oct. 20): Byron Tigers 43, Stillman Valley Cardinals 7
- IHSA Playoffs Round 1 (Oct. 28): Byron Tigers 72, Hansberry Bengals 0
- IHSA Playoffs Round 2 (Nov. 4): Byron Tigers 56, Peotone Blue Devils 7
- IHSA State Quarterfinals (Nov. 11): Byron Tigers 63, Du-Pec Rivermen 15
- IHSA State Semifinals (Nov. 18): Byron Tigers 26, Montini Catholic Broncos 20
- IHSA State Championship (Nov. 24): Byron Tigers 69, Mt. Carmel Golden Aces 7

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