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## KNOW IT TODAY



### FVEF thanks departing members

The Forrestville Valley Education Foundation recently presented plaques to its departing members. **A10**

### WEATHER

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
<b>59 29</b>	<b>61 38</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
<b>63 44</b>	<b>63 45</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
<b>61 43</b>	<b>53 40</b>

### OBITUARIES

- John Costello
- Richard Hose
- Lloyd Martin
- Mary McGinniss
- Shirley McPherson
- Grace Merdian
- Dorothy Sanders
- Angela Stephenitch

See page 4 & 5

### INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Byron County Market
- Polo Fresh Food
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- Lifeline Screening
- Ace Hardware
- Snyder Pharmacy

## Mt. Morris veteran honors family, service members with military memorabilia

'I always had an interest because of my grandfather's military history'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**MT. MORRIS**—Oregon native and current Mt. Morris resident and veteran David Waters retired from the Army in 2020, but has since been keeping his military interest alive with a memorabilia collection.

Much of Waters' memorabilia relates to his grandfather, Lindsay R. Waters, who joined the Army during The Great Depression and served for four years before entering the Navy and serving at Pearl Harbor during the attacks on Dec. 7, 1941.

"When Pearl Harbor took place, they took so many casualties that he pretty much got a battlefield commission overnight," Waters said. "The ship's orders credit him for shooting down two of the 29 Japanese aircraft that day. I have a piece of shrapnel from that day. I had a shadow box made up for him years ago. It's focused around a

piece of shrapnel that hit his destroyer. He was on the USS Shaw (DD-373). It was the subject of one of the most iconic photographs taken of Pearl Harbor that day. It was a huge explosion. He went on to serve out through the rest of the war and retired just before the Cuban Missile Crisis took place."

Waters' collection also includes his grandfather's military medals, the USS Shaw ship's orders, and photographs of the ship and Lindsay R. Waters receiving his Purple Heart. He also owns other World War II memorabilia that he inherited from his mother's side of the family.

"That's all German. I have an authentic German K98, an authentic German Luger with the holster and everything," Waters said. "And that's only because my great uncle was shot down over Europe during WWII and got into a prisoner of war camp. When it got liberated, GIs said to take what-



David Waters of Mt. Morris, shown at left serving in Afghanistan, has been keeping his military interest alive with a memorabilia collection.



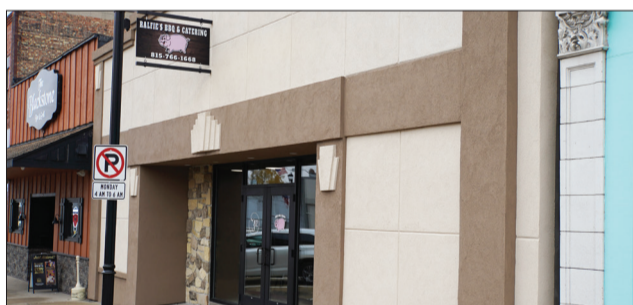
ever they wanted. And he grabbed that stuff."

David Waters himself joined the Army in 2001 before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which

changed the trajectory of his service. He spent time serving in Kosovo and did two tours of duty in Iraq and one tour in Afghanistan. He also served in

Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and did a month-long training mission in Poland in 2007.

See MILITARY page 2



### Ralfie's BBQ and Catering opens new kitchen and meeting room in downtown Rochelle

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — As of Oct. 27, Ralfie's BBQ and Catering officially opened The 302, the business's new catering kitchen and meeting room at 410 Cherry Ave. in downtown Rochelle, Owners Ralf and Tricia Herrera said Oct. 25.

Ralfie's BBQ and Catering has been in business since 2009. What started

on a small scale of selling kebabs and pork chops became catering a few small weddings a year to now offering full-service catering and serving at 35-40 weddings and more per year. The business outgrew its previous kitchen space and will now have a place to cook, get orders to customers and host gatherings, events and meetings.

See BBQ page 2



### Pegasus Special Riders hosts 'Mane' Event fundraiser

Pegasus Special Riders held their "Mane" Event at the White Pines Restaurant on Saturday night, Nov. 4. Dinner, games, a silent and live auction were on the agenda of the evening. About \$10,000 was raised during the evening. Entertainment was provided by Greenfield Station Band. (Photos by Tonja Greenfield)



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# LOCAL NEWS

## BBQ: The 302 at 410 Cherry Ave.”: ‘It means we can expand and add to our business’

From page 1

“When we came across this building, it was more space than we needed,” Tricia Herrera said. “We had this whole other side of it, and kicked around a lot of ideas. We decided to make it a venue. It’s very small and intimate, it’s only up to 90 people. It’s not a restaurant or anything like that. It’s just a place where if you need to have a business meeting, baby or bridal shower or even a family event, it can be done here in this space. It’s fully media capable. We had our first event here this week. To us, it means we can expand and add to our business. And it’s a centrally-located location for us.”

Ralf Herrera said he’s wanted a kitchen space for about five years. When he was thinking about expanding, he reached out to Tim Bruns of Bruns Construction, who told him he recently purchased the 410 Cherry Ave. building from the City of Rochelle and brought it back into working order after it had been condemned.

“He said it would be an ideal place for us,” Ralf Herrera said. “It was a little big for us, but we still had room over here to expand later. We really needed a 20-by-30 commercial kitchen with some storage space and a garage. That’s how it came to be. It was a lot of work. It was a lot of scheduling with contractors and how busy everybody is.”

Tricia Herrera is the executive director of the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce. For 15 years during her involvement with the chamber and the city, she’s been telling people in and around the community that downtown Rochelle is the place to open a business, which is what she and her husband have now done.

“At every chamber event I talk about how exciting it is and how new businesses are opening up,” Tricia Herrera said. “The downtown area really is coming alive and the city has done an amazing job with beautification. This downtown location was ideal for us. This felt like the best home for us.”



**Ralfie’s BBQ and Catering is owned by Ralf and Tricia Herrera. The business recently opened a catering kitchen and meeting room in downtown Rochelle.**

The previous kitchen Ralfie’s BBQ and Catering used had some space difficulties when orders became larger, which led the business to rent commercial spaces for cooking, which wasn’t cost-effective. Now, the space on Cherry Avenue will allow for an easier experience for the Herreras and their employees. It will also allow for a pickup location for customers.

Ralf Herrera said his business has been lucky to have “great people” working for it, and thanked them for their work over years of growth. Some have worked for Ralfie’s BBQ through their high school years into college.

“We always say the kids that work for us are our family, and they truly are family to us,” Tricia Herrera said.

The new space will allow for Ralfie’s BBQ and Catering to work more than one event in a day with the bigger capacity. Tricia Herrera said the business is always planning for the future and how it can grow. She believes

the potential is simply as hard as they want to work, but putting love and care into their products and customer service will remain their top priorities.

The Herreras were both born and raised in Rochelle, and they said working in and being part of the community is “very special” to them.

“We couldn’t do what we do without customers,” Tricia Herrera said. “I know that seems basic, but it’s the truth. We always say that we’re appreciative of people that order one kebab all the way up to the people that book us for a 500-guest wedding. They’re all important to us and we couldn’t be more appreciative of that. Customers have now become like friends and family to us. That’s just very important to us. This is our community and home. This is where we want to be and we want to share in those events with all of those people.”

The 302 name is in honor of the house number of the home Tricia grew up in. The business’s LLC name is the Herrera BBQ Company in honor of Ralf’s parents, who have both passed away. When the decision came to name the brick and mortar location, the couple chose to honor Tricia’s late parents.

“We lived in Rochelle,” Tricia Herrera said. “My parents raised us primarily in that location. That’s very important to Ralf and I, to honor our families. That’s who made us. Our work ethic, customer service and people skills all came from our parents. We need to honor that. That was the Wagner house address I was raised in. Like the song says, that was the house that built me.”

At each chamber of commerce ribbon cutting that Tricia Herrera leads for a new business that opens, she states her and the community’s support for the owners. At her and her husband’s own ribbon cutting on Nov. 3, they saw that support from a different perspective.

“Now Ralf and I can see it from the other side,” Tricia said. “We know what that’s like to just be supported. And that’s very special to us.”

## MILITARY: Interest in grandfather’s history leads to choice to join service

From page 1

Waters was in the Illinois National Guard for 16 years as well after his active service. It was around that time that his collecting began.

“I just kind of wanted to start learning why things were,” Waters said. “I always had an interest because of my

grandfather’s military history. I wanted to learn more about what we went through and experienced. I always got books and read more about Pearl Harbor and it just kind of expanded from there to the whole Pacific and to the European Theatre of WWII and I just started learning more and more about

that war. That had a huge influence on me joining the Army. I just try to do it in every way I can. I look at older stuff and see what works and what could still work today in a better, more efficient way than people think technology can. It’s weird, but I just kind of read up on this stuff.”

Waters is also currently building a military library and map room. He plans to do more collecting in the future. He collects military unit panoramics as well.

“I don’t know who these people are, but you see them in thrift stores and junk stores and things like that,” Waters said. “Or just old photographs of cavalry units or World War I or WWII units. I found one going all the way back to the Spanish-American War. I just really like

“I like talking to other veterans and hearing their stories and what they saw and experienced. I like the camaraderie of just sharing stories more than anything.”

David Waters

those photographs. You look at the people and the faces and you start wondering who they were, where they’re from, what they did after they survived whatever they went through and what their life was like afterwards. It’s kind of a human-interest story for me.”

The piece of shrapnel from Pearl Harbor holds a meaningful spot in Waters’ collection.

“I’ve always just been told that it’s from the bomb,” Waters said. “It does have a munition-type texture. But if you get right down to

it, it really could have been any part of anything. It definitely has residue on it, because when I first inherited it I put it on my keychain to bring home with me and it was flagged at the airport. That told me it has something on it.”

Being from a military family gave Waters discipline, and caused him to view the world in a different light, both growing up and as an adult, he said on Nov. 2, as Veterans Day (Nov. 11) approached. Memorabilia is one way to commemorate service that he enjoys, and hear-

ing stories from other veterans is another.

“I like talking to other veterans and hearing their stories and what they saw and experienced,” Waters said. “I like the camaraderie of just sharing stories more than anything. You hear good stories that you wouldn’t hear anywhere else in the world. You live one of those lives where some people won’t believe the stories you have. Only the people that you can really connect with will believe, know and understand what you’re saying.”

*Happy 60th Anniversary!*

Ken & Bev Colloton are celebrating 60 years together November 17th. Help them celebrate by sending cards & well wishes to: 510 N. State St., Apt# 124, Franklin Grove, IL, 61031.

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# homes

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**WELCOME HOME!** This beautiful 1.5 story home in the heart of Oregon boasts 4 large bedrooms & 2 full baths. It also has a 1 car detached garage with extra storage and a garden shed in the back corner of the property. The inside has been completely remodeled with gorgeous hardwood flooring throughout, new fixtures, and a brand new roof. Gutters & SS appliances will be installed.

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# LOCAL NEWS



## Eagle's Nest Art Group Candlelight Walk Art Show is Nov. 25 at Conover Square

**OREGON** — Eagle's Nest Art Group will have an art show during Oregon's Candlelight Walk, Saturday, Nov. 25, from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. The ENAG gallery is located on the second floor of Conover Square Mall, 201 N. 3rd St. in Oregon. An elevator is available. There is no cost for the show. Parking is plentiful.

Many different forms of art will be on display, including oil, watercolor, acrylic, ceramics, photography, alcohol ink, pen and ink, calligraphy, prints & cards as well as glasswork and other three-dimensional art.

Also, the show will have a special display of art from the Oil Painting Class taught by Laurie Friemuth.

ENAG continues to support the work of Hands On Oregon by the sale of art which benefits the work of this non-for-profit organization.



Artists will be on hand to greet you. Refreshments will be served.

Information about all of the ENAG programs and workshops will be available during the show for those who are interested.

Everyone is invited to this celebration of art and community and the upcoming holiday season. It is a festive event that all of the family will enjoy.

## Affordable health screenings coming to Mt. Morris Dec. 4

**MT. MORRIS** — Residents living in and around the Mt. Morris area can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Allure of Pinecrest Grove will host this community event on Dec. 4. The site is located at 500 Evergreen Lane in Mt. Morris.

Screenings can check for: The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular

disease, stroke and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels; Diabetes risk; Kidney and thyroid function, and more

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Special package pricing starts at \$159. Consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com). Pre-registration is required.



## Stillman Valley High School 2023 September Students of the Month named

Stillman Valley High School Students of the Month for September 2023 were recently named. Pictured from left to right are: SVHS Vice Principal Jeff Voltz, Avery Christenson (12th grade), Nola Ivy-Friberg (11th grade), Joslyn Nanni (10th grade), and Stillman Bank Executive Vice President and COO David Mecklenburg. Not pictured is Sadie Zabinski (ninth grade). Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement.

# Loaves & Fish Food Pantry Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution is Nov. 17

**MT. MORRIS** — Loaves & Fish Food Pantry will distribute Thanksgiving Meal Boxes this year on Friday, Nov. 17, from 2-6 p.m. or while supplies last. Each meal will include a 12-15-pound turkey and side dishes.

Meals will be distributed to families in Mt. Morris, Leaf River and the surrounding area. No sign-up

required! Dinners will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Limit of one dinner per family! No proxies will be accepted, no deliveries and no rides available.

Loaves and Fish Food Pantry is located in the lower level of the Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren, 409 W. Brayton Road, Mt. Morris. If you have any questions, call 815-

734-4573 and leave a message with phone number and we will return your call. The pantry is open on the first and third Thursdays from 3:30-6 p.m. and second and fourth Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m. Anyone experiencing food insecurity is eligible to receive food. No proof of residency or income is required to receive food.

# GoFundMe established for Ogle County boy following medical emergency, DIPG diagnosis

**BYRON** — A GoFundMe fundraiser has been established for the five-year-old son of a Mary Morgan Elementary School special education teacher.

Emily Hoppe's son, Ryker, was at a Byron Tigers football game Nov. 4 when he experienced a medical emergency during the game and was later diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), the GoFundMe's organizer, Jennifer Smith, said.

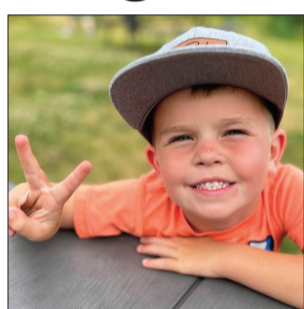
"DIPG is a highly-aggressive brain stem tumor located on the Pons.

Due to the location of the tumor, it is ultimately inoperable with very limited options for treatment," The GoFundMe said. "DIPG affects 200-300 children per year and holds a very low long-term survival rate. The heartbreak and devastation that Ryker and his family are experiencing is something that no one should ever have to endure."

A charity game will be held at Stine Stadium in Byron on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m.

To view the GoFundMe, please visit: <https://gf.me/v/c/mgcm/rykers-fight-against-dipg>

Contributions to the GoFundMe will go towards Ryker's medical expenses, rehabilitation programs, and other essential resources that will help him as he battles



DIPG. As of Nov. 7, the GoFundMe had raised \$100,961 and started with a \$50,000 goal.

## 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.

**OUR CHARITIES NEED OUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!**



For Just \$20 you have a chance to be one of **365 DAILY WINNERS TOTAL CASH PRIZES \$18,250 PLUS Each Calendar Has VALUABLE LOCAL COUPONS**

## Here are 3 Ways to Purchase Your 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

• **ONLINE:** Go to <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org> and click on **CASH CALENDARS**. Once the calendar is purchased we will mail it out to you! Shipping and processing fees will be added to cost.

• **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**

• **BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

**YES! Send me my 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar!**  
 (Please Print)

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 NUMBER OF CALENDARS: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail this form along with \$23 (\$20 per calendar plus \$3 per calendar postage) to:  
 Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068

## TRUTH-IN-TAXATION

### Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for Highland Community College.

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Illinois Community College District No. 519, Counties of Stephenson, Ogle, Jo Daviess, and Carroll for 2023 will be held on November 28, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at Highland Community College, Freeport, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Ms. Jill Janssen, Vice President of Administrative Services, 2998 West Pearl City Road, Freeport, IL 61032, 235-6121, Extension 3412.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended for 2022 were \$10,051,011.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$11,344,000. This represents a 12.9% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$1,846,091.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 are \$1,878,050. This represents an 1.7% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended for 2022 were \$11,897,102.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$13,222,050. This represents an 11.1% increase over the previous year.

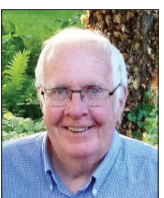
Terri Grimes  
 Secretary to the Board

# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### John Joseph ‘Jack’ Costello

**CHICAGO**—John Joseph Costello, “Jack” was born on December 28, 1941, to Hazel and James Costello. A middle son of eight children, his brothers and sisters first sparked his deep love of family, and he often asked about his parents and siblings long after Alzheimer’s locked away more recent memories. The Costello family was where he first learned that he loved to be in the thick of it.



Jack married his great love, Rosann Manna, on an unseasonably warm January day in 1964. She was his sun and moon and he, her greatest fan. With her at his side, he could not wait to build a big, beautiful family of his own. Jack is survived by his seven children and a family that extends now like stars in the sky - Karen Purcell (late Bill), John Costello, Jr. (Kim), Michael Costello, David Costello (Stephanie), Bill Costello (Pam), Rosanne Costello Androwich, Dan Costello (Kerry) and his much loved grandchildren Ian, Sarah, Liam, Connor, Natalie, Katherine, Claire, Jack, Grace, Jamie, Erin, Evelyn, Roseanne, Leah, Emily, Sam, Elle, Ireland, Quinley, Olivia, Dylan, Olive, and Andrew.

Jack was known to also offer himself as an honorary father and grandfather to others not named here but also loved. He loved people and led with his generous and grateful heart. Somehow, without trying, he was the funniest man in any room.

Jack was a successful businessman and entrepreneur, purchasing the Forest Park News Agency in 1967, eventually expanding to Rosann’s Hallmark and other retail and real estate endeavors that provided job “opportunities” for many of his family and friends (hours and pay will not be covered here). Later in his career,

Jack was hired by ABM to lead the custodial team at the Museum of Science and Industry, an assignment he turned into an adventure rivaled only by Forrest Gump.

It was in this role that he joined forces with Cara Chicago, doing his part to help break the cycles of homelessness and poverty by becoming a cherished instructor in their job training programs and motivation circles. Jack taught the first “pilot” class on The Cleaning of Commercial Office Space at Cara. His students included people experiencing homelessness, prior incarceration and poverty, and he bridged every gap – whether race, privilege or circumstance, as only he could do, with a formidable mix of hard work, genuine affection for his students, and the highest of expectations. This program continues today and has enabled hundreds of otherwise underemployed people to find a footing. In 2016 Tom Owens personally presented the Thomas M. Owens Mission Award to Jack Costello for his work with Cara. Long after he lost the ability to tell his stories, the mere mention of Cara would light up his eyes, still bright with pride that he could help and inspire others. In lieu of flowers, gifts in support of the Cara mission and Jack’s legacy may be directed to the [CaraCollective.org: https://caracollective.org/jack/](https://caracollective.org).

A celebration of Jack Costello’s life will be held Friday, November 10, 2023, at Old Saint Patrick’s Catholic Church, 700 W. Adams, Chicago. Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a family prayer and remarks at 9:30 followed by the Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. Arrangements by Adams-Winterfield & Sullivan. For Information: 630-968-1000 or [www.adamswinterfieldsullivan.com](http://www.adamswinterfieldsullivan.com).

### Richard R. Hose

**POLO**—Richard R. Hose, age 88, ended life’s journey on November 1, 2023, at Rock River Hospice & Home, Sterling, Illinois after an extended illness. He was born on October 15, 1935, at home in Milledgeville, Illinois, the son of Oliver Upton and Hannah Elizabeth (McCracken) Hose.



Richard farmed his entire life, was in the Illinois National Guard and was Eagle Point Road Commissioner for over 40 years.

On November 26, 1955, Richard married Shelby Jean McKay. Of this marriage, two sons were born, Jeffrey Allen and Jerry Allen who in turn took up duties on the farm then their respective careers.

Richard is survived by his wife, Shelby lacking less than a month cele-

brating their 68th wedding anniversary; sons, Jeffrey (Martha) and Jerry I (Linda), grandchildren Jerianne Hose-Ryan, Jerry Allen II (Nikki), Rockford, great grandson, Oliver, Rockford; sisters Nora Mitchell of Polo and Judy (David) Henderson of Marion, Illinois. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

He is preceding in death by his parents, Oliver and Hannah Hose, two brothers: infant Everett and Donald.

Richard will be laid to rest in a private service at Fairmount Cemetery in Polo, Illinois. Memorials can be directed in his name.

Polo Family Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements. To send condolences please visit [www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com)

### Lloyd William Martin

**MT. MORRIS**—Lloyd William Martin Passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on the morning of October 29th. He was the Son of Diana Feary and Lenard Martin born February 9th 1982.

Lloyd was a loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, Son, Uncle and Friend. His favorite hobbies included fishing, camping, floating down the river, Card games and video games. He enjoyed spending time with his Granddaughter, Scarlett, and his son, Andrew.

The Chicago White Sox and San Francisco 49ers were his favorite teams.

He enjoyed talking/arguing sports, especially with Andrew. He is reunited with his Loved ones and is no longer hurting.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Debra, younger brother David, Mother Diana (Feary) Buchanan and Grandparents Don and Helen Avey.



He is survived by his son Andrew & fiancé Gabby and Granddaughter Scarlett, Father Lenard “Lenny” Martin and step-mother Sharon. Several cousins, Aunts and Uncles.

Celebration of life will be held at a future date.

### Mary Catherine Bridget McGinniss

**OREGON**—Mary Catherine Bridget McGinniss, age 80, of Oregon, IL was called home peacefully on October 22, 2023. Born to proud parents Thomas & Elnora (Waters) McGinniss on August 6, 1943, in Brooklyn, New York. Her parents moved to the Janesville, Wisconsin area. She attended St Pat’s school and graduated from Janesville High School.



Mary married Charles Walikonis in Janesville, Wisconsin and they soon moved to Sarasota, Florida, with her daughter in late 1969, early 1970. Mary enjoyed the weather and all the activities the sunshine state had to offer. Her and her husband welcomed a beautiful baby boy while living in Sarasota, Florida. Mary loved hosting her parents as well as welcoming any of her 8 siblings on their vacations into their home. She worked and held down the house with two active children. Mary enjoyed learning how to make authentic Mexican food from the neighbor and also loved having pool parties with the other neighbors. Fun fact, Mary learned how to drive at the age of 33 in Florida. Every year they would make the trip back to Janesville for a couple weeks in the summer and again during Christmas.

In 1979, they decided to move the family back north to be closer to “home”. They settled in Mt Morris, IL. Mary worked for Kable News Company and was a very active parent in the Booster Club. Never missed a sporting activity of her children’s. Always cheering them on from the sidelines or bleachers. Mary had and continues to have many deep friendships from the Mt Morris area. A great listener and one to always offer advice to those closest friends.

She left the Mt Morris area to return to Janesville Wisconsin in 1987. While in Janesville, she worked for Borg Warner and then moved to Beloit, Wisconsin and worked for Taylor Freezer. While there she again made life long friends. While working and living in Beloit she went back to school and received a degree in Business at the age of 55. When she retired from Taylor Freezer in 2010, she decided to move closer to her grandchildren who she was so very proud of. Always showing up for their events just like she did with her own children. While living in Oregon, IL she reunited with her friends and enjoyed

their once a month lunches. She lived in Oregon, IL from 2010 until her passing.

Mary never missed a birthday or anniversary. Always mailing cards to those friends and family. She was an avid reader and a master at crocheting blankets. She made sure over the years that not only her children were provided with the loving warmth of her blankets, her grandchildren each received one as well. Along with providing blankets to all the nieces and nephews who were starting their own families for their babies. She was a lover of music and loved to dance. There was always music in the background to be heard in her homes over the years. She loved to cook and host Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to her adult children and grandchildren. Christmas was by far her favorite holiday. More importantly, she learned from her mother the gift of baking and made sure family, friends and neighbors over the years got a loaf of her famous Pumpkin Bread. Mary made an impact on so many people with her kindness, sharp quick wit and a lover of hearing a dirty joke as well as telling them. So much laughter!!!

She will be missed deeply and dearly by her daughter, Trinette ( Oregon, IL ) her son Ty and daughter in law Jennifer (Elgin, IL) grandchildren Sydney (Salt Lake City, UT), Christian, Soraya and Dane ( Elgin, IL) She also leaves behind her sisters Cathleen (Bob) Nichols, Michele (Bob) McGrain, and Regina (Mike) Cylewski; her brothers John (Sue) McGinniss, Tom (Deb) McGinniss II and Dan McGinniss.

She was preceded in death by her parents, an infant sister Ann Marie, her sister Ethel Simonson and her sister Theresa McGinniss.

The family would like to express their heartfelt appreciation for her care while at Sherman Hospital and Avondale Estates, both in Elgin, IL. Her Journey Care hospice team went above and beyond providing her excellent care.

Funeral service will be Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 11:00 AM at the APFEL WOLFE FUNERAL HOME, 21 S. Austin Rd, Janesville, WI. Visitation will begin at 10:00 AM Saturday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to your choice of cancer research. Online condolences may be made at [www.apfelwolfe.com](http://www.apfelwolfe.com)

### Shirley M. McPherson

**OREGON**—Shirley M. McPherson, age 95, made the transition on Thursday, November 2, 2023 following a sudden illness. She was born April 7, 1928 in Mt. Carroll, Illinois the daughter to Raymond and Florence (Haas) Cahill.

Shirley worked for many years at E. D. Etnyre & Company in Oregon, IL. She was a Mt. Carroll High School graduate of 1946 and a resident of Oregon, IL since 1948. She married Charles N. McPherson on May 4, 1968 in Polo, IL.

Shirley was a well-known prominent artist in the Oregon area and she loved to paint with acrylics. She also collected early colonial antiques, played cards, especially with her bridge leagues, and attended to her flower and vegetable gardens.



She is survived by her two sons, Scott (Barb) Spoor of Mendota, IL and Jon (Patti) Spoor of Oregon, IL; two grandsons James and Austin Spoor; half-sister Kristine Brunner of Stockton; two half-brothers: Timothy Cahill of Stockton, IL and James (Patricia) Cahill of Rockford, IL.

She was predeceased by her parents, and three half-brothers: John, Patrick, and Timothy Cahill.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at the Riverview Cemetery near Oregon, IL with the Pastor David Rogula officiating. A memorial fund is established in Shirley’s name and may be directed to her family. Visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com) to leave a condolence or memory of Shirley.

### Grace D. Merdian

**POLO**—Grace D. Merdian, 101, of Polo, passed away Saturday, November 4, 2023, at Polo Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.

Grace was born, October 15, 1922 in Walnut, Illinois, the daughter of William J. and Wilhemina (Cook) Tornow. On March 7, 1941 in Clinton Iowa, she was united in marriage to Robert “Bob” F. Merdian. He preceded her in December 27, 1978. Grace loved and spoiled her family, especially her grandchildren. She enjoyed Christmas, decorating, baking and buying gifts for her family. Grace loved her chocolate, sneaking a piece anytime she could.

Survivors include daughters Sharon (Robin) Colgazier of Dixon, IL and Carol (“Buck”) Walter of Naperville, IL; son Neil (Christa) Merdian of Polo, IL; daugh-



ter-in-laws Bev Merdian of Dixon, IL and Jayne Merdian of Sterling, IL; 12 Grandchildren, 23 Great Grandchildren, three Great-Great Grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by husband Bob; daughter Elinor Kay Merdian; sons Robert W. “Bob”, Glen Richard “Rick” and Larry Merdian.

Visitation will be Thursday, November 9, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Polo Family Funeral Home, 110 E. Dixon St. Polo. Services will follow at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home with burial at Chapel Hill Memorial Garden in Dixon immediately following the services.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her name.

Visit [www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com) to send condolences.

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#### The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

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#### 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.

# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Dorothy L. Sanders

**DAVIS JUNCTION** — Dorothy L. Sanders, age 89, died peacefully at Generations at Neighbors Nursing Home in Byron, IL on Tuesday, November 8, 2023. She was born on January 9, 1934, the daughter of Fred and Mary (Berg) Lyon.

She was a member of St. Mary's Church in Byron, IL. She married the love of her life on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1953, Francis E. Sanders. Dorothy loved staying busy at home by crocheting and quilting. She always loved being involved in history, whether it was hers or her community's. She was a member of the Davis Junction Historical Soci-

ety and an avid genealogy researcher.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband of 64 years Francis, daughter Debbie Sanders, son Scott Sanders, granddaughter Haylie, and great-grandson Benjamin.

She is survived and dearly missed by her son Paul (Linda) Sanders of Davis Junction, IL; and her grandchildren Jason (Sarah) Sanders of Shelbyville, KY and Scott (Katie) Reynolds of Davis Junction, IL.

Dorothy will be laid to rest privately next to her husband at St. Mary's Cemetery in Byron, IL. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com)

### Angela 'Angie' Stephenitch

**BELLEVILLE, WIS.** — Angela (Angie) Stephenitch, age 51, left this earth after a long illness on November 1, 2023. Born in Dixon, IL daughter of Estelle (Dave) Shippert and Chuck (Karen) Stephenitch on June 16, 1972.



her parents, son Ayden Williams, siblings: Son-dra Gentry, Michelle Ditsworth, Andy (Heather) Stephenitch, Brook (Lucas) Derry, and special friend Dennis Williams.

Special Thanks to the wonderful, caring staff at Heartsong, and Promedica Hospice. A private gathering will be held for immediate family only. No other services will be held. Cremation rites have been accorded.

## Registration is open for online Master Gardener training beginning Jan. 29

**OREGON** — For 48 years, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners have measured success by gardens planted, insects identified, produce harvested and the millions of hours volunteers have logged by helping others learn to grow.

Take your love of gardening to the next level in 2024 by joining an online training course which will be offered by the Ogle County Extension office. Whether you're interested in the Master Gardener certification process and continuing on to volunteer in your community, or you're simply interested in bettering your own gardening knowledge, Master Gardener training is for you.

Online training is again being offered starting Jan. 29, 2024 and registration is open until Jan. 10, 2024. This flexible, self-guided course is



for Illinois residents and can be taken from the comfort of home and can be completed at any time. This course is aimed at exposing participants to in-depth horticulture content through 13 modules including soils and fertilizers, plant diseases, entomology, pest management organic gardening and more. The course can be completed in 14 weeks with four hours of weekly work and

costs \$300, visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/mg/become-master-gardener>.

After finishing training, you are eligible to apply to become an Illinois Extension Master Gardener Volunteer. Master Gardener volunteers participate in education programs in their communities. Those opportunities may include speaking at garden clubs, civic groups, or schools; answering

calls or emails at garden help desks; establishing demonstration gardens that serve as educational tools; and educating citizens on how to establish community gardens.

Contact Cindy Jankiewicz, Ogle County Extension program coordinator at 815-732-2191 or email [cjankie@illinois.edu](mailto:cjankie@illinois.edu) if you have questions or need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program.

## BPD's Operation Santa enters 33rd year

**BYRON** — The Byron Police Department's Operation Santa has been making Christmas a little brighter for the less-fortunate children in the Byron community for the past 33 years. Byron Kiwanis has been partnering with the police department for 15 years, hosting Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus where all toy and monetary donations benefit Operation Santa.

Byron Kiwanis is once again offering Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus! This year's event will be held in the cafeteria at Mary Morgan Elementary school on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausage, applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. Breakfast is free. However, a donation of a new, unwrapped gift would be appreciated. Our greatest need is gifts for children ages 7-10 and 11-14. In lieu of a gift, monetary donations will be gratefully accepted.

If you are unable to make it to the breakfast and would like to contribute, checks payable to Operation Santa can be dropped off at or mailed to the Byron Police Department, PO Box 923, Byron IL 61010. These donations will be used to purchase gifts for specific age groups that will be distributed through People

Helping People.

Operation Santa continues to succeed through dedicated volunteers and thrives on the generosity of our community members. Through this program, over 5,000 children have received gifts at Christmas.

Parents or guardians of children (up to age 14) who would benefit from the Operation Santa program are asked to call the Byron Police Department, 815-234-5000. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to register. Parents will be asked to provide the children's names, ages and gender. Names must be submitted no later than Wednesday, Nov. 15.

# WIN A FREE TURKEY!

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1. Register, complete as many of the coupons on this page as you'd like. Be sure to fill out each completely, with your name, address and daytime phone number.
2. Coupons MUST be deposited in the registration boxes located at the business advertised on the coupon. No purchase necessary to enter.
3. Deadline is Wednesday, November 15th at Noon.
4. One coupon at each of the participating sponsors will be drawn. Winners names will be published in the Life on Monday, November 20th.
5. Winners will be mailed certificates for their turkey.
6. Contest registrants must be at least 18 years old.
7. Employees of the newspaper and participating sponsors are not eligible.
8. One turkey per person

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Wells named September 2023 Student of the Month at Polo Community High School

*Polo senior participates in Spanish Club and Student Council*

**POLO** —Elleanna Wells was recently named the September Student of the Month at Polo Community High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts.

Wells' extracurricular activities include Spanish Club and Student Council. After high school, she hopes to attend a university and major in the medical field.

Upon winning the award, Wells filled out a list of questions about her school experience.



all while Mrs. Cole shares her life experiences as well. Going around the entire school and putting positive personalized messages on sticky notes and then putting them on people's locker was my favorite project that we did so far. Being able to talk about topics that aren't really spoken about in school is really interesting and the class is such a blast.

**What plans do you have after high school?**

My dream is to get my PhD and become an OB/GYN. I have been looking into The University of Illinois, Illinois State University, and specifically The University of Iowa. I have visited Iowa many times due to my brother attending college there, but they also have an amazing medical program. I am hoping, in the summer before we all go to college, that my friends and I can go on a huge road trip around the country.

**Two favorite extracurricular activities?**

My two favorites are Spanish Club

and Student Council. Spanish Club is run by our Spanish 4 class with the assistance of our Spanish teacher Alicia Garrett. Our famous trip to Chicago is my favorite because I get to wander around the big city with my friends. We also have scary movie nights and Christmas parties for the whole club. I would say that I am the most involved in Student Council because it is my favorite. Being involved with our entire student body fills me with achievement. My favorite event that we planned was our Field Day last year, because due to COVID-19 we were never able to have one. Being able to help plan events and to be able to do that for the entire school year always keeps me active.

**School moment that was memorable?**

I have so many memories, but my favorite is solving the murder mystery in Forensics and accusing all of the teachers or putting a toilet we found on the side of the road in Mr. Horst's door step during Homecoming week.

**Hopes for the future?**

I hope that I get into my dream school and achieve all the goals I am striving for. I hope that my senior year continues to be a blast before we all leave each other, but I hope that everyone goes out into the real world outside of small town Polo and have the best times of their lives. I hope that I stay in contact with my closest friends and I get to grow old with them, happy and healthy.



**Polo Women's Club drive sees 240 coats donated by the community**

The Fourth Annual Polo Women's Club coat drive on Nov. 4 was a success thanks to the over 240 coats donated by the community. Crossroads Community Church again offered the use of their facility to the club and new and gently used items were displayed for ease in selection. A number of individuals and families were successful in finding just the right coat, mitten or scarf to keep them warm this winter. Any remaining items will be given to selected local agencies that will meet the needs of other community members at no cost. Front row (left to right): Louise Hall, Gloria Schneider, Kay Tyne, Leslie McPherson, Mary Cimino and Dianne Miller. Back row (left to right): Pat Kuhn, Charlene Dunavin and Sheila Dean.



**Polo Lions Club donates \$2,000 to Polo Lifeline Food Pantry**

On Saturday, Oct. 21 Polo Lions Club First Vice President Nate White presented a \$2,000 donation to Kathy Wragg, director of the Polo Lifeline Food Pantry. Kathy said this will help with their Thanksgiving dinners.



**Polo Lions Club delivers groceries every Wednesday**

On Wednesday, Oct. 25 Ron Chamberlain is loading his car to make three grocery deliveries. The Polo Lions Club does the grocery deliveries every Wednesday. There is a different Lions member each week that does the deliveries. The weather is a changing and soon there will be snow on the ground. If you are someone or you know someone that has a hard time getting around in the snow or just don't want to go out in the cold air, call the Polo Fresh Food Market on Tuesdays between 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. to order your groceries. There is a \$25 minimum to get the delivery. This service is provided by the Polo Lions Club. A donation or tip is greatly appreciated but not a requirement.

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# LOCAL NEWS



**Oregon Lions serve food at AOP**

Despite the cool temperatures, Oregon Lions once again sold several hundred pork chops and brats to the people attending the Autumn on Parade Festival on Oct. 7 and 8 in Oregon. The Oregon Lions want to thank the volunteers who stepped in to help, as well as the members of the public who purchased the sandwiches. The profits from this, and other events organized by the Oregon Lions, are used to support many worthy charities. Pictured: Lion Jim Hoff cooks up the brats. Lion Grant Afflerbaugh cooks pork chops. Lion Tom Duym and Lion Joanne Farrey (absent from photo) travel with the wagon to sell chops and brats. Lions Carol Ohrn and Mary Jo Moser serve the drinks. Lion Mitch Logan seasons the chops. Lions Joanna Cermak and Joan Smola sell tickets.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**NOV. 15**  
Basics of Medicare Byron, an educational and informational presentation on the Medicare insurance program will be presented for the community at 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15, at the United Church of Byron located at 701 W. Second St., Byron. The emphasis will be on the eligibility and enrollment periods, benefits, and options concerning all parts of Medicare. All are welcome. Presenter will be Greg Wills for the program. This program is sponsored by the Legacy and Endowment Committee of the United Church of Byron as a community service. The United Church of Byron is a fun and diverse church with a heart for mission! Check us out at [www.unitedchurchofbyron.org](http://www.unitedchurchofbyron.org) Disclaimer: This program is educational and informational only. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-Medicare to get information on all of your options.

**DEC. 1**  
The Byron Museum will host Festival of Trees on Friday, Dec. 1 from 6-8:30 p.m. and we invite you to come see the trees. This is a great chance to celebrate the season with your loved ones and see what's new at the Museum. The Byron Museum of History, in conjunction with the Byron Chamber of Commerce's Miracle on

Second Street, invites businesses, civic organizations, churches, and other groups to bring in artificial trees and decorate them with adornments of their choice. This is an opportunity to share information about your organization, advertise an upcoming event, or promote your business. Last year over 600 visitors attended this event. The deadline to register and set up your tree is Wednesday, Nov. 29, there is a \$5 entry fee. For more information or to register, visit [www.byronmuseum.org](http://www.byronmuseum.org) or call the Byron Museum at 234-5031.

**DEC. 2**  
The Byron Museum of History is hosting an indoor market from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. Visit the indoor market in the old Byron Theater for tasty treats, unique gifts, vintage collectables and coins. Get your holiday shopping done with help from local artisans. Many of the indoor vendors set up booths at the Harry Cow Farmer's Market during the summer, providing homegrown popcorn, handmade gifts, baked goods, and all natural body care. Byron Museum and Indoor Market admission is always free.

**DEC. 16**  
The museum will host a Byron Women's Club fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 16. Drop off your gifts and

pick them up wrapped! All donations go toward the scholarship fund.

Byron Women's Club proudly donates to 13 local charities and supports a women's empowerment scholarship each year for a young woman pursuing further education. The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Collectively, we are Living the Volunteer Spirit. Byron Museum's theater space is now available to rent for your private parties and public events. The Byron Museum of History is dedicated to preserving the Byron area's rich history through exhibits, programs, and artifact preservation. The Museum Complex consists of a large exhibit hall with varied displays and encompasses the historic Read House - which is a listed site on the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The new Underground Railroad exhibit is now open in the Lucius Read House! Other permanent museum exhibits include: Agriculture Then and Now, Local Veterans, Byron Business, Trains, A.G. Spalding and Outhouses. Open Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., located at 110 N. Union St., Byron IL 61010. [www.byronmuseum.org](http://www.byronmuseum.org).

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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  
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## MOMENTS IN TIME

\* On Nov. 27, 2017, eight donkeys were released from jail after four days' imprisonment for the crime of eating expensive saplings in the Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh, India. Authorities said the animals had made a mess of the plants, which were worth nearly \$1,000 and placed near the jail as part of a governmental cleanup campaign, even after their owner was "warned a couple of times."

\* On Nov. 28, 1920, 36 volunteers for the Irish Republican Army ambushed the Royal Irish Constabulary's Auxiliary near Kilmichael in County Cork, killing 16 soldiers. The attack occurred one week after "Bloody Sunday" and marked an escalation in the IRA's campaign during the Irish War of Independence.

\* On Nov. 29, 1877, with very little preamble, a young Thomas Edison demonstrated his hand-cranked phonograph for the first time at the office of the "Scientific American." The editors were astonished to hear the machine say: "Good morning. How do you do? How do you like the phonograph?" Edison patented the device a few months later.

\* On Nov. 30, 2022, Russia's upper house of Parliament unanimously voted against promoting homosexual relationships in advertising, books and films, assigning a fine of up to 5 million rubles (approximately \$80,000) to anyone caught violating the ban.

\* On Dec. 1, 1960, Paul McCartney and original Beatles drummer Pete Best were arrested in Hamburg, Germany, and deported from the country on the mistaken accusation of attempted arson. The men were given just five minutes to pack their belongings, and Best even had to leave his drums behind.

\* On Dec. 2, 1777, legend holds that a Philadelphia housewife and nurse by the name of Lydia Darragh helped save the lives of Gen. George Washington and his Continental Army when she overheard British soldiers planning a surprise attack on the general's army, to take place on the following day, and alerted American Lt. Thomas Craig.

\* On Dec. 3, 1947, Tennessee Williams' play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway, featuring Vivien Leigh as the emotionally troubled Blanche Dubois and Marlon Brando in his breakout role as her antagonistic brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski. The drama earned a half hour of applause from the audience at its conclusion, and a Pulitzer Prize for Williams.

## Thanks for Volley for the Cure donations

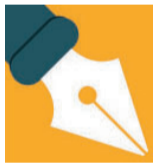
**Dear editor,**  
The Oregon High School Volleyball Team would like to extend a huge thank you to our local businesses listed for their generous donations (basket raffle) for the annual Volley for the Cure Event held Oct. 5 at the Blackhawk Center in Oregon. Fundraisers included a bake sale, chuck a duck and apparel sales raising \$1365 donated to cancer research.

Thank you to all those who attended, played, volunteered and helped support this event.

Crest Foods, Rooted Salon, Red Stone Salon, Joanne's Salon, Jen's Artisan Breads, Oregon

Park District, Oregon High School, Venezia's Salon, AM Florals, Little Blue Cottage, Berry View Orchard, Oregon Snyders, Caseys of Oregon, Merlins, Blackhawk Steak Pit, Cork & Tap, Reign XT, Wicked, Hectors, Tricia Egedy, Hough's Farm, Rustic Ridge axe, Stillman Bank, Happily Handmade, Craft Niche, Rock River Title, KDFarmhouse Designs, Father & Son of Oregon, Central Bank, Kim Davis for Mary Kay, Beth Shenberger for Pampered Chef, Chana Tap, Pepper Mill of Mt. Morris, and Dos Amigos of Oregon.

**The Oregon High School Volleyball Team**



## 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.

## Agricultural trade is critical

**T**RADE. Webster's defines it as: The action of selling goods and services.

In a global economy trade is not only a necessity it is what creates economic prosperity. No industry knows this more than agriculture. While many of the commodities we produce are used domestically for feed, biofuels, industrial applications and others, without trade we could not make farming profitable.

America's farmers and ranchers lead the world in producing safe, sustainable food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad. Agricultural trade is critical to our national economy and to the economic sustainability of family farms and ranches, but non-scientific trade barriers and tariffs restrict farmers' ability to compete in global markets. We rely on robust trade agreements to establish a level playing field for farmers and ranchers and to protect the jobs and businesses that agriculture supports in the U.S.

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework has been formally launched by the U.S., along with Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. The Administration's objectives for the new IPEF includes working with the other countries to expand trade, improve supply chains, promote sustainability, support agriculture, and remove non-tariff trade barriers. The IPEF focuses on science-based food safety standards, will reduce trade barriers, and help expand trade opportunities for U.S. agricultural goods.

The U.S. and Taiwan will begin trade talks following an agreed upon agenda, called the "Initiative on 21st-Century Trade." Taiwan imported \$3.8 billion of U.S. agricultural products in 2021, including beef, dairy products, soybeans, fruit, tree nuts, vegetables, and other products. An agreement that adopts science-based food safety standards will help expand trade opportunities for U.S. agricultural goods.

The agreed upon trade agenda will include science-based regulatory practices, agriculture collab-

oration on common standards, digital trade, labor, environment, trade facilitation, state-owned enterprises, and non-market practices. The initiative will not include market access measures such as reducing or eliminating tariffs.



**Ron Kern**

The United States and the United Kingdom began trade agreement negotiations in May 2020. The U.S. exported \$2 billion in agricultural products to the UK in 2019, while the UK exported \$1.9 billion in agricultural products to the U.S.

As the UK has left the EU it is able to conclude a trade agreement with the U.S. However, these negotiations have not continued since 2020.

Include all agricultural products and policies in the negotiations, Eliminate non-tariff trade barriers, Ensure market access for biotechnology products, Address issues concerning import-sensitive products, Oppose the Precautionary Principle, and Oppose the use of geographic indicators.

On Jan. 15, 2020, the U.S. signed a "Phase 1" trade agreement with China that went into force on Feb. 14, 2020. As a part of the agreement, China has agreed to purchase at least \$80 billion of U.S. agricultural products cumulatively in 2020 and 2021. The U.S. exported \$27 billion of agricultural products to China in 2020 and \$34 billion in 2021. Soybeans, corn, pork sorghum and wheat were major purchases by China.

Reforms in food standards affecting imports of beef, poultry, dairy and horticultural products have been implemented by China. America's farmers and ranchers are eager to get back to business globally and restoring our ability to be competitive in China is key to that.

Reduction or elimination of non-tariff barriers is included for meat, poultry, rice, dairy and other products. The biotechnology approval process is also improved.

Tariffs, imposed on Sept. 1, 2019, have been reduced from 15 percent to 7.5 percent on \$112 billion of imports from China. Tariffs remain at 25 percent on \$250 billion of imports.

With the implementation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement,

U.S. farmers and ranchers are eager to realize the more than \$2 billion in additional farm exports and \$65 billion in gross domestic product the pact is expected to provide. The three countries signed the USMCA, the successor to NAFTA, on Nov. 30, 2018, and a revised version of the agreement was signed Dec. 10, 2019. With all three countries having ratified the agreement, USMCA entered into force on July 1, 2020.

Ongoing work with Mexico to resolve disputes regarding biotechnology approvals and the use of glyphosate.

Continued case with Canada's dairy import regulations.

Designed to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, the USMCA builds on important trade relationships in North America.

The agreement is expected to increase U.S. ag exports by \$2 billion and result in a \$65 billion increase in gross domestic product.

The agreement will provide new market access for American dairy and poultry products while preserving the zero-tariff platform on all other ag products.

In particular, the agreement gives U.S. dairy products access to an additional 3.6 percent of Canada's dairy market - even better than what was proposed in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

U.S. wheat will be treated more fairly, thanks to Canada's agreement to grade our wheat no less favorably than its own.

Mexico and the United States have also agreed that all grading standards for ag products will be non-discriminatory.

Additional provisions enhance science-based trading standards among the three nations as the basis for sanitary and phytosanitary measures for ag products, as well as progress in the area of geographic indicators.

The agreement also includes measures that address cooperation, information sharing and other trade rules among the three nations related to agricultural biotechnology and gene editing.

"There is no friendship in trade." -Cornelius Vanderbilt

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

## No justice for Jane Doe?

**I**MAGINE being a woman locked in a state prison who is repeatedly raped by a male staff member.

Recently, a federal jury in Springfield awarded a woman referred to in court documents as "Jane Doe" \$19 million for such violations she suffered while incarcerated at Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln.

And how much did Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office initially offer to settle the suit? \$10,000.

You read that right. Our state's chief legal officer put a value on this woman's victimization somewhere below the price tag of a 15-year-old pickup truck.

She wasn't just victimized by her rapist, but also by lawyers representing the state. They pooh-poohed her trauma with a lowball offer. They may well have been betting that the former gymnastics instructor from McHenry County didn't have the grit to tell a courtroom full of people what had been done to her.

According to a report by the legal news service Law360, the state attorney general's office offered to settle the lawsuit, at first offering Doe \$10,000, and finally \$50,000.

The report didn't say whether a shrug accompanied the offers. But there might as well have been one.

A sick sociological calculus often accompanies negotiations such as these. Inmates are the untouchables in the American caste system. Their worth is seen as somehow "less than." For some, prisoners are viewed as less than free people. For others, less than human.

But a jury saw things differently. It awarded \$8 million in compensatory damages and \$11.3 million in punitive damages against Prison Counselor Richard MacLeod, Lead Prison Investigator Todd Sexton and Warden Margaret Burke.

The civil complaint alleges when Doe would go to MacLeod's office to make phone calls to her child, he repeatedly exposed himself to her. On two occasions, he demanded and received oral sex and on two other times had nonconsensual intercourse.

"Nonconsensual intercourse?" Oh, how I hate how

lawyers sanitize the most reprehensible acts. How about just calling it what it is? Rape.

No one deserves to be raped. No one. In fact, Illinois law prohibits sex between inmates and prison workers. Such contact is always nonconsensual.

Always.

Doe showed up in court and told her story. But MacLeod was nowhere to be seen.

"The actual perpetrator, Richard MacLeod, never showed up to defend himself," Doe's lawyer Nicole Schult said. "So, everything that our client alleged happened was taken as a matter of law to be true. So, the state itself never had a chance or an opportunity to say that none of this happened. No one in the course of this trial has ever said that what happened to my client didn't happen."

MacLeod left the Illinois Department of Corrections in 2018 but according to his online resume, he's now a captain in the U.S. Army.

With substantiated civil allegations like these levied against him, why is he serving in a position of such authority? More importantly, why hasn't Logan County State's Attorney Bradley Hauge filed criminal charges?

Schult said her client has never been given a reason by the prosecutor. I reached out to Hauge to see if he would give a reason to the folks who elected him. I never received a call back.

When a prosecutor won't communicate with either victims or those who elected him, one has to ask: Who does he really serve?

Well, rural Logan County has two state prisons. And correctional officers are important constituents. Could the political clout of the guards have this prosecutor shaking in his wingtips?

We don't know. He's not talking. For that matter, Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office remains mum on the civil lawsuit.

But the jury did speak: loud and clear.

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



**Scott Reeder**



# LOCAL NEWS

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

### Driver arrested for no valid driver's license

**OREGON** — On Oct. 31 at around 11:13 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of East Illinois Route 38 and Brush Grove Road. After a brief investigation, it was learned that Yilber Sorza-Mayorga, 26, of Rochelle, was driving the vehicle with no valid license. Sorza-Mayorga was arrested for no valid license and released with a notice to appear. Sorza-Mayorga was additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and no taillights.

On Oct. 31 at approximately 3:59 p.m. deputies arrived at 3279 South Illinois Route 251 regarding a reported battery. After an investigation, deputies placed a 15-year-old juvenile male into limited custody for battery. The juvenile was transported to the Kane County Juvenile Detention Center. The 15-year-old male victim was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

On Nov. 1 at approximately 7:57 p.m. deputies responded to a criminal damage to property complaint in the 11,000 block of North Kennedy Hill Road. After investigation, deputies placed Kai Young, 18, of Byron under arrest for criminal damage to property under \$500. Young was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear with a future court date. Byron Police Department also assisted with the incident.

On Nov. 2 at approximately 7:24 p.m. deputies responded to the 14,000 block of East Bethel Road in reference to a vehicle in the ditch with minor damage. Upon arrival, deputies located a female driver and a small child inside the vehicle. After investigation, deputies placed Elizabeth Widolff, 31, of West Brooklyn under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol and child endangerment. Widolff was additionally issued a citation for illegal transportation of alcohol. Widolff was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On Nov. 2 at approximately 1:14 p.m. deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 15,800 block of East Big Mound Road. After conducting an investigation, deputies arrested Austin Loyd, 27, of Rochelle, for aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol, aggravated driving while license suspended, misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol, misdemeanor driving while license suspended, no insurance, improper lane usage, illegal transportation of alcohol, improper lane usage and an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Loyd was transported to the Ogle County Jail for his charges, where he was given a notice to appear for his traffic charges but remained in custody on the warrant.

On Nov. 4 at approximately 9:16 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the

2,000 block of South Illinois Route 2 for a registration violation. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Gustavo Vargas Vazquez, 36, of Rockford, for driving while license revoked. Vargas was additionally cited for expired registration and no insurance. Vargas was released on a notice to appear and shall appear in court on a later date.

On Nov. 5 at approximately 8:07 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of North 4th Street in Oregon. After investigation, deputies placed Brandon Wiley, 43, of DeKalb under arrest for driving while license revoked. Wiley was additionally issued citations for a suspended registration and operating an uninsured vehicle. Wiley was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear.

On Nov. 6 at approximately 11:34 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Kishwaukee Road and Meridian Road. After investigation, deputies placed Juwane Parchman, 26, of Rockford, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Parchman was given a written warning for illegal window tint. Parchman was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On Nov. 6 at approximately 10:34 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 9,000 block of North Meridian Road. After investigation, deputies placed Camryn Busche, 24, of Byron, under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Busche was additionally issued citations for an inoperable registration light, operating an uninsured vehicle, and illegal transportation of alcohol. Busche was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was later released on a notice to appear.

On Nov. 6 at approximately 12:44 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 88 at mile marker 78 on a white Ford E350 box truck. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Steven J. Crawford, 51, of Rock Falls, for driving while license suspended. Crawford was taken into custody without incident and released on a notice to appear with a return court date set in early December. Crawford was additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and issued a written warning for improper traffic lane usage.

On Nov. 6 at 7:54 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of North Illinois Route 251 for an equipment violation. As a result, Angel A. Guerrero, 23, of Rockford was arrested for driving while license suspended. Guerrero was additionally issued a citation for no muffler. Guerrero was subsequently released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

*All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.*

### VFW food baskets available for those in need

**OREGON** — Once again at Christmas time, Oregon VFW Post 8739 will be making and delivering Christmas food baskets to families and individuals who are in need in the Oregon area.

We are still going through tough times. Everyone is experiencing setbacks from COVID-19 which led to lost jobs and sick families. Groceries are at an all-time high. We are asking those who can donate for this purpose please be generous again this year. Donations can be sent to Oregon VFW Post 8739 at 1310 W.

Washington St., Oregon IL, 61061. We normally do 120+ baskets. We feel the number will be much larger this year. We want to send a heartfelt thanks to those who donate. It truly makes people happy.

Any family or individual who is in need must call the VFW Monday through Thursday from 4-7 p.m. (815-732-6851). Please do not call on Fridays as our phone and people are busy with other work. We will start taking calls Nov. 13. In order to order food we will stop taking calls Dec. 4. Each individual or family must call for

themselves. Even if you have called in the past you need to call this year to update your information and make sure you are on the list. We will only ask for address, phone number and number living in your household. Baskets may be a little different due to shortages in food supplies.

An adult must be home Dec. 16, 2023 to receive the basket. Delivery's will start around 8:30 a.m. and should be finished by noon.

We will start taking phone calls Nov. 13. We ask you to please be patient we know this is important.

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### 2023 HOME SCHEDULE

SEP. 9  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

SEP. 23  
TULSA

OCT. 14  
OHIO

OCT. 21  
EASTERN MICHIGAN

NOV. 7  
BALL STATE

NOV. 14  
WESTERN MICHIGAN

# LOCAL NEWS

## Chana School Museum installs new tribute

CHANA — The Chana School Museum Foundation recently installed a tribute bell outside of the 1883 Chana School to honor the hundreds of community volunteers who worked on this important restoration project. The cast iron bell is similar to the original bell now hanging in the Chana School Museum bell tower.



These large school bells were once in the bell towers of most of the 225 one-room schoolhouses located throughout Ogle County before school consolidation closed them down starting in the 1940s and 50s. The large tribute bell gives visitors and students coming for school living-history field trips the opportunity to see the bell up-close. ED Etnyre & Company of Oregon painted the bell, and they also donated the custom laser-cut steel sign. Paul Steingaber of Mt. Morris did the limestone base masonry work.

moved from its original location in Chana seven miles to Oregon Park East in 1998. Then after five years of countless hours of hundreds of community volunteers, the building was totally restored to how it looked in the 1890's and opened to the public in 2003. The Chana School Museum was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005 as the only two-room wooden schoolhouse in Illinois.

The Chana School Museum is located at 201 North River Road at Oregon Park East and is open for school field trips and unique events. The Chana School Museum's Oregon Ganymedes Vintage Base Ball Club plays early-rules historic baseball games on the lawn of the museum from May to September.

The Chana School Museum was restored and is maintained by the all-volunteer Chana School Foundation who saved the historic school from demolition 25 years ago. The building was

## Forrestville Valley Education Foundation thanks departing members

FORRESTON — The Forrestville Valley Education Foundation would like to thank members Jennifer Birkholz Madden, Michele Chenong and Monty Cotter for their years of service on the Forrestville Valley Education Foundation Board. The foundation presented recognition plaques to the departing members at the Oct. 4 meeting.

The Forrestville Valley Education Foundation would like to welcome newly-appointed members: Dr. Eric Coy, Mr. Shawn Nelson and Mrs. Becky Thiel.

The Forrestville Valley Education Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization whose mission is to provide for the educational needs of the students in the Forrestville Valley School District #221. The major fundraiser for the organization is Forreston's Vedra Scramble for Education Golf Outing which occurs annually in September.

Each year, the Foundation allows Forrestville Valley School District staff members to submit



Departing Forrestville Valley Education Foundation Members Jennifer Birkholz Madden and Monty Cotter. Michele Chenong was not present.

grant proposals to enhance an area of curriculum for students. The projects are for students in grades Pre-K-12. Recipients of the 2023 grants are: Heather Schiesher, Jonathan Stauffer, Kelly Leddy and Kara Brunton. The foundation also awards scholarships to graduating seniors from Forreston High School and provides support for district technology needs. In addition, the Foundation provides funding

for Project Lead the Way STEM programming and recognition for Teacher of the Year.

Anyone can make a tax-free donation to the Education Foundation for any specific purpose. Donations have included memorial funds for special student scholarships, or funds for very specific items in the name of a loved one. Donations are accepted at any time and always appreciated.

regarding the Forrestville Valley Education Foundation, please contact any of the current foundation board members or Superintendent Smith at (815) 938-2036. Current foundation members include: Mrs. Christina Bergin, Mr. Don Cook, Dr. Eric Coy, Mr. Brian Daws, Mr. Scott Drake, Mr. Nick Gill, Mrs. Shawna Korf, Mr. Shawn Nelson, Mrs. Sheri Smith, Mrs. Becky Thiel, Mrs. Barb Wells and Mr. Darrell Windle.

## Washington Grove Cemetery seeking donations

ASHTON — Do you have a loved one buried at the Washington Grove Cemetery on Flagg Road, in Ashton? Perpetual cemetery care of mowing, weed control and tree maintenance is constant and costly. Even though all board members volunteer, with only approximately three burials a year, this being the main source of income, it doesn't keep up with expenses. So, please consider donating to help keep your loved one's burial site looking nice. Send donations to: Cemetery Treasurer, 4317 East Hogan Road, Chana, IL 61015. Thank you.



## Carefree 4-H Club kicks off new year

OREGON — The Carefree 4-H Club met Sept. 11 as the start of the new 4-H year! The club held elections for new officers. We talked about our community service projects for the new year. And we talked about participating in Autumn on Parade. It was also reminded to all the members about enrollment for the new year. The Carefree 4-H club did a float in Autumn on Parade on Oct. 8. Everyone in the club had a lot of fun! The members passed out candy and stickers. Some of the members walked and some rode scooters. The next day was our October meeting. The club voted on planning to do the LSSI Holiday Hope Chest in December. The club may also plan on donating a Thanksgiving meal to a family in need. If you are interested in joining 4-H, please contact the Ogle County Extension office for a list local clubs in your area!

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Prices Effective: Wednesday, November 15 thru Thursday, November 23, 2023  
ALL ITEMS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO RAIN CHECKS | NO RETURNS | NO EXCHANGES

**CLOSING THANKSGIVING DAY AT 4PM**

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Mrs. Smith's <b>PIES</b> Select Varieties 35-37 oz <b>3.99</b>	Kemps <b>EGG NOG</b> Select Varieties 32 oz <b>3.99</b>	<b>GREEN BEANS</b> <b>99¢ lb</b>	<b>SWEET POTATOES</b> <b>49¢ lb</b>	<b>CELERY BUNCH</b> <b>99¢ ea</b>

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- NO RAINCHECKS
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<b>WHITE MEAT TURKEY DINNER</b> for 12-14   <b>\$199.99</b>	<b>HOLIDAY GLAZED HAM DINNER</b> for 4   <b>\$59.99</b>

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<b>2.49 lb</b>	<b>2.29 lb</b>	<b>2.49 lb</b>	
<b>4.49 lb</b>	<b>4.99 lb</b>		

**\$3.00 Off** KENTUCKY LEGEND WHOLE OR HALF HAM



# Byron's Weekley to perform at Packers game Nov. 19 with UW-W marching band

**WHITEWATER, Wis.** — Caleb Weekley from Byron is among the student musicians from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Warhawk Marching Band who will perform at the Green Bay Packers home game against the Los Angeles Chargers on Sunday, Nov. 19.

Weekley, who is studying music at UW-Whitewater, is part of the percussion section in the marching band.

The 162-member band was invited to perform at halftime and post-game at Lambeau Field in front of a potential crowd of more than 80,000 people.

The group last performed at Lambeau Field on Sept. 10, 2017.

"We are thrilled to



The Warhawk Marching Band performs at halftime in front of a record crowd of more than 20,000 at Perkins Stadium at Family Fest on Saturday, Oct. 7. (UW-Whitewater photo/Craig Schreiner)

be able to return to Lambeau Field," said Glenn Hayes, director of bands at UW-Whitewater. "The students have been working with a strong focus and determination to give an incredible performance. I could not be more

proud of each and every one of them!"

The band's performance, titled "ALIVE!," includes the movie and musical hits "Come Alive" from The Greatest Showman and "The Club" from In the

Heights.

The Warhawk Marching Band performs at all UW-Whitewater football regular season home games and other select campus and community events during the fall semester. UW-Whitewater hosts

the annual Wisconsin School Music Association State Marching Band Championships every October.

The marching band is one of several musical ensembles at the university. In addition to Lambeau Field,

UW-Whitewater's ensembles perform in other famous venues around the world, including Carnegie Hall in New York City, the Symphony Center in Chicago, and at venues in Germany, Poland and England.

**RE/MAX**  
of Rock Valley

**NEW LISTING!**



**15820 Patch Road, Morrison \$195,000 Call Jenny**

You could be HOME Sweet HOME in this desirable 3 bedroom ranch on the edge of town. There is ample room for entertaining and relaxing, inside and out. Large living room upstairs and massive family room with dry bar and gas fireplace downstairs. The kitchen features an abundance of cabinets, an island, and plenty of countertop space to prepare meals and gather. The home is tastefully decorated throughout with new flooring in the bedrooms and some updated lighting. The basement has been water proofed and has a lifetime warranty as well as a new sump pump system with battery back up. Exterior of the home has a fenced yard, deck, and above ground pool with newer liner and pump. AC is unit is 5 years old.


**NEW LISTING**



**2568 E. Bourbonnais Place, Byron \$499,000 Call Boone**

Looking for the perfect home in a peaceful and serene neighborhood? Look no further! This stunning 5 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home at 2568 E Bourbonnais Place is waiting for you. Step inside and be greeted by the spacious foyer and welcoming living room complete with hardwood flooring and large windows letting in plenty of natural light. The open floor plan flows effortlessly into the kitchen and dining area, featuring beautiful cabinetry and granite countertops. The home also has a new furnace and windows throughout. With five generous bedrooms, there is plenty of room for everyone in the family. The master suite boasts a huge walk-in closet and luxurious en-suite bathroom with dual sinks, a soaking tub, and a separate shower. Located in a quiet and friendly neighborhood, this home is just a short drive from Byron Forest Preserve, local shops, and restaurants. Easy access to I-39 makes for a quick commute to nearby Rockford and the greater Chicago area. Don't miss out on the chance to make this stunning home yours. Schedule your showing today!

**NEW LISTING**



**1204 Fargo Avenue, Dixon \$77,500 Call Ashley**

REMODELED and READY!! Come take a look at this 2 bedroom and 1 bath home! Several modern updates have been completed so you can move right in. Take joy in the desirable main floor living. This home is sun filled with new windows and an abundance of beautifully placed lighting. Ease your mind with a newer roof, water heater, electrical, drywall, cabinets, flooring, bathroom, light fixtures, plumbing drains, and R-15 insulation. Plumbing to the street was replaced in 2022. All appliances stay. Perks of owning a smaller home include less area to heat/cool, clean, and maintain. You'll definitely want to entertain your family and friends here! Seller will offer specified credit amount at closing if buyer wants the option to choose their preference of kitchen countertops, cabinet hardware, and sink.

**NEW LISTING**



**5108 S. Hidden Heights, Oregon \$209,000 Call Mark**

Nice Ranch home with 3 bedrooms & 2 full baths on 3.09 Wooded Acres is now available between Oregon and Grand Detour! Beautiful kitchen has oak cabinets, double stainless sink, gas stove, stainless 2022 refrigerator, dishwasher & microwave that will all stay. Primary bedroom has big walk in closet & spacious master bath! Living room features a wood burning stove & newer laminate flooring. Central air is only 2 months old! Convenient 1st floor laundry/mudroom will save you steps. Extra large fenced backyard for the pets! Big heated out building with cement floors, extra tall 16' door, several rooms & plumbed for a bathroom. Lot is a half block off the river with many Walnut trees & Oregon schools. Owner is offering a Home Warranty. Being sold "As Is".

**NEW LISTING**



**201 W. Center Street, Mount Morris \$150,000 Call Rebecca**

ROOMY 4 BEDROOM, 2 BATHROOM HOME! If you are looking for a family home with space, look no further! This charming home has 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a 2-car garage. Main floor is roomy with loads of living space, full bathroom and main floor laundry. Upstairs you will find 4 bedrooms a full bathroom and screened in porch. Call for your private showing today!

**NEW PRICE**



**407 N. Division, Polo NOW \$75,000 Call Rebecca**

DUPLEX! Double the income at this duplex located near downtown Polo. One side is currently vacant and can easily be shown with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and laundry hooks up in the upstairs of unit. The other side is currently rented and has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and laundry in unit. Each tenant pays gas and electric, mows their portion of the yard and does their own snow removal. Landlord pays sewer and water bill. There is also a detached garage that gives each tenant one stall for additional storage. If you are looking for a great investment, call for a showing today!

**NEW PRICE**



**811 5th Avenue, Eerie NOW \$154,900 Call JD**

Welcome to this meticulously maintained 3-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom ranch home, ideally situated on the edge of town. This move-in ready residence offers a full finished basement and an attached 2-car garage, complete with a brand-new concrete garage floor and driveway installed in 2023. The beautiful open kitchen is well-equipped with appliances and provides ample pantry space, ensuring meal prep is a breeze. Enjoy the addition of an above-ground swimming pool, added in 2021, creating a perfect outdoor retreat. Stay comfortable year-round with a new furnace and A/C installed in 2019. Other noteworthy features include main floor laundry, an abundance of natural light, and a bathroom remodel in 2018. This home combines comfort, practicality, and style, making it the perfect choice to start the next chapter of your life. Don't wait to make it yours!



Freddie Mac started keeping track of mortgage rates every week starting April, 1971. Back then, the average rate for a 30-year mortgage was 7.33%, and it kept going up for over 10 years, reaching a peak of 18.63% in October 1981.

It took until August, 1993 for the 30-year fixed rate to drop below 7% for the first time. Two months later, it went down to 6.74%, hitting a record low.

If you had waited for rates to go down before buying a home, you would have had to wait until 1993. Meanwhile, home values had quadrupled.

The lesson here is to make decisions based on what's happening now, rather than waiting for the perfect moment.

606 E Washington St., Oregon, IL  
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# SPORTS NEWS

## NIU football falls to Ball State on last-second field goal

### 'We didn't make enough plays to get it done'

BY ANDY COLBERT  
CORRESPONDENT

**DEKALB** – Going into Tuesday's MACtion against Ball State, Northern Illinois University's football Coach Thomas Hammock spoke of the importance of getting a win to increase his team's chance for making a bowl.

Unfortunately for Hammock and his Huskies (4-6), a last-second field goal by Ball State (3-7) broke a 17-17 tie and severely hampered dreams of the post season. After the 20-17 loss, NIU needs to win its remaining two games to become bowl eligible.

"When we were up by seven (17-10), I thought we had control," Hammock said.

That is when quarterback Rocky Lombardi fumbled a handoff and Ball State recovered in Huskie territory. With 3:44 remaining in the game, Cardinal quarterback Kial Kelly threw his first career touchdown pass to tie the game 17-17.

A minute and a half later, history repeated itself with Lombardi fumbling, this time on an attempted pass. It was his third fumble of the game.

"A quarterback's job is to protect the ball," Hammock said. "We didn't do that. I don't blame players. That's one me."

Picking up two first downs, Ball State moved into field goal range and Jackson Courville connected on a 36-yarder after missing two attempts earlier in the contest.

"We didn't make enough plays to get it done," said a despondent Hammock in the press conference. "A humbling experience."

The loss nullified a standout performance by Trayvon Rudolph, who had 69 yards rushing and six catches for 57 yards. Rudolph had a long run and reception on NIU's first scoring drive, a four-yard touchdown run by Lombardi. Early in the fourth quarter, Rudolph broke free for a 35-yard touchdown run to give the Huskies the 17-10 lead.

"I try to be versatile and do everything I can to help the team win," Rudolph said.

A big question for Hammock is whether or not Lombardi can rebound from the turnovers to lead the Huskies against Western Michigan (4-6) and Kent State (1-8) in the final league games.

"If Rocky bounces back the way we need him too, we'll be fine," Hammock said. "He came back for a seventh year for a reason."

**"If Rocky bounces back the way we need him too, we'll be fine. He came back for a seventh year for a reason."**

**Coach Thomas Hammock**

### AREA SPORTS

#### Byron defeats Peotone in 2nd round of IHSA playoffs

On Nov. 4, the Byron varsity football team continued its undefeated season with a 56-7 victory over Peotone in the IHSA state football playoffs. Byron led

21-0 after one quarter and surrendered Peotone's lone touchdown in the second quarter. Caden Considine scored two touchdowns for Byron and ran 13 times for 170 yards. Brayden Knoll scored two touchdowns and ran for 102 yards on nine carries. Byron will now face Durand-Pecatonica on Nov. 11 at 1 p.m.

## A perfect day for running

**I**T was off to Peoria for the state cross-country meet this past week. I hadn't covered the state meet for a few years and after my alma mater Rochelle and hometown Oregon lost playoff games, I felt like a break from football anyway.

Compared to a year ago when the course was a mud bath, it was a perfect day for running, with sunny skies, negligible winds and ideal temps. Admittedly, football is more exciting to watch than cross country, but what a joy to witness a sea of runners at Detweiller Park, along with family and friends supporting them.

If your kid is on the cross-country team, you better believe that sport is more important to you than the more-popular football or volleyball. When I was in high school, I never would have done cross country because of the work it entailed. Credit to the young people that do.

I've developed an affinity for it much later in life. It's kind of like eating lima beans. Never would have eaten them when younger, but now they are taste good.

In assessing the state meet, the balance of power for the small schools is in the central and southern parts of the state, not so much in northern Illinois anymore.

Of the top-100 finishers for the 1A girls, the only places from around here were a 43rd and 99th by Winnebago girls.

On the boys side, Rockford Christian (eighth) and Winnebago (12th) still hold their own and Byron sophomore Tim Starwalt was 32nd out of 256 competitors, only seven spots out of all-state status.

Still, it was schools like Tuscola, Benton and Elmwood dominating, none of whom have soccer.

For larger 2A and 3A schools there are plenty of kids to support both cross country and soccer. For 1A, not so much and often the best runners at a school opt for soccer instead.

Likewise, with volleyball. Its popularity easily surpasses long-distance running among high school age girls. There is glamour in volleyball and not in cross country.

It was disappointing that only eight of the 64 IHSA football playoff games last week were on Friday. Granted, there

is a better chance of milder weather is during the daytime, but we're not in the dead of winter. Just because a team had played the Saturday before, doesn't mean they can't come back on a Friday, but hardly anyone ever does.

Coaches cite that rest is needed. That's hogwash. These are able-bodied teenagers with all kinds of energy.

In the early years of the playoffs, teams played on both Wednesday and Saturday of the first week. Nobody seemed to be tired from that endeavor.

Why would you be? There's an intoxicating element to being in the playoffs.

With Stillman Valley and Forreston losing second round games, Ogle County is down to Byron and Polo left.

Forreston losing to Le-Win was not a surprise, but a running clock with 2:27 left in the third quarter was. Not much more to say than that. Le-Win has built such a dynasty that Forreston, one of the elite programs in 1A, can't even compete with

them anymore.

With how powerful Le-Win has become, there is no shame in that. Even with the loss, Forreston has to be considered one of the top-five teams in the state for 2023.

Polo defeating Milledgeville in eight-man was not an upset, though the Missiles took it to the Marcos 58-22 in the regular season. I covered the earlier game and it appeared both teams were evenly matched, but Milledgeville made plays and Polo did not.

What is hard to figure out is how Milledgeville scored 58 points in the first game and only 6 in the second one?

Getting back to Friday night football. There is only one Friday night game in the third round and it is between two unlikely quarterfinalists, Sandwich and Wheaton Academy in 4A.

Sandwich's program was so demoralized that they couldn't even field a varsity team last year. Additionally, they have three bad losses this year.

Wheaton is 10-1, but plays a weak schedule and lost to a 1A opponent. So, how did these two reach the quarterfinals?

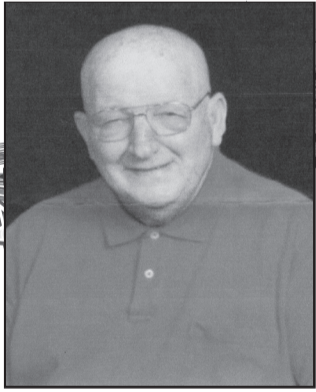
It's all about the luck of the draw, with several weak teams in the same 8-team quadrant. One of them will have the good fortune of reaching the semifinals.

With so many good schools, like Forreston, getting knocked out early, it doesn't seem fair. However, the IHSA doesn't seed teams on ability, but on a non-biased formula.

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



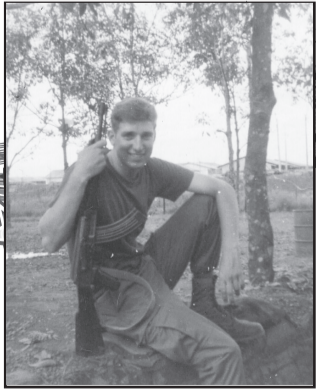
Andy Colbert




A Tribute To  
**Leonard E. Jones**  
US Army  
From,  
Kim Kruse and Cliff & Rhonda Jones

# Thanking Our Veterans


HONORING ALL WHO SERVED




A Tribute To  
**Mark Davis**  
Army - 169th Eng. BN  
Vietnam 1969-1970  
From,  
Your Loving Family



A Tribute To  
**Eric Davis**  
Army - 25th ID  
Vietnam 1967-1968  
From,  
Your Loving Family



A Tribute To  
**Bruce Fowler**  
US Navy  
Your Wife, Edie



A Tribute To  
**Warren Ippen**  
US Army  
From,  
Lonna, Gay, Edie, Beth, Lori & Betty

# LOCAL NEWS

## POLO AREA SENIOR SERVICES

*PASS - Tree of life community center*  
 101 E Mason St. Polo, IL 61064  
 Silver Sneakers Exercise Basic Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 and 10:15 am  
 POUND - Drumming class Wednesdays 1:00  
 Yoga/ Tai Chi Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00 am  
 We are closed 11/7 11/10 11/23 and 11/24 no classes those days  
 No exercise classes 11/21  
 ALL exercise classes are \$2.00 per class, or 10x punch card for \$20  
 Non-member \$2.50 per class  
 Blood Pressure Checks- second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:00 - 11:00 am  
 That cooking thing - Extra Dark Chocolate, Chocolate cake 11/9 @ 11:30  
 Line Dancing 11/14 & 11/28 @ 12:00  
 Breakfast out - Parkway Diner, Sterling 9:30 am  
 Brain Wits 11/27 @ 11:15  
 Wheel of Fortune - 11/22 @ 11:00  
 Medicare/ insurance help 11/29 @ 12:30  
 Decorating for Christmas will begin 11/20 during regular business hours through Dec 1.  
 Our festival of trees will once again sparkle. If you are interested in doing a tree for a group, or just for fun stop in or call 815-946-3818. The polo Christmas

festival takes place Saturday Dec 2. We will be open from 4:00 until 7:00. Refreshments will be served. We will have live Christmas music, a Children's tree with goodies for the kids, and a whole lot of Christmas cheer. Join us. Bring the kids out to see our Christmas village and train as well as 30 of the loveliest Christmas trees you'll ever see.  
 Friday Dec 8th @ 11:00 is our annual Membership luncheon. Its a great time to come see what's in store for the new year and to become a member. This year our meal will be Ham, Turkey and the works. Yearly memberships are \$25 per person. You DO NOT HAVE TO BE ANY PARTICULAR AGE TO JOIN. From now going forward we will be doing business as : Polo Area Senior Services - Tree of Life Community Center. Our activities are for the whole community. Won't you join us for some fun?  
 We do not require a membership to attend events; however your annual membership dues help us to provide the very best in programs and services.  
 Seats still available to see the Church basement ladies Christmas show in Dubuque. Our bus leaves at 3:45. Cost is \$60 that includes transportation and your show ticket. We will be eating in Dubuque before the show ( dinner - self pay) then we will attend a 7:00 pm show. Please call to sign up 815-946-3818

## POLO LIBRARY NEWS

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

Tot Time Tuesdays  
 Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m., for ages 1 to 3, social time for the littles and grown ups, many hands-on activities, arts and music, and of course, storytime & snack!!

### 3rd Mondays monthly, Maker Baker Monday

November 20th, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (no school), in our library downstairs kitchen area, learn how to make simple side dishes for turkey day, open to ages 10 & up, registration is required & space is limited.

### Every Thursday (except Thanksgiving)

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - for ages 12 & up (grades 6th & up) join Dungeons & Dragons on the library main floor, social center area.

### ADULT MONTHLY PROGRAMS

4th Monday, November 27th at 1:00 p.m. at the Polo Library

Book discussion of "44 Scotland Street #1" By Alexander McCall Smith. December's book will be "Wake Up With Purpose!" by Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt.

### DNA Genealogy Assistance

1st Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 3rd Saturdays monthly, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (November 1st & November 18th), Donna Baumann will be here to help you with genealogy questions, DNA questions or just help research your genealogy with any resources she has access to.

### Yoga with Becka is back!!

Wednesday, November

29th, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., downstairs children's library area. Encouraged to bring your own yoga mat. Registration is required, space is limited. Yoga will be held on the last Wednesdays, monthly.

### Sewing Club

Saturday, November 18th at 1 p.m., for 16 years and older, for beginners, intermediates, and advanced that enjoy sewing and sharing their craft, techniques, and tips with each other. Sewing machines are available here or bring your own if you like.

### NOVEMBER PROGRAMS FOR ALL

American Red Cross Wednesday, Novem-

ber 15th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - FREE Emergency Preparedness Training - Prepare with Pedro, from 2pm to 3pm, kindergarten to 2nd grade (ages 5 to 7) The Pillowcase Project, from 3pm to 4pm, grades 3rd thru 5th (ages 8 to 11) and from 4pm to 5pm, Hands Only CPR. Grades 6th to adult (ages 12 & up).

Rock River Valley Blood Center - Blood Drive  
 Monday, November 27th - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### Reminder

Visit pololibrary.org to access the online catalog, to see what programs and services we offer, and for the latest public events held here at the library. Call us at 815-946-2713 for more information.

**Coming Up In December...**

- Christmastime
- New Year's Eve
- New Year's Resolutions
- Hanukkah - Kwanzaa
- First Day of Winter
- National Cookie Day
- Poinsettia Day
- National Egg Nog Month
- Safe Toys & Gifts Awareness Month
- National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

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 815-732-6851

**NEW WINTER HOURS**  
 Bar and Kitchen  
 Monday - Thursday 4 - 8PM  
 Friday 4 - 9PM

**VFW EVENTS**

- Monday Lighting @ 5:30pm
- Wednesday Bingo @ 5:30pm
- Thursday Trivia Night @ 5:30pm
- Fridays @ 7pm 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays, Karaoke, Live music (different Fridays)

Every Friday our Fish, Chicken, Shrimp Dinners  
 We do Carry Outs

Try out the hot slots every weekday!

**J&J Gaming**

## ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

Rock River Center is a resource center located at 810 S. 10th Street, Oregon. Our activities and trips are open to all ages. Call our office @ 815-732-3252 for assistance with Benefit Access Application for a license plate discount, Medicare, housing, homemaker service, heating assistance or other things. Visit us at www.rockrivercenter.org and like us on Facebook.

### Veteran's Day Program

We are pleased to welcome Debbie Fuehrer, Veteran and Veterans' Service Officer as our Veteran's Day speaker on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 12:00 noon. Debbie will share her experience as a Veteran as well as how she transitioned into her current role. In addition, she will discuss the many benefits Veterans receive for serving our country.

Everyone is welcome to attend our Veteran's Day Program to honor all U.S. Military Personnel. This is a free program open to the public. Honor our Veterans and share your stories and memories with others. Bring photos of active, inactive or retired Veterans you would like to display at our Center.

Advance registration required so we can be prepared. Call 815-732-3252 to sign up.

### American Classic Tours Fall Preview

We invite you to attend a Tour Preview highlighting their Upcoming Tour Schedule. Join us on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rock River Center.

Joe Conroy, President of American Classic Tours, Inc. will provide informative program schedules complete with beautiful images of these destinations. American Classic Tours, Inc. of Grayslake, IL offers deluxe, well-paced, all-inclusive tours throughout North America. Come and learn about their unique, top-quality itineraries. American Classic Tours, Inc. has been a proud partner of the Rock River Center for many years.

To register to attend, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252.

### Boot Scootin' Seniors Perform @ RRC

Come to RRC and see our Boot Scootin' Seniors perform! Thursday, November 16, 2023. 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Advance registration requested. Sign up at the office or call 815-732-3252.

### Senior Information Services Provided By Rock River Center

Do you need help with Benefit Access Application, housing, personal care, homemaking, heating assistance or other things? Rock River Center's Information & Assistance Specialists are available at various locations throughout Ogle County. If you are unable to come into a site, please call Rock River Center toll free 1-800-541-5479 to schedule an appointment.

Forreston-Library Nov 15 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
 Rochelle - Hub City Senior Center Nov 22 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

# DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

### Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

A.A. Hotline 800-452-7990  
 Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.  
 Oregon 732-3157  
 Rochelle 562-3801

### Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

HOPE of Ogle County 562-8890 or 732-7796  
 Counseling Services, Court Advocacy, Latina Advocacy, and Shelter programs

### Education

University of Illinois Extension-Ogle County  
 421 W Pines Rd, Oregon 61061 732-2191

### Low Income Housing

Ogle County Housing Authority  
 200 W Washington, Oregon 732-1301

### Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

P.) Box 628  
 Oregon, IL 61061 732-6855

### Mental Health

Family Counseling Services 962-5585  
 Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.  
 Oregon 732-3157  
 Rochelle 562-3801  
 The Serenity Shed Grief Services 732-2499

### Senior Citizens Services

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

### Sexual Assault/Abuse

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling  
 24-hour hotline 636-9811  
 412 W Washington, Oregon 732-0000

### Therapeutic

Pegasus Special Riders 973-3177

### Veterans' Services

Rock River Center 732-3252  
 Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499  
 Medical Transportation 677-6515

### Wellness Services

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

## BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Special Hours

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Byron Public Library will be open 9 am – 5:00 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 22, and closed Thursday, Nov. 23 through Friday, Nov. 24. We will be open for our regular hours on Saturday, Nov. 25. We wish all of our patrons a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

### 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.

### Did you know

That the Byron Public Library offers free notary services? Several of our staff members are registered notaries, and can notarize documents during most library hours. Please call the library at 815-234-5107 for notary availability or to set up an appointment.

### Check out Our Mobile App

Did you know that there is an easy way to use the library from your phone? Just download the PrairieCat app to your phone or mobile device and log in with your library card number and PIN! You'll be able to view your checkouts and holds, renew renewable materials, and search the library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!

### Curbside Delivery

The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside service! Place your holds online at byronlibrary.org or call us at 815-234-5107. Not sure what you want? Call us for help! We will call or email you with a confirmation when your holds are ready to be picked up. Call us when you arrive at the library, and we will bring your items out to you, already checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

Visit the Byron Library Facebook page, or subscribe to our newsletters at byronlibrary.org, to keep up to date on library news and programs! Be sure to also check out the Byron Library and Byron Library Teen Instagram pages!

## MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Library Closing

We will be closed on Saturday, November 11th, to honor Veterans Day! Thank you to all of our local veterans for your service and sacrifice.

Mt. Morris Library will be closed on Thursday, November 23, for Thanksgiving. Thank you for your support!

### Decorations Thank You!

If you stop by our library right now you might notice all of the beautiful gourds and pumpkins adorning our building! A huge Thank You to Berry View Orchard for donating such gorgeous decorations for our local library.

### Lego Club

Lego night is this Thursday, November 16th, 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.

### Story Time!

Mrs. Donna will be reading books and children will create a craft this Wednesday, 9/20. 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.

### JFK 60th Anniversary

Join us for an informative afternoon with Steve Erickson on Sunday, November 19th, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Mr. Erickson will give us insight through his research about the assassination of our 35th president. Program will start at 2pm with refreshments following.

### Mt. Morris Holiday Activities

Mount Morris will soon be celebrating the holidays and the library will be joining in! On Saturday, December 2 from 10-2 we will have a variety of drop-in activities to help everyone get ready for the holidays!

### 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 November book is "The Reading List" by Sara Nisha Adams. Described by Bookpage.com as "What begins as a whim soon transforms into a deeply enriching and gratifying experience. The books act as a lifeline for Mukesh and Aleisha as the two new friends navigate their personal tribulations. Reading is so often viewed as a solitary pursuit, but The Reading List turns that idea on its head, illustrating the ways one

book can touch many lives and act as a shared point of empathy, uniting disparate individuals into a community." Everyone is welcome to join this book club group! Copies of the book are available at the library. This group will meet in-person at 3:30pm on Monday, November 27th at the library.

### 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!

### 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.

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

## BYRON

### ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

624 Luther Drive, Byron IL 61010 815-234-5277  
Pastor: Janet Wold  
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.

### CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

205 N. Peru St., Byron 815-234-8737 cornerstonefam.ily.church  
Sr. Pastor: Erik Ness, NextGen/ Family Pastor: Collin Nicholls  
Children's Ministry Director : Lori Martin  
Worship Service on Sundays at 10am with Children's Worship Service and Nursery Available  
Sr High Youth Ministry Sundays at 6:00pm, Jr High Youth Ministry Wednesdays at 6:30pm  
Numerous Small Groups Available for All Ages throughout the week.  
Please call our Church Office or visit our website for more details.  
Office Hours: 8:00am -4:30pm Mondays-Thursdays

### BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

226 E. 2nd St, Byron, IL 61010 - Phone 815-234-7431 - Fr. Richard Rosinski.  
Weekday Masses: Tuesday - Friday 7:30am, Weekend Masses: Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 8:00 am and 9:30 am. Reconciliation: Fri. 8:00 am - 8:30 am; Sat. 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm or by app. Eucharist Adoration Fri. 8-9am  
[www.saintmaryinbyron.org](http://www.saintmaryinbyron.org) [secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org](mailto:secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org)

### SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NEW LOCATION! Jarrett Prairie Center 7993 N. River Rd., Byron Phone 963-5216 Rev. Michael Axmark, Pastor/Discover Time 9:30 a.m., Fellowship 10:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 838, Byron, IL 61010

### UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON

A Member of the United Church of Christ  
701 W. Second Street, PO Box 927, Byron IL 61010, 815-234-8777  
Email: [ucb@comcast.net](mailto:ucb@comcast.net)  
Website: [unitedchurchofbyron.org](http://unitedchurchofbyron.org)  
Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spellious  
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson  
Sunday Schedule & Worship opportunities:  
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  
For complete ministry schedule and other activities, please check our website or Facebook page or contact the church office.  
Wherever you are or wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

### BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

"Building Faith for Life"  
6467 N. German Church Rd., Byron, IL - Ph. (815) 246-2685 - beaconhillbyron.org  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 448, Byron, IL 61010  
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: [chanourc@gmail.com](mailto:chanourc@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

### DAVIS JUNCTION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors • "God's Heart in Our Community"  
Located in town on Rt. 72 • Our Pastor is Rev. Keith Kelsey-Powell  
Sunday Services: Worship 10:30am, Childrens time during Worship Service.  
Fellowship following the Worship Service each Sunday. Communion the first Sunday of the month. Potluck luncheon following Worship every 4th Sunday, except in the summer months of June, July and August. Various small groups meet throughout the month. For more information about the small groups please call 298-2310. AA meets Wednesdays at 5:30pm and Saturdays at 9am. For more information please visit our website WWW.DJUMC.ORG

## DIXON

### LOST LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Pastor John Trotter 8:00am Sunday School  
815-973-5981 9:00am Church Service  
90 W. Flagg Road [www.lostlakechurch.org](http://www.lostlakechurch.org)  
Dixon IL 61021

## FORRESTON

### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

402 2nd Avenue, Forreston, IL 61030, Phone 815-938-3203Pastor 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](mailto:leafriverbc@gmail.com)

## LINDENWOOD

### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS

[immanuel-lindenwood.org](http://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 Rosebrook  
[pastor@immanuel-lindenwood.org](mailto: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 Marv 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](mailto:secretary@disciplesumc.org)  
[www.disciplesumc.org](http://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](http://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 BRETHREN

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: [mimorriscob@gmail.com](mailto:mimorriscob@gmail.com)

### MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 E. Brayton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL Phone: 734-6354 Rev. Josh Ehrler  
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 [EOCCOGministries@gmail.com](mailto:EOCCOGministries@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.EBENEZERREFORMED.com](http://www.EBENEZERREFORMED.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](mailto:lighthouseUMC@yahoo.com)  
Worship at 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each of 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  
732-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George  
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 & Mongan Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon • 732-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George  
Webpage: [saintbrides.org](http://saintbrides.org) • E-mail: [saint.bride.church@gmail.com](mailto:saint.bride.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: [stpaulnalcoregonil.weebly.com](http://stpaulnalcoregonil.weebly.com)  
10:15 a.m. Fellowship/Education hours  
11:30 a.m. Worship

## POLO

### ST. MARY CHURCH

Rectory/Office: 211 North Franklin Ave., Polo, IL 61064  
PHONE: 815-946-2535 • Rev. Joseph P. Naill  
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@crossroadsccn.com](mailto:polo@crossroadsccn.com)  
We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us after services for coffee, snacks & fellowship. Kidzlink Children's Ministry (nursery-5th grade) ~ during 10AM service  
Crave Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st.  
Visit our website: [www.crossroadsccn.com](http://www.crossroadsccn.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.faithumpolo.com](http://www.faithumpolo.com) • facebook.com/Faithumpolo

## 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 Morris  
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/VCECCSV](http://facebook.com/VCECCSV)  
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-2

# LOCAL NEWS

## OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Oregon Public Library is a Toys for Tots location!

### 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 & Crimes will meet Sunday, November 12 at 2 pm; come by the Library to find out what and where! The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, November 15 at 1 pm to discuss All the Broken Places by John Boyne.

Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, November 30 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss The House in the Pines by Ana Reyes. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet November 20 at 7 pm at the Library to discuss Kings of the Wyld by Nicholas Eames. The 2WBC Book Club meets December 13, at 12:30 pm to discuss A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

### Yoga

Wednesdays, 9:30 am Functional Yin-Yasa - This class is a hybrid of yang (active yoga) with yin (passive yoga). We will use fundamental yoga postures combined with functional movements to build strength and warmth followed by passive, long held poses to help with flexibility and mobility of the joints and soft tissues. A yoga mat and blocks will be useful props for this class! All levels welcome." Oregon Library Patrons only. Registration required, this class fills quickly. Please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

### Wednesday, November 15, Lego Club

2:30 pm (2nd grade & up). The club is designed to provide an enjoyable activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence. Registration required

### Holiday Movie Binge Boxes

Registration begins November 20th. 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.

### Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, November 20th 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, November 21st at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your time slot). Simmer Jars - Simmer pots are an easy way to scent your home naturally and also makes an easy homemade gift! Come make a simmer jar, all supplies are provided. Registration required, (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com

### Sensory Friendly Santa at the Library!

November 25th, by appointment. Our annual Sensory Friendly environment and Santa are back! Do you have a child with sensory needs? A child that can't wait in line? We are scheduling Santa Claus in our library from 10am - 3pm, by appointment, on Saturday. This quiet environment will allow one-to-one time with the jolly man in front of our fireplace. Bring a camera for pic-

tures! Each spot will be given plenty of time to visit with Santa. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724.

### Christmas Markets in Prague and Germany

Monday, November 27th at 1:00pm. This one-hour presentation visits amazing Christmas markets in Prague and four cities in Germany. With very few international tourists and mostly locals enjoying good food, good friends, and a festive atmosphere, December trips are quite different from summer visits. Like our trip, this presentation skips the museums and focuses on joining the fun. Registration required, (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

### Oregon Writers Group

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00am  
The OWG is a gathering of writers or writer-wannabes who meet to support each other and further their own writing. The purpose of the group is to help and encourage you in your writing. If you need brainstorming ideas, we can help suggest ideas or aid with the creative process.

### Passport Services

The Oregon Public Library offers Passport Application Processing. Patrons seeking Passport Services should call the Library prior to their visit to ensure that an official processor is available at that time and for a checklist of items, you will need for the appointment.

### OPLD Dial-A-Story & Oregon Public Library StoryWalk @Oregon Park West

Call 815-732-2724, follow the prompts and presto...a story! Current story-Balloons Over Broadway by Melissa Sweet.

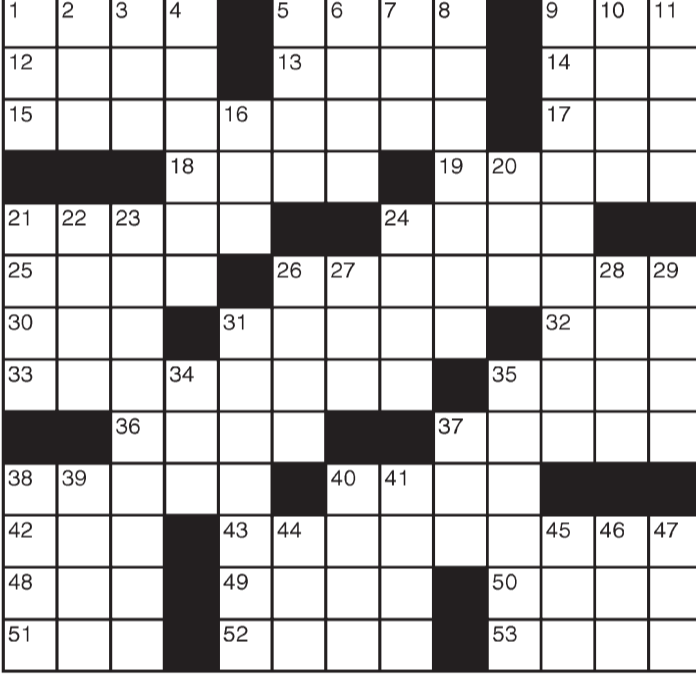
New story at the StoryWalk is How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? by Jane Yolen.

## Weekly Brain Busters

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

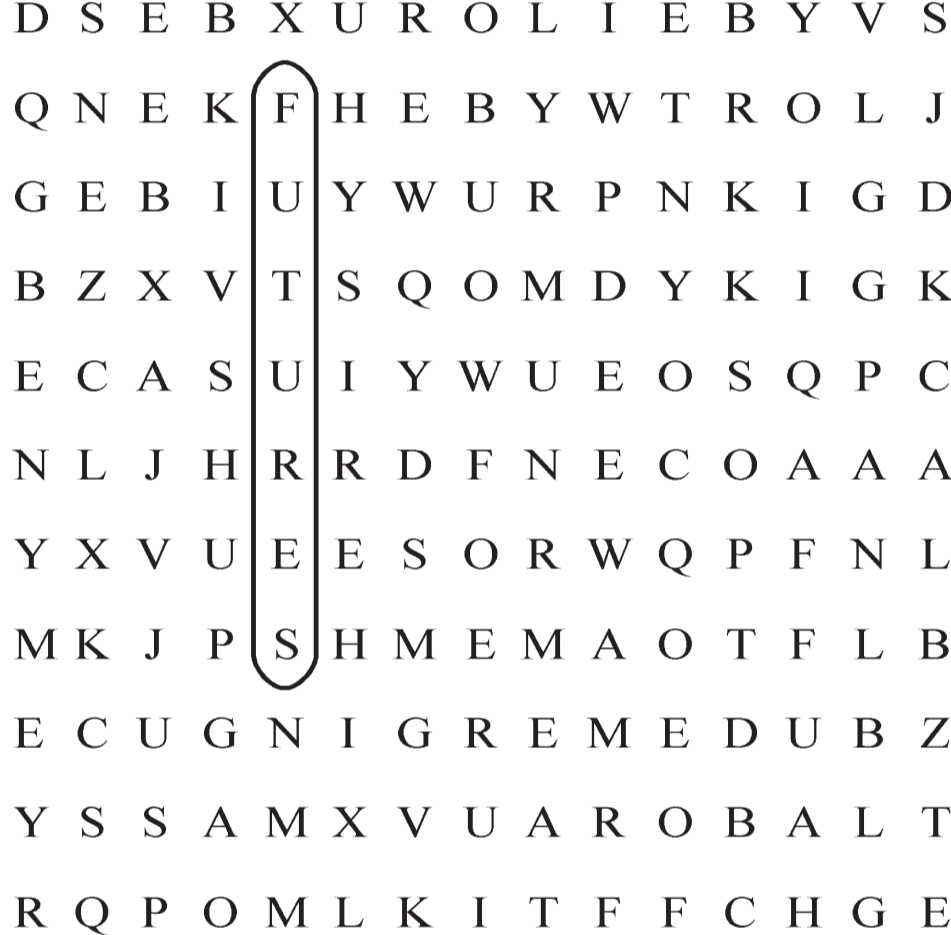
- 1 Mausoleum
- 5 "Born Free" lioness
- 9 Branch
- 12 Ornamental jug
- 13 Jupiter counterpart
- 14 Sheepish remark
- 15 Famed diarist
- 17 Squeak stopper
- 18 Historic times
- 19 Grown-up
- 21 Town square
- 24 Tizzy
- 25 Occupy the throne
- 26 Imaginary
- 30 Right angle
- 31 Count with an orchestra
- 32 Simile center
- 33 Bloated, in a way
- 35 Computer brand
- 36 Literary Jane
- 37 Puccini work
- 38 Curry spice
- 40 Roundish do
- 42 Palindromic constellation
- 43 Yearly charge
- 48 Up to
- 49 Oboe insert
- 50 Cupid's realm
- 51 Compass dir.



- 52 Columnist Maureen
- 53 Milky gem
- DOWN**
- 1 Earl Grey, e.g.
- 2 Have
- 3 Gents
- 4 Light wind
- 5 Poet Pound
- 6 Meadows
- 7 Day light
- 8 With suspicion, as a look
- 9 Complete reversal
- 10 Banister
- 11 Beer ingredient
- 16 Monk's title
- 20 Cato's 502
- 21 Get ready, briefly
- 22 Humdinger
- 23 Like the Supremes and the Pointer Sisters
- 24 Use scissors
- 26 Lose color
- 27 Tempe sch.
- 28 Addict
- 29 Zhivago's love
- 31 Novelist Malamud
- 34 Memo letters
- 35 Lunar program
- 37 Mouths (Lat.)
- 38 Felines
- 39 "The Haj" author
- 40 From the start
- 41 Elmer of cartoons
- 44 "The Matrix" role
- 45 Dandy guy
- 46 Actress Mendes
- 47 Moray, for one

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### MAGIC MAZE ● — MARKET



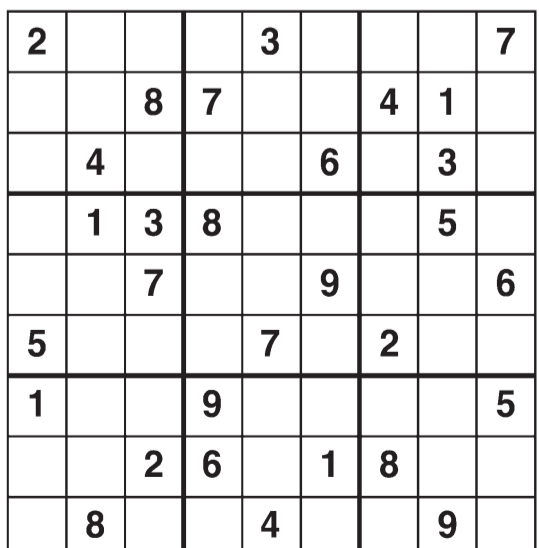
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: AN UNDERGROUND MARKET

- After
- Bear
- Bull
- Commodities
- Down
- Emerging
- Farmer's
- Food
- Free
- Futures
- Labor
- Mass
- Meat
- Money
- Super

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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.

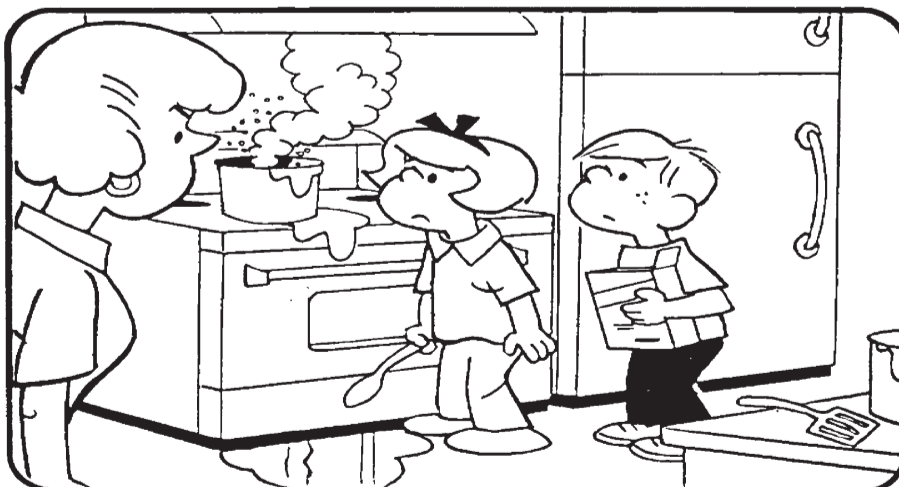
### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

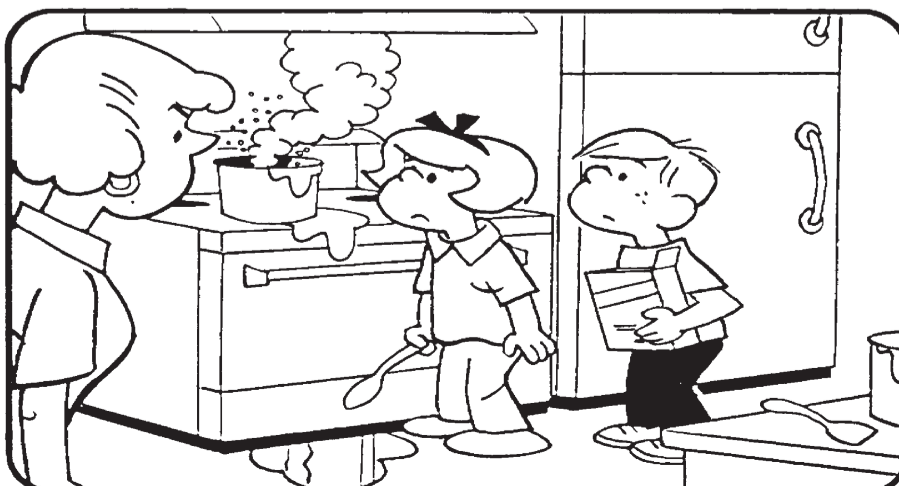
© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

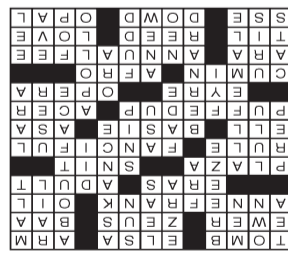
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



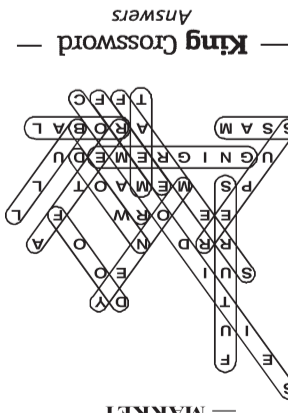
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Oven window is missing. 3. Fuddle is smaller. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Handle is smaller. 6. Spatula is different.



Solution time: 23 mins.



MARKET

2	5	1	4	3	8	9	6	7
3	6	8	7	9	5	4	6	3
4	1	3	8	5	2	4	7	1
5	9	5	2	4	7	1	9	3
6	7	4	9	8	3	6	2	5
7	4	9	1	2	6	5	3	8
8	2	7	5	1	9	3	4	6
9	4	1	3	8	5	2	7	5
1	7	4	9	8	3	6	2	5
2	5	1	4	3	8	9	6	7

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

No. 1046  
(Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13, 2023)

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notice is hereby given that on Oct. 19, 2023 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:  
Jaime Heating & Cooling Systems, LLC  
3747 W IL Route 64 Lot 2  
Mt. Morris, IL 61054  
Dated Oct. 19, 2023  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 1041  
(Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13, 2023)

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notice is hereby given that on October 30, 2023 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:  
Daisy Jane  
11726 W Woodburn Rd  
Byron, IL 61010  
Dated October 30, 2023  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 1107  
(Nov. 6, 13 and 20, 2023)

### **NOTICE**

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT COUNTY OF  
OGLE  
IN RE THE ADOPTION  
OF ANGELA LYN  
CURTIS, a minor.  
KRYSTAL JO SHENBERGER and ROBERT CARL SHENBERGER, Petitioners, vs. CHRISTIAN ALLEN CURTIS, Defendant. ))) Case No. 2023 AD 7  
ADOPTION NOTICE  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
)SS) COUNTY OF  
OGLE

In the matter of the Petition for the Adoption of ANGELA LYN CURTIS, a female child. Adoption No. 2023 AD 7.  
To: CHRISTIAN ALLEN CURTIS  
Take notice that a Petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Ogle County, Illinois, for the adoption of a child named ANGELA LYN CURTIS.  
Now, therefore, unless you CHRISTIAN ALLEN CURTIS, and all whom it may concern, file your answer to the Petition in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of Ogle County, Circuit Clerk's Office, 106 S. 5th Street, Suite 300, Oregon, Illinois on or before the 6th day of December, 2023, a default order may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.  
Dated: 10/24/2023  
Kimberly A. Stahl, Clerk of the Circuit Court, 15th Judicial Circuit  
Deborah S Maas, Attorney for Petitioners  
MAAS LEGAL LLC  
P.O. Box 277  
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084  
815-751-1809  
efile@debmaaslegal.com

No. 1108  
(Nov. 6, 13 & 20, 2023)

**NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JAMES D. YOUNG, deceased. NO. 2023-PR-66  
CLAIM NOTICE  
NOTICE IS GIVEN OF THE DEATH OF JAMES D. YOUNG of Oregon, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on November 6, 2023, to JAMES J. YOUNG of Montello, Wisconsin, whose attorney is David A. Smith, of Smith, Birkholz & Morrow, P.C. at 129 South Fourth Street, P. O. Box 10, Oregon, Illinois, 61061-0010. CLAIMS against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 South 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, or with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on Oct. 19, 2023 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:  
Straydog  
11726 N. Woodburn Rd.  
Byron, IL 61010  
Dated Oct. 19, 2023  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 1042  
(Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13, 2023)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on October 20, 2023 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:  
ALK Jewelry Plus  
1121 McCall Court  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Dated October 20, 2023  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 1044  
(Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13, 2023)

**NOTICE STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
In the Matter of the Estate of TERRY A. ZEIGLER, Deceased.  
2023PR0059  
**PUBLICATION NOTICE TO CREDITORS and CLAIMANTS**  
Notice is given of the death of TERRY A. ZEIGLER, who died on July 16, 2022, a resident of 4958 E. Ashelford Drive, Byron, Ogle County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 12, 2023, and the Representative for the estate is JANICE R. ZEIGLER, 4958 E. Ashelford Drive, Byron, IL 61010. The attorney for the estate is Amanda J. Martinez, 5732 E. Riverside Blvd., #201, Loves Park, IL 61111. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before April 30, 2024, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of the first publication. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 106 S. 5th Street, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the Representative, or both. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.  
Attorney Amanda J. Martinez ARDC#: 6287970  
The Law Office of Amanda Adams Martinez LLC  
5732 E. Riverside Blvd., #201, Loves Park, IL 61111  
815-491-8065  
amartinez@adamsmartinezlaw.com

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

No. 1117  
(November 13, 2023)

delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred.  
Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed.  
JAMES J. YOUNG Independent Administrator  
Attorney David A. Smith  
SMITH, BIKRHOLZ & MORROW, P.C.  
129 South Fourth Street  
P. O. Box 10  
Oregon, IL 61061-0010  
(815)732-6124

**Receipts:**  
Real Estate Taxes \$285,285.45,  
Donations \$3,818.52,  
State Grants \$11,832.45,  
Fines & Fees \$2,405.33,  
Non-Resident Fees \$868.05,  
E-Rate \$604.80,  
Bank Interest \$702.15,  
Book/Merchandise Sales \$647.18,  
Other \$1,336.66.

**Disbursements:**  
Salary & Wage Range:  
(Under \$25,000): Elizabeth Board, Carol Conderman, Morgan Gile, Celia Loeffleholz, Claire Spahn; (\$24,000-49,999): Shannon Fitzgerald, Kelly Haas, Joanna Kluever.

Disbursements to Vendors or Individuals (\$2,500 minimum):  
Baker & Taylor \$20,712.97; Cincinnati Insurance Company \$3,088.00; Cornerstone Bookkeeping & Tax \$4,589.52; Demco \$3,073.34; Illinois Department of Revenue—Payroll Taxes \$4,560.52; Internal Revenue Service—Payroll Taxes \$19,679.11; Junior Library Guild \$5,169.02; Mango Languages \$2,586.00; Meridian C.U.S.D. 223 (Reimbursed Wages, TRS, Medicare, Health & Medical Insurance, & Building Occupations & Operations) \$36,702.51; PrairieCat \$10,073.00; Query Insurance Agency \$3,440.00; Stillman Bancorp \$14,872.97; Studio GWA \$13,510.00; Zoobean, Inc. \$2,174.85.

Disbursements by Category:  
TRS \$5,550.68; Health & Medical Insurance \$5,103.53; Insurance \$7,009.00; Library Supplies \$11,939.58; Programs-Child \$2,344.39; Programs-General \$4,173.35; Programs-Summer Reading \$3,414.13; Journals \$53.13; Wi-Fi \$347.10; Telephone \$1,721.20; Publicity \$3,636.15; Postage \$259.69; Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment & Repair \$15,613.28; Technology (Licensing Fees) \$10,169.00; Reserve Fund \$15,100.00; Building Occupation & Operations \$11,720.37; Miscellaneous \$935.00; Professional Memberships \$235.00; Legal Fees \$337.50; Accounting Fees \$4,589.52; eRead Illinois (eBooks) \$971.49; Adult Materials \$11,230.33; Audio Books \$500.96; A/V Materials \$3,331.70; Children's Materials \$6,113.84; Periodicals \$3,205.40; Young Adult Materials \$1,487.33; Other Materials \$198.00; Social Security (Employer Portion) \$7,294.26; FY2022 Per Capita Grant \$11,832.45; Friends of the Library (Donation/Reimbursement) \$2,336.91; Char Wills' Donation \$1,000.00; Replacement Materials Paid for In Fines \$137.03; Other \$420.00.

I, the undersigned, hereby do certify that I am duly qualified and acting Treasurer of the Julia Hull District Library, Stillman Valley, Illinois, and as such official I do further certify that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

Jeff Mickey, Treasurer of Julia Hull District Library  
November 7, 2023

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

No. 1118  
(Nov. 13, 20 and 27, 2023)

**103 AUCTIONS**  
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.  
**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.

## 103 AUCTIONS

**ONLINE ONLY AUCTION**  
**hacksauction.hibid.com**  
**Matchbox & Hot Wheels Collection Auction**  
BIDDING OPENS: FRI., NOV. 17th @ 8 A.M.  
PREVIEW: FRI., NOV. 17th - 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.  
**Hacks Auction Antique Center II**  
440 W. Third St., Pecatonica, IL 61063  
Great Selection of Hot Wheels & Matchbox Cars! 1970's thru 2000's - Red Lines, Classics, Series, Street Rods, Superfast, 100% Hot Wheels, Premiere Series, NASCAR, Batman, Barbie, Action Packs, Autorama, Ltd. Ed., Many in Original Bubble Packs; Classic Carry Cases; Johnny Lightning; Custom Racing Slot Cars; Banks; Die Cast; More! Over 1500 Examples!

**ONLINE ONLY AUCTION**  
**hacksauction.hibid.com**  
**Premiere Firearms, Military, Sportsman Auction**  
BIDDING OPENS: FRI., DEC. 29th @ 8 A.M.  
**Hack's Auction Antique Center**  
400 W. Third St., Pecatonica, IL 61063  
Featuring Antique & Modern Rifles, Shotguns, Pistols, Revolvers. Fine Winchester & Marlin Lever Action Rifles. Commemorative, Remington, Colt, Browning, Ruger, Smith & Wesson, Sig Sauer, Uberti, Savage, Beretta, Weatherby, High Power, US Military, Springfield Amory M1 Garands, Edystone, German & Russian Rifles. Black Powder; Trap & Skeet; Reload Equip. Ammo; Knives & Edged Weapons; Bayonets; Adv.; Many Related Items. Quality Firearms & Related Consignments Being Accepted. 13% Buyer/Online Fee. All State & Federal Firearm Laws Apply. FFL#3-36-201-01-4J-03526.

Hack's Auction & Realty Service  
Greg & Swan Hachmeister, Auctioneers  
Pecatonica, IL 815-239-1436  
www.hacksauction.com  
I.A.F.L. #44000128

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

**103 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.

## 103 AUCTIONS

## 103 AUCTIONS

**AntiqueS, CollectibleS & More**  
Online Only Auction  
Bidding Open Nov. 8 – Nov. 19  
Soft Close beginning @ 5:00 P.M., Nov. 19  
For Bidder Registration, Pictures, Terms & Conditions, & other Details log onto  
[www.rudyontheweb.com](http://www.rudyontheweb.com)  
Troy Rudy; Auctioneer IL# 440000443 / WI#2618-052  
815.297.4846

# AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

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

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

# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



**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 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

**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

**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.

**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

**Byron School District**  
Full-Time Job Opportunities

- 2nd and 3rd Shift Custodian – HS
- 2nd Shift Custodian – MS
- Reading Paraprofessional

Please apply online at [www.byron226.org](http://www.byron226.org)

Go to the "About Us" Tab, then The 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

**501 APARTMENT 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

**ADVERTISE WITH US**



**Coming Up In December...**

- Christmastime
- New Year's Eve
- New Year's Resolutions
- Hanukkah • Kwanzaa
- First Day of Winter
- National Cookie Day
- Poinsettia Day
- National Egg Nog Month
- Safe Toys & Gifts Awareness Month
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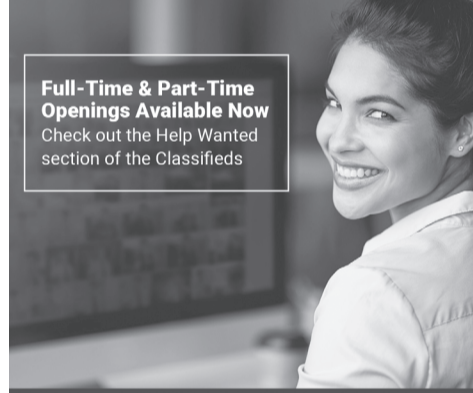
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# SENIOR LIFESTYLES

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YOUR GUIDE TO  
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# SENIOR LIFESTYLES

## The impact of reading on long-term health

**O**LDER adults recognize the threat posed by cognitive decline, which can make it hard for individuals to live independently. According to data from the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research published in 2020 in the journal Epidemiology, since the mid-1990s, rates of dementia cases in the United States have risen steadily. Since that time, the annual increase for men is 2.0 percent and for women it is 1.7 percent. Researchers concluded that, “undercovering determinants of increasing cognitive impairment risk

should become a research priority.”

As doctors grapple with figuring out why dementia rates are growing, individuals can do all they can to help reduce their risk for serious cognitive decline. Some reduction in cognition is to be expected with age, but dementias, such as Alzheimer’s disease, should not be accepted as an inevitable side effect of aging. In fact, reading more can help people keep their brains sharp.

Studies looking at the effects of daily reading activity on the risk of cognitive decline point out that reading does, in fact, make a big

difference. According to research by Yu-Hung Chang, I-Chien Wu and Chao A. Hsiung, from the Department of Public Health, China Medical University and Institute of Population Health Sciences, a 14-year study of people aged 64 and above determined those with higher reading frequencies were less likely to have cognitive decline at 6-, 10- and 14-year interval measurements. This remained the same at all educational levels. The authors concluded that reading was protective of cognitive function later in life.

See page 6



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# SENIOR LIFESTYLES

## How older drivers can increase their comfort levels behind the wheel

IT'S not uncommon for aging individuals to feel less comfortable driving as they approach their golden years. Whether it's glare from LED lights, aches and pains that often accompany aging or age-related vision issues, older drivers' comfort behind the wheel can be compromised by a host of variables.

Though older drivers cannot reverse the aging process, they can try various strategies to make themselves more comfortable behind the wheel.

Share driving duties on long trips. The National Institute on Aging notes that stiffening joints and weakened muscles are a common byproduct of aging. In addition, the Arthritis Foundation® notes that more than one

in two men and two in three women over age 65 have arthritis, which also can make driving less comfortable. Age-related aches and pains and arthritis can make it very uncomfortable to drive for lengthy periods of time when drivers are sitting in roughly the same position for the duration of their trip. In such instances, drivers can share driving duties to make long trips more manageable.

Upgrade to a vehicle with modern amenities. Various amenities in modern vehicles make driving more comfortable for everyone, especially individuals with age-related aches and pains. Heated seats and in-car climate control can help reduce the discomfort caused by aches and pains and ensure drivers and passengers can

tailor the temperature in the vehicle to their own preferences.

Protect your eyesight. Much of the discomfort older drivers experience behind the wheel has to do with eyesight. The NIA urges individuals 65 and older to see their eye doctor every year. Such visits can ensure prescriptions are current and that can make drivers more confident in their ability to see everything on the road. Drivers also can speak to their eye doctors about night driving glasses, which are designed to help nighttime drivers overcome glare from headlights and street lamps.

Drive more defensively. A greater emphasis on defensive driving also can help aging drivers feel more comfortable behind



the wheel. The NIA notes that reflexes naturally slow down as a person ages, which adversely affects older drivers' re-

action times. Drivers can counter this by leaving more space between their vehicles and the one in front of them. Braking ear-

lier and avoiding driving during times marked by heavy traffic, such as rush hour, also can help drivers feel more comfortable.



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# SENIOR LIFESTYLES

## Planning for post-retirement medical expenses

WHEN individuals retire, they not only walk away from work, but also relinquish their steady paychecks. For many, retirement can be a potentially risky financial endeavor. Saving for retirement is a great

way to mitigate such risk, but unforeseen expenses, such as medical bills, can quickly derail a retirement plan.

Many people have a greater need for medical care as they get older. The Fidelity Investments Retiree Health Care Cost

Estimate indicates health care can be one of the biggest expenses a person will take on in retirement. The average 65-year-old couple who retired in 2021 in the United States can expect to spend \$300,000 on health care and medical expenses during retirement. The fi-

ancial resource The Street says other studies suggest it's wise for retirees to plan to spend between \$3,000 and \$7,700 per year on health care.

Financial advisors warn that relying exclusively on Medicare to cover health care costs isn't going to cut it. Benefits under the Medicare program often aren't enough to pay for all of a retiree's needs. There may be gaps for chronic treatment of illnesses and specialty treatment for certain conditions.

Long-term care services also typically are not covered. It's important to note that Medicare will cover general doctor's visits, but

it does not cover the cost of deductibles or copays.

Individuals need to be proactive and plan for medical expenses in retirement. After housing, healthcare is the most significant expense for retirees. Health spending accounts and long-term health insurance are two options for people looking for ways to cover their health care costs in retirement.

As of 2022, people can contribute up to \$3,650 for an individual or \$7,300 for a family per year into a health savings account. After age 55, an additional \$1,000 per year is allowed. Money in an HSA grows tax-free and it can be

spent tax-free on qualified medical expenses. Once a person has Medicare, he or she no longer is eligible to contribute to the HSA, but can use money already in the account to pay for qualified medical expenses that are not covered by Medicare.

Long-term care insurance is another option, and many people invest in such an account during their 50s or 60s. The earlier an individual enrolls in a program, the lower the premium. According to Personal Capital, most policies will not start until a patient has needed assistance for 90 days and other qualifying guidelines are met.

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# SENIOR LIFESTYLES

## New Year's resolutions for senior citizens

**R**ESOLUTIONS can be made at any age. Seniors who may feel that they are past the point in life where trying something new or setting goals is relevant to them can reconsider, as it's never too late in life to have aspirations

big or small.

The golden years may be different from any other period in a person's life, but seniors can still embrace making positive changes. In fact, according to studies by Rush University, people who view life with a sense of

purpose are two to four times less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease. The following are some potential resolutions for seniors.

Focus on safety. Aging sparks certain changes to the body and mind. Recognizing that you

can't do all of the things you did when you were younger doesn't mean there aren't ways to improve upon those things you can do, especially if you make some safety-minded tweaks.

*See page 7*



*From page 2*

Dr. Wade Fish, Director at Northcentral University's Graduate School, advises that reading can improve memory and concentration, and also relieves stress. Brain-stimulating activities like reading have been shown to slow down cognitive decline in older age.

While reduction in cognitive decline is one benefit of reading, Psychology Today also reports that bibliotherapy, or the therapeutic use of select reading materials, can alleviate many different mental health challenges.

It can improve one's social cognition and ability to empathize with others. Reading also can be associated with a longer life. A cohort study drawn from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) collected by the University of Michigan's Institute of Social Research and supported by the National Institute on Aging found book reading was associated with a 20 percent reduction in mortality.

Individuals who want to live longer and reduce their risk of cognitive decline can turn to books. Reading every day can support positive health outcomes.



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# SENIOR LIFESTYLES

From page 6

Resolve to improve home safety, such as removing tripping hazards, installing grab bars, checking smoke alarms, and installing a security system.

Find new and enjoyable workouts. The exercise routines you engaged in just a few years ago may no longer suit your physical abilities or interests. Investigate new fitness regimens or methods of movement. Tai chi, yoga, water aerobics, walking clubs, and more can be incorporated into your daily habits.

Organize medical re-

cords. Seeing health pictured systematically and clearly can help you stay on top of appointments and wellness measures. There are many different organizing systems to embrace; find one that works for your needs.

Declutter your home. Resolve to get rid of extraneous items that are no longer serving a purpose beyond collecting dust. Having more room to move around can be safer, particularly if you need a cane or another assistive device, and there will be less to clean if you remove some clutter. If you plan to downsize soon, clearing clutter can make the move easier.

Learn something new. A language, skill, or hobby are all within reach when you map out the steps to achieving your goal.

Make new social connections. Caring Places senior communities indicates socially active older adults have better cognition and lower risks for depression than those who do not consistently reach out to friends. Aspire to make some new companions or to get back in touch with those you haven't spoken to in some time.

Seniors can focus on key resolutions to make positive changes for the future.

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