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OWC donates to Lifeline Food Pantry

The Oregon Woman's Club recently donated funds and food to Lifeline Food Pantry. **A7**

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
55 38	57 38
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
60 48	59 46
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
58 45	61 43

OBITUARIES

- Julia Buckingham
 - William Essman
 - Matthew Frank
 - Shawna Spratt
 - Janet Frye
 - Robert Milliman
 - William Ulferts
 - Joanne Crowe
 - William Hinkle
 - Gisa Vinnedge
 - Charles Willard
 - Janice Halsne Spychala
- See page A3-5

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Byron County Market
- Polo Fresh Food
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- Snyder Pharmacy
- Breast Cancer Awareness Banner
- Fall Harvest Section



Demolition of site for new Mt. Morris Firehouse begins

MT. MORRIS — Demolition on the site of the new Mt. Morris Fire Protection District Fire Station recently began. The buildings will be coming down over a week's time and site prep will follow for a spring 2024 ground breaking.

"We are excited for this opportunity and we even got to train a possible new recruit on how to use a fire hose," a district Facebook post said. "Thank you R. E. Wolber & Son's for partnering with us on the journey!"

On Aug. 15, the district completed the purchase of land for the new firehouse site. The land is comprised of four parcels located in the 10 block of South McKendrie Avenue. The site includes to the north, the two previous hardware store buildings and the house on the corner of Main & McK-

endrie. To the south, it includes the house on the corner of Front Street & McKendrie Avenue and the house immediately to the west. The district has spent over a year seriously considering and evaluating several sites in the process. Staying central in the district was paramount.

Moving the firehouse from the core of the village would have changed response times, especially to the outlying areas of the district with the new site allowing quicker access to Illinois Route 64. Additionally, homeowners' insurance rates could have increased for some if the firehouse had moved too far from its current location. The chosen site was "by far the best" for utility access as there is "excellent access" to the sanitary sewer, storm sewer and fiber optic lines all located on McKendrie Avenue.

"Additionally, there is a large 16-inch water main located on McKendrie, which is the largest in the village and needed to fill the apparatus quickly," A district press release said.

Firefighters used the current structures on the new property for emergency training late this summer. The training involved simulated fire conditions.

Barring any major setbacks, completion of the new building would be in early 2025. After the new facility is in operation, the district's century-old firehouse will be put up for sale.

The district has been able to secure funding through federal, state and local sources.

"The most humbling has been the funds donated by the past and present community members who believe in the district's mission," a press release said.

Ribbon cutting held Friday for Audyn Boutique

'It's a family thing. All of us working together'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Oct. 6, a ribbon cutting was held for Audyn Boutique, a new women's shopping experience downtown at 413 4th Ave. in Rochelle. The shop offers clothing, handbags, jewelry and more.

The business is owned by David and Stephanie Hulthen and their daughter, Audrey. The family also runs a boutique shop in Shabbona as well as a mobile boutique trailer for markets. Shopping can also be done online.

"From 1998-2002 I worked in Rochelle as a music teacher," Steph-

anie said. "I have some roots here and we always pass by here and shop here. My daughter saw this space was available and thought it would be great to have. On Sept. 1 we signed the lease and here we are. Audrey will be running it. It's a family thing. All of us working together. We were here until after 1 a.m. last night getting it ready. We're just excited to be a part of Rochelle. Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming and we're so thankful."

David Hulthen said the boutique business began about two and a half years ago and has grown since.

See BOUTIQUE page 2



Mike Seaworth, Hannah Seaworth and Todd Seaworth of the Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Protection District. The family now has three generations serving at once and Seaworth has been involved in the organization for the past 51 years. (Courtesy photo)

3 generations of Seaworth family serve Lynn-Scott-Rock FPD

A family member has served for 51 years: 'We've just always done it'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

LINDENWOOD — Upon moving to Holcomb in 1972, Mike Seaworth joined the Holcomb Fire Department.

That organization would later become part of what is now known as the Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Protection District. 15 years after Seaworth joined, his son, Todd, joined the LSRFPD. 10 years later, Todd became chief and has served in that position since. Last December, Todd's daughter, Hannah, joined the department. There are now three generations of Sea-

worths serving the LSRFPD.

"I guess it just got instilled in me by my dad," Todd said. "I grew up watching him do it, so I just felt that it was a community service that needed more people to help do it. I wanted to continue doing what he did. When Hannah wanted to get involved, I felt a sense of pride. Hopefully I've instilled the same work ethic or value for community service that my dad did for me. It makes you feel good to see that hopefully she carries on the community service."

See FAMILY page 2

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LOCAL NEWS

BOUTIQUE: New store opens in downtown Rochelle

From page 1

“We decided it might be something a little different and Audrey was kind of the spearhead behind that side of things,” David said. “And then the year after that we went out into a market and set up an area and it worked out really well. We bought a mobile trailer for those markets. We’ve had that for 1.5 years and do it during the summers. That’s been growing the business and we got to this. So we’ll see where we go from here.”

Speeches at the ribbon cutting were made by Rochelle Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tricia Herrera



and City of Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows. Herrera said she was excited by the new business and its choice to locate in The Hub City.

“About a month ago I met with the family and we sat down in the office

and I wanted to know how they came across Rochelle,” Herrera said. “They said they knew Rochelle was the place to go and a town that was growing. To us, that’s very exciting, that we’re on the map and people

are seeing that this is the area to invest in. We always say that when you open a business, we’re very proud and honored that you choose Rochelle. This space is beautiful. In about a month’s time they reno-

ated this space. You’ve done an amazing job. We’re so happy to have you as an additional choice here for clothing in downtown Rochelle. We agree with you. This is the place to invest that is growing. And it fills an empty storefront.”

Bearrows remarked at how many empty storefronts have been filled downtown over the past five years, even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which spurred support from the city to keep businesses open.

“During the pandemic, we helped folks financially through the city that had to shut down because the governor called them nonessential,” Bearrows said.

“None of us feel that there’s any business that is nonessential. We were able to do that in a small community. You don’t get that in a lot of places. We’re very thankful for that and the city council has been unanimously supportive of all the programs. The reason those buildings are filled is the support system we have in place in the collaborative effort between the city, the chamber of commerce and the business owners. When we all work together, we can do amazing things. This is proof right here. This is a great new bright spot for our downtown. Thank you and welcome to Rochelle.”

FAMILY: Three generations serving community

From page 1

Lynn-Scott-Rock is made up of three towns: Lindenwood, Davis Junction and Holcomb. The name of the volunteer fire protection district comes from the three townships that house them: Lynnville, Scott and White Rock.

The district was previously three separate stations. Mike served as the Holcomb station chief for 12 years. This year was his 51st as a member of the fire protection district.

“I’ve kept doing it for so long because I like helping people out,” Mike said. “Helping the community is the main thing. We have a lot better equipment like air packs and stuff like that. We didn’t even have air packs when I started. We have them now and it’s just better equipment and gear. It’s really improved over the years.”

Hannah Seaworth remembers running around the station as a child and asking for rides in the trucks and putting on her father’s and grandfather’s gear. After the Lindenwood fire station was built, she spent “countless” hours there, even before she started to volunteer. It was a place where she got a lot of her homework done.

Hannah said she decided to join the department to bond with her dad and grandfather, along with the fact that she wants to have a career in the medical field in the future.

“I just wanted to get a taste of that field with EMT work and that really pushed me to get involved,” Hannah said. “And I just love the idea of helping out the community as well and being able to give back. It was a

little intimidating because everyone is older and I’m the baby on the department. But it’s so much fun because it motivates other people, too. Next week I’m going to a grade school and I’m going to talk to kids about joining the fire department. You can just motivate other people to join. I can show people that young people can join their local fire departments.”

Being on a volunteer fire department “creates another family,” Hannah said. While each LSRFPD station is different, the members are a “tight-knit” group. Hannah has been working towards getting her EMT license and said department personnel have offered their help with studying.

Being the chief’s daughter and a third generation member doesn’t bring any special treatment with it, Hannah said.

“My dad just says what to do and how to do it and to ask questions of people if I have them,” Hannah said. “He kind of threw me to the wolves, but thankfully I knew a lot of them. And my grandpa is always really helpful and we’re always joking on calls and stuff. He asks if I’m a new face and says he hasn’t seen me before. It’s always a good time and we’re always smiling on a call.”

The LSRFPD currently has three members that have served for over 50 years that are still active. It also has had several families that have had two generations of volunteers, but Todd said other than his own, he doesn’t know of any with three generations.

“It’s something to be proud of,” Todd said. “It makes you feel proud that you’re providing a service to the community for that long. We’ve just always done it. I’m not sure what I would do if I wasn’t doing it. It’s been

just kind of natural for us. There’s always certain calls that stick with you. You talk about them with your family and what could have been better or worse.”

Chief Seaworth said the LSRFPD is always seeking more volunteers, as call volumes have increased about 10 percent yearly over the past few years. And the department is trying to cover more calls with less volunteers due to increased state certification requirements.

“It’s becoming a bigger load for the few that are volunteering,” Todd said. “We always need more volunteers to help and our population is also growing. The call volume increase is taxing our volunteers and we’re relying more and more on mutual aid. Other volunteer departments are helping each other and Rochelle comes out and helps us with calls that we’re unable to staff. All of the neighboring departments are in the same position now unfortunately. It just takes more and more teamwork between not only our district, but neighboring districts, to cover all of the calls now.”

Chief Seaworth thanked his volunteers for their work and taking time away from their friends and families to serve the community in times of need. Oct. 8-14 was Fire Prevention Week. The Seaworths feel pride in their entire community, not just in their own family.

“It’s been really good serving with them,” Mike said. “My son has always lived pretty close to us and we’ve always gotten along well. My granddaughter is just getting into it now. Todd came up through the ranks and got a lot more training than me to be a firefighter and fire chief. It makes me feel good to see Hannah getting involved. It does make me feel older, though. I’m really proud of the whole family and the whole community.”

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A Memorial Service for Doris Swedberg will be held at All Saints Lutheran Church, 624 Luther Dr. in Byron on Saturday, October 21st at 2:00 P.M. Coffee and dessert will follow the service.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Julia 'Julie' K. Buckingham

FORRESTON — Julia "Julie" K. Buckingham, 77, of Forreston, Illinois, passed away Friday, September 29, 2023, at her home.

Julie was born September 28, 1946, in Dixon, Illinois, the daughter of Clayton and E. Kathleen (Moore) Cronister.

Julie was an avid NASCAR and Dallas Cowboys fan. She was a collector of chef figurines, enjoyed cooking, and reading the gossip magazines. Julie enjoyed serving drinks and getting to know people at the Teamsters Bar in Rockford and Dalton Tap in Byron for many years.



Survivors include sister Linda Gaul of Polo; nephew Matthew (Barb) Gaul, Mark (Katie) Gaul; great nephew Drake Gaul; and Cousins .

She was preceded in death by Parents; half-sister Suzie Conister.

A celebration of Julie's life will be Wednesday, October 25, 2023, from 11:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. at Faith Discovery Church 801 W. Oregon St, Polo. Lunch will be served at Noon to all who wish to stay.

To send condolences please visit www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com. Arrangements completed by Polo Family Funeral Home.

William Ervin 'Bill' Essman

THEDFORD, Neb. — William Ervin Essman, 81, Thedford, Nebraska passed away Friday, September 15, 2023 in North Platte, Nebraska. He was born August 14, 1942 in Fairbury, NE to Ervin and Celia Essman. He was the fourth of five children.

Bill grew up on a farm south of Swanton, Nebraska, where he helped his father with the farm work. During summers when he was old enough, he attended church camp.

While attending Swanton high school, he enjoyed participating in football, basketball and track. He was chosen by the Swanton Legion to attend Boys State in 1959. Bill graduated as Salutatorian from Swanton High School in 1960. He went on to play football at Fairbury Jr College in Fairbury, Nebraska. While there he met his future wife, Marilyn Mergen.

After Fairbury Jr. College, he went to Peru State College, then transferred to Wayne State College. Bill graduated from Wayne State College with a B.A. in Industrial Arts in December of 1967. In January of 1968, he began his teaching career. His first high school teaching job was in Edgewood, IA. While at Edgewood, he was an assistant football coach. His teaching career took the family to Bellevue, IA in 1970, to Stillman Valley, Illinois in 1973 and finally to Thedford, NE in 1979.

Bill and Marilyn were married on August 31, 1963. Shortly after they married, they moved to Wayne Nebraska to attend Wayne State College so they could both complete their college education. Their oldest son, Jeff, was born while they were attending college at Wayne. Their younger son, Kevin, was

born shortly after they moved to Edgewood, IA. Bill loved to watch both sons as they participated in football, basketball and track.

He taught Industrial Arts in each of the schools and continued helping coach football until they moved to Thedford. Bill retired from teaching in May 2003. At that time, he also retired from driving the school bus, which he had done at each school where he had taught.

Bill was a member of NEA, NSEA, the Masons, Scottish Rite, the Shrine and the Order of Eastern Star. He was a 50+ year member of both the Masonic Lodge and the Order of Eastern Star. Bill enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards and Cribbage, attending sporting events of his sons and grandchildren and recycling metal and appliances at the Thedford disposal site.

Bill is survived by his wife of 60 years, Marilyn, their sons, Jeff Essman and Kevin Essman, his grandchildren Logan (Taylor) Simmerman, Kenny Essman, his granddaughter Myah Essman, his great grandson Barrett Simmerman, his sister Lucille (John) Martin, his sister-in-law Meredyth Cline, nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends. Bill was predeceased by his parents, his 3 older sisters Donna, Arla Berggren and Twila Pedersen, brothers-in-law Dean Berggren and La Vern Pedersen and 2 nephews.

An informal Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 2 P.M. at the Thomas County Fairground building. Those who wish to remember Bill with their memories of him are welcome to attend and honor him in that way. If anyone would like to make a memorial donation, please make it to family choice.



Matthew John Frank

BYRON — Matthew John Frank went to his Eternal Home on Saturday, September 30th 2023 from a Fatal Auto Accident in Ogle County, Illinois.

He Loved Skateboarding, Bicycling, and would help you before he would even think of helping himself he truly was a Gentle soul.

Survivors Include Adoptive Parents that raised him Cynthia and Chuck Frank (Anthony's Sister and her Husband) of Byron, Illinois, Marcus Frank (adopted sibling), Biological Father Anthony Heckman Melinda (fiancé), half Sisters Abigail Heckman and Elizabeth Heckman of Dakota Illinois, Half Brother Brandon Heckman, Franklin, North Carolina. Matthew had One Daughter whom he adored with his whole heart and soul Zeldia Eubanks (Alaina Eubanks Mom), Paternal Grandparent Julia Heckman Who he also Loved with his heart and soul He always gave everything to family.

Matthew is also Survived by Many Aunts, Uncles, and cousins and More Importantly to Him the People he called

his friend's them were his true supports.

Matthew was predeceased in Life by Paternal Grandparent John Heckman, Wendell Heckman (uncle), Paternal Grandparents, Howard Lee & Norma Frank. Paternal Great grandparents Burnett & Elizabeth Swanson, Great Grandmother Marjorie Heckman.



Matthew J. Truly had a great bunch of friends and support circle that He held in very high regard in his Life true rocks to him, they helped him thru his whole adult life. You knew if he called you a friend you had a Homie for life he would always be there for you Unconditionally!

From The Family: We wish to thank everyone of for the emotional support and Love you showed during this time of need, It really has helped to Ease the burden and Pain of Losing Matthew way to soon at 26 years young.

Memorial will be done by Pastor Gary Cortese (Beacon Hill Assembly of God, Byron Illinois) With Celebration of Life to be right after where the Family will provide some time to speak of Stories / Memories of Matchew J. Frank.

Shawna E. Spratt

POLO — Shawna E. Spratt, 22, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, October 8, 2023, in rural Polo.

Shawna was born February 6, 2001, in Dixon, Illinois, the daughter of Roy and Dorothy (Burkholder) Spratt. She worked at PNC in Polo where she made fast friends and will be missed. Shawna was a devoted auntie, her world revolved around her nieces and nephew. She loved her family dearly and enjoyed camping with them, making all laugh and would light up a room when she walked in. Shawna lived life to the fullest and wanted everything out of it she could in every moment.

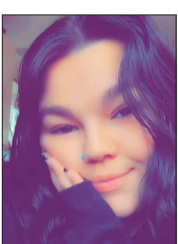
Survivors include her Parents; brothers Corydon (Kate Rundell) Spratt of Polo, IL and Cristopher (Erin) Prusia of Hal-

dane, IL; maternal grandparents Roger and Julia French of Tennessee; paternal grandmother Joyce Smith of Oregon, IL; paternal grandfather Robert Spratt of Oregon, IL; many Aunts and Uncles; nieces Savannah Spratt, Daisy Marks, Astrid Griggs; nephew Allen Prusia; many Cousins including Tammy Griggs and Christina Prusia.

She is preceded in death by her maternal grandmother Ruth French; paternal grandfather Donald Smith; aunt Rita Prusia; uncles Ray Burkholder and Edward Spratt.

A celebration of Shawna's life will be Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Polo Area Senior Center, 101 E. Mason St., in Polo.

Visit www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com to send condolences.



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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Janet Louise Frye

BYRON — Janet Louise Frye, age 84, longtime resident of Byron, Illinois passed away on October 9, 2023 at Allure of Pinecrest Nursing Center, Mt. Morris, IL. A funeral service will be held 3pm Saturday, October 14, 2023 at the United Church of Byron. Visitation will be held 2 – 3pm Saturday, prior to the service at the Church. Burial will be in the Byron Township Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the United Church of Byron.



Janet was born November 18, 1938, in Leaf River, Illinois, the daughter of Wayne and Marian (Arthur) Hoffman. She is a 1956 graduate of the Leaf River High School. On June 14, 1958 Janet married Gerald Frye. Together they raised five children, Brian, Dean, Deb, Darcie and Paula. She was also a living kidney donor to her daughter, Paula Shal. Janet and Gerald celebrated 61 years of marriage until Gerald's passing in 2019. Janet and Gerald were members of the United Church of Byron, where she worked from 1969-1976 as a secretary for the Church. She also sang in the Church choir, directed the children's choir and was a Sunday school teacher. In 1976

she was a secretary for the Director of Gifted Programs and New Funding for the Rockford School District. From 1983-1992 she was a secretary for the Byron High School and in 1992 she became the Administrative Assistant for the Superintendent of the Byron School District. She would remain in that position until her retirement in 1999.

Janet and Gerald enjoyed traveling, spending winters in Florida at Anna Maria Island, and summers in Merrimac, Wisconsin. Most of all, Janet loved spending time with her children grandchildren, great-grandchildren.

Janet will be dearly missed by a son, Dean (Cynthia) Frye of Machesney Park; three daughters, Deb (James) Eisfeller of Byron, Darcie (Mike) Feltmeyer of Lanark, and Paula (James) Shal of Johnsburg, Illinois; 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Jerald (Phyllis) Hoffman of Louisville, Kentucky and their families.

Janet is preceded in death by her husband Gerald; her son, Brian Frye; her parents, Wayne and Marian; and two brothers, Rodney and Eugene.

Robert Arthur Milliman

OREGON — Robert Arthur Milliman, 69, of Oregon, Illinois, passed away on September 25, 2023, with his family by his side. He was born on November 17, 1953, in Rochelle, Illinois to Ralph and Vera Milliman. Robert, also known as Mush to his friends, was a loving and kind-hearted man who cared deeply for his family and close friends.



Robert honorably served his country in the United States Navy from 1972 to 1975. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with a Bronze Star for his dedicated service.

After his military service, Robert pursued a career at Woods Equipment Company. He dedicated himself to his work and made valuable contributions to the company. All who worked with Robert enjoyed his candor and most importantly his sense of humor.

In his free time, Robert enjoyed riding his motorcycles, indulging in wood-working projects, and cooking. Robert's woodworking skills were one of a kind; he created many replicas of buildings and steam engine trains and tractors with amazing intricate details. He also enjoyed crafting beautiful wood bowls on his lathe. These hobbies brought

him joy and allowed him to showcase his creativity and skills.

Robert is survived by his daughters, Stacie (Jessie) Cantu of La Feria, TX, and Julie (Kevin) Rogers of Oregon, IL, as well as 2 granddaughters, 4 grandsons, and 4 step granddaughters. He also leaves behind his siblings: Lyford (Debbie) Milliman of Plymouth, IL; Lyle (Diane) Milliman of Glendale, AZ; Eula (Jim) Monahan of Alvin, TX; Butch Milliman of Oregon, IL; Charlene (Randy) McNeill of Morton, IL; and Millie (Earl) Sweig of Meridian, ID. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Vera (Schier) Milliman, as well as two nephews and a great niece.

Robert will be remembered for his kind heart, his dedication to his family and friends, and his love for his country. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A celebration of Robert's life will be held in the spring of 2024 at the Oregon VFW. Date, and times will be announced by the family at a later date. If you wish to donate towards Robert's memorial, you may do so during his celebration of life. A very special thank you to Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon, IL, for their tremendous care and compassion for our father.

William 'Bill' C. Ulferts

OREGON — William "Bill" C. Ulferts, age 76, passed away surrounded by his family on Wednesday, October 4, 2023. He was born on December 8, 1946 in Oregon the son of Jacob and Bessie (Woodcock) Ulferts.



He worked in maintenance at Chrysler for many years until his retirement. Bill was an avid car guy who spent much of his spare time building and fixing cars, racing, or attending car shows and car club events.

He loved his family and was a proud father and grandfather. Bill loved cheering on his grandkids at their various sporting events.

He is preceded in death by his parents and siblings. He is survived and missed by his son, Jeremy (Tricia) Ulferts of Belvidere; grandchildren, Jonah Ulferts of Beloit and Grace Ulferts of Belvidere; and his significant other, Donna Martin of Oregon.

A memorial visitation will be held from 5:00 – 7:00 PM on Friday, October 13, 2023 at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th St, Oregon, IL. Memorials are established in his name.

To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com.

Joanne B. Crowe

LINDENWOOD — Joanne Crowe, 97 of Lindenwood, Illinois, embarked on the next great adventure of her eternal journey on Saturday, June 24, 2023 at OSF St. Anthony Hospital in Rockford, Illinois, due to complications of a fall in her home earlier that week, after enjoying almost a full century of vibrant life well lived to the very end.



She was a quiet and introspective lady, who read widely, thought deeply, and cared intensely for her family, friends, community, and the world, right up until her death. Even after her eyesight was almost gone, and physical limitations kept her mostly at home, she kept up with current affairs in her family, her community, and the world, devoured audio books at the rate of four to six a week, and loved engaging in a good discussion with whoever might stop by for a visit.

Joanne and her twin sister, Jean, were born on April 21, 1926 to Victor J. and Laura C. (Young) Beaumont in Peru, Illinois, the same day as Princess Elizabeth of York – the future Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth Realms – and always felt a special fondness for Elizabeth.

Joanne graduated from LaSalle-Peru High School in 1944. During the Second World War, she worked as a "Rosie the Riveter," first at the Green River Arsenal in Lee County, Illinois, making artillery shells, and then as a weld inspector on the US Navy's Landing Ship Tanks (LST's) built at the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company's "Prairie Shipyard" on the Illinois River, in Seneca, Illinois.

She attended Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa after high school, but transferred to Illinois State Normal University, in Normal, Illinois after the war, and took a part-time job working for State Farm Insurance Company in their home office. While working at State Farm, Joanne met Lyle Crowe, a local farm boy and soldier who had recently returned from Germany, and was also working at State Farm, and they married in 1947.

Shortly after they were married, Lyle took a job with the Nickel-Plate Railroad, and they moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and then to Indiana where their first two children were born, Larry in Tipton, Indiana (1951), and Kathy in Frankfort, Indiana (1953). From 1955-1963 the family lived in La Salle, Illinois, and added two more members, Mike (1956) and David (1960), both born in Peru, Illinois.

In 1963, the family moved to Lindenwood, Illinois, where Joanne continued to live for sixty years until her death.

The move to Lindenwood opened a whole new world for Joanne by bringing many new people into the circle of those she cared deeply about and providing outlets for her to give of her time and talents. She was a child of the Great Depression. She learned early in life to be an excellent cook and seamstress, and throughout her life acquired many other skills such as gardening, canning, knitting, quilting, and rug-making, which she not only utilized at home for the benefit of her own family, but also gave freely to her new community.

She lent her culinary skills to countless Ham and Turkey Dinners and other food-related functions at the Lindenwood Union Church, and cooked hams and

sent other food items for the Community Club Smorgasbord to raise money for the Lindenwood Grade School. She taught other women in the community to make braided rugs like the ones that graced many of the floors in her own home and helped the Lutheran Church Ladies Quilt Club in their efforts.

She was a member of the Lindenwood Union Church, served in their Ladies Aide group, and sang in the church choir for many years. She served as a School Board Member for the Lindenwood Grade School.

And for many years, she served first as a Postal Clerk, and then Postmaster of the Lindenwood Post Office, positions that she loved because she was able to daily serve and speak into the lives of the people of the community that she loved. After retirement, Joanne stayed very active. She hosted formal tea services at her home for the women of the community. She traveled to Europe, and made many road trips with her friend Margaret Knight, often to rock and shell shows in search of prized additions to their respective extensive collections. For as long as she was physically able, she took great joy in maintaining her extensive flower gardens and numerous long walks with her beloved dogs.

Joanne was predeceased in death by her husband, Lyle M. Crowe, her youngest son, David K. Crowe, her beloved son-in-law, Karl E. Horn (Kathy's husband), parents, Victor J. Beaumont and Laura C. Beaumont, and her three siblings: Robert A. Beaumont, Elizabeth L. McFarland, and Jean Stum.

She is survived by her children: Lawrence E. (Larry) Crowe, of Loves Park, Illinois, Kathleen (Kathy) Horn of Lindenwood, Illinois, and Michael D. (Mike) Crowe, of Lindenwood, Illinois.

She is also survived by three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren: Kathy's daughter, Danielle (Rick) Magana of Charlotte, NC, and their son, Ricky Magana; Kathy's daughter, Adrienne (Mike) D'Amato-Horn, of Poplar Grove, IL, and their sons: Ari and Enzo D'Amato; and Larry's son, Jeffrey A. (Jeff) Crowe of San Diego, CA.

The family wishes to express our profound gratitude to Joanne's friends, neighbors, the Lindenwood community, and particularly to the local volunteer fire departments and Lynnville Township for their kindness, help, and special accommodations that helped her remain in her home until her death. Should you wish to dedicate a memorial to Joanne, the family suggests the Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Protection District, or the Lindenwood Union Church.

Visitation will be from 10-11 A.M., Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at the Lindenwood Union Church, 101 Galena Street, Lindenwood, Illinois. A Funeral service will follow at 11 A.M. with Pastor Dan Sergeant officiating.

Following the funeral service, Joanne's earthly remains will be laid to rest next to her husband, Lyle and son, David, at the Lindenwood Cemetery, Lindenwood, Illinois, among many dear friends and neighbors, in that sacred place where she loved to walk with her dogs, enjoying the peace and tranquility, treasured memories of family and friends, and the beauty of nature.

Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

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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.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

William Barnum Hinkle

ROCKFORD — William Barnum Hinkle, 74, died peacefully, surrounded by his family, on October 5th, 2023 after a courageous battle with the sudden onset of multiple health issues. Bill, or "Billy" to those closest to him, was born in Rockford, Illinois on June 4th, 1949 to William and Jessie Hinkle.



He graduated from Oregon High School in 1967 where he was active in multiple sports, clubs and anything social. Bill spent his summers enjoying the sand dunes on the shores of Silver Lake at the Hinkle family summer home in Mears, Michigan. From an early age, he excelled at tennis which is a cornerstone to Hinkle family life to this day. He had a tenacious spirit on the court and his talent in tennis was well known throughout the area.

Soon after graduation from high school, tragedy struck his family with the sudden death of his father. Bill felt a great responsibility to return to his hometown to support his mom during this time and eventually transferred from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin to Elmhurst College, where he graduated with a bachelors in Sociology and was certified to be a K-12 teacher. Upon graduation, he worked selflessly as an educator and advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities for the state of Illinois, retiring from an administration position at Jack Mabley Center in Dixon, Illinois.

Shortly after he started his career, he met and married Juanita "Janie" Olalde. They had celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary the day before Bill suddenly became ill. Bill and Janie had one daughter, Dr. Hana Hinkle, who was the greatest joy and accomplishment of his life and was named in honor of favorite trips he and Janie took to Hawaii. Bill was a very involved and dedicated dad. Hana and her "Daddo" could often be seen around their small town together getting ice cream, riding bikes to the the local recreation center to play basketball, going on bus trips to see baseball games at Wrigley Field and on the local tennis courts giving lessons to children. He could often be found attending one of Hana's many sports, activities and musicals in school. He and Janie never missed an opportunity to support their daughter. Bill would also take solo trips to visit Hana at college in Iowa City and take her to see Iowa Hawkeye football games. He proudly held a record for only seeing the Hawkeyes lose once in person.

Bill made a friend for life with his son in law, Colin Peterson. He was equally as proud of Colin as he was of Hana and appreciated Colin's friendship and willingness to help whenever needed. He instilled in his

family a love for sports (especially the Boston Celtics, Chicago Bears, Iowa Hawkeyes and Atlanta Braves) his love for art, music and theatre, and his genuine love for people.

Thoughtful, creative and well-read, you always wanted Bill on your trivia team for his ability to recall obscure facts on a moments notice. Bill had a big and sensitive heart and was a friend to anyone he met-this also made Bill a proud over-tipper at restaurants and the most thoughtful gift giver of all time. He was quick to smile and dependable for a good joke when you needed a laugh. He always supported causes that helped the underserved.

Bill was involved in many community groups and also served as a Sunday School teacher and youth group leader at local churches. Bill single handedly supported youth tennis in Oregon for many years, teaching local kids and starting the Oregon Tennis Open tournament with the Oregon Park District in the mid 2000's.

An original foodie, Bill and his family often enjoyed trying new restaurants and new foods-sushi was a Hinkle family favorite. He enjoyed living in a bigger city with his wife, and close to his daughter and son in law later in life, which allowed him to explore his interests more and live his life to the fullest.

Bill had a deep faith in God which supported him during difficult times and guided his core values. Bill's life is an example of perseverance, relying on faith and being a friend to everyone. In this spirit, his family asks that you remember to be kind and a friend to others, take time to mentor youth or support your community by volunteering and appreciate the small joys in life, like spending quality time with your family.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents and in-laws. He will be deeply missed by his lifelong companion and wife Janie, his daughter and son in law who not just lost their biggest supporter, but also their best friend. He will also be missed by many nieces and nephews and one brother, Robert (Kathryn) Hinkle. The world has lost a truly special person who's legacy will always remain in those who loved him the most.

There will be a visitation held in his honor on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Oregon, IL.

A memorial fund has been established in Bill's honor to support scholarships for local students pursuing a teaching degree in special education. Donations can be made at Central Bank in Oregon Illinois to Hana Hinkle Peterson c/o Memorial Fund or by Venmo: @Hana-Hinkle www.farrellhollandgale.com

Gisa A. Vinnedge

AMBOY — Gisa A. Vinnedge, age 80 of Amboy, IL passed on October 10, 2023 in Serenity Hospice & Home, Oregon, IL. Gisa was born on March 20, 1943 in Bad-Oeynhausen Germany, the daughter of Fritz Meyer and Lore Meyer Bogdanovich. She Moved to the United States in 1952.



Children: Dave (Kim) Vinnedge- Forrester IL. Chuck (Farah) Vinnedge Woodbridge Va. Vickie (Bill) Gerdes Amboy IL; Grandchildren: Justin, Jared, Rebecca, Dalton, Eli, Garrett, Mayson, Alyssa, Lauren, Nathan, Elizabeth, Andrew, Rachel, Aaron; she also had many great grandchildren.

Gisa loved spending time with her family and all her extended friends and family dearly.

Gisa's favorite TV pastime was watching tennis! She loved jokes, funny cards, and playing Euchre. In her early days she did synchronized swimming, loved horseback riding, and the beach.

She was also a great bowler. Gisa always had a punch line ready.

She was an only child, a very stubborn German, and lived her life to the fullest. Everyone who knew her truly loved her. She had a love for garage sales and found the perfect treasures for every one! Literally!

She was preceded in death by both her parents; bonus daughter: Laurie Vinnedge Teadt; daughter: Kristina Lynn Vinnedge; and a grandson: Jacob Vinnedge.

A graveside service will be held at the Byron City Cemetery on 10/21/23 at 10am following with a Celebration of Life at the Mt Morris Moose Club, 101 Moose Drive, Mt. Morris Illinois 61054 with Pastor John Kalebaugh officiating from 11-4pm with lunch provided.

In Lieu of flowers Gisa would like donations to go to the Muscular Dystrophy Association or the Autism Awareness Association.

Charles 'Chuck' Willard

GALENA — Charles "Chuck" Willard, 74 of Galena, IL passed away peacefully Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at home surrounded by family.

A funeral service will be held at 2 PM, Thursday, October 12, 2023, at the Furlong Funeral Chapel, Galena where friends may call after 11 AM until the time of service. The burial will be in Greenwood, Cemetery, Galena. Military honors will be accorded graveside by Galena VFW Post #2665 and American Legion Post #193.



He was born on November 7, 1948, in Oregon, IL, the son of Hugh and Florence (Bloom) Willard. Chuck was united in marriage to Maureen L. Dimke on December 7, 1974. After graduating from Oregon High School Chuck enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was

stationed in Germany and served in the security police in Berlin.

After his service, Chuck worked at Lemco Foundry until retirement. In his free time, Chuck loved going fishing, watching old Western TV shows, reminiscing about his time in Germany, and spending time with friends and family.

Chuck will be greatly missed by his wife of 48 years, Maureen, and three daughters, Shannon Garcia (Dan Post), Angela Willard (Eli Stephanopoulos), and Tiffany Willard (Casey Bekkerus). He is also survived by six grandchildren, Tyler, Abigail (Blake Howerton), Damian, Alexa, Gabe, Danielle, and two siblings, Mary (Richard Krug) and David Willard (Tia Bower).

Online condolences may be left at www.furlongfuneralchapel.com.

Janice Halsne Spychala

STILLMAN VALLEY — Janice Halsne Spychala of Stillman Valley was Promoted to Glory October 04, 2023.

Service to be held October 28 at

Salvation Army Temple Corps, 500 S, Rockford Ave., Rockford IL. Visitation at 10 a.m. and service at 11 a.m. Lunch to follow.

Full obituary to follow.

NEWSPAPER
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The Holy Bible

Simply classic literature or the Living Word of God?

The Bible stands alone as a timeless piece of classic literature. No other book has been written by so many contributors, over so many years, and yet with such consistency of content. No other book has endured so tenaciously in the face of such relentless persecution. No other book has inspired so much good, or been improperly interpreted to excuse so much evil. No other book has so profoundly impacted civilization.

The Bible is a collection of stories, poems, prophecies and letters. It was written by kings, doctors, farmers, business men and others. Their writings span several thousand years, from Moses to the Apostle Paul. Prophecies made by men in the Old Testament were observed by other men to be fulfilled in the New Testament, many generations later. "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21) These writings are inspired by God Himself.

Since its existence, skeptics have been attempting to discredit the Bible. The Dark Ages were a result of deliberate suppression of the Bible and learning. Throughout the tumult of the Reformation, many people were put to death for believing and obeying the Bible. Professors and scientists have continually scoffed at the Bible and predicted its coming extinction, yet it is still the best selling book of all time.

The Bible is more than excellent literature, however. It is the inspired and living Word of God! The Bible has flourished for so many generations because those who believe and obey it find life through study of its pages. The Bible provides friendship for the lonely, freedom for the addict, contentment for the poor, forgiveness for the sinner, along with excellent marriage and business counseling, and how to train your children. The Bible is the answer to all life's problems. If this seems to you to be an unsupportable claim, we simply invite you to find out for yourself.

Non belief in the Bible has become a fad in our sophisticated modern world. But don't miss out on the secret to fulfillment and happiness in life! Read your Bible, then obey it.

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Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club

TURKEY Shoot SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH
8:00am-4:30pm
WE PROVIDE THE SHELLS
\$3 A SHOOT

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE
Call Bob Burgett with any questions 815-560-7572
Guns allowed to be used - 12ga, 16ga, 20ga, 410

MEAT RAFFLE
\$20 PER TICKET
CHANCE TO WIN A FREEZER FULL OF MEAT
(*2 winners - each winner will win 1 freezer full of meat)
Drawing will be Nov. 5 at the Turkey Shoot for information contact Andy or Linda at 815-732-2808

2 FREEZERS FULL OF MEAT*

AND GUN RAFFLE

09252023

LOCAL NEWS



Mobile Museum of Tolerance to visit Byron

BYRON — The Mobile Museum of Tolerance will visit Byron High School at 696 Colfax St. in Byron on Oct. 18 from 3:30-6:30 p.m.

The Mobile Museum of Tolerance is a world-class learning experience utilizing innovative technology and interactive lessons to bring its message of tolerance directly to Illinois schools and communities. The purpose of the MMOT is to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds, empower-

ing them to raise their voices to combat anti-Semitism, bullying, racism, hate and intolerance, and to promote human dignity.

The MMOT is the first traveling education center of its kind in the United States and visits school districts and public places across Illinois to offer free education and awareness about the very real threat of hate and intolerance in our communities.

The MMOT has proven very popular since its creation, and is

now booked to appear in school districts and libraries throughout Illinois well into 2025. The bus offers workshops and a hands-on educational platform to reach thousands of students and encourage them to speak against bullying, hate, racism, anti-Semitism, and much more.

The MMOT has been busy this summer visiting communities across Illinois through library districts, and a popular 10-day visit at the Illinois State Fair.

Blair to speak at Crossroads Country Quilt Guild meeting

FORRESTON — For its program for Monday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m., Crossroads Country Quilt Guild's speaker will be Cassie Blair, owner of Lucky Quilt Company in Pecatonica. She will introduce us to the latest Creative Grids Kitty Cornered Ruler and other fall fun happenings at her shop.

This special Creative Grids ruler makes eleven different sizes of the Kitty-Cornered block - two at a time! All the cutting sizes and angles are printed on the tool for perfect blocks every time! Cassie has also just announced some other new and exciting things happening at her quilt shop so come hear the latest and maybe do a little shopping too!

Guild meetings are held at the Forreston Grove Church, 7246 Freeport Road; Forreston, on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m., with ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. Visitors are welcome; for visitors there is a fee of \$5 at the door. For more information call Program Committee Chairs Dawn Vehmeier 815-291-4592 or Ann Tully 815-238-6489, or Guild President Shelly Holverson 815-297-2381.

Oregon Woman's Club offers afternoon of fun and games for charity Oct. 20

OREGON — The Oregon Woman's Club welcomes the community to an afternoon of cards and board games on Friday, Oct. 20, at the Rock River Center, 810 S. 10th St., Oregon. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m., and the program starts at 1 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person. There will also be a

50/50 raffle, door prizes, and refreshments. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Invite your friends to make up a table or come on your own and join others to play. Bring your own games or use ones provided by the Woman's Club members or the Rock River Center. Proceeds from the

afternoon will go to Winning Wheels in Probstown, an organization that provides comprehensive rehabilitation for people suffering from neurological impairment caused by either diseases, such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and multiple sclerosis, or as a result of brain injuries.

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sept. 29

At 7:24 p.m., Oregon Police issued Danny E. Nolasco, 29, Oregon, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred near the 8th and Jefferson Street intersection.

Oct. 3

At 7:49 a.m., Oregon Police issued Brandie L. McClain, 37, Mt. Morris, a citation for passing a school bus while loading or unloading. This violation occurred in the 200 block of South 10th Street.

At 1:04 p.m., Oregon Police issued Brett A. Rogers, 34, Oregon, a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 100 block of North Daysville Road.

At 2:24 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Jacqueline K. Hollaway, 60, Forreston, for criminal trespass to property and retail theft that occurred in Sept. 28 at the Oregon Super Value, 204 N. 4th St. Hollaway was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

At 5:59 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Nicole M. Mason, 41, Oregon, for retail theft from Snyder's Ace Hardware, 201 N. 4th St. Mason was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

Oct. 4

At 7:57 a.m., Oregon Police issued Mark T. Miller, 40, Leaf River, citations for passing a school bus while loading/unloading and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 400 block of South 10th Street.

Oct. 5

At 7:31 a.m., Oregon Police issued Stanley A. Hart, 67, Polo, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 300 block

of Jefferson Street.

At 8:01 p.m., Oregon Police responded to two-vehicle traffic crash in the Dos Amigos parking lot, 404 E. Washington St., involving a 2002 Chevrolet driven by Pedro Romero, 53, of Fontana, California, and a parked 2022 Jeep owned by Amy S. Clark, 42, Chana. No citations were issued for the traffic crash. Romero had an outstanding Ogle County warrant for failure to appear and was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

At 8:32 p.m., Oregon Police issued Kayla M. Martin, 31, Mt. Morris, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Jefferson Street.

Oct. 6

At 7:49 a.m., Oregon Police issued Tiffany M. Bates, 38, Rockford, citations for disobeying a traffic control device and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred at the Gale Street and Pines Road intersection.

At 10:04 a.m., Oregon Police issued Tiffany A. Probst, 45, Leaf River, a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 200 block of North 3rd Street.

At 12:25 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash at the intersection of N 4th and Fair Streets involving a 2015 Chrysler driven by Erica L. Morgan, 27, Polo, and a 2002 Honda driven by Sergio Carreno, 51, Oregon. Morgan was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Seven parking citations and 15 verbal warnings were issued during the week of Oct. 2-8.

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

POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

On Oct. 4 at 7:20 p.m. Jeffery J. Brashaw, 49, Polo, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with no valid proof of insurance. Brashaw was given a notice to appear.

On Oct. 9 at 6:36 p.m. Brandon L. Jacobs, 26, Dixon, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

Jacobs was given a notice to appear.

Halloween

Tuesday, Oct. 31 is Halloween. Polo's trick-or-treat hours are from 4-7 p.m. Turn on your porch lights for the children.

Remember the Halloween safety rules: Young children should always go trick-or-treating with an adult. Never trick-or-

treat alone. Be cautious of strangers. Only visit houses where the porch lights are on. Never go inside a house. Wear costumes with reflective markings and bright colors. Costumes should never drag on the ground. Wait until you get home and have your parents check your candy before you eat it. Walk, do not run and have a safe Halloween.

Sheriff's Office announces IDOT grant enforcement results

OREGON — The Ogle County Sheriff's Office released the results of supplementary enforcement efforts conducted via the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). The STEP campaign ran from Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2023.

Over the course of the year sheriff's deputies worked 60 hours of additional patrol time that was funded by the grant. As a result of this enforcement deputies conducted 73 traffic stops that resulted in 59 citations being issued and made two criminal arrests. This activity included: 42

citations for speeding, 13 citations for other traffic offenses, four arrests for no valid/suspended/revoked licenses, and two warrant arrests. The Ogle County Sheriff's Office participated in this effort to save lives by focusing on the leading contributory causes of crashes: speeding, impaired driving, electronic device use, failure to yield and disobeying traffic control signals, as well as occupant restraint violations.

The STEP campaign was funded by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

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)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

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

LOCAL NEWS



The Oregon chapter of the General Federation of Women's Clubs donated cash and food to the Lifeline Food Pantry in Conover Square as a project for the GFWC's National Day of Service. Pictured are (left to right) OWC members Audrey Taylor, Valdean Fletcher, Rosemary Underwood, Johanna Hahne, Sandi Chasm and Jan Steward, and Lifeline Executive Director Sharon Wallace.

Oregon Woman's Club donates \$500 and food items to Oregon Lifeline Food Pantry

OREGON — The Oregon Woman's Club recently donated \$500 and many non-perishable food items to the Lifeline Food Pantry, located in the Conover Square shopping center. The national General Federation of Women's Clubs designated Sept. 30 as a National Day of Service for its clubs across the U.S. This year's theme was "Food Insecurity," inspiring the local chapter to boost the Lifeline Food Pantry, which serves the Oregon community.

"Our mission as a club is to support non-profits

in the area performing important work over a broad spectrum of areas, and the Lifeline pantry certainly meets that criterion. They provide a necessary service to the people in the Oregon area undergoing economic hardship. The pantry depends on donations of food and other non-perishable items, the proceeds from a small resale shop, and contributions from the community. The Oregon Woman's Club is proud to be one of those supporters," Jan Steward, OWC president, said.

Record number of tractors at AOP Show

OREGON—A record number of 52 antique farm tractors were featured at the 30th annual Antique Tractor Classic and Gas Engine Exhibit held at Oregon Park East as a part of the 2023 Autumn on Parade (AOP) activities.

Many tractor exhibitors enjoyed participating in the annual tractor drive-thru in downtown Oregon. Each exhibitor was awarded a dash plaque with the AOP symbol.

Nationally-respected Agricultural Broadcaster Max Armstrong exhibited his 1953 Farmall Super M in the show and participated with his tractor in the Harvest Time Parade on Sunday. After his work with WGN Radio, Armstrong served as communications director of Farm Progress Publications Company. Winners - Awards were made based on the ballots cast by the exhibitors. First place: Jim Grozny of Oregon with his International 1456 and Oliver four-bottom plow. Second place: Jim Arnold of Oregon with his John Deere A. Third place: Ray Ankney of Chana with his International Farmall "M."

The AOP Antique Tractor Classic Committee wishes to thank the following donors: Steve Benesh and Sons, sponsorship of Max Armstrong with his tractor at the Tractor Classic, and the Grand Parade on Sunday afternoon. Thank you to E.D. Etnyre Company, Birkey's Farm Store of Polo, Blount International (Woods Equipment Company) of Oregon, Prairie State John Deere Implement of Dixon, Oregon H.S, FFA Chapter, and the Ogle County Farm Bureau for sponsorship of awards and raffle items at the Tractor Classic.

Chana UMC Family Clothes Closet established new hours

CHANA — Chana Family Clothes Closet at Chana United Methodist Church is open for anyone needing free clothing and accessories. New hours have been established for the new season. The Closet is available Tuesday from 1-5 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Saturday hours are being added the first and third Saturdays of November and December from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 815-732-7683 before your arrival. Custom hours are

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Oct. 17

Serenity Hospice & Home's Drop-in Tuesday will meet from 9 a.m. to noon at The Serenity Shed, 131 N. 3rd St., Oregon. Join us for coffee conversation and a light snack.

Oct. 18

Serenity Hospice & Home's Men's coffee group will meet from 9-10 a.m. at The Sunrise Family Restaurant, 116 N. 4th St. in Oregon.

Oct. 18

Basic 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, Oct. 18 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 Disclaimer: This program is educational and informational only. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-Medicare to get information on all of your options.

Oct. 19

Serenity Hospice & Home's Bereavement Book Club will meet from 5-6 p.m. at The Serenity Home, 1658 S. Illinois Route 2, Oregon. We will be discussing "Mediocre Widow".

Oct. 20

Serenity Hospice & Home's Diamond Art will meet from 9-11 a.m. at The Serenity Shed, 131 N. 3rd St., Oregon.

Oct. 27

Disciples United Methodist Church, 102 Maple Ave., Mt. Morris, will host its annual Fall Fest on Friday, Oct. 27 from 4:30-7 p.m. This year, meals will be served family style in the dining room, or by pre-ordering take out. The menu is turkey casserole, cranberry/orange Jello, rolls, and slice of homemade pie. Meals are \$14. Pre-orders for take out can be placed by calling the church at 815-734-4853, or line at disciplesumcwomen.thegivingsystem.com/170a83, or texting "casserole" to 833-643-0620. Order forms will also be at the main entrance in a covered mailbox. Orders can then be placed in the dropbox on the north side of the building.

Oct. 29

Join us in the east parking lot of United Church of Byron (701 W. 2nd St.) on Sunday, Oct. 29 for a fun Trunk or Treat event for the whole family starting at

4 p.m. and concluding at 6 p.m. We will also have hot dogs, chips and drinks that day. This will be held rain or shine! If raining, trunk or treat will take place inside the church. Non-candy treats will be handed out to kids who have food allergies or medical conditions. Please let us know if this is you! We are blue pumpkin friendly. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 815-234-8777.

Oct. 31

Kids in the Mt. Morris community are invited to Trunk or Treat to the Beat! hosted by the Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris on Halloween, Tuesday, Oct. 31 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot on the corner of West Center Street and South Seminary Avenue. The theme is music and decorated trunks will offer candy and prizes. Hot dogs and chips will be provided in the garage of the Christian Education Center. A photo booth will round out the activities. The church is located at 102 S. Seminary Ave., Mt. Morris. Everyone is welcome at services held every Sunday morning. Worship services are held at 10 a.m. preceded by Sunday School for all ages at 8:30 a.m. Kingdom Kids is held during the worship service for youngsters ages 4-9, and staffed nursery is available for children younger than 4. For more information call the church office at 815-734-4942.

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VIEWPOINT

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

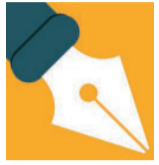
Published every Monday
Mike Feltes, General Manager
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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Voter demographics

Dear editor,
Who votes Republican and who votes Democrat? Here are some of the recent statistics, though percentages will vary from year to year. This letter attempts to express facts generated by reputable sources, not opinions. Be advised that some of those facts may not be pleasing to every partisan ear.

30 voted Democrat in 2020. Voters between 45 and 74 were quite evenly divided, but older voters were more strongly Republican. (Pew Research)



The South's change from Democrat to Republican was mostly complete by the Reagan years (1980s).

Eighty four percent of Evangelical Protestants and 60 percent of Mainline Protestants voted for Trump in 2020 (Gallup). 52 percent of the Democratic vote identified as Christian. Those who did not identify as Christian were more apt to vote Democrat than Republican.

The collar counties surrounding Chicago made the switch from Republican to Democrat roughly 20 years ago. In some of the northern suburbs between 50 percent and 80 percent have college degrees. By comparison, in Illinois' rural communities between 10 percent and 30 percent have degrees. (City Data.com)

In the 2020 election 92 percent of Blacks, 65 percent of Hispanics and 61 percent of Asians voted Democrat. Minorities comprised 37 percent of Democratic vote and 11 percent of Republican.

Cities that house major universities, such as Minneapolis, Madison, Urbana and Ann Arbor, vote for Democrats. (City Data)

In the 2022 Midterms the Independent vote totaled 41 percent, Republicans 26 percent, and Democrats also 26 percent. The growth of the Independent vote has been trending in recent years.

Wealth statistics changed considerably in the last 10-20 years. Average income in Democrat-leaning states is \$71,264. In Republican leaning states it is \$59,108. (Cook Partisan Voting Index). IRS data shows that 65 percent of those with incomes at or over \$500,000 are Democrats. (Washington Examiner)

With youth, college education, and urban residence on the rise, Republicans are losing slightly over three percent of voters each year. Losses are partially countered by movement of US population, decreased immigration, and, yes, gerrymandering. None the less, Republicans are frequently losing the popular vote but winning the electoral college vote.

Rural communities usually vote Republican: 65 percent voted for Trump in 2020. Cities with populations over 100,000 (Rockford & Peoria) and nearby villages usually vote Democrat.

The strong presence of voting blocks makes us wonder if voters are making up their own minds or simply copying the voices around them? Are they aware of the needs and wishes of those who differ from them in age, wealth, education, religion, or urban/rural residence? Is there any reasonable attempt to find middle ground so necessary for our democracy to flourish?

The largest group of Republican voters are white men without a college degree, sometimes comprising as much as 59 percent of the Republican vote. (Pew Research)

Delmar Lohr
Forreston

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.

Apparently even agriculture can adapt

Seems like there's plenty of chatter these days about artificial intelligence. When I was growing up we used to refer to artificial intelligence as he couldn't find his rear in the dark if all 10 fingers were flashlights.

I guess that's why I'm a Neanderthal living in a modern world.

Think about it...artificial basically means not real. So I am to believe then that this is not real intelligence? Believe me, I have been accused of that countless times in my life.

But, as with all invention there is a use. So I share with you an article written by Caitlyn Lamm, Iowa Farm Bureau public relations specialist. Apparently even agriculture can adapt.



Ron Kern

Then again as I look at how the world has evolved, particularly in the past two decades, there's a movement to replace mankind's thinking with machine thinking. Personally I think that much of this replacement is due to our own laziness and inability to accept responsibility.

Lamm
When it comes to technology, I would not consider myself an early adopter.

Starting your car from your phone. Why? You can't figure out how to use a key? Opening a garage door from your phone. You don't know how to push a button? Talking to your television to change channels. You don't know how to operate a remote? Well, wait a second, that one may be useful. I retract.

I prefer chatting with a cashier to using a self-checkout. I write lists with a pen and paper instead of an app on my phone. And I'm often asking my smart-device-loving-husband, "What the heck do we need that for?"

I'm not saying that the industrial revolution and technological advancements are all bad. Indeed, they have fueled the greatest economic engine ever known to mankind. What I am disturbed by is that when we allow those advancements to replace critical human thinking.

However, I can even recognize the good technology can do. Particularly when it comes to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in farming and its role in animal care and sustainability.

I would rather make a mistake, cuss myself for being so stupid, and learn not to make that mistake again. It's called life-long learning. I have no trouble turning a key, pushing a button, writing my own notes and making my own

Here are a few examples of AI in agriculture I find especially fascinating:

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Oct. 30, 1961, the Soviet Union detonated Tsar Bomba, or Big Ivan, over the Mityushikha Bay test range on the Novaya Zemlya Island in the Arctic Circle. The unique, 57-megaton nuclear bomb's flash of light was visible more than 1,000 kilometers away when it exploded at a height of 13,000 feet.

* On Oct. 31, 1984, Indira Gandhi, the first female prime minister of India, was assassinated by two of her bodyguards, Satwant Singh and Beant Singh, while walking through the garden of her residence on the way to an interview with British actor Peter Ustinov. Her death sparked riots in India and New Delhi, where several thousand Sikhs were killed.

* On Nov. 1, 1953, Canon Mervyn Stockwood, an English clergyman, returned from a trip to Russia and reported that an atheist tour guide there had claimed that Jesus was a Christian invention. Stockwood also announced that only 45 of Russia's 1,600 churches were still open.

* On Nov. 2, 1990, President George Bush rallied in Ohio for the removal of Iraqi president Saddam Hussein from Kuwait without the firing of a single shot. He also promised the return of American troops "very soon."

* On Nov. 3, 1838, the world's largest English-language daily newspaper was launched as a bi-weekly publication, the Bombay Times and Journal of Commerce, in Bombay, India.

* On Nov. 4, 1925, Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first woman to be elected as an American state governor, as well as the first and to date only female governor of Wyoming, following the death of her husband, William Ross, from complications of an appendectomy. In addition, she was also the first female director of the United States Mint.

* On Nov. 5, 2003, Gary Ridgway, a commercial truck painter and serial killer also known as the "Green Valley Killer," pleaded guilty to killing 48 women in the 1980s and 1990s. In 2011, he further confessed to a 49th murder and was sentenced to a 49th consecutive life term in the Washington State Penitentiary.

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Byron CUSD thanks Transportation Department

Dear editor,
National Bus Safety Week is Oct. 16-20, and the Byron School District would like to recognize the many dedicated and talented men and women who work in our transportation department. These hard-working and devoted staff members help to ensure our community's children get to and from school safely each and every day. They get up very early, drive in challenging weather, and are often the first and last face our children see when attending school. The work they do is critical to the district, and we are very grateful for the commitment they show in transporting our most precious resource, our community's children. Thank you Byron CUSD Transportation Department!



Mrs. Barb Rundle, Byron CUSD
director of transportation
Mr. Buster Barton, Byron CUSD
superintendent of schools

Welcome to the Creek

Dear editor,
In Loving Memory Of
Robby Hanke
Welcome to the Creek

The creek's current begins from a small spring, an age old act somewhere deep, emerging through the long grasses, cold and pure.

rains, the flow somehow touches our thoughts with endless wonder. Running fast, the cresting waves swelling and rippling like a river,

its sound, delivering peace of mind. But for now, we'll move forward

And from light above, the sandy creek bed can be seen as the waters pass by our life, through nature, even through our dreams. And it's no surprise when it rises up after the early spring

like the flowing water you left behind. Our love, where it's always been, in our hearts until you greet us again, this time, up the hill by the creekside.

Bobby Hanke
Dodgeville, Wisconsin

LOCAL NEWS



Polo Women's Club food drive a success

Polo Women's Club held a food drive on Sept. 30 at Polo Fresh Food Market as part of the Greater Federation of Women's Clubs National Day of Service. A total of 212 non-perishable food items, along with cash donations, were given to the Polo Food Pantry. Club President Sheila Dean commented, "The outpouring of support from the community was amazing. I never imagined we would experience such generosity and know the Polo Food Pantry will be very grateful." This was the inaugural National Day of Service with the purpose of raising awareness of food insecurities in every community in the nation. The GFWC Illinois placed third in the number of Women's Clubs participating in the event nationwide. Mayor Doug Knapp and the Polo City Council declared Sept. 30 the Polo Women's Club National Day of Service. For more information on the event or the Polo Women's Club, contact Sheila Dean, 815-677-6877. Pictured left to right: Club President Sheila Dean, Mayor Doug Knapp, Club Member Mary Cimino and Club Secretary Pat Kuhn.



The Reagan Brothers' Story coming to Oregon Depot Museum Oct. 28

OREGON — Ronald Reagan is known all over the world. But few know about his big brother, Neil, who was nicknamed "Moon." Even fewer realize all the ways that the two brothers helped each other in their successful careers. On Saturday, Oct. 28 at 10 a.m., Dixon speaker Tom Wadsworth will come to the Oregon Depot Museum to present, "How Dutch Helped Moon: The Story of the Reagan Brothers of Dixon." The one-hour presentation will reveal how Ronald Reagan influenced his big brother's college education and career in radio, movies, media and advertising, and how Neil influenced the success of Ronald Reagan's political career. Wadsworth, who holds two master's degrees and a PhD, has received national acclaim as a writer and speaker. The event is free and open to the public.

For additional details about this or any other depot program, call Otto Dick at 815-440-0639, Roger Cain 815-757-9715 or Chris Martin at 815-742-8471.

Byron Kiwanis Sack Lunch Saturday is Oct. 28

BYRON — The last Byron Kiwanis Pork Chop sandwich sale for 2023 is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until the pork chops are gone. The sale will be in the St. Mary Catholic Church parking lot, located at 220 E. Blackhawk Drive.

Sack lunches are \$8 and include a grilled Eichman's butterfly pork chop sandwich, chips, cookie and bottle of water. A single pork chop sandwich can be purchased for \$6 each. These delicious sandwiches sell out quickly so be sure to stop by early!

All proceeds benefit programs in our community. Byron Kiwanis sponsors "K-KIDS" at Mary

Morgan Elementary, "Builders Club" at Byron Middle School and "Key Club" at Byron High School. We collaborate with other area service organizations and businesses because together we reach more people and have a greater impact on our community. Some of the programs we support include Mary Morgan Family Reading Night, youth education & sports, high school college scholarships, Byron School PBIS: Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, Free Breakfast with Santa, benefitting Operation Santa, Crossroads Blues Society, People Helping People Food Pantry, Village of Progress, and Neuroscience Research Foundation.

Leaf River Lions Club Halloween activities

LEAF RIVER — Halloween hours are set for Leaf River on Tuesday, Oct. 31 from 4-7 p.m. The afternoon will begin with the Leaf River Lions sponsored Costume Contest at 4:30 p.m., which will be held in the Bertolet Memorial Building. Weather permitting the contest may be outside.

There will be several different classes for judging as follows: 0-2 years; 3-4 years; five years and kindergarten; first, second, third, fourth and fifth grades; middle school, high school and adult. First place in each division will receive \$5, second place will receive \$3 and runner up will receive \$1 (everyone will receive a prize). Everyone in costume will receive a free hot dogs sandwich, chips and lemonade. There will be hot dogs available to purchase. Come and enjoy seeing the many costumes and the fun everyone is having. You can also enjoy a bite to eat!

This year the Lions will again offer a "Trunk

'n Treat" event. Cars will park along the west side of Bertolet Park, on both sides of the street, with their trunks open. Those in costume will proceed along

the rows of cars and receive their treats in that manner. The village has agreed to block off Blaine Street for this to happen. This provides a quick and safe Trick or

Treat environment for the children. If Blaine Street fills with cars, we will line up around the corner in front of the Bertolet Building. Trunk 'n Treat will begin at 5 p.m.



Oregon Lions donate books to Little Explorers Daycare

Thanks to a generous donation of books from Barnes and Noble, the Oregon Lions Literacy Committee have been busy distributing books throughout the Oregon community. Most recently, they stopped by Little Explorers Learning Adventures Daycare in Oregon and presented Owner and Director Jodi Heuerman with some books for the little ones who are in her care. Pictured are Heuerman and Oregon Lion Carol Ohrn.

Halloween on the Prairie

**Sunday, October 22
Noon – 4:00 PM
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Hayrides, Crafts, Raptor Rehab Owl and Hawk Demonstrations, a Bounce House, Costume Parade, Hot Dog Lunch

The Byron Park District will offer paid ticketed games and apple sling shot.

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For more information, please call 815-234-8535.

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2023 HOME SCHEDULE

SEP. 9	SEP. 23	OCT. 14	OCT. 21	NOV. 7	NOV. 14
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LOCAL NEWS

Byron Homecoming court nominees named, winners crowned



Freshmen nominees were - Back row (left to right): Kole Aken, Denton Shank, Zebedee Gautier, William Julian and JJ Edmonson. Front row (left to right): Caleigh Rybicki, Ashley Wichman, Aubrie Fuller, Mekenzie Lemke and Lila Morehead.



Sophomore nominees were - Back row (left to right): August Martz, Cason Newton, Ole Wulf, Caden Considine, Weston Auker and Carson Groharing. Front row (left to right): Molly Wheeler, Hadyn Johnson, Macy Groharing, Courtney Linhart and Ava Salo.



Junior nominees were - Back row (left to right): Brayden Knoll, Dillon Shank, Jarett Ross, Liam Connell and Davis Baker. Front row (left to right): Claire Henkel, Delaney Henert, Jaden Palzkill, Alyssa Bauer and Tyler Buchstaber. Not pictured: Meredith Jones.



Senior nominees were - Back row (left to right): Nick Drake, Noah Hall, Carsen Behn, Kye Aken and Andrew Freedlund. Front row (left to right): Reily Smallwood, Remi Newton, Rosalie Hegberg, Madison Groharing and Paityn Kann.



Homecoming court winners were - Third row (left to right): Noah Hall, Nick Drake, Carsen Behn, Kye Aken, Davis Baker and Ole Wulf. Second row (left to right): Rosalie Hegberg, Reily Smallwood, Madison Groharing, Remi Newton, Tyler Buchstaber, Molly Wheeler, Lila Morehead and Denton Shank. Front row (left to right): Owen Claunch, Andrew Freedlund, Paityn Kann and Harper Dolan.

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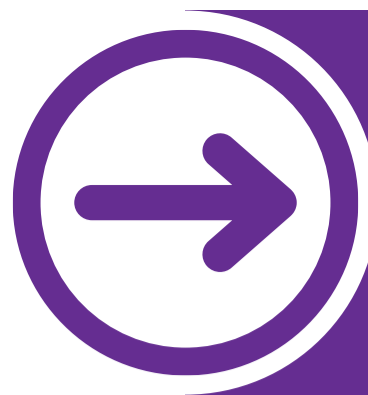
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Despite a great season, Byron girls golf team is anxious for 2024

'It was such a pleasure to be a part of such an exceptional season'

BY GEORGE HOWE
CORRESPONDENT

BYRON — With high school golf wrapped up for the season, the Byron girls' team has reason to hold their heads up high. For the first time in school history, the Tigers went undefeated both in meets and Big Northern Conference play. They continued their winning ways capturing the regional title, punching their ticket to the Sectional which would have qualified the team for the state finals. This is where the fairy tale story came to an end, with Byron finishing in fourth out of 15 other schools as a team, one spot below advancing.

Naturally, everyone was disappointed with the outcome. But, with four of the starting six golfers returning next season, the future prospects look bright. Junior Gina Baker, the daughter of head coach Kris Baker, and selected to the All-Conference second team, went to sectionals as a sophomore and shared her thoughts about 2024.

"I know that we would have liked to have gone to state," Gina said. "We are hungry for some hardware. With our returning players, I hope to lead the team to another great year."

It's a rare feat on any level of sport to have an undefeated campaign. This achievement wasn't lost on Coach Baker, his staff, and golfers.

"It was such a pleasure to be a part of such an exceptional season," Kris Baker said. "I felt lucky to drive the 'white bus' to our events."

Baker attributed success to the nice mix of youth and veteran leadership lead by senior team captain and All-Conference first-team selection Abbie Baker, who alternated with freshman sensation Alayna Brandt for the number one team slot.

"Abbie comes from a supportive golf family, is a student of the game, and a strong leader," Kris Baker said. "She played in quite a few summer tournaments in Rockford



The Regional Champion Byron varsity girls golf team: From left to right: Head Coach Kris Baker, Abbie Baker, Alayna Brandt, Sophia Cross, Gina Baker, Taylor Lenz, Jaden Palzkill, Morgan Nelson and Assistant Coach Jake Brandt.

and came into the season well prepared and it showed."

Coach Baker is equally excited to watch Brandt, also an All-Conference first team honoree, excel in the next three years.

"She's an excellent golfer and has the mechanics down," Kris Baker said. "She has unlimited potential, and it should be fun."

Coach Baker can put his finger on several keys to success. Byron has a strong junior league that the girls play in over the summer, so most aren't starting from scratch. Their home course of PrairieView is close by, giving the girls actual practice on a course as opposed to just hitting balls.

"At practice, we run through our clubs under the watchful eye of the coaching staff," Kris Baker said. "We stress fundamentals, but my philosophy is to let them be themselves and if they start to develop bad habits, we try to fix them. So much of golf is muscle memory, if I try to make a quick fix, then the girls start to become too mechanical, and we

don't want that."

Coach Baker acknowledged that he is a positive coach trying to help his players keep a cool head during matches and said that the mental aspect of the game is just as important as hitting the ball straight.

"It's important to put the last hole behind you, otherwise it can interfere with a round," Kris Baker said. "The very good players manage their emotions better than most, especially through adversity. They need to compartmentalize and move on."

"Coach Baker helped us keep a calm and collected mindset while playing," Abbie Baker said. "He was always making sure each of us felt represented in team decisions and recognized girls that were playing well with star pins. He had a lot to do with our success."

"We shoot to play as a team in a very individualistic sport," Coach Baker said. "We naturally want everyone to do well individually but are cheerleaders for all of our teammates."

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6518 10th Street, Rockford \$125,000 Call Lori

Winner winner! This house in New Milford is a gem. Great size, great condition. The roof is 4-5 years old, the furnace was new in 2017 and the central air last year. All but 1 window has been replaced within the past 6 years. There are 2 bedrooms on the main level plus a small bedroom that has half bath fixtures in place. Full basement with a family room, a shower, laundry hook up and an additional finished space. There is a 2 car attached garage with a 2 car wide concrete driveway. Garden shed in the backyard. Corner lot. House will be connected to city water prior to closing.



2201 Maddens Road, Sterling \$449,999 Call JD

Discover a tranquil escape on a cul-de-sac in the highly coveted Hillcrest subdivision. This ranch home boasts over 2 acres of land and an expansive 4,000+ sq ft of finished living space, providing plenty of room for you to enjoy. With a main floor master suite that features a master bath and walk-in closet, main floor laundry, two fireplaces, wet bar, large outdoor patio, and multiple living spaces complimented by abundant natural light, this home has everything you need to live comfortably. Whether you're looking to entertain or relax, this home has it all, providing versatile space that can be tailored to meet your needs.



804 Jackson Street, Oregon \$275,000 Call Casey

Step into a completely updated home that boasts a fully renovated kitchen (2021), updated bedrooms (2022, bathrooms (2023), basement (2023), 90% of the home has new plumbing (2023), metal roof (2023), new water heater (2022), water softener connected to laundry and drinking water (2023), new back porch and cover (2023), new exterior and interior doors, and new deck (2022). All appliances stay! Plenty of room for entertaining in the open concept kitchen and living room as well as bonus space in the completely updated basement. This completely updated 4 bedroom home is ready for its next owners!



510 S 10th Street, Oregon \$275,900 Call Carla

New Listing Large Four Family Apartments Located in Oregon! Quadruple the opportunity with this unique property sitting on an extra large lot. Located just a few blocks from the Oregon School district, this investment property includes all kitchen appliances, some new updates, newer metal and rubber roofs. All separate utilities, seller pays the water, sewer and garbage. Large garage/workshop area. Always easy to rent with longtime tenants.



610 S. Division Avenue, Polo \$299,000 Call Rebecca

\$5,000 BUYER'S CLOSING CREDIT FOR AN OFFER ACCEPTED BY NOVEMBER 1ST! CEDARSTONE BUILDING IS BEING OFFERED FOR SALE! Opportunity knocks and those opportunities are endless with this property featuring a large banquet hall and commercial kitchen. This property once operated as a bar and reception hall with parking on site for 50+ vehicles and seating for nearly 300. There is a full service banquet area with vaulted ceilings along with a separate area with seating for nearly 40. This space can also be opened up to make one large banquet space. Kitchen equipment and fixtures are all included. Basement has 12 foot ceilings and offers great storage space. Bring your ideas and call for a showing today! Sold As Is.



481 S. Red Oak Lane, Chana \$24,000 Call Mark

Looking for a Beautiful Country Lot to build the Home of your Dreams? Lot #5 on S. Red Oak Lane outside of Chana has mature pine trees at the back lot line and is backed up by corn fields and country views! This lot is spacious and inviting with a well manicured neighborhood surrounding it. Buildable but will need septic and well. Oregon School System!



240 S. West Street, Byron \$480,000 Call Rebecca

RIVERFRONT BEAUTY! Vacation at home at this stunning, custom-built ranch with fully exposed lower level located on the Rock River yet steps from downtown Byron. This home features an expansive addition with stunning craftsmanship along with many large windows throughout showcasing your serene river views. With over 5,000 square feet of living space, there is plenty of room indoors for your family or guests. Custom kitchen featuring a butler's pantry with granite counter tops and custom cabinetry throughout. Oak hardwood flooring throughout the spacious dining room that is open to both the kitchen and great room. Great room includes marble surround fireplace, crown molding and doors leading your private terrace. There are 4-6 bedrooms and 4.5 bathrooms in this roomy ranch. Master suite boasts 2 sitting areas, 2 master bathrooms and large closets. Walk out lower level has 3-4 additional bedrooms, family room, second kitchen and 2 bathrooms. There are doors leading out to the stamped concrete patio with hot tub. The yard is gorgeous and professionally landscaped. A one of kind riverfront property, call for your showing today!

How Homeowner Net Worth Grows with Time



If you're thinking about buying a home this year, be sure to consider the long-term financial benefits of homeownership.

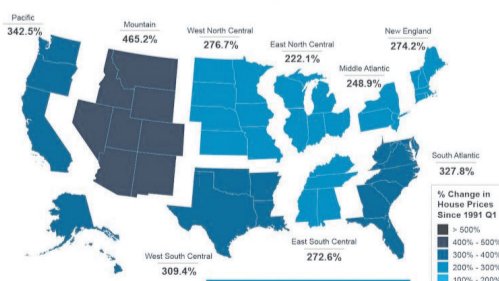
Home Equity Boosts Your Wealth

Equity is the current value of your home minus what you still owe on your loan. It goes up when:

- You pay down your loan
- Home price appreciation makes your home's value go up

Here's a look at how just the home price appreciation piece can increase your wealth over time.

Percent Change in Home Prices Since Q1 1991, Q2 2023



National Average: **297.7%**

On average, people who bought homes 32 years ago have seen their home's value nearly triple over that time.



That may be why, in a recent Fannie Mae survey, **76% of respondents said they believe buying a home is a safe investment.**

If you're wondering if buying a home is a good idea, think about the long-term benefits. When you're ready to start your homebuying journey, talk with a local real estate professional.

Sources: FHFA, Fannie Mae

KEEPING CURRENT MATTERS



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SPORTS



OHS Marching Band places 1st in DeKalb

The Oregon High School Marching Hawks recently placed first at the DeKalb Marching Band Field Competition during the weekend of Oct. 7-8.

AREA SPORTS

Oregon boys soccer defeats Pecatonica

On Oct. 5, the Oregon varsity boys soccer team defeated Pecatonica 2-0. The Hawks were led by goals from Gavin Morrow and Steven Guardado. Assists were made by Morrow and Jack Tinsman. The win raised Oregon's record to 10-11-2 (3-4 conference).

Oregon girls volleyball defeats Stillman Valley

On Oct. 5 at home, the Oregon varsity girls volleyball team defeated Stillman Valley 19-25, 25-13, 25-15. The Hawks were led by Rylie Robertson (11 digs, four aces), Kenna Wubbena (14 kills, two aces, nine digs, two blocks) and Lexi Ebert (13 assists, seven kills, six digs). The win raised Oregon's record to 9-10-2 (2-4 conference). Oregon won the

junior varsity game 16-25, 25-23, 25-16. Stillman Valley won the fresh-soph match 25-14, 25-21.

Byron football defeats Winnebago 62-0

On Oct. 6, the Byron varsity football team defeated Winnebago 62-0 at home. The Tigers rushed for 540 yards and nine touchdowns on the ground and were led by Brayden Knoll (90 yards, two touchdowns) and Kye Aken (82 yards, two touchdowns). Byron's record is now at 7-0.

Oregon football defeats Rock Falls 39-0

On Oct. 6, the Oregon varsity football team defeated Rock Falls 39-0. The Hawks were led by Logan Weems (17 carries for 180 yards and three touchdowns). Lucas Cole (10 carries, 63 yards, one touchdown) and Cooper

Johnson (nine carries, 55 yards, one touchdown) also led the way for Oregon on the ground. Oregon quarterback Jack Washburn threw for 101 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown pass to Joshua Crandall. Austin Egyed caught three passes for 75 yards for Oregon (4-3).

Oregon volleyball defeated by Rock Falls

On Oct. 10, the Oregon varsity girls volleyball team fell to Rock Falls 8-25, 18-25. The Hawks were led by Kenna Wubbena (seven digs, four kills), Madison Shaffer. (eight digs, one ace) and Anna Stender (three assists, three digs, two aces). The junior varsity Hawks lost 25-20, 17-25, 9-15. The fresh-soph game was won by Rock Falls 15-25, 22-25. Oregon won the B game 25-15.

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.

Medicare Open Enrollment

Starts October 15 – December 7. Call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 for information.

Senior Information Services Provided By Rock River Center

October 2023. 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 Oct 18 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Mt. Morris Senior Center Oct 12 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Polo Senior Center Oct 26 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Rochelle – Hub City Senior Center Oct 25 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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SPORTS NEWS



(Photos submitted)

Oregon Avalanche softball teams represented at Autumn on Parade

OREGON — Oregon Avalanche softball teams zombified their parade float for the 52nd annual Autumn On parade in Oregon on Oct. 8. This year's theme was "Spooktacular Spirit". The players got into the spirit by dressing in costume, right down to their hair and makeup and by throwing out candy to the spectators along the parade route.

Up next, Oregon Avalanche is collaborating with Ogle County 4-H and doing a Spread the Warmth: Winter Gear Drive Oct. 18 through Nov. 15. All donations will be distributed locally to the Lifeline Food and Self-Help Project.

Oregon Avalanche is a non-profit organization that recruits, trains and retains girls from ages 8-14 years old in fastpitch softball.



We are an Oregon Community Unit School District program helping players to

reach their potential in both softball and community growth.

A special time for running

AS a running enthusiast, the first weekend in October is a special time for me. Whether it was running the Hennepin Hundred Miller, watching the Autumn-On-Parade 5K, listening to the Chicago Marathon and covering the Amboy Columbus Day cross country meet, it was eat, sleep and breathe all of that and little else.

Small bits of sleep even came on the dewy weeds next to the Hennepin Canal trail. When it's 3 a.m. and you've been on your feet since early the previous morning, a dirt nap is more appealing than one would think.

Eventually, I was able to finish to join 184 others in completing the run from Sterling to the Quad Cities. Competitors from all over the United States and a couple other countries descended upon the flat and fast Hennepin course to run either 50 or 100 miles.

How fast was it?

The winning time was 12 hours and 45 minutes, the best 100-mile time in the nation so far this year. A couple locals presented themselves quite well, with Aaron Roe of Polo breaking the 20-hour mark in the 100 and Matt Hussung of Mt. Morris finishing under eight hours for the 50 miler.

As I listened to the Chicago Marathon on my drive home, it was exciting to hear of a new world record being set for the 26.2 mile distance, by who else, a Kenyan. His time was two hours and 35 seconds, which breaks down to 4:36 per mile.

That same morning saw a large gathering of folks taking on the AOP 5K near Park West. Former Oregon 800-me-

ter state medalist Ian Hussung won with a time of 18 minutes.

An excellent time, but to put it in perspective, the Kenyan marathon record holder averaged a little over 14 minutes per 5K (three miles) for the entire marathon.



Andy Colbert

No matter whether you are the world record holder or someone running recreationally at the AOP 5K, we are all united under one umbrella. I have yet to find another sport as inclusive as running and it continues to grow in popularity.

But, that speaks more to the older crowd than the younger one. That was evident Monday watching the high schools at the Shady Oaks Golf Course in Amboy.

There are a few decent individuals, but the overall depth is gone. Teams don't have as many kids on it as they used to.

Of the 36 schools entered, only half of them had full varsity teams.

Amboy celebrated its 50th year as perhaps the premier 1A meet in the state. But, a former Amboy coach told me that small schools are hurting when it comes to participation and the meet isn't what it used to be.

Ironically, the golden age of prep distance running for Ogle County was 50 years ago when Craig Young of Stillman

Valley made headlines statewide and Jim Buell and Matt Reckmeyer of Mt. Morris were placing downstate in a one-class system.

One final thought on running. On Oct. 1, runners from all over the country assembled in Minneapolis for a marathon, only to learn hours before the start that the event was being canceled because of heat.

This is a despicable and cowardly act by marathon officials.

Let each runner decide on their own whether or not it is too hot to run. Unfortunately, we've become way too soft as a society when it comes to hardship, such as public-sector closings when there is the slightest hint of inclement weather.

Additionally, a fear of personal lawsuits has also permeated us and rather than stand up to that sort of blame game, we cave in. That must have been a bigger concern for the marathon decision makers instead of the simple concept of each runner taking human responsibility for their own wellbeing.

The end result is people not being able to live life to the fullest and society become more fearful with the implementation of each new safety measure.

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



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LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

Storytime at the Library

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

Teens: Haunted Gingerbread Houses

Just like Jack the Pumpkin King, we're taking a Christmas tradition and twisting it to spooky perfection this Halloween. Join Kelly in the library, at 3 p.m. Thursday, October 26, to make some gruesome haunted houses out of gingerbread and candy. All supplies provided. Ages 13-18. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Italian Travel: The Ancient, the Loud, the Lovely

It's clear why Italy is on most travelers' bucket list. Italy boasts gorgeous, diverse landscapes; a divine culinary scene and an embarrassment of riches when it comes to history and culture. Join frequent fliers Joanna and Wayne as they take a closer look at Italy; its regions, favorite travel itineraries and suggestions for living like a temporary local. Monday, October 30 at 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Trick or Treat at Julia Hull District Library

Stop by the library from 4-7 on Halloween to show off your costume, and treat yourself to a goodie from our librarian's cauldron! All Ages.

Toddler Time: Legos

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them. Join us for some play with the classic and ingenious Lego Duplo. Friday, November 3 at 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Tween Scene: Día de los Muertos

Come celebrate the Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) with themed snacks, games and craft. Tuesday, November 7 at 6 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Cricut Lab: Layering with Heat Transfer Vinyl

Experienced Cricut users will create a layered, multi-colored design using Heat Transfer Vinyl (HTV); learn how to import an image; and how to transfer a layered HTV design. BYO Cricut machine (Explore Air or Maker) and cords; cutting mat and blade. Wednesday, November 8 at 6 p.m. Adults and first-time participants only. Space is limited. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Animals Around the World Show

School's out for the day; join us for a show! We'll learn about animals from different countries and diverse ecosystems. Don and Sharon Peterson, from Incredible Bats, will join us along with their live animals for a unique learning experience. Grades K-6. Friday, November 10 at 1 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

WWII Radio Hour

Nostalgia Entertainment returns with a reenactment of a 1940s radio hour featuring Andrews Sisters-style tunes and choreography, and Abbott and Costello comedy sketches. This costumed trio perform popular songs from the era and offer a touching tribute to Veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Last Monday, young patrons (pictured at right) celebrated a day off from school with some creative pumpkin decorating at Julia Hull District Library (Stillman Valley).



Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
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53					54				55			

DOWN

8 Reeves of "Speed" 28 Helter-skelter

9 Dieters count them 32 Squad car

10 "Right you —!" 33 Dracula, for one

11 "Kidnapped" monogram 35 College URL ender

19 Stanley Cup org. 36 Vegas lead-in

21 Paris summer 38 Minnesota's 10,000+

23 Consumer crusader 42 List-ending abbr.

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 Z T Y R A N N O S A U R U S W
 U R P M M J H E E C Z E X U S
 Q N L J R G N E E C G T Z C X
 V T R P N O L J B I H T O E C
 A Y W V O T W T L Y R O P N L
 K I G C E T C L P S T B Z X W
 U S C R P U A P L O M T L J I
 G A E D B M U E S O P P I H A
 R E D D A P E N O O B A B K Y

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: INSECT THAT FLUTTERS BY

- Adder Baboon Bees Blue gill
- Bollworm Coot Eels Hippos
- Kitty Llama Mutt Otter
- Puppy Raccoon Tyrannosaurus

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

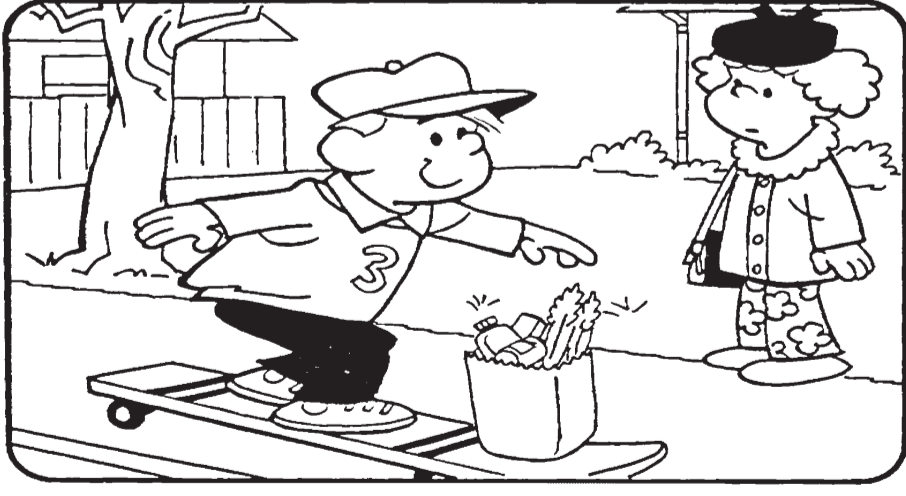
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

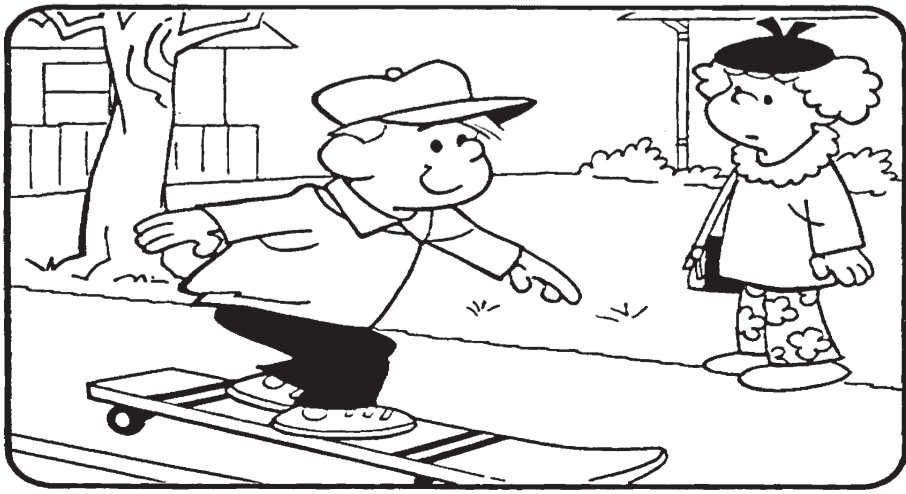
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fence is smaller. 2. Number is missing. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Bag of groceries is missing. 5. Hat is different. 6. Button strap is missing.

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

King Crossword
 Answers

E	D	O	E	N	O	B	A	B	K		
H	I	H	S	O	P	P	I	H	A		
M	O	S	E	S	S	T					
U	K	A	C	O	T						
L	O	S	T								
B	I	L									
O											
S	T										
F	E										
T	R	A	N	N	O	S	A	U	R	U	S

DOUBLE LETTER ANIMALS

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

Weekly SUDOKU
 Answer

LOCAL NEWS

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book Sale Thank You!

Our annual booksale is over! Thank you to everyone who donated books and who purchased new reads with donations! It was a very successful sale because of YOU!

Lego Club This Thursday!!!

Lego night is Thursday, October 19th, from 6:00 – 6:45pm. 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!

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 October book is "Dear Fahrenheit 451" by Annie Spence. Described by Goodreads.com as "A Gen-X librarian's snarky, laugh-out-loud funny, deeply moving collection of love letters and break-up notes to the books in her life." 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, October 30th at the library.

Cookbook Club! Next Meeting November 7th!

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

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it and what a great time 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, November 9th 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 November 2nd!

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.

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Two Sentence Horror Story Contest

"It was a dark and stormy night. Witches slid down the lightning bolts and terrorized the town." Write a two-sentence horror story and enter it to win a prize. You can submit your story online at www.oregonpubliclibrary.com. All entries must be submitted by 4pm on October 29th. Winners will be posted on Facebook and Oregon Public Library's website on October 30th. You can visit the website for more information.

Story Time

(18 months-6 yrs.) Mondays, 10 am. Story Time is back! On Mondays, September 11 through December 18, there will be stories, activities, and fun! Go online or call to register for this session.

Book Clubs

The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, October 18 at 1 pm to discuss Chasing the Boogeyman by Richard Chizmar. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, October 26 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss The Maid by Nita Prose. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet Monday, October 30 at 6 pm at the Library to discuss Gods of Jade and Shadow by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. The 2WBC Book Club meets November 8, at 12:30 pm to discuss Hatchet by Gary Paulsen.

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.

Illinois's Most Haunted Locations

Monday, October 16th at 6:00pm. Chad Lewis is a researcher, author, and lecturer on topics of the strange and unusual. His background is in the field of Psychology as he did both his Bachelor and Master degree work in the field- but for nearly 30 years he traveled the globe in search of unique and bizarre stories and history. This presentation will take you on a ghostly journey to some of the most haunted places in the state. It covers the entire state, from wandering ghosts in the North Woods, to a haunted B&B in Chicago. From phantom creatures prowling the woods to graveyard apparitions located in your own backyard, no place in IL is without its own hauntings. Registration required (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

How Many Items Can a DIY Skeleton Hold?

Beginning Monday, October 16 through October 31, Oregon Public Library cardholders may enter their guess of how many items are contained within this unique, one of a kind skeleton! Why do this? Because the closest estimate to the actual number will receive the skeleton and all the items! A winner will be announced on Tuesday, November 1.

Parent Training: How To Get Special Education Services In School

October 17th at 6:00pm. This program is open to all Parent's that have a child with a disability or special needs at no charge. Brought to you by EasterSeals of Chicagoland and Greater Rockford, STARNet, Family Matters and the Oregon Public Library. Registration required, email cstarr@eastersealschicago.org. Registration deadline October 13th.

Grace Lin

Oregon Public Library HOSTS AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN'S AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR GRACE LIN – Tuesday, October 17th at 7:00pm VIRTUAL ONLY

A Conversation with Grace Lin, award-winning and New York Times bestselling author/illustrator of picture books, early readers, and middle grade novels. The event will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, October 17,

at 7 PM.

Lin will discuss why she writes books for the youngest readers through middle graders, how she illustrates them, her latest Chinese Menu: The History, Myths, and Legends Behind Your Favorite Foods, and will lead an interactive drawing activity. Lin's awards include a 2010 Newbery Honor for Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, a 2011 Geisel Honor for Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same, and a 2019 Caldecott Honor for A Big Mooncake for Little Star. When the Sea Turned to Silver was a National Book Award Finalist. This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility. Registration required (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, October 23rd 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

Halloween at the Library

(Ages 3-12), Wednesday, October 25 through Saturday, October 28. Come by the Library, Wednesday, October 25 through Saturday, October 28 to pick a papier-mâché pumpkin from our indoor pumpkin patch (plain, so you can decorate it at home or already decorated and ready to go)! On Halloween Tuesday, October 31, from 4-6pm, visit our front yard "Halloween patch" and pick out your surprise filled papier -mâché pumpkin! In case of inclement weather just come in the Library to receive a pumpkin. While supplies last!

Wednesday, October 25, 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

Spooky Halloween Trivia Night-Cork N Tap

Wednesday, October 25th at 6:30pm. Grab your friends and have a night out of fun! Are you smarter than a fifth grader? This trivia will cover the books, movies, math, science, history and more. Program intended for 18 and over. Register your team of up to 6 players at (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-Creepy Pair of Underwear by Aaron Reynolds. New story at the StoryWalk will be Halloween is Coming by Cal Everett.

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

A.A. Hotline **800-452-7990**
 Smississippi 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**
 Smississippi 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**

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101
LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO SELL CITY OF BYRON, ILLINOIS OWNED REAL ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Byron, Illinois ("City") proposes and intends to sell the following City owned real estate:

A. Property commonly known as 412 E. 2nd Street, Byron, Illinois, with PIN No.: 05-32-178-002, approximately 0.28 acres in size, zoned R-1, Single Family Residential, and currently utilized as a vacant lot.

The City is hereby accepting sealed written bids for the purchase of the above-listed property. All bids should contain the name of the bidder and the bid price for the property. There is a minimum bid price of \$5,000.00. All bids should be placed and sealed in an envelope addressed to: City of Byron, Attn: City Clerk, 232 W. Second Street, Byron, IL 61010. The front of the envelope should also include a reference that a bid for the property at 412 E. 2nd Street, Byron, Illinois is enclosed.

The property is being sold in "AS IS/WHERE IS" condition with payment by the successful bidder due in full at the time of closing. The successful bidder shall enter into a real estate contract with the City setting forth all the terms of the sale of the real estate, which shall include, but not be limited to, the use of the property in accordance with the City's R-1 Single Family Residential zoning classification.

The City will open all bids during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting held on November 1, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 232 W. Second Street, Byron, IL 61010. In order to be considered, a bid must be received by the City by no later than 4:00 p.m. on November 1, 2023. Any bid which is not received by the City by said deadline shall not be considered by the City.

The City may accept the high bid or any other bid determined to be in the best interest of the City. The City may also reject any and all bids. Any questions regarding submittal of bids should be directed to the City Clerk, 815-222-5938. /s/ Caryn Huber, City Clerk No. 1003 (Oct. 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

NOTICE

NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THE LAW FIRM OF ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC, IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF OGLE BYRON BANK, an Illinois State Bank, Plaintiff, v. COREY M. ARN; UNKNOWN OWNERS, UNKNOWN TENANTS, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, UNKNOWN HEIRS, and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS. Defendants. Case No. 2023FC62

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN OWNERS; UNKNOWN TENANTS;

UNKNOWN SPOUSES; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS FOR PUBLICATION

The requisite Affidavit having been duly filed in my office, NOTICE is hereby given you, UNKNOWN OWNERS; UNKNOWN TENANTS; UNKNOWN SPOUSES; UNKNOWN HEIRS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants in the above-entitled suit, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Ogle County, Illinois, by the said Plaintiff, against you and other Defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage concerning the premises described as follows, to-wit:

Lot 6 and 7 in Block 20 of the Original Village of Mount Morris, Ogle County, Illinois; according to the Plat thereof recorded November 9, 1875 in Book A of Plats, page 172, as Document No. 66439.

COMMON ADDRESS: 4 E. Lincoln Street, Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054
PINs: 08-27-437-005
And for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as provided by law, and that the suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, the said above-named Defendants, file your Answer to the Complaint of said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Ogle County, Ogle County Court-house in the City of Oregon, Illinois, on or before the 1st day of November 2023, default may be entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Kimberly A. Stahl, Clerk of the Circuit Court, 15th Judicial Circuit, Ogle County, Illinois
PREPARED BY: Matthew M. Hevrin (ARDC #6256083) mhevrin@aghlaw.com
Cassandra M. Crandall (ARDC #6335736) ccrandall@aghlaw.com
ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC
839 N. Perryville Road, Suite 200
Rockford, Illinois 61107
P: 815-265-6464
No. 1007
(Oct. 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

VILLAGE OF MT. MORRIS, an Illinois municipal corporation, Petitioner, vs. TERENCE J. CONNELL and UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS and/or UNKNOWN OWNERS, Respondents, 2023 MR 22
PUBLICATION NOTICE TO: Terence J. Connel, 3747 W. Route 64, #24, Mt. Morris, IL 61054; Unknown Occupants and/or Unknown Owners, 211 North McKendrie St., Mt. Morris, IL 61054
An Affidavit for Publication having been filed, because upon due inquiry you cannot be found so that process can be served upon you.

Notice is hereby given you, TERENCE J. CONNELL and UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS and/or UNKNOWN OWNERS, Respondent in the above-entitled action, that an action was commenced in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Ogle County, Case No. 2023 MR 22, by Petitioner VILLAGE OF MT. MORRIS, an Illinois Municipal corporation

against you, in which the Petitioner seeks an Order commanding the cure, repair, or abatement of Code and Nuisance violations for Property located at 211 North McKendrie Street, Mt. Morris, IL 61054.

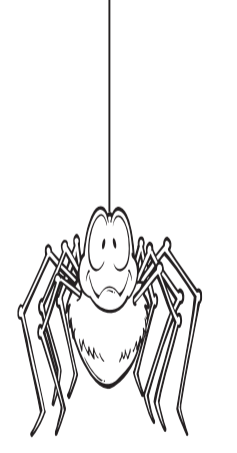
Consequently, unless you file your answer to the Petition in the action or otherwise make your appearance in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Ogle County, Illinois, at the Ogle County Court-house, 106 S. 5th Stret, Oregon IL, 61061, on or before November 6, 2023, A DEFAULT JUDGEMENT MAY BE ENTRED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DATE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF THE COMPLAINT.

Dated Sept. 21, 2023
Kimberly A. Stahl, Ogle County Circuit Clerk
Matthew D. Cole - ARDC 6326731
Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson, P.C.
Attorneys for Petitioner
226 W. River Street | P.O. Box 404
Dixon, IL 61021
P: 815.625.8200
cole@wmpi.com
No. 1010
(Oct. 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on October 2, 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: Wild Roots Boutique 6942 W. Wagner Rd. German Valley, IL 61039
Dated October 2, 2023
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk
No. 1017
(Oct 9, 16 and 23, 2023)

ADVERTISE WITH US



203
HELP WANTED

OGLE COUNTY LIFE
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

Multimedia Sales Position

If you have an outgoing personality, an energetic get-it-done approach, and enjoy helping clients build their business, then you may be a perfect fit for a sales position with the Ogle County Life. This is a part-time position (approximately 30 hours) but could lead to a full-time position.

As a multimedia sales consultant, you will service current accounts and also cultivate new clients in the Ogle County region of northern Illinois, helping them market their products and services through a variety of highly visible, popular and effective local media vehicles.

If you have a passion to get out of the office on a regular basis to help clients grow their audience and reach new customers, then we would like to talk to you.

Applicants should possess excellent communication and organizational skills with a positive personality and team-player approach. Previous media sales or related marketing experience is a plus, including print, digital and social media advertising.

The sky is the limit on earning potential and career development in this position. We offer a competitive base salary plus commission.

Qualified applicants should mail or e-mail their resume to the following address:

Ogle County Life
ATTN: Mike Feltes
P.O. Box 175, Rochelle, IL 61068
or: mfeltes@oglecountylife.com

Job Types: Part-time, Commission

103
AUCTIONS

VIRTUAL ONLINE
STEPHENSON COUNTY, IL
LAND AUCTION
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023 AT 1:00 PM^{CT}

163.30 TAXABLE ACRES ± • 1 TRACT

The Haufe farm is located approximately 9 miles northeast of Lena, IL or 16 miles northwest of Freeport, IL. The property is further described as being located in Sections 1 & 12, T28N-R6E, Waddams Township, Stephenson County, Illinois.

The real estate contains a total of 163.30 taxable acres, will be sold in 1 tract, and represents productive tillable cropland.

THE HAUFE TRUST
Representing Attorney:
Guy Youman | The Law Office of Rupp & Youman
4306F W Crystal Lake Rd, McHenry, IL 60050 | (815) 385-7444
Auction Managers:
Isaac Taber (309) 335-8081 & Brandt Henness (309) 224-4276

BigIron **SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS**
a BigIron company
(844) 847-2161 | www.SullivanAuctioneers.com

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Travis Cunningham
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815-946-4120

Chana 64 Auctions
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815-830-3898
• Pick Up Service Available
"UWANNASELLITCALLUS"

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

PUBLIC AUCTION

Class-A CDL Drivers Wanted
\$500 Sign on bonus
Earn up to \$33/per hour
Local Trucking Company seeking full time, year- round driver to haul grain.
815-938-3644
Please leave message.
09052022

ADVERTISE WITH US

Byron CUSD 226 Openings

- Lunchroom Supervisor (2.75 hours)
- Special Ed Paraprofessional (full-time)
- HS Boys Head Track Coach
- HS Boys Asst Track Coach

Apply online at www.byron226.org

Select the "About Us" Tab Select the Employment Opportunities Tab

Byron School Transportation Open Positions

- Bus Drivers

Call Barb at x 4400
815-234-5491 or apply online:
www.byron226.org
Click the 'About Us' tab, then Employment Opportunities tab

Buy! Buy! Buy!
BUY!
Sell! Sell! Sell!
Sell!

103
AUCTIONS

PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION
809 ADAMS STREET, OREGON, IL, 61061
Thursday, October 19th 8AM to Sunday, October 22nd 5pm
This is an Online Sale.

Please visit <https://aandauctionservices.hibid.com/> for full sale viewing beginning 10/18/2023. Pictures will be uploaded prior to that date as they are available.

Personal Property: Household items; furniture—some antique; refrigerator; stove; washer & dryer set; many knick-knacks, collectibles, etc.; large collection of beanie babies; jewelry—gold, silver, & costume; sports memorabilia & cards, including Chicago Cubs and Green Bay Packers; model trains, parts, & memorabilia; beer memorabilia, including steins, metal signs, neon, and more; Coca-Cola items, some vintage; decor items; and more! Be sure to check out the full catalog when it is posted. Too much to fully list!

Item Viewing: Items will be available for online viewing beginning @ 8am on 10/18/23. If you wish for more information on an item or an appointment to view an item, please contact A & T Auction Services directly.

Item Pick-up: Pick up will be held on Thursday, October 26th from 4:30-6:30pm at the sale site listed above.

Terms & Conditions: This is an absolute sale. There will be a 10% Buyer's Premium added to all items sold. Items can be purchased with cash, GOOD check, or credit card. There will be a 3.5% fee added to any credit card transaction.

Follow A & T Auction Services on Facebook for the Online Sale Link and additional sale information, including pictures, how to register for online bidding, and complete sale terms and conditions.

Travis Cunningham,
Auctioneer IL Lic. # 441.002600
A & T Auction Services, LLC
atauctionservices@gmail.com
815-297-4595

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

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."

305 GARAGE SALES

FRANKLIN GROVE - Presbyterian Church Basement, 106 S. Walnut Street. Fri 10/20 8AM - 4PM. Sat 10/21 8AM - 1PM or Later. 4+ Racks of Men's and Women's Name Brand Clothing (Many are New with Tags), Baby Clothing & Other Items, Coats, Boots, Shoes, Books, Crafts, Small Kitchen Appliances, 6 Sturdy Chairs, Holiday Decor & Much More. Don't miss this one! Unlike the stores, our prices haven't gone up! (RNL10182023)

113 FINANCIAL

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

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.

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."

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254 (103023OCL)

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

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

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LOCAL NEWS

Local Girl Scouts receive \$300 grant from United Way of Ogle County

OGLE COUNTY – Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) received a \$300 grant from the United Way of Ogle County on July 27. Funds from this grant are being used to assist the Girl Scout Service Unit in Ogle County to present a day-long event for Girl Scout members focused on health and wellness. This event will include topics such as exercise, healthy

eating, and mental health and wellness activities to relieve stress and anxiety.

GSNI would like to thank the United Way of Ogle County for joining in the Girl Scout Mission where our future community leaders have a space all their own, where their interests, their experience, and their leadership—today and tomorrow—is the top priority!

Haunted Illinois is Oct. 16 at Oregon Public Library

OREGON—A Haunted Illinois presentation will be made by Chad Lewis on Oct. 16 at the Oregon Public Library at 6 p.m. The event is free and open to teens and adults. For more information, call 815-732-2724.

This presentation takes the audience on a ghostly journey to some of the most haunted places in Illinois. It covers the entire state from vengeful spirit haunting a cemetery in Rockford to a haunted B&B in Chicago, from phantom creatures prowling the woods to back road creatures, no place is without its own haunting.

Complete with photos, case history, eyewitness accounts, ghost lore, and directions, this unique presentation encourages you to visit these places for your own ghost story.

Find out where you can: See possessed statues come to life, pick up a vanishing hitchhiker, get chased by hellhounds, come face to face with dead gangsters, spend the night in a cursed hotel and many many more.

Speaker bio: For three decades Chad Lewis has traveled the back roads of the world in search of the strange and unusual. From tracking vampires in Transylvania and



searching for the elusive monster of Loch Ness to trailing the dangerous Tata Duende through remote villages of Belize and searching for ghosts in Ireland's haunted castles, Chad has scoured the earth in search of the paranormal.

Chad has been featured on the Discovery Channel's A Haunting, William Shatner's Weird or What, ABC's Scariest Places on

Earth, Monsters and Mysteries in America, along with being a frequent contributor on Ripley's Believe it or Not Radio. With a master's degree in psychology, Chad has authored over 30 books on the supernatural, and extensively lectures on his fascinating findings. The more bizarre the legend, the more likely it is that you will find Chad there.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

Wisconsin man arrested for no valid driver's license

OREGON — On Oct. 3 at 9:49 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 2 for a traffic violation. After an investigation, Cole Walker, 24, of Beloit, Wisconsin was arrested for no valid driver's license. Walker was also issued a citation for improper lane usage. Walker was released on a notice to appear with a return court date.

On Oct. 3 at approximately 1:55 p.m. deputies responded to the 100 block of Windmill Court, Hillcrest, for a reported domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Cydney Park, 28, of Rochelle, for domestic battery.

Park was transported to the Ogle County Jail and must appear before a judge.

On Oct. 8 at approximately 8:30 a.m. deputies responded to a report of a one-vehicle accident in the 2,600 block of North Summerhill Road. It was discovered that a vehicle being driven by Shawna Spratt, 22, of Polo, was southbound of Summerhill Road when her vehicle left the roadway and entered a waterway at that location. Spratt was pronounced deceased at the scene. The accident is still under investigation.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Polo Women's Club 4th annual coat drive is underway

POLO — Polo Women's Club has officially kicked off its fourth annual coat drive season that will continue through Nov. 1. The club is accepting donations of new or "gently-used" coats, hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. Drop-off locations in Polo are:

First State Bank Shannon-Polo (211 S. Division Ave.), Polo Senior Center (101 W. Mason St.), and Polo Pharmacy (111 E. Mason St.)

Distribution will take place, free of charge, at Crossroads Community Church in Polo on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 8 a.m.

to noon.

GFWC Illinois Polo Women's Club, organized in 1921, is a community based service organization that makes a difference through volunteer service. For further information contact: Sheila Dean (815) 677-6877.

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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.



Children created Playdough monsters during Slightly Spooky Storytime at the Byron Library.

Ogle County Dixie 6

Tuesday, Oct. 24. 2 - 3:00 pm. Once again, we are privileged to host the Ogle County Dixie Six at the Byron Public Library. Come for a relaxing and enjoyable afternoon of music. You don't want to miss it! Please call 815-234-5107 or go online to Byron.evanced.info/signup to register.

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!

StoryWalks at the

Byron Forest Preserve

StoryWalks® are up at the Byron Forest Preserve for another season! Stroll the 1/2-mile Indigo Trail while reading «Creepy Pair of Underwear» by Aaron Reynolds, or read «That Pup!» by Lindsay Barrett George while walking to the Heritage Farm Museum. The StoryWalk® is a joint project of the Byron Public Library and the Byron Forest Preserve. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

Curbside

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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.

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FALL HARVEST

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MONDAY, OCT. 16, 2023 • SECTION C

ROCHELLE
News-Leader

SUNDAY, OCT. 15, 2023 • SECTION 3



FALL HARVEST

Fall harvest fruits and vegetables

FOOD is a big part of fall, and farms play a significant role in seasonal celebrations. Each fall, families plan apple picking excursions with their eyes on baking homemade apple pies. And while Halloween is made even more fun when carving jack-o'-lanterns, savvy celebrants know that carving sessions are not complete without some roasted pumpkin seeds.

The fall harvest is a great

time to indulge in some freshly picked healthy foods. While the picking season may vary depending on where you live, and specifically the climate in your region, the following are some fruits and vegetables that might be ripe for the picking this fall.

Apples: Apple-picking season typically begins in late summer and extends into fall. Many farms offer a variety of apples, which may be harvested at different times. For example,

in the northeastern United States, Gala apples tend to be harvested in late summer, while Granny Smith apples may be best picked in early October.

Beets: The Spruce: Eats notes that beets may be in season in temperate climates from fall through spring.

Broccoli: Fresh broccoli makes a healthy addition to any dinner table, and Pickyourown.org notes that broccoli can have a lengthy harvesting season.

Early harvesting may begin in May in some regions, though it's still possible to pick fresh broccoli in late October. If you want to pick fresh broccoli, The Old Farmer's Almanac recommends doing so in the morning when the buds of the head are firm and tight.

Cabbage: If you're looking to do some late fall picking, cabbage might be for you. The online resource Harvest to Table notes that cabbage can survive under snow without being



harmed, making it an ideal late fall vegetable. Spoiled outer leaves can be pulled away after harvesting with-

out affecting the quality of the remaining cabbage.

Peaches: People who can't wait to whip up a peach cobbler may need to do so before fall even begins. According to Pickyourown.org, peaches can be ready for picking as early as July in the northeastern United States, and the picking season generally ends around mid-September. The season is even earlier in places like Georgia, a state known for its peaches where the picking season can begin in mid-May and extend through early August depending on the variety.

Pumpkins: Thanks in part to Halloween decor and the popularity of pumpkin pie as a Thanksgiving dessert, pumpkins are synonymous with the fall harvest. And pumpkin picking season aligns perfectly with each of these holidays, typically beginning in early or mid-September and extending deep into October.

Fall is a great time of year to pick fresh fruits and vegetables at a local farm.



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FALL HARVEST

Healthy Halloween snack options for this fall

HALLOWEEN is a magical time of year. Homes are adorned with festive accoutrements, including hay bails, pumpkins and mums as well as the black, purple and orange decorations that are unique to a season of ghouls and goblins.

Although decorating is a large part of the fun of Halloween, the sweet treats that are distributed to trick-or-treaters and presented at Halloween parties are arguably the most popular component of this beloved holiday. Candy is everywhere come Halloween. The National Confectioners' Association reports that Halloween is the largest confectionary holiday, followed by Easter and Christmas.

Is it possible to escape the Halloween sugar overload? For those who want to enjoy some healthier options than candy corns and other sweet staples, these ideas are not so frightening.

Pizza mummy: Use slices of toasted sandwich

bread or English muffins to make some spooktacular fare. Coat the bread with pizza sauce. Then place thin vertical slices of mozzarella cheese in a haphazard pattern to replicate the look of gauze on a mummy. Two pieces of sliced black olives serve as the eyes.

White, orange and yellow platter: Simulate the look of candy corns' white, orange and yellow color palette with healthier offerings. Stack cauliflower, or another white food like monterey jack cheese, baby carrots and yellow bell peppers on a platter. Serve with your favorite dip.

Deviled brains: Turn regular deviled eggs into something more sinister for Halloween buffet tables. Simply add food coloring to the filling to create a pinkish-brown hue that resembles a human brain. Then use a piping bag fitted with a thin icing tip to pipe the shape of brains onto the hardboiled egg halves.

Veggie skeleton: Use assorted vegetable slices,

cheese sticks, fruits, nuts, and more to inspire a Halloween-inspired charcuterie board. Arrange everything to resemble a skeleton on the platter.

Ghostly bananas: Insert popsicle sticks into the bottoms of bananas and freeze until solid. Prepare white melting chocolate according to directions, then dip the frozen bananas into it. While wet, stick on two mini chocolate chips to make the eyes of the ghosts. Place in the refrigerator to harden.

Spider crackers: Use buttery Ritz® crackers or something similar for this recipe. Spread a relatively thick layer of cream cheese (or peanut butter if allergies are not a concern) on one cracker. Cut thin pretzel sticks in half and use four on each side to make spider legs, sticking them into the cream cheese. Top with another cracker and secure to the cream cheese. Raisins connected with more cream cheese complete the eyes of the spiders.



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FALL HARVEST

Simple ways to reduce risk of disease in your garden

NO garden is immune to disease. Even the most attentive, experienced gardeners have had to confront disease in their gardens, which can lead to significant damage and potentially kill plants.

Various bacterial, fungal and viral diseases can affect gardens, and the University of Maryland Extension notes that fungicides, which are chemicals that destroy fungus, are only rarely recommended to combat disease. In fact, a proactive approach rooted in prevention is often the most effective way to reduce risk for disease in gardens.

Choose the right varieties of plant. The UME notes that choosing disease-resistant varieties is an effective way to prevent disease in gardens. Gardeners who have confronted disease in their gardens in the past should do their best to identify which diseases were present and then choose plants that are considered resistant

to those diseases. A local garden center professional can help gardeners who are uncertain about what to plant.

Plant in the right spots. The choice of where to plant is significant. Avoid wet areas with insufficient drainage. The home renovation experts at HGTV note that wet soil can decrease plants' chances for survival because of excess water and a lack of oxygen. If the only spots available for planting tend to be especially wet, consider planting in raised beds or having a French drain installed. Learn how much light plants need prior to planting them. Some can thrive in shady areas, while others require ample sunlight each day.

Plant at the right time. Planting too early when the soil is not yet warm enough can make plants vulnerable to disease by weakening their ability to fight. Use a soil thermometer to determine soil temperature and only plant when the conditions for



planting are ideal.

Harvest on time. When planting vegetables, it's imperative that the vegetables are harvested on time. The University of Georgia Extension notes that fully

mature vegetables left on the plant attract disease and are vulnerable to insect infestations.

Control insect infestations. Certain insects can spread disease, so it's

important that gardeners learn to recognize which insects pose a threat to their plants. Speak with a local gardening center about invasive insects and how to address infesta-

tions without harming the plant.

As the planting season approaches, gardeners can take various steps to make their plants and vegetables less vulnerable to disease.

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FALL HARVEST

A series of interesting facts about the fall season

WEATHER is often the first indicator that the seasons are changing. For many people across the globe, the hot days of summer will soon be giving way to the more crisp days of fall.

For those who live in regions where summer only subtly gives way to fall or is seemingly gone before the end of August, the 2019 autumnal equinox occurs on September 23. That marks the official beginning of fall, also known as autumn. In fact, that the season follows summer seemingly goes by two different names is just one of many interesting facts about fall.

A season by any other name ... Fall is the term most often used to reference the season succeed-

ing summer in the United States. But the season is referred to as "autumn" in other parts of the world, including Great Britain. Fall was once even known as "harvest" because of the harvest moon, which appears close to the autumnal equinox.

The colors of fall foliage are actually present year-round. Fall is known for its colorful foliage. But the pigments responsible for those colors are actually present year-round. According to the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, green, yellow and orange pigments are present year-round. However, during spring and summer, the leaves serve as factories where many foods necessary to help the tree grow are manufactured. That

process takes place in the leaf in cells containing chlorophyll, which gives the leaves their green color. This process ceases as hours of daylight decrease and temperatures drop. As a result, chlorophyll breaks down, the green color disappears and the vivid colors of fall foliage begin to appear.

Squirrels have a (sophisticated) plan out there. Squirrels hiding food in autumn for the upcoming winter is a familiar sight. And squirrels are more organized than many people may know. Groundbreaking research released in 1991 found that, even when squirrels bury that stash of nuts closely to one another, they will each return to the precise location of their personal cache. Recent research also

has shown that squirrels bury their stash based on certain traits, such as the type of nut being buried.

Babies born in fall are more likely to see the century mark. Researchers at the University of

Chicago studied more than 1,500 centenarians born in the United States between 1880 and 1895.

They then compared birth and death information with those centenarians' siblings and spouses so

they could compare their early environment and genetic background and their adult environment.

Their research found that most centenarians were born between September and November.

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FALL HARVEST

Use hardiness zones for thriving veggie gardens

VEGETABLES need a certain number of growing days with ideal conditions in order to mature and produce a viable yield. These conditions vary depending on the vegetables being grown, with plants thriving in key zones across the country. The gardening resource Fine Gardening says certain vegetable varieties are specially bred for, or may be best suited to, certain climates. Knowing which vegetables are

ideal for where you live can give your garden the best chances for success.

The first step is reviewing the USDA Hardiness Zone Map to determine your specific climate zone. Canada also has a Plant Hardiness Zonemap. These maps are based on the extreme minimum temperatures in the zones, and can be a useful tool in determining which plants will thrive where you live. Additional variables to consider include the amount of precipitation the area gets,

average humidity, maximum temperatures, and soil conditions. Here's a look at the best produce for certain regions of the country based on hardiness zones.

Zones 1 & 2

Located in Alaska, the northern continental United States, high mountains, and the upper latitudes of Canada, this zone features long, cold winters and the shortest growing season (April to September).

See page 7



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FALL HARVEST

From page 6

Zones 7 & 8

With a growing season from March to November, these zones are marked by long, hot summers and mild winters, conditions common to the southwest and many southern states. Corn, tomatoes, melons, collard greens, carrots, and others are good choices for this region.

Zones 9 & 10

These zones include the deep South of the United States, Florida, southern California, and much of the Gulf coast. The growing season is quite long, ranging from February to November. In addition to much of the previously mentioned produce, plants like peppers, citrus, yams, peaches, figs and bananas have the best chances of success in these zones.

Zones 3 & 4

This zone encompasses the uppermost United States and cool mountain regions, as well as wide swaths of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. The growing season in zones 3 and 4 lasts from April to October. Vine tomatoes, broccoli, kale, lettuces, spinach, strawberries, sweetpeas, pole beans, and potatoes are some of the plants that will do well in these zones.

Zones 5 & 6

Zones 5 and 6 encompass much of the continental United States, the southern-most Canadian provinces and coastal Nova Scotia. The growing season in zones 5 and 6 starts in March and can extend into October. Try melons, squashes, corn, strawberries, lettuce and other greens, and tomatoes in these zones.

Zones 11-13

These are the most tropical zones and are found in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Growing seasons in zones 11 to 13 extend year-round. Only plants that require the coldest temperatures (sub-40 F) will not do well here.

Knowing the hardiness zone can help gardeners choose the best plants.



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FALL HARVEST

All-natural ways to protect food gardens from pests

HOMEOWNERS frequently enhance their outdoor living spaces with attractive plants and trees. When that greenery also produces food, the results can be both beauty and bounty.

People who plant vegetable gardens and fruit trees in their yards can be blessed with an abundance of fresh pickings once it's time to harvest. In fact, many home gardeners may have visions of warm evenings pulling vegetables right out of the garden and tossing them on the grill or in salads. But insects and animals enjoy fresh produce just as people do. The joy of harvesting from a garden can be diminished when unwanted guests have gotten there first.

Homeowners can employ these all-natural strategies to protect their fruits

and vegetables from lawn pests and critters. Plant gardens in raised beds. Though they're not a fool-proof deterrent, raised beds can eliminate some garden infiltration by small critters that come up and under from the ground. A raised garden bed can deter rabbits, gophers, groundhogs, slugs, and some other crawling pests. Raised beds also are ergonomic and easily accessible.

Prepare homemade insecticide. The environmental information site Treehugger provides information on making a homemade insecticide from vegetable

oil and a mild soap. Use one cup of oil with one tablespoon of soap (such as Dr. Bronner's castile soap). Add this mixture to one quart of water in a spray bottle. This concoction can eradicate aphids, mites, thrips, and more by coating insects' bodies and effectively suffocating them. Soap-and-water sprays or even neem oil sprays work similarly.

Sprinkle diatomaceous earth. Diatomaceous earth, commonly known as DE, is an abrasive powder comprised of fossilized algae diatoms.

See page 9



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FALL HARVEST

From page 8

It's commonly used as a filter medium in swimming pools, but also makes an effective pesticide. The material's abrasive and absorbent qualities draw moisture out of insects,

essentially dehydrating them to death. DE can be sprinkled around the base of plants, but will need to be reapplied after rain and watering.

Space out plants. One way to reduce insect or animal pest numbers is to ensure ample space

between plants. Tightly planted crops create a breeding ground for fungal diseases and also provide hiding spots and warmth for pests. Leaving room between plants can help avoid these issues, according to Gardening Channel.

Use row covers or garden mesh. Specialized covers and meshes protect fruit and vegetables against insects and animals. Many plants can be covered all year long as long as the covers are lifted during flowering if the crops depend on

pollination by bees. Veggiemesh® is a cover that can be laid over plants. Interplant crops in the garden. Interplanting is a technique that involves alternating crops, herbs and flowers to confuse the pests so they have a difficult time finding

what they want to eat. Alternate rows of vegetables with herbs and flowers that appeal to beneficial insects. Keeping pesky insects and animals from damaging food gardens can involve techniques that are safe and natural.

Eight sights to see at fall harvest festivals this year

JUST as summertime is synonymous with concerts and carnivals, fall is a prime time

for its own opportunities for seasonal entertainment, such as harvest festivals. Certain features overlap

between summer carnivals and fall festivals, but the latter offers some unique offerings as well. The fol-

lowing are some things to expect when fall festival season hits full swing.

Many fall harvest festivals are built on the foods harvested in the fall for that region. In Wisconsin, that may be cranberries, while in Massachusetts it could be oysters. Apples

also turn up in many areas starting in September. For those who can't wait to bite into food picked at the peak of its season, a fall harvest festival can't be beat.

Farms and the tools of the farming trade are part of harvest festivals. Wagons transporting crops are a

classic sight, even if they're no longer heavily relied upon on the farm. Rather than a cargo bed full of corn or apples, harvest festivals tote families around on wagon rides or on hay bale beds towed by tractors.

See page 10



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FALL HARVEST

From page 9

Candied and caramel apples and many other apple products feature prominently at many harvest festivals. Apple fritters, apple turnovers, apple pies, fried apples, and others are bound to be sold by vendors, along with traditional fair foods, like funnel cakes. Lemonade stands that are staples of summer give way to hot or cold cider offerings come the fall. Cold ciders are perfect for an unseason-

ably warm fall day while warm varieties are tailor-made for days when there's a chill in the air.

Fall harvest organizers pick and display pumpkins in fields to make it easier for youngsters to find the perfect pumpkin for Halloween carvings. It's a sea of orange this time of year, and things may get more colorful with non-edible gourds in shades of white or yellow. Some festivals are geared around chances to view the fall foliage that

abounds in primarily rural areas. A mountain or forest backdrop adds vibrant color to any event. Coastal areas may set up fall foliage cruises that let guests see the leaves from a new perspective.

Fall festivals set up adjacent to or on farms may have corn mazes for the kids. These mazes may be kept up throughout October and repurposed into haunted mazes for older kids looking to get a scare for Halloween. Many grape

varieties are harvested in the fall, so fall harvest festivals may capitalize on that and invite local vineyards to set up tables providing tastings of their vintages. Vineyards also may host their own fall festivals, featuring sips and snacks with live music.

Fall offers a host of entertaining festivals geared around the harvest season. These festivals are ideal ways for people to see the sights and nibble on seasonal delights along the way.



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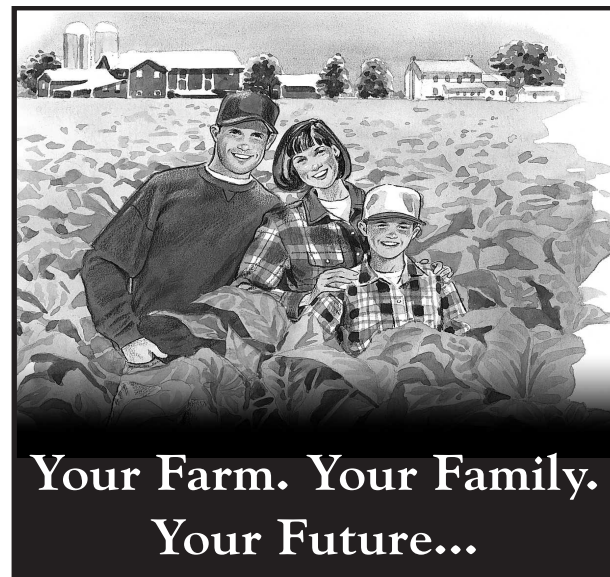
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FALL HARVEST

Consider these 13 gratifying facts about Thanksgiving

IN 2023, Canadian Thanksgiving takes place on Oct. 9, while Americans celebrate on Nov. 23. In anticipation of these holidays, here are some interesting facts about the Thanksgiving celebration.

1. American Thanksgiving is largely modeled on a 17th century harvest feast shared by the English settlers and the Wampanoag tribe.

2. Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October. It is based on European harvest festivals.

3. The National Turkey Federation says around 45 million turkeys will be eaten on Thanksgiving, which equates to about 720

million pounds of turkey being consumed (with the average turkey size being 16 pounds).

4. The Butterball hotline answers roughly 100,000 calls every year on its turkey question hotline.

5. In 1953, the Swanson company overestimated the number of frozen turkeys it would sell for the holiday season by 26 tons. Rather than waste the meat, Swanson sliced it up, repackaged it and created the first frozen TV dinners.

6. Thanksgiving in America may be older than many recognize. While Thanksgiving is largely tied to the 17th century settlers, the National Parks Service says in 1565 Spanish settlers in St. Augustine

(now Florida) celebrated by having a meal to which they invited the native Seloy tribe. The Spanish served pork stew, sea biscuits, red wine, and garbanzo beans. Some say the Seloy contributed turkey, venison and maize.

7. Thanksgiving didn't become a civic holiday until Abraham Lincoln made it one after the Civil War tragedy. Thanksgiving was declared a national holiday on October 20, 1864.

8. The Pilgrims did not refer to themselves as "pilgrims." They used the word "separatists" as they were separating themselves from a larger belief system.

9. In addition to Canada and the United States, Gre-

nada, Liberia, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, and the Netherlands celebrate their own versions of Thanksgiving.

10. Each year, the American president "pardons" a turkey from slaughter on Thanksgiving. This tradition dates back to when Abraham Lincoln's son was upset that his family's turkey that was going to be killed for Thanksgiving dinner.

11. According to the U.S. Calorie Control Council (CCC), an average American may consume 4,500 calories and 229 grams of fat on Thanksgiving Day.

12. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is an annual tradition. People



line the parade route in New York City or tune in to watch the parade on television. It originated in 1924 and the famed balloons were added in 1927.

13. Apple pie is the pie of choice for Thanksgiving,

even though pumpkin pie is prevalent this time of year.

Thanksgiving is a popular holiday in Canada and the U.S. Many traditions have been borne of the holiday, and it is a favorite time of year for many people.

Gourds, squashes and pumpkins, oh my!

HALLOWEEN takes place during a time of year characterized by earthen-colored chrysanthemums, leaf-lined walkways and crisp autumn air. As colorful as the costumes children wear for trick-or-treating may be, nature's beauty is unsurpassed this time of year, and the scores of pumpkins, gourds and squashes on display only add to that colorful melange.

The Cucurbitaceae family may be best known for pumpkins, squash and gourds, but there actually are 800 species that belong to this family. While they

share many of the same properties, these fruits each have their own unique attributes.

The main differences between squashes, gourds and pumpkins is their intended purposes — whether they're ornamental or edible.

Squashes come in summer and winter varieties. Winter ones do not actually grow in the winter; in fact, they're harvested in late summer and early fall, but the name references the hard shell casing that protects the tender pulp inside. Zucchini are summer squash because their outer flesh is tender, while

butternut, acorn, spaghetti, and hubbard squashes are winter squashes because they feature a tough skin. Even though it takes some effort to crack that shell, the dense, nutrient-rich flesh inside is well worth the workout.

Gourds are essentially ornamental squashes; they aren't cultivated for eating. Instead they are bred to look beautiful and unique in autumn centerpieces. Types of gourds include autumn wing gourd, warted gourds, turban gourds, and bottle gourds. Each gourd is unique in its shape and color.

Pumpkins come in

ornamental and edible varieties. Even though all pumpkins can be consumed, some taste better than others. Small pumpkins tend to be decorative because, according to

Nutritious Life, they do not have enough meat inside to make them worthy of cooking. However, sugar pumpkins are best for baking and cooking favorite recipes, states the resource

Pumpkin Nook.

The festive hues and flavors of squashes, gourds and pumpkins are one more thing that makes Halloween and autumn special.

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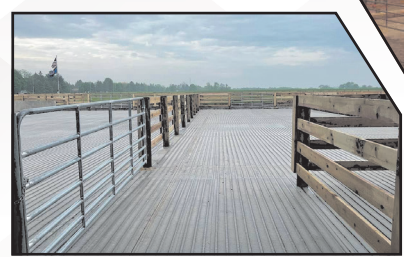
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