Inside today!

OGLE COUNTY LIFE

ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

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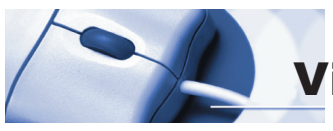
FREE



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KNOW IT TODAY

Commissioners sworn in

Re-elected Byron Forest Preserve District Commissioners were recently sworn in. **7A**

WEATHER

	HIGH	LOW
MONDAY	81	59
TUESDAY	83	61
WEDNESDAY	89	61
THURSDAY	82	67
FRIDAY	85	59
SATURDAY	82	56

OBITUARIES

- Carol Beers
- Paul Behan Jr.
- Michael Bowlin
- Betty Brunner
- Alice Keller
- Bonnie Merrill

See page A4

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Byron County Market
- Polo Fresh Food
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- RP Home & Harvest

The Maggie & Amos Foundation run and event is June 10

CHANA — The Maggie & Amos Foundation is hosting its sixth annual Infinity Run + Family Fun Event on June 10 at Chana Education Center and the Rochelle Conservation Club. This yearly event is held in memory of Maggie and Amos Meyer (Rosko) who died in a house fire on Oct. 19, 2016 in Byron. Maggie was a favored special education teacher at Chana Education Center and a loving mother to her three-year-old son, Amos. The 501c3 non-profit foundation was established by family, friends, coworkers, and students in the year following their passing to establish memorial grants as a way to honor Maggie and her son. Maggie was an advocate of students with disabilities and heavily focused on community inclusion and service to better the lives of others. She was an avid runner and enjoyed participating in 5k events and triathlons in her spare time.

The June 10 event promises to be a full day of activities for every one with every interest.

The day's activities begin with the Chana Heritage Tractor Show at the old Chana Fire Station and a homemade biscuits & gravy, breakfast sandwich, or pancake & sausage breakfast at Chana Education Center. The Infinity Run chip-timed 5k and one-mile family fun run begin at 8:30 a.m. on the grounds of the school.

See RUN page 2

Art Dash fundraiser held to benefit Serenity Hospice

'It is a wonderful event to be a part of'

OREGON — Everyone loves art, so what was "Gogh"ing on at the second annual event called Art Dash? It was a fundraiser for Serenity Hospice and Home that has become a much sought-after event. It was held at the River's Edge Experience on April 12. The venue came alive when 84 pieces of art created by 71 artists were placed around the room and provided a beautiful décor for the event.

Dashers bought a ticket for an opportunity to dash for their favorite piece of art, and spectators watched as the excitement rose to see who would get each piece.

The Art Dash fundraiser for Serenity Hospice and Home was held April 12 at the River's Edge Experience. (Courtesy photo)

Most of the art was from the nine counties in northern Illinois that Serenity serves, but we also received some donations from artists in Tennessee, Wisconsin, Missouri, Florida and North Carolina who have a connection to Serenity.

As a return participant in the Art Dash, this is what Matt Jagitsch had to say: "I can honestly say that it is a wonderful event to be a part of. Aside from the obvious benefits of raising funds for such an amazing establishment, Art Dash provides local and regional artists the opportunity to help promote the therapeutic benefits of art itself. Creating art has proven to ease the minds of both hospice patients and their families by establishing a way to build self-identity and help communicate feelings that are sometimes hard to put into words. Many of us will be impacted in some way by the care at a hospice facility in our lifetime. Supporting Serenity Hospice through Art Dash is a way that we, the artists, can use our talents and abilities to further awareness of these art therapy programs."

Everyone in attendance enjoyed culinary delights, listened to live music, viewed amazing art and mingled with many of the artists who were in attendance. Erin Moloney, one of the dashers said, "We had the best time and want to attend next year's event and bring friends."

See ART page 2

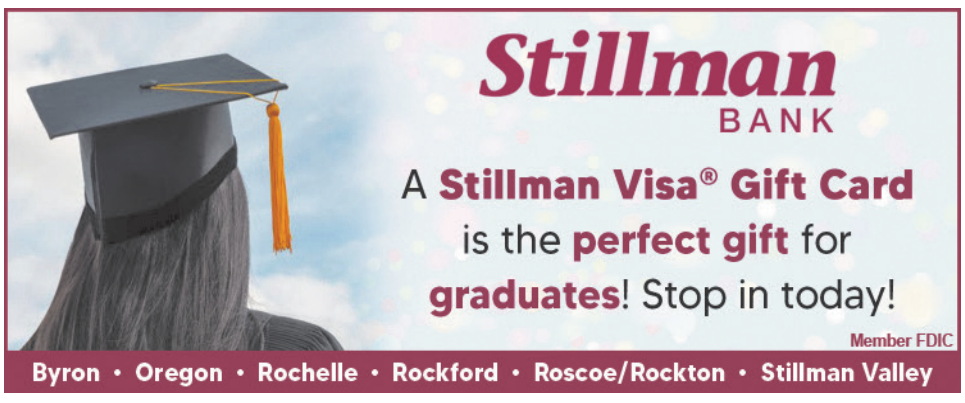
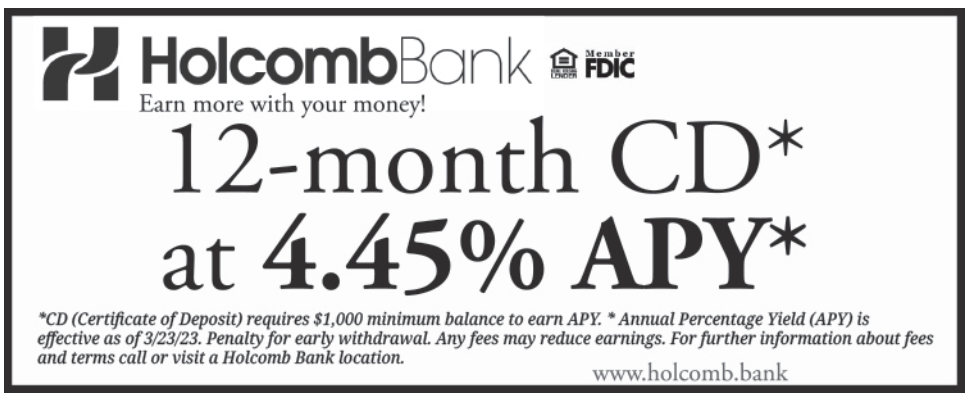
Farmers seeing productive planting season with weather

'Over the last 3-4 weeks, planting weather has been excellent'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OGLE COUNTY — Farmers in Ogle County have spent recent weeks on spring planting amid ideal weather and are on track to have their crops in the ground by the end of May, Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Ron Kern said May 23.

"It's actually been a pretty good spring," Kern said. "I know of some farmers that are done with planting and some with some acres to go. I'd say conservatively the county is 80-90 percent planted, maybe closer to 90 percent. We started off slow with some cool and wet weather, but over the last 3-4 weeks, planting weather has been excellent. Most farmers usually try to wrap up planting by the end of May for beans and corn. I'd say we'll make it there with the dry weather. We're right on course for where we ought to be."

The area saw cool and wet weather towards the end of March and beginning of April, which Kern said made up for a lack of snow and up-and-down temperatures over the winter, which made soil moisture levels lower. Kern called the winter normal, outside of lower snowfall levels.

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