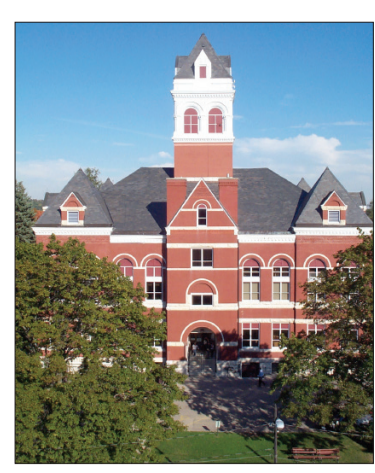


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Ogle County LIFE

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VOLUME 35, ISSUE 06

MONDAY
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Inside Today!

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Ogle County Board

Hogan presents on Ogle Natural Areas Alliance

Appellate Court Fourth District Justice makes presentation

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board heard a presentation by Ogle Natural Areas Alliance President Trevor Hogan on his organization's mission. ONAA started as a nonprofit two years ago. Hogan was a Byron Forest Preserve District board member for nine years and saw a need to start a foundation for the BFPD for people to donate time, money and land. "When I was on the forest preserve board, there were a lot of times that we

had to pass up certain types of donations because there wasn't a structure in place to take them," Hogan said. "That's why we started the ONAA, to benefit the forest preserve. And there are plenty of other beautiful natural areas in Ogle County and other public institutions that could stand to benefit from donations like that." ONAA works to benefit the BFPD, Oregon Park District, Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District, Byron Park District and Ogle County. "Basically, we provide opportunities for those that want to give and preserve land," Hogan said. "These



At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board heard a presentation by Ogle Natural Areas Alliance President Trevor Hogan on his organization's mission. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

entities are some of the best organizations that know how to protect and preserve land and most importantly, keep it open to the public. That's what we're here to do." Hogan said the COVID-19 pandemic showed the importance of safe, large public outdoor areas that can serve as recreation opportunities and also provide habitats for wildlife and ecological diversity. He wants to help to preserve areas the way they are and have been for decades. Since its inception, ONAA has provided grants to its beneficiary organizations for purposes including land stewardship and prairie development. It will host a volunteer day at Weld Park on April 28 at 9 a.m.

See BOARD page 2



Fire department awarded lifesaving equipment from Firehouse Subs Foundation

BYRON — On Thursday, April 13, the Byron Fire Protection District showcased vehicle extrication equipment it purchased with a \$25,175 grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. Interim Fire Chief Andy Politsch joined the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation and Firehouse Subs Franchisee Joe Fallin to celebrate and demonstrate the department's newest lifesaving extrication equipment during an in-person ceremony. On average, there are more than 600 fatal motor vehicle crashes re-

ported annually in Illinois, according to data provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The new equipment will assist first responders by dramatically reducing the time it takes them to safely and efficiently extricate victims involved in motor vehicle accidents. The tools will also give the department the capability to respond to complex incidents involving heavy trucks, as well as cut and spread ultra-hardened steels found in newer vehicles.

See AWARD page 3

Pennock retires from Oregon Park Board after 32 years

District acquired and developed seven new parks in commissioner's time

OREGON — Steve Pennock's final board meeting as an Oregon Park Board commissioner was held on April 11 and concluded 32 years of service to the Oregon community. Pennock was first elected to the Board of Commissioners in 1991. He was sworn in on May 9, 1991 and was elected as board president during the same meeting. Pennock would go on to be re-elected as board president each year until 2022. Under Pennock's leadership, the district has expanded park district services and pursued improvements for the betterment of parks and recreation in Oregon. During Pennock's time as board president, the district has acquired and developed seven new park sites creating an additional 75 acres in open space for public use. In 1997, the Oregon Park District opened the Blackhawk Center for both the park district and school district. Pennock was one of the driving forces behind successful completion of this multi-sport facility, now utilized solely by OCUSD and creating openings for additional practice and game space. The Blackhawk Center also provides Oregon High School an opportunity to host IHSA regional and sectional events in volleyball, basketball and wrestling bringing thousands of visitors to Oregon annually.

See PARK page 2

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LOCAL NEWS



Pictured at April 11's meeting is Joanne and Steve Pennock and daughter and son-in-law Rebecca and Jeremiah Kaffenbarger.

PARK: Commissioner sees many changes during tenure with board

From page 1

In 2007, he was awarded the Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award by the Illinois Association of Park Districts. The award is named after Mike Cassidy, a commissioner of the Freeport Park District for more than 35 years who devoted his life to serving his community. Pennock was an

advocate for the district, pursuing grant funding and supported the district in obtaining millions of dollars in funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Department of Economic Opportunity, GameTime Recreation and several others.

Erin Folk, executive director, said prior to Steve's retirement,

"Steve genuinely cares about his community, the Oregon Park District and the residents he has served for 32+ years. It has been my honor to work alongside him to develop and implement recreation improvements which continually meet the needs of the community and keep the Oregon Park District at the forefront of park and recreation trends."

BOARD: Seal coat work approved

From page 1

The board also heard a presentation from Appellate Court Fourth District Justice Eugene Doherty on recent judicial redistricting. Doherty is from Winnebago County and has been assigned to sit in the fourth district appellate court. When cases are lost, parties have a right to appeal under Illinois law and Ogle County now falls under the redistricted fourth district appellate court. It was previously in the second appellate district with Winnebago County east to suburban areas such as McHenry County.

Cases that were appealed from Ogle County used to be heard in Elgin. They are now heard in Springfield after last year's major redistricting that saw Ogle County join the fourth district that also includes Winnebago County and now stretches nearly down to St. Louis across 41 counties.

"What happened with the redistricting is that instead of having these roughly equal-sized districts geographically, we now have these two very large downstate districts where appellate and supreme court justices from all of that area would be selected from," Doherty said. "We joined a fourth district that was much smaller with the courthouse being in Springfield. It's a three-hour drive, but that court does quite a bit by remote and Zoom."

Doherty said he wanted to make sure the board

and public were aware of the redistricting and said that lawmakers made the change due to wanting more equal populations among them. The lines were previously drawn in 1964.

Road & bridge

The board unanimously approved a \$582,960 bid from Helm Civil for its 2023 seal coating work. The Helm Civil bid was the low bid it received. For the work, the board appropriated \$330,000 from its motor fuel tax fund and \$253,000 from its federal aid matching fund.

The board also unanimously approved a \$563,946 low bid from Rock Road Companies for its Center Road and Bethel Road resurfacing project. For the work, the board appropriated \$300,000 of motor fuel tax funds and \$264,000 in federal aid matching funds.

The board unanimously approved a \$297,834 low bid from Martin & Company Excavating for Daysville street improvements in Oregon-Nashua Township. Oregon-Nashua Township plans on using motor fuel tax funding to pay for a portion of the project, and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) requires that all township and road district projects utilizing MFT funds be awarded by the county board.

Liquor

The board unanimously approved a resolution increasing the number of



Eugene Doherty: The Ogle County Board heard a presentation from Appellate Court Fourth District Justice Eugene Doherty on recent judicial redistricting. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

C and C-1 liquor licenses in the county from three to four. The county received a request from a new business with four cabins and a recreation room on Lost Nation Road to raise the amount by one, Board Chairman John Finrock said.

HR

The board unanimously approved a resolution rescinding an ordinance it passed last month for the purchase of a new human resource information system from Paycom. Following rescinding it, the board unanimously approved a purchase from ADP for a human resource information system that, for its total employees of 250, will cost \$15,375 in implementation costs and \$65,441.50 in total annual investment.

"We did some additional vetting and found that Paycom did not seem to be the best for Ogle County," Finrock said. "ADP is more open and cheaper after we got another quote from Paycom that was much higher than the first one because they had not been given correct information the first time. ADP is less cost and more adaptable to what we're trying to do."

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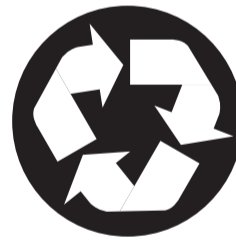
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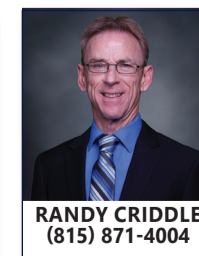
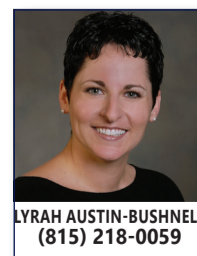
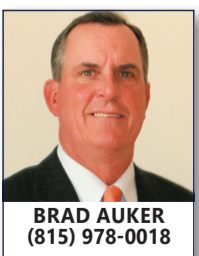
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LOCAL NEWS

Ogle County Sheriff

Deputies respond to accident with injuries

OREGON — On April 11 at approximately 10:46 a.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident with an injury near the intersection of Broadway Street and Montague Road in Baileyville. Upon arrival, deputies learned that a white Ford F-250 driven by Olan Nolley Jr., 52, of Georgetown, Kentucky was traveling eastbound on Montague Road. A maroon Chevrolet driven by Henry Huenefeld, 64, of Forreston, was at the stop intersection of Broadway Street and Montague Road facing northbound when it pulled out in front of the white Ford F-250. The white Ford was unable to avoid the Chevrolet and struck it on the driver's side of the vehicle causing heavy damage. The Chevrolet then traveled off the north side of the roadway before coming to rest. The Ford also traveled off the north side of the roadway just east of the intersection before coming to rest and sustained heavy front end damage. Huenefeld was pronounced deceased at the scene. Forreston EMS/Fire, Forreston Police Department and the Ogle County Coroner's Office assisted with accident. The accident remains under investigation.

On April 11 at approximately 1:54 p.m. deputies were dispatched to a driving complaint on East Illinois Route 64 at White Rock Road. Upon further investigation, deputies arrested Piotr Szubet, 51, of Romeoville, for reckless driving. Piotr was also cited for no registration, uninsured vehicle and passing in a no-passing zone. Piotr was released on an individual bond with a future court date given.

On April 11 at approximately 5:17 p.m. deputies responded to the intersection of West Eagle Point Road and South Freeport Road for a two-vehicle accident with injuries. After investigation, it was determined that a red Dodge Dakota, being driven by a juvenile male, was traveling westbound on Eagle Point Road approaching Freeport Road. The juvenile male disregarded the stop sign on Eagle Point Road and stuck a tan Chevrolet Silverado hauling an empty anhydrous ammonia tank that was traveling southbound on Freeport Road. The Chevrolet lost control and exited the roadway, entered the west ditch, and struck a barbed wire fence before coming to rest facing north. The Dodge lost control and came to rest just south of the intersection facing north in the southbound lane. The driver of the Chevrolet, 65-year-old Randall Dornink of Polo, was transported to a nearby hospital with major injuries. The juvenile male sustained suspected minor injuries and refused medical attention. The juvenile male was issued a traffic citation for disobeying a stop sign. Deputies were assisted on the scene by Polo Fire and Forreston Fire.

On April 11 at approximately 11:33 p.m. deputies attempted to conduct a traffic stop in the 600 block of South 7th Street in Rochelle. The vehicle fled in an attempt to evade deputies, at which time deputies pursued the vehicle and a short time later terminated the pursuit. The vehicle was again located leaving the parking lot of the Loves Travel Stop in Rochelle, at which time deputies attempted to stop the vehicle again, traveling east on Steward Road. The vehicle failed to negotiate the curve at South Steward Road and East Ritchie Road and struck an embankment. The vehicle traveled into the south ditch on East Ritchie Road, where it came to rest. The driver, identified as Jonathan Brown, 24, of Monroe Center, was transported to Rochelle Hospital before being airlifted to OSF Saint Anthony's for major injuries. The female passenger, unidentified at this time, was airlifted to OSF Saint Anthony's Hospital, where she remains in critical condition. Charges against Brown are pending subsequent to the investigation. Deputies were assisted on scene by Rochelle Fire/Police, Ashton Fire, Steward Fire and Lee County Sheriff's Office.

On April 12 at approximately 11:34 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 88 at mile marker 79. Upon further investigation deputies arrested Montrale Thomas, 42, of Davenport for driving while license suspended. Montrale also had an outstanding warrant out of Rock Island County. Montrale

was transported to the Ogle County Jail in lieu of bond.

On April 12 at approximately 9:22 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 12,000 block of North Illinois Route 26. After an investigation, Alis Mildonio Velasquez Pena, 25, of Freeport, was placed under arrest for driving without a valid license. Velasquez Pena was also cited for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. Velasquez Pena was released on an individual bond and provided a future court date.

On April 12 at 9:57 p.m. deputies were dispatched to White Pines State Park (6712 W. Pines Road, Mt. Morris) for the report of a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, Justin Aldridge, 28, of Rock Falls was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia. Aldridge was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On April 14 at approximately 2:32 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 16,000 block of East Illinois Route 38. After investigation, deputies placed Donald Wilton, 53, of Rochelle under arrest for no valid driver's license. Wilton was additionally issued a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Wilton was released on an I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date.

On April 14 at approximately 12:18 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation, Matthew E Pierce, 52, of Rockford was placed under arrest for possession of 100-500 grams of cannabis. Pierce was also cited for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and operating an uninsured vehicle. Pierce was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance before a judge.

On April 15 at approximately 12:12 a.m. deputies responded to the area of West Mud Creek Road and West Cliff Road for the report of a single-vehicle accident. Deputies arrived on scene and located a silver Honda Pilot in the west ditch with major damage to the entire vehicle. After investigation, it was determined that the Honda, being driven by 46-year-old Sikamba Kisamba of Des Moines, Iowa, was traveling eastbound on Mud Creek Road approaching Cliff Road. Kisamba then failed to negotiate the curve, crossed into the westbound lane, and onto the westbound shoulder. Kisamba traveled along the shoulder for a short distance before overcorrecting and losing control. Kisamba traveled back onto the roadway, through the eastbound lane, and entered the eastbound shoulder/ditch. The Honda then overturned before coming to rest in the west ditch facing west. Kisamba refused medical attention and was taken into custody for driving while under the influence of alcohol. Kisamba was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond. Kisamba was also issued citations for improper traffic lane usage and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

On April 16 at approximately 2:37 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of East Camling Road. After investigation deputies placed Shaquille Campbell, 30, of Oregon, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Campbell was additionally issued citations for expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Campbell was released on an I-bond at the scene and given a future court date.

On April 17 at 7:18 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Big Mound Road and Junction Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Jose Santana, 42, of Rochelle for driving without a valid license. Santana was released on a \$2,500 individual bond with a future court date. Santana was also issued a citation for improper use of registration.

On April 18 at approximately 3:52 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop within the 11,000 block of East Big Mound Road for an equipment violation. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Brandon L. Barber, 39, of Stillman Valley, for driving while license suspended. Barber was released from the scene with an I-Bond with a future court date given.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



AWARD: Byron station receives equipment

From page 1

Proceeds from purchases made at U.S. Firehouse Subs restaurants provided the funding for this grant award.

To date, Firehouse Sub Public Safety Foundation has granted more than \$2.1 million to first responder organizations across Illinois and more than \$83,000 in the greater Rockford area.

Byron Police Department

Officers issue speeding citations

BYRON — On March 30, Amy C. Novak, 52, of Bettendorf, Iowa was issued a citation for speeding.

On March 31, Nikara M. Paganini, 33, of Loves Park was issued a citation for operating a vehicle while registration suspended.

On April 3, Ray P. Bielskis, 72, of Winnebago was issued a citation for speeding and operating a vehicle with an expired driver's license.

On April 4, John S. Arberry Jr., 56, of Byron was issued a citation for operating a vehicle while registration suspended.

On April 7, Jose A. Garcia, 44, of Dixon was issued a citation for operating a vehicle while registration suspended.

On April 7, Kristen A. Krug, 33, of Mt. Morris was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

On April 7, Erica J. Mui

Nowak, 30, of Mt. Prospect was issued a citation for speeding.

On April 8, Kevin E. Stevens, 24, of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

On April 8, Jamie C. Fry-De-Jager, 34, of Mt. Carroll was issued citations for driving while license revoked and operating a vehicle while registration suspended.

On April 8, Surall Berry, 34, of Oregon was issued a citation for operating a vehicle while registration suspended.

On April 8, Vincent Vvanti, 45, of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

On April 8, Shawn M. Skinner, 28, of Sterling was issued a citation for operating a vehicle while registration suspended.

On April 8, Eugene L. Torres, 36, of North Chica-

go was issued a citation for operating a vehicle while registration suspended.

On April 9, Rosas G. Mejia, 49, of Mt. Morris was issued a citation for operating a vehicle while registration suspended.

On April 9, Julie M. Dworkin, 46, of Chicago was issued a citation for speeding.

On April 9, Peggy S. Pattort-McClung, 49, of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

On April 9, Kyle A. Holmberg, 19, of New Lisbon, Wisconsin was issued a citation for driving vehicle while squealing tires.

On April 10, Anthony J. Loyd, 40, of Davis, Illinois was arrested for battery and disorderly conduct.

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

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OBITUARIES

Charles 'Chuck' Ballard

DIXON—Charles Arthur "Chuck" Ballard, 91, passed away on Friday, April 14, 2023, from complications following hip surgery. He was born on Nov. 11, 1931, to Arthur and Myrtle (Phillips) Ballard near Leaf River, Ill. His parents were farmers and lived on various farms that his dad managed in western Ogle County. He was raised on an old-school farm where everyone pitched in and did their part.



While there, he attended a one-room schoolhouse in Pine Creek Township, then went on to graduate from Leaf River High School. He entered the U.S. Navy and served as a medic on the aircraft carrier USS Gilbert Islands, a Commencement Bay-Class escort carrier.

He then attended the University of Illinois, College of ACES, graduating with degrees in horticulture and business management. He studied in the famous Morrow Plots and was voted Most Eligible Bachelor of the entire university. His career began with Del Monte, which took him to Rochelle, Ill. While there he met his wife, Jacqueline (nee Kilfoil), who fixed him up with a friend of hers, but it was his post-date conversations over coffee with Jackie that led them to start courting. They were married on Labor Day Weekend, 1960, in Franklin Grove, Ill. Jackie was seven years his senior and Chuck became an instant dad to her children, Billie Duncan and Tom Duncan.

His career with Del Monte took them to Indiana, living in Frankton, Frankfort and Fort Wayne, before taking a position as the store manager at the Sears Catalog Store back in Rochelle.

In 1967 he became the first director of the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District, which initially ran out of their dining room. While establishing the park district he met his lifelong friend, Phil Nye, Jr., and those two created thousands of memories together hunting, fishing, dinners with their wives and a trip out west in 2021 that was one for the books.

His next career move was to White Pines State Park in Oregon, Ill. to serve as its head ranger. There are so many wonderful family memories at The Pines while they lived in the park. He then was promoted to Assistant Regional Manager with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, he was involved in everything to do with the state parks, from managing the staff to securing equipment and working on projects.

He and Jackie lived life to the fullest, always a spark and laughter when they were around. He taught all his granddaughters to fish and lessons such as what a poison ivy plant looks like, that came in handy. They always lived at a house with a fantastic sledding hill for the grand-

daughters, and he would walk outside barefoot in the winter to greet guests.

He and Jackie split their time between Dixon, Florida and Wisconsin, no one ever truly knew where they were at any given time, but we knew they were having a ball. Their cabin in Mauston, Wis. was a woodsy gathering place for family and friends, fishing was always on the agenda.

Chuck spent much of his spare time outdoors, hunting and fishing, he was an excellent shot and holidays always included something he'd bagged during hunting season. Jackie wasn't the best game cook, but we all ate it anyway.

He was a patient teacher and guide, a fair leader and devoted to his family and friends, and he loved ice cream more than anyone we knew.

Charlie could spin a tale like no other, he was an incredible storyteller. Many times he'd say, "did I tell you about the time ..." and we all knew we were in for a treat.

Chuck is survived by his son, Tom Ballard of Byron; son-in-law, Neil O'Malley of Belvidere; niece, Barbara Ballard of Dixon; five granddaughters, Cathy (Mike) Dummer of Middleton, Wis., Colleen (Gregg) Petrosky of Sterling, Mary (Greg) Pippert of Buffalo, Minn., Ellen O'Malley of Rochelle and Jenny (Dan) Pakenham of Rochelle; grandson-in-law, Scott (Kate) Loos of Kronenwetter, Wis.; great-grandchildren, Abby (Kevin) Martin of Decatur, Patrick (Kailee) Petrosky of St. Paul, Minn., David Dummer of Scottsdale, Ariz., Taylor Renner of Rochelle, Molly Petry of Rochelle, Katelyn Dummer of Middleton, Mitchell Petrosky of Dubuque, Iowa, Margaret Pippert of Minneapolis, Nora Petry of Normal, Ill., Eliza Petry of Urbana, Ill., Isaac Pippert of St. Cloud, Minn. and Logan Loos of Kronenwetter; as well as great-great-granddaughter, Aria Brake of Rochelle.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jackie, in September of 2010; his daughter, Billie O'Malley of Belvidere in May of 2020; his parents, Arthur and Myrtle Ballard of Oregon; his brother and sister-in-law, Phil and Shirley Ballard of Oregon; and his granddaughter, Jane O'Malley Loos of Kronenwetter.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, April 23 from 1-4 p.m. at Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth St., Rochelle. A burial with military honors will be on Monday, April 24 at 10 a.m. at Plainview Cemetery in Mount Morris. A luncheon and celebration of life will be hosted by the family at noon at the VFW in Rochelle. Bring your funny stories because we're going to celebrate a wonderful man.

Memorials may be made to the American Parkinson's Disease Association or Rochelle VFW Post 3878.

Mary Elizabeth 'Hogan' Bontjes

BYRON—Mary Elizabeth "Hogan" Bontjes, age 95, died Saturday, April 15, 2023 at Generations at Neighbor's in Byron surrounded by her loving family. She was born Nov. 16, 1927 in rural Byron, the daughter of William L. and Anna Mae (Stine) Hogan. She graduated from Byron High School in 1945.



Mary met her husband Gene Bontjes at the Indian Village restaurant on the Rock River in 1948. She married Russell E. "Gene" Bontjes on July 30, 1949. He preceded her on July 13, 2004.

Mary loved her job working at Cacciatore's Grocery Store in Byron where she worked for many years. She helped own and operate a flower shop in Byron many years ago.

Mary was a charter member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Byron. She loved being a grandmother. She also enjoyed playing cards with her friends and family, especially playing the game 500.

Mary started bowling in 1946 and bowled up until the age of 91. She loved sports in her younger years and was on the Bitner Bakery Softball team and played in a girls' basketball team in the 1950's. She was famous for her granny brownies and custard pie.

Mary was active in the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary since 1949 where she held many offices, including president. She was active in fund raising

for the Legion and getting it paid for. She loved Thursday night Bingo and would often serve meals for the event.

During the holidays, Mary was a bell ringer for the Salvation Army and was given the task of collecting and depositing the funds raised.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband Gene, son Brian, and brothers Bill and Frank Hogan.

She is survived by her 2 sons Craig (Patty) Bontjes of Byron, IL and Alan (Susan) Bontjes of Grand Detour, IL; brother Charles Wilbur of Potomac, Maryland and sister-in-law Pat Hogan of Byron; grandchildren: Kelli Kellogg of Portland, Oregon; Jack Bontjes of Grand Detour, IL; and Andrew (Christina) Mundt of Byron, IL; great grandchildren: Devin, Taylor, Brynn, Callen, Kaelub, Cole, Nick, and Max; a great-great grandchild on the way, and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial Mass will be held 11:00 am, Friday, April 21, 2023 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Byron, IL with the Rev. Rich Rosinski officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the service at the church from 9:00 am to 10:45 am. Burial will be at the St. Mary's Cemetery following the service.

A memorial fund is established in Mary's name and may be directed to her family.

Visit www.farrellhollandgale.com to leave a condolence or memory of Mary.

Evelyn Jean Bowman

POLO — Evelyn Jean Bowman, of Polo, passed away Friday, April 14, 2023, at Allure Pinecrest in Mt. Morris.

Evelyn was born August 24, 1931, in Polo, Illinois, the daughter of Frank and H. Lucile Wales. On December 31, 1950, in Polo, she married the love of her life Wilbur Bowman.

Evelyn and Wilbur were Deacons at the Polo Church of the Brethren. Together they were involved in the community serving on various state and local boards. Evelyn was a planner, always in the background planning events, parties and community activities. She loved to perform music in the church and for local events. Evelyn and Wilbur were also very involved and passionately supported the Patriot Guard Riders.

Survivors include daughter Stephanie (Fred) Schmidt of Madisonville, TX and daughter-in-law Joann Bowman of Princeton, IL; sons Jeff Bowman

of Fort Wayne, IN, Rod (Cathy) Bowman of Polo, IL, Mike (Kim) Bowman of Forreston, IL; sisters Helen Wales and Joyce Person both of Polo, IL; brother-in-law Don Deardorff of California; 16 Grandchildren, 13 Great Grandchildren

She was preceded in death by loving husband Wilbur; son Greg Bowman daughter-in-law Annette Bowman, grandson Tim Bowman; sisters Pat Deardorff, Margaret Brown and Betty Capling; brother-in-law Richard Person; foster brother John Hiatt.

Honoring Evelyn's wishes visitation will be Friday, April 28, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at the Polo Family Funeral Home, 110 E. Dixon St., Polo. Graveside services will be immediately following at 11:00 a.m. at Fairmount Cemetery in Polo.

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

Visit www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com to send condolences.

Daniel Benjamin Harris

BELOIT — Daniel Benjamin Harris passed on to his heavenly home on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 3:33 p.m. at Beloit Memorial Hospital surrounded by family and friends.

Daniel was beloved by many for his "quirky" personality, his appetite for simple fun, his strong faith in the Lord, and his deep love for his family and friends. In recent years, he lived to drive tractors as he helped a family friend farm each spring and fall and enjoyed hanging out with his blue heeler (Gunner), fixing things, growing vegetables, grilling out, campfires with friends, volunteering for Walworth County 4-H, visiting family, and an occasional fishing trip. He beamed in the presence of his two children, Logan and Allison, and after reconnecting with and marrying his high school sweetheart, Debbie, and he lit up the room everywhere he went.



Daniel was born on January 21, 1967 in Salem, AR to Noel Harris and Shirley Wade Harris. He grew up in Monroe Center, IL, and graduated from Stillman Valley High School in 1985 having participated actively in both 4-H and FFA and driving tractors for his stepdad's farming operation. Out of high school, he worked at Swenson Spreader in Lindenwood, IL, and for the Rockford Airport before enlisting in the U.S. Navy. In the military he was a proud "brown shoe" serving on aircraft carriers during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005. Out of the military, Dan ended up working as a Maintenance Manager at the Cape Girardeau, MO Airport where he managed the airfields and coordinated the annual air show – both things that he was very proud of up until his death.

Daniel and his first wife, Colleen lived in Rockford, IL, Jackson, MO, and Dixon,

IL over a period of many years. During this time, Allison and Logan were born and Daniel dedicated his time to being a hands-on father, and attending literally hundreds of baseball games, even serving as Allison's softball coach. There were fishing outings, plenty of fix-it projects involving engines, and a big effort to instill in his children the importance of a well-kept lawn.

In 2018, Daniel moved north and married Deborah (Hagemeyer) Burkman on September 21, 2019. The two made a home in Beloit where the plan was for them to grow old together gardening and loving friends and family.

Survivors include his wife, Debbie; daughter, Allison of St. Louis, MO; son, Logan (Morgan) of Cape Girardeau, MO; stepson, Dylan Moser of Beloit, WI; stepdaughter, Dalissa Moser of Lee, IL; brother, Edwin "Tex" Harris (Bonnie) of Plymouth, MA; sister, Theresa Price (Randy) of Walnut Ridge, AR, Abigail Watson (Kenny) of Jonesboro, AR, and Heather Ascher (Adam) of Kolona IA; along with many beloved in-laws, extended family members, and friends.

He was predeceased by his parents. His death leaves a hole in the hearts of many. Memories of Daniel fill those holes with happiness.

A Memorial Service for Daniel was held. Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, 2355 Cranston Rd., Beloit, WI, assisted the family with arrangements. Inurnment was held in Monroe Center Cemetery, Monroe Center, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in his name may be made to the Walworth County 4-H Senior Leaders' Association.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.daleymurphywisch.com

Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the Oregon Police, Byron Police, Polo Police, Mt. Morris

Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

ADVERTISING DISCLAIMER

Advertisers please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes, notify us immediately. We will make changes for errors made on our part and we will adjust bills accordingly, but only provided we receive notice immediately following the first time the ad appears. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper, which also reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser, and not this newspaper, is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. Advertising is also subject to credit approval, and may be refused at any time for any reason.

The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

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OBITUARIES

Max Leroy Newcomer

OREGON — Max Leroy Newcomer, 95, from Oregon IL, passed away peacefully at KSB hospital on Saturday April 15th, four days after suffering a stroke at home. He was born Nov. 1, 1927 near Lanark, IL the son of Clyde S. and E. Mae (Lester) Newcomer.

Max grew up in Carroll County, graduated from Milledgeville High School in 1946, served in the Marines in WW2 and then in the US Army during the Korean conflict. After being honorably discharged, he moved to Oregon, IL where he met Sylvia Bolhaus. They married Sep. 12, 1953 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oregon, 69 years ago.

He became a master carpenter and he was gifted with the use of his hands in performing top quality work. Max would take on any sort of construction project from building beautiful homes, home additions, cabinet building, cement work, roofing, swimming pools and pool tables.

Max was a lifetime member of the Oregon VFW Post 8739 where he served in many Post offices including two-time

Post Commander.

Max was a devoted, loving and caring husband, father and grandfather. Max is survived by his wife, Sylvia of Oregon IL; his loving children Mark (Kay Helker) Newcomer, Galena, IL, Scott (Victoria) Newcomer, Muskego, WI, Lisa (Mark) Vail, Lincoln NE and Joel Newcomer of Chana, IL, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Max is preceded in death by his parents and his sister Margaret Glenn.

As per his wishes, Max's body was donated to science.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 AM, Saturday, May 13, 2023 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oregon, IL with the Rev. Carl Rasmussen pastor of the church and Chaplin John Tuttle of the Oregon VFW Post 8739 officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Max's honor may be directed to the Wounded Warriors Project, St Paul's Lutheran Church or VFW Post 8739.

Visit www.farrellhollandgale.com to leave a condolence or memory of Max.



Mireille (Marie) J. Powell

FORRESTON — We are sad to announce the passing of Mireille (Marie) J. Powell, (100) also known as Grand-mere to her family. Mireille passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, April 14, 2023.

Mireille was born February 10, 1923, in Beau Bassin Mauritius, the daughter of Jean and Helene (Caltaux) Chevalier. She married James Powell on August 14, 1941 in Beau Bassin, Mauritius.

In 1988, after the death of her husband, Mireille moved from Brussels, Belgium to Forreston, Illinois, to be near daughter, Eileen (Andy) Anderson along with grandchildren Wayne (Carol) Anderson, Tracey Anderson, and Great-Grandchildren Kaitlyn (Brad) Barker and Andrew Anderson Birkholz.

Mireille made many trips to visit daughter, Roselind Seats of Ventura, California and her family. She affectionately referred to her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great

granddaughter as the "California Tribe." Mireille had a passion for travel, good food, a good Cabernet Sauvignon and needlepointing the most beautiful and intricate creations. She had a vibrant wit and possessed an eloquent knack for telling stories of her fun-loving life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and siblings: Susan Norris, Annie Desfontaines, Lise Van Renen and Andre Chevalier.

A Funeral Mass will be at 11 A.M. on Friday, April 28, 2023, at St. Wendelin Catholic Church with Father Mike Bolger, officiating. Cremation Rites have been accorded. Mireille's wish is to have her ashes taken to "Her Island" of Mauritius. Grand-mere will be truly missed.

The Anderson family wishes to thank Cindy Wiles and Dawn Plock for the compassionate care they provided Mireille. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Wendelin Catholic Church Shannon, Illinois.



Virgil Eugene (Gene) Patterson Jr.

OREGON — Virgil Eugene (Gene) Patterson Jr., 71, passed away March 20, 2023. He was born April 16, 1951 to Virgil E. and Lois Marie (Marshel) Patterson in Kankakee, Illinois. He married Martha Ann Thompson of Mt. Morris, Illinois. They had one son, Billy.

Gene served in the United States Army. Gene's main occupation was working on cars and trucks and helping others. He also worked on the construction of the Byron Nuclear Plant.

Gene is survived by his wife Annie of Oregon, his son Billy (Kelly) of Polo, his two granddaughters Tarah (Jake) Ziegler of Oregon and Mallory Patterson of Polo. He was also looking forward to being a great-grandfather in June.

Other survivors include three sisters,

Maggie Smith, Helen Disch and Mary (Victor) Struck all of Mt. Morris. His two brothers Roger Patterson of Mt. Morris and Raymond Patterson of Ashton. He had many nephews and a niece. He is also survived by three brothers in law, John Thompson and Floyd Drumheller of Mt. Morris and Bob Thompson of Florida.

He was preceded in death by his parents, an older sister Linda (Virgil) Payne, an older brother Bud (Rita) Millenbine, two nieces Rosalie Otten and Angela (Kevin) Boss, nephew Roger Patterson, Jr., three brothers in law Charles Thompson, Bill Thompson and Don Drumheller and one sister in law, Mary Thompson.

There were no services per Gene's request.



Walter M. Rose, Jr.

Walter M. Rose, Jr., 84, passed away on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. He was born on May 21, 1938 to Walter M. and Doris Fry Rose. He leaves behind his wife, Kathy; children, Tari Book (Richard Buttler), Pam Rose (Guy Doubleday), Rusty (Kim) Rose, Rex (Hayley) Worley, Ken (Crystal) Worley; grandchildren, AJ (Darlene) Book, Nicole (James) Deen, Austin, Kolton, Jace and Bryce Worley, Kyle, Caleb and Connor Worley and Teresa Davis; sister, Lorraine Anderson; sister-in-law, Ella Rose; bonus daughters, Connie Lameyer and Hayley Worley; special helpers, grandson, Austin Worley and great-grandson, Benjamin IIs; great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; furry friends, Noisey, Smokey and Boots. Predeceased by his parents, Walter and Doris Fry Rose; brother, Ray Rose; son-in-law, Adrian Book; brother-in-law, Andy Anderson; his furry four-legged friends, Princess, Digger, Winston and his "red headed stepchild/trucker trash dog", Tasha.

Walt owned his own businesses and drove truck over the road for many years for Stahly Cartage. He was a member of the Leaf River Lions, member and officer of Jerry Wickam Legion Post

1148, member of Forreston FFA Alumni, Firefighter/EMR & Trustee of the Leaf River Fire Dept., and a member of the Lightsville Cemetery Board.

We would like to extend a very special Thank You to Serenity Hospice and Home for all they did and the loving care they gave Walt, especially "his girls" that came to care for him at home, CNA's Abby and Courtney, and his nurse, Sheila. Also to Chaplain Willy who was so gracious when Walt spilled his milk on his Bible. Also to the many friends (especially my coffee crew) and family that helped us through this most difficult time.

Funeral service was at 11:00am with a visitation from 10:00am until the service on Saturday, April 22, 2023 in Seward Congregational Church, 3029 South Pecatonica Road, Seward, IL 61077. Visitation was Friday evening, April 21, from 3:00pm to 7:00pm in Honquest Family Funeral Home with Crematory-Mulford Chapel, 4311 N. Mulford Road, Loves Park, IL 61111. Burial in Lightsville Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the family for a memorial to be established at a later date.

To share a memory or express condolences, visit honquestfh.com.



Sonya Lea Rice

ROCKFORD — Sonya Lea Rice, 85, of Rockford, IL died March 19, 2023 in Rockford. She was born January 12, 1938 in Monticello, Iowa. Daughter of Carl and Mary (Postel) Morning.

After graduating from Monticello High School, Sonya worked as a cosmetician at May's Drug Store in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She met and fell in love with a Pharmacy Intern named Hal Rice. She married Harold "Hal" Rice on June 9, 1957 in Monticello, Iowa.

Sonya and Hal loved to travel both domestically and abroad. Sonya loved gardening and canning. She was known for her black raspberry jelly and enjoyed giving away her canning endeavors.

Sonya had the wonderful gifts of giving and hospitality. She was a member of Valley Covenant Church in Stillman Valley and helped start their Bread of Life Ministry which provided meals and groceries

to families in need. She also volunteered as a Pink Lady at OSF Hospital in the surgical waiting room. Sonya was on a bowling league for many years at Don Carter Lanes.

Sonya is well loved and will be missed by many including her five children, Tamika Morie, Teri (Gayle) Walk, Traci Reed, Toni (Brad) Koloch, and Hal Rice; 30 grandchildren; 42 great-grandchildren; siblings Stanley "Buck" Morning, JoAnn McBain, and Carl "Buzz" (Nancy) Morning.

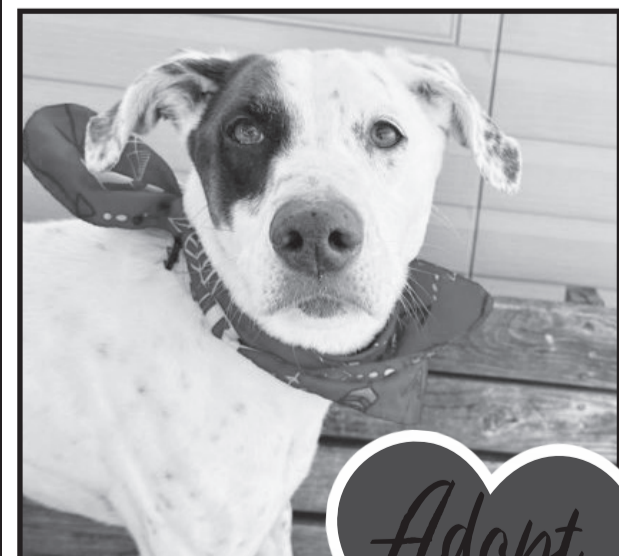
She is preceded in death by husband Hal; her parents; siblings Elizabeth DeWoody, Carleta Herzberger, and John Morning.

A private celebration of her life will be held at a later date. In her honor, memorial contributions can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Cedarhurst of Rockford Senior Living Community.



Polo Lion Buchar awarded for sponsoring longtime members
At the Polo Lions Club meeting held at the White Pines Lodge on Tuesday, April 18, President Winton Bocker presented an award to Polo Lions Member Dave Buchar. The award Dave is receiving is for sponsoring two members that have stayed for a while. Thank you Dave for your good work and continued membership in the Polo Lions Club.

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



Sterling

Hi there! I'm Sterling and I'm looking for a place to call home. I am housetrained and already know several commands! One of my favorite things to do is play ball with you. At 7 years old I still have plenty of life left to live, but you won't have to worry about any of that silly puppy stuff. I do need a home without any other animals - I just really want to be the apple of your eye! I hope you'll ask to meet me soon so we can be pals forever.



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LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Roxanna S. Fransen

BYRON — Roxanna S. Fransen “Roxie”, age 79, of Byron, passed away on Friday, April 14, 2023, with loving family by her side.

Roxie was born in Rockford, IL on August 14, 1943, daughter of Emery and Margaret (Flynn) Olmstead. She graduated from Rockford East High School, Class of 1961. Roxie married Edwin “Bud” Fransen on August 10, 2013. She worked in the health insurance field for many dedicated years, retiring in 2010. Roxie had a special love for animals, and she enjoyed sitting on her deck, watching the river. She was well known for her beautiful smile and if you knew Roxie, you loved her. She also loved to go shopping and visit Door County, Wisconsin, to enjoy the many events and festivals it had to offer. Most of all, Roxie cherished her time spent with family and loved ones, making memories and enjoying each



other’s company. She will be dearly missed.

Surviving relatives include her husband, Edwin “Bud” Fransen; children, Traci Miles, Dana McIntosh, Derek (Sarah) Fransen and Del Fransen; grandchildren, Jaylen, Isaiah, Jacob, Danielle, Brooke, Reana, McCoy and Lily; great-grandchildren, Sawyer, Jace and Jaksyn; special friends, LaVon, Carol, Marlys and Dori. She is predeceased by her parents and stepson, Merle Olmstead and stepson, Scott Pedersen.

Visitation and Time of Sharing will be held Thursday, April 20, 2023, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Fitzgerald Funeral Home & Crematory, 1860 S. Mulford Rd. Rockford, IL 61108.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Roxie’s name to the Fransen family to be established later.

Share online memories and condolences at www.fitzgeraldfh.com

Mt. Morris Police Department

MT. MORRIS — On March 27 at approximately 1:30 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of North Wesley Avenue and Hitt Street. The driver of a 2013 Dodge, Kendra N. Queen, Mt. Morris, crashed into a 2015 Ford driven by, Connie S. Burns, Mt. Morris. Queen was cited for failure to yield at an Intersection. There were no reported injuries.

On April 5 at approximately 1:50 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to the 400 block of South Ogle to investigate a domestic complaint. At that time, it was learned that, Bethany M. Kopp, 34, Mt. Morris had an outstanding Ogle County warrant for failure to appear. Kopp was taken into custody and transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

On April 14 at approximately 11:55 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted at traf-

fic stop in the 4,400 block of Mud Creek Road. The driver, Tyson L. Farwell, 19, Leaf River, was arrested and cited for driving while license is suspended, speeding 60 miles per hour in a 45-miles per hour speed zone and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Farwell was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On April 15 at approximately 9:45 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Barbara Street. After an investigation, Clint R. Dietrich, 63, Mt. Morris was arrested and charged with domestic battery, aggravated assault and interfering with the reporting of domestic violence. Dietrich was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held without bond.

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

Stillman Bank announces recent employee promotions

ROCKFORD—Thomas R. Hughes, president & CEO of Stillman Banc-Corp N.A., along with the Board of Directors have moved to promote the following bank employees:

Melissa S. Morphe, chief credit officer. Melissa joined Stillman Bank in 2015 as a credit analyst and was promoted to senior credit analyst in 2020. She has over 25 years of experience in the financial industry. In her new position, Melissa will be responsible for managing the credit culture of the bank by overseeing loan approvals, loan documentation, risk management and credit-related compliance efforts.

Paul Dahlstrom, senior credit analyst. Paul joined the Stillman Bank credit department in 2017. He



Dahlstrom



Morphey

graduated from Pensacola Christian College with a bachelor of science degree in finance. In his role as senior credit analyst, Paul will lead the credit analysis function for all commercial and ag loans.

“We congratulate Melissa and Paul and thank them for the strong commitment and leadership

they demonstrate toward their responsibilities,” Hughes said. “We are very fortunate to have such dedicated individuals serving the bank and our customers.”

For more information about Stillman Bank, please contact (815) 645-2266 or visit www.stillmanbank.com.

Stevens joins Stillman Bank as retail office manager

BYRON — Stillman Bank is pleased to welcome Renae Stevens as retail office manager, according to Thomas Hughes, president & CEO.

With nearly 30 years of banking experience, Stevens has served in a variety of roles throughout her career including teller, personal banker, cash management services, branch manager and vice president small business development officer. In her position, Stevens will assume daily management responsibilities of the bank’s Byron office located at 608 W. Blackhawk Drive.

“We are excited to have Renae join our team,” Kathy Yocum, Stillman Bank vice president retail banking, said.



Stevens

“Her years of banking experience, commitment to customer service and understanding of the needs of local area businesses will play a key role in her ability to serve new and existing customers.” Originally from Oregon, Stevens has been a Byron resident for

almost 20 years. Prior to banking, Stevens was a small business owner. She also graduated from the Midwest School for Community Bankers and served as a board member for the Winnebago Chamber of Commerce for 10 years.

For more information on Stevens or to find out more about Stillman Bank’s products and services, please contact (815) 234-5626.

Stillman Bank is an independently owned community bank founded in 1882.

The bank has approximately \$592 million in assets and operates full-service banking offices in Byron, Oregon, Rochelle, Rockford, Roscoe/Rockton and Stillman Valley.

Fehr Graham hires Byron native Johnson as engineer

ROCKFORD—Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce the hiring of Colton Johnson as an engineer.

Fehr Graham hired Johnson, a former intern, before he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville where he earned a degree in civil engineering with a structural emphasis.

The Byron native provides multidisciplinary and design services for



Johnson

residential, commercial and municipal engineering projects. He is experienced in routine structural

inspections and structural design. He collaborates with agencies to ensure infrastructure is safe for public use.

He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Society of Leadership and Success. Fehr Graham is a premier provider of engineering, environmental and funding solutions for commercial, industrial, institutional and government clients with office locations in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

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

Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

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

Education

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

Low Income Housing

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

Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

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

Mental Health

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

Senior Citizens Services

Hub City Senior Center 562-5050
Mt Morris Senior Center 734-6335
Polo Senior Center 946-3818
Rock River Center 732-3252
Oregon, IL 800-541-5479

Sexual Assault/Abuse

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

Therapeutic

Pegasus Special Riders 973-3177

Veterans' Services

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

Wellness Services

Ogle County Health Dept
907 Pines Rd, Oregon 562-6976
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle 562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499

LOCAL NEWS



Rochelle hospital lifts mask mandate

ROCHELLE — In anticipation of the end of the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) and the State of Illinois Disaster Proclamation on May 11, the Rochelle Community Hospital masking policy will change effective Monday, April 17, a press release said.

Masking will no longer be required in the hospital or in the clinics, except for certain circumstances. These circumstances include if one is experiencing signs and symptoms of a respiratory illness, including fever, sore throat, cough or difficulty breathing.

“We are looking forward to providing the same great service to our community, now you will also get see our smiles!” said Michelle LaPage, RCH marketing & foundation manager.

RCH will continue to provide masks at main entrances to the hospital and clinics for those that choose to continue to mask, or are experiencing symptoms. For more information, visit our website www.RochelleHospital.com.

County electronics recycling event is April 28

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 27.

Accepted items include all tele-

visions and computer monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCRs, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calculators, phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVDs and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted.

Limit seven large or bulky items per permit and one permit

per county household per month. Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events. Business or institutional electronics are accepted by the OCSWMD via a separate program. Call the number above for more information and pricing for business electronic recycling, and to make an appointment for drop off of the materials to be recycled.

For more information about this recycling event call the OCSWMD at the number above, visit www.oglecountyil.gov, or on Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.

Lifeline Food Self-Help Project open

OREGON — Lifeline Food Self-Help Project is located at 203 N. 3rd St., Suite 6 in Conover Square (the old piano factory in Oregon).

Hours are Tuesday from 1:30-4 p.m. (food only), Thursday 1-4:30 p.m. (clothing only), Friday 1:30-4:30 p.m. (clothing only) and Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (clothing only). Closed Monday, Wednesday and Sunday.

The Boy Scouts will be having a food drive for Lifeline on Saturday, May 13. We are very grateful to everyone that puts out when we have the food drive.

We are very grateful to everyone that contributes to Lifeline. Our needs are the following items: Jell-O, Hamburger Helper, juice, soup, canned fruit and spaghetti. Thank you.

Forreston FFA Greenhouse Sale dates announced

FORRESTON — The Forreston FFA and high school agriculture program are proud to announce their annual greenhouse sales. This year the program will offer multiple new plants, familiar old favorites as well as an increased number of vegetables available. Over 300 beautiful hanging baskets will be available, including the mega hanging basket option.

The following are the dates and times the greenhouse will be open for shopping:

April: Saturday the 29th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Opening Day.

May: Tuesday the 2nd from 3-5:30 p.m., Friday the 5th from 3-5:30 p.m., Saturday the 6th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday the 9th from 3-5:30 p.m., Friday the 12th from 3-5:30 p.m.,

Saturday the 13th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday the 16th from 3-5:30 p.m., Friday the 19th from 3-5:30 p.m. and Saturday the 20th from 3-5:30 p.m.

Dates are subject to change due to weather or supply.

We have partnered with Koeller Forreston Hardware who will have our plants available as well.

Polo Police Department

POLO — The Polo Police Department recently released its general calls for service for April 3-16. Citizen complaints/assists: 13, juvenile: two, animal

complaints: seven, disturbance/domestic: one, fire/medical assists: five, alarm/open door: 1, 911 hang ups: five, traffic stops: three and county assists: one.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 24

The Ogle County Historical Society will be hosting its monthly meeting on Monday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the carriage house behind the Nash home. The Ogle County Historical Society's Saturday open hours of 1-4 p.m. will start Saturday, May 6 from 1-4 p.m.

April 27

Loaves & Fish Food Pantry alongside Northern Illinois Food Bank is hosting a Mobile Food Pantry on Thursday, April 27, from 10-11:30 a.m. The truck will be located at Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren, 409 W. Brayton Road, Mt. Morris. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. There will be more food on the truck this month! We apologize to anyone who didn't get food last month when we ran out early. Food is free to

neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required.

Loaves & Fish Food Pantry is located on the lower level of the Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren, 409 W. Brayton Road, and is open on the first and third Thursdays from 3:30-6 p.m. and second and fourth Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m. Anyone experiencing food insecurity is eligible to receive food. You do not need to have a referral, and no proof of income is required. If you have any questions, call 815-613-8776 and leave a message.

April 28-30

When Ren and his mother move from Chicago to a small farming town, Ren is prepared for the inevitable adjustment period at his new high school. What he isn't prepared for are the rigorous local edicts, including a ban on dancing

instituted by the local preacher, determined to exercise the control over the town's youth that he cannot command in his own home. When the reverend's rebellious daughter sets her sights on Ren, her roughneck boyfriend tries to sabotage Ren's reputation, with many of the locals eager to believe the worst about the new kid. FOOTLOOSE celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people, guiding them with a warm heart and an open mind.

Show dates: April 28 7 p.m., April 29 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and April 30 at 2 p.m. Location: Byron Middle School Theatre Producer: Jen Bouton. Director: Samantha Trzcinski.

Tickets are \$15 general admission and may be purchased at the Byron Park District Guest Services desk or online at <http://www.byronparks.org/ByronCivicTheatre>

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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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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On May 6, 1527, the Renaissance ended with the Sack of Rome by German troops as part of an ongoing conflict between the Habsburg Empire and the French Monarchy. German troops killed over 4,000 Romans, imprisoned the pope, and looted works of art and libraries. An entire year passed before order was restored.

* On May 1, 1830, Irish-born American labor leader Mary "Mother" Jones was born in County Cork, Ireland. After losing her husband and four children in the yellow fever epidemic of 1867 and all her belongings in the Chicago Fire of 1871, she devoted herself to organizing and advancing the cause of labor, delivering her last speech on her 100th birthday.

* On May 5, 1865, Decoration Day was first observed in the U.S., with the tradition of decorating Civil War soldiers' graves with flowers. Later the date was moved to May 30 and included American graves from the first and second World Wars, eventually becoming better known as Memorial Day.

* On May 3, 1939, The Andrews Sisters recorded "Beer Barrel Polka," aka "Roll Out the Barrel." The song became a popular standard during World War II and later the signature tune of flamboyant singer/pianist Liberace.

Looking at alcohol from the outside

ALCOHOL is a fascinating subject to a non-drinker like myself. It reaches into the lives of drinkers and abstainers alike, shaping the economy as well as popular culture. Well over half of adult Americans use it, according to Gallup polling covering the past 80 years.

lations and business interactions? What, if anything, could replace it?

Alcohol also offers something at a more individual level. Many rely on it for success in social settings and other potentially-stressful situations. And — of course — there's the effect on mood that people find so rewarding in and of itself.



Lowell Harp

Alcohol surely provides important benefits in order to survive as the oldest and most popular recreational drug. I was surprised, then, when I searched the internet and found that many articles described at length the damage it causes, but few acknowledged its usefulness. Conflicting feelings seem to surround alcohol, even among those who use it.

Then there's the other side of the alcohol question — the damage that receives so much attention in the literature. We can start with the physical and mental illnesses that arise from alcoholism and excessive drinking. The toll of victims is impressive: 13.9 percent of the adult population, according to verywellmind.com, "will meet the criteria for severe alcohol use disorder in their lifetimes..."

The Encyclopedia Britannica is one of the few resources that explore the purposes that alcohol serves, focusing on the way it breaks down barriers in social, professional and family situations. Matt Gonzales, at orlandorecover.com, likewise explores this idea. He describes alcohol as a "social lubricant that improves mood, reduces self-consciousness and enhances social skills." Researchers found, he says, that among participants randomly assigned to drink or not drink, "the alcohol drinkers were more engaged... in discussions. The social drinkers were also more likely to involve everyone in these conversations."

Then there are the effects, both near-term and far into the future, on families through violence, sexual and emotional abuse, child neglect, fetal alcohol syndrome and financial stress. We can add to that the economic and social damages that spread out to everyone else in terms of homelessness, accidents, crime, and lost economic productivity. "The social and economic costs of alcoholism and heavy drinking," says the Encyclopedia Britannica, "are essentially incalculable."

This confirms what all of us know about alcohol's role in forming bonds of trust and affection in our society. It's interesting to imagine a world in which it and all other recreational drugs became unavailable. What would happen to friendships, family re-

lations and business interactions? What if the benefits as well as the costs of alcohol to society and to individuals were actually calculable? What if we could, in other words, assign a number value to each of them? Which would be more when we summed them up, the gains or the losses?

It's impossible, of course, to make that numerical computation, but each of us does something like

it in our hearts and minds when we decide whether or not to drink. This is where conflicted attitudes about alcohol often arise, as noted by Britannica: "The fact that most Americans drink... does not prevent a paradoxical existence of ambiguous attitudes about the behavior among the drinkers themselves, many of whom believe that alcohol consumption is harmful."

Those who, like me, choose not to drink, don't have the solution to the alcohol dilemma. Humans have been using recreational drugs for as long as they've existed as a species and they're not going to stop. The answer can be found instead in those societies, including Jewish, Italian and Chinese that, says Britannica, incorporate alcohol into their lives but have "a well-developed cultural consensus against drinking to drunkenness, with resulting low rates of alcohol problems."

Britannica contrasts this with British, French, (and I would add, American) societies, which have "a consensus favoring steady copious drinking, with a resulting high rate of alcoholism."

An integral part of our alcohol problem is the way heavy drinking is celebrated and encouraged in the media and in our culture at large—as a rite of passage among teenagers; as way to live life fully; as a solution to emotional distress. America's conflicted values about alcohol come into focus for me when I hear adults brag about their youthful drinking exploits, while hoping that their kids don't do the same.

Alcohol will continue to extract a cruel and deadly toll for as long as those attitudes survive.

Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who served school districts in Ogle County.

Art Dash thank you extended

Dear editor,
Thank you to everyone who made the second Art Dash for Serenity Hospice and Home a success. It was great to see the community come together, interact and support such a worthwhile organization. Serenity Hospice provides care to patients and their families in nine counties in northern Illinois as well as in our beautiful "home." Seventy-five artists, the business community, corporate and individual sponsors and volunteers contributed to this memorable evening at the River's Edge Experience.

The fun-filled evening included "dashers" going home with an original piece of art while spectators watched them dash. Everyone enjoyed culinary delights during the art preview and at intermission the guests were treated to desserts from local businesses and friends. We appreciate everything everyone did to make this fundraiser a success and look forward to next year.

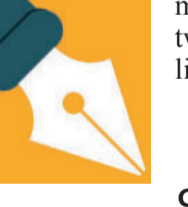


Karen Virnoche and James Brown, event organizers
Oregon

May is Motorcycle Awareness Month

Dear editor,
Twin Rivers and Thunder Rock chapters of Abate of Illinois would like to remind drivers to please watch for motorcycles and don't use your phone while driving.

You're conditioned to look for cars and trucks and it's easy to overlook an oncoming motorcycle. Look twice and save a life. Thank you.



Twin Rivers and Thunder Rock Chapters of Abate

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.

Artificial intelligence and how it may affect jobs

Irefuse to use self-checkout lanes at the grocery store. This isn't a new thing. I just don't like the technology. It's not that I find it too complicated. My objection is that when I use it, I'm contributing to someone losing their job.

Low-skill, repetitive jobs like those of checkout clerks are on the chopping blocks as technology marches onward. Perhaps I'm overly nostalgic. But I like chatting with the checkout clerks as I'm buying my milk and vegetables.

A machine has never given me a smile or suggested a less-expensive brand of flour. But some well-intentioned folks working the checkout lane have done just that.

Truck drivers may soon face a similar threat as artificial intelligence is perfected and self-driving vehicles become commonplace. I was reading a Wall Street Journal article that said the future of truck stops is imperiled.

They may just become automatic fueling stations with no need to serve coffee, beef jerky and donuts. Showers and restrooms will become a thing of the past. Robots, after all, don't need such things.

A whole industry scattered across rural America may atrophy away.

When I read predictions like this, it's easy to become smug and self-congratulatory. I can applaud myself for pursuing college degrees and choosing a profession that requires thinking and creativity.

Writing, after all, isn't something that can be outsourced to a machine. Or can it?

This past week, I've been experimenting with artificial intelligence chatbots. I grew up in Galesburg, a railroad town that was the home of the poet Carl Sandburg. So just for fun, I asked a chatbot to write a poem about hometowns and railroads in Carl Sandburg's style.

In less than three seconds, it composed this poem:

Hometown Train: I hear the train that comes from far, The one that brings me back to home, I see the smoke that trails the sky, The one that marks the way I roam, I feel the rumble and the roar, The one that shakes me to the bone, I smell the iron and the steel, The one that makes me not alone, I taste the dust and sweat and tears, The one that tells me what I've done, I touch the ticket and the rail, The one that shows me where I'm from.

If I were a high school English teacher, I'd give a student who turned that in an "A." And frankly I couldn't have come up with a title for the poem in the time it took my cell phone to compose it.

That's intimidating. Last month, I spent hours writing a sermon. (I occasionally volunteer as a lay preacher.) Just curious about the limits of artificial technology, two weeks later I asked my chatbot to compose a sermon on the same topic in the Rev. Billy Graham's style.

Three seconds later, a full sermon appeared on my computer screen. It had the rhythm and meter of something Rev. Graham might have written. It stayed true to his Evangelical theology and emphasized Bible passages that would have been dear to one of history's most successful evangelists.

I sat there quietly intimidated. Could the work I do someday be outsourced to a machine? More importantly, will human beings lose their ability to compose literature on their own?

I foresee a lot of high school and college students turning to artificial intelligence — rather than their own — to write poems and compositions. It's unlikely a teacher grading papers would know the difference.

With such a convenient crutch, will youngsters give up on the agonizing trial and error necessary to learn to write?

When I asked the chatbot to write a news story on a topic I had written about the previous week, the story it wrote was a disaster. I breathed a sigh of relief.

Why did it fail?

Well, a machine can only work with the body of information that is available to it. It can scour the internet for answers. But it can't pick up a phone and drag answers out of a politician reluctant to give them or interview a sobbing crime victim who needs the prompting of a reassuring voice to tell her story.

A friend who is a Canadian journalist puts it this way: Artificial intelligence plagiarizes — it doesn't generate new information.

Artificial intelligence lacks basic desires such as empathy, love and justice. It can only mimic those human attributes and not particularly well — for now.

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



Scott Reeder

LOCAL NEWS

Forreston Easter Egg Hunt held recently

Thank you to the Forreston Lions Club and to the Forreston Area Business Association for sponsoring the 2023 Easter Egg Hunt. Many thanks to the Forreston Business Association that donated candy for the Easter Egg Hunt, the many helpers, the vehicles for the Touch a Truck, and the Easter Bunny. It was a wonderful turn out with a beautiful warm sunny day! Lions club had a hotdog/brat stand that sold out! All proceeds will go to the Forreston Town Ball program. Thank you to the Forreston Mutual Insurance Company that supplied the Easter baskets for the following winners.



0-2-year Easter basket: Isla Hayward, 9 months, Freeport. Winner of 3-4-year Easter basket: Luan Walz, 4, Forreston. Winner of 5-6-year Easter basket: Jon

Clark, 6, Forreston. Winner of 7-8-year-old Easter basket: Jaxson Borgmann, 8, Forreston. Winner of 9-10-year Easter basket: Ana Sabastian, 10, Forreston.

Winner of the sensory Easter basket: Star Jenkins, 3, Freeport. Winner of



Oregon Lions pork chop drive through is May 6
The Oregon Lions Club will have a Pork Chop Sandwich Drive Through on Saturday, May 6 at SuperValu Parking Lot in Oregon. The cost of a sandwich and a bag of chips is \$7. Come out, drive through and take home a sandwich to enjoy. Not only will you be treating yourself to a delicious lunch, you will also be supporting Lions charities! Photo from left to right: Oregon Lion Grant Afflerbaugh, Oregon Lion Chuck McCourt and Oregon Lion Jerry Hinrichs.



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LOCAL NEWS



Leaf River Fire Department hosts awards banquet

On April 15, the Leaf River Department held its third annual awards banquet. The department thanked the trustees for providing a delicious meal and everyone who attended. Numerous awards, recognitions and promotions were given out and members were thanked for their work in the community. Firefighter of the year was Ian Lundstrom and EMS of the year was Katie Sheely. Sheely was also honored for completing EMT class and Austin and Hana Yuill were recognized for completing EMR Class. Many members were recognized for hitting five, 10, 15, 20, 35 and 45 years of service with the LRFD. Promotions included Equipment Officer Jordin Gittleston and Public Information Officer Sean Smith.



Park district children's center visits library

The Oregon Park District's Children's Center recently went on a field trip to the Oregon Library. They had a great time exploring, looking at art and spending time reading with Mrs. Debbie.



2023 Byron High School March Students of the Month named

Byron High School Students of the Month for March were recently named. Pictured from left to right are: Stillman Bank Executive Vice President & COO David Mecklenburg, Anabella Barker (ninth grade), Jessica Penrod (10th grade), Madison Keefe (11th grade) and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Renae Stevens. Not pictured is Tyson Politsch (12th grade). Each of the students received a monetary gift for their achievement.

Serenity's Showers & Flowers Garden Luncheon Fundraiser is May 13

OREGON — Serenity Hospice and Home will host our "Showers & Flowers" Garden Luncheon Fundraiser on Saturday, May 13 at the Stronghold Brubaker Center located at 1922 North

Illinois Route 2 in Oregon. Doors open at 11 a.m.

This fun event will feature a silent and live auction. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$350 for a table of eight. Appetizers,

lunch and dessert will be provided and there will be a cash bar.

All proceeds go towards our mission of providing the highest-quality care to our terminally-ill patients and their

families.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://cbo.io/gardenluncheon2023/> or by calling Serenity at 815-732-2499.

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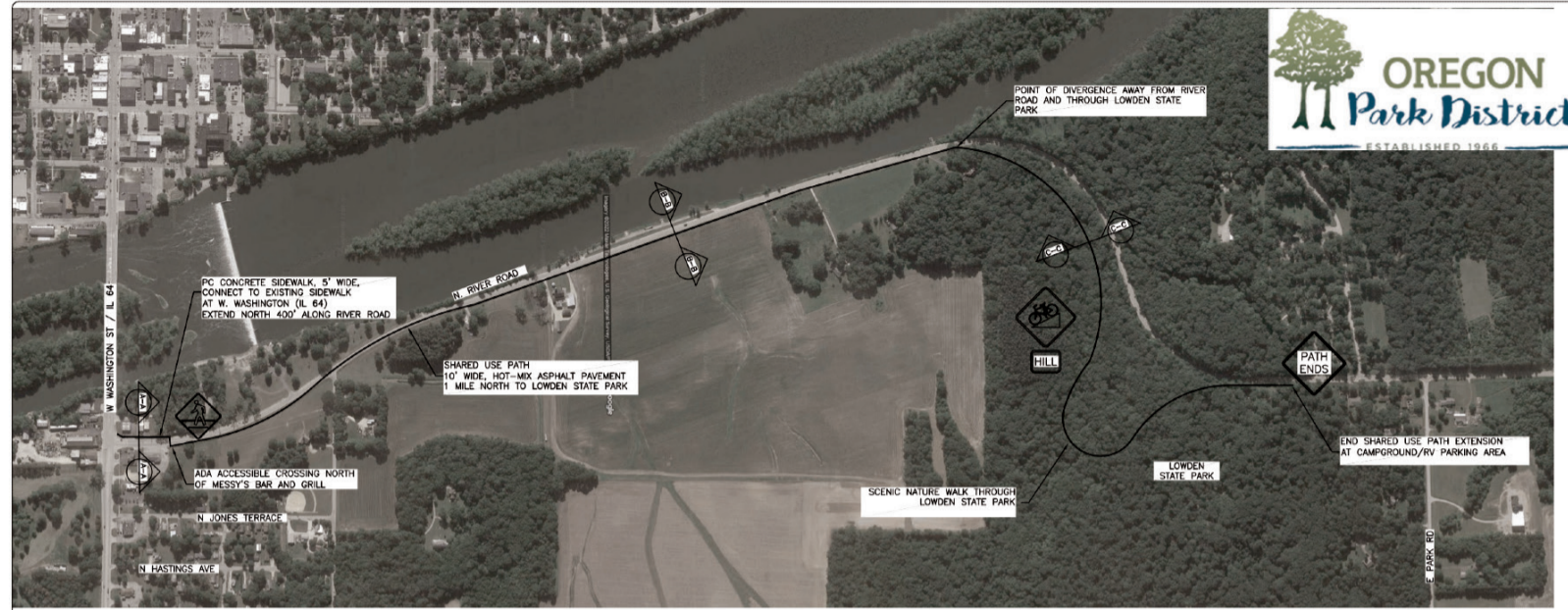
Oregon Park District awarded \$3 million in ITEP funds for Rock River Heritage Trail

Trail will connect Illinois Route 64 to Lowden State Park

OREGON — On April 7, Gov. JB Pritzker announced the Oregon Park District had been awarded \$3 million in Illinois Transportation Enhancement funds to construct the Rock River Heritage Trail connecting Illinois Route 64 to Lowden State Park. The funds will be utilized to construct a 1.88 mile shared-use path for residents and visitors to access the state park and downtown Oregon.

The park district submitted their ITEP application in September 2022 and has been waiting patiently for the announcement.

“This trail has been a passion project for the Oregon Park District, City of Oregon and residents for over a decade,” Oregon Park District Executive Director Erin Folk said. “We couldn’t be happier to see this project coming together after such dedication from community lead-



ers.” Planning for the Rock River Heritage Trail began more than a decade ago when it was discovered that more than 250,000 people visited Lowden State Park annually. To submit a successful ITEP application, Phase I of the engineering needed to be completed. To complete Phase I, the Oregon Park District

solicited funds from the City of Oregon and Ogle County in hopes the tourism generated would be beneficial to all involved. To complete Phase I, the City of Oregon and Ogle County each contributed \$19,000 and the park district contributed \$73,000.

With Phase I complete and the Project Development Report approved by

the Illinois Department of Transportation, the district moved forward with an ITEP application in 2022.

The Rock River Heritage Trail estimated project cost is \$3,588,464. This cost includes Phase II engineering, construction engineering and construction. The Oregon Park District will be responsible for 20

percent of the estimated project cost.

Phase II engineering and construction engineering will tentatively be completed between June 2023 and January 2024, with construction scheduled for June 2024.

“This trail has been a long time coming and it would not have been possible without the continuous support of the Or-

egon Park District Board of Commissioners, City of Oregon, Mayor Ken Williams, Ogle County Board, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Department of Transportation,” Folk said. “We are excited for this opportunity and look forward to providing recreational access between Lowden State Park and the City of Oregon.”



Open House Sunday, April 23rd 11 am - 1 pm



610 W. Chinquapin Drive, Oregon

NOW \$499,000 Call Rebecca

CUSTOM RANCH WITH STUNNING RIVER VIEWS! This stunning estate sits high over looking the Rock River and offers the ultimate location for wooded privacy. Situated on 3+ acres, zoned AG with a private driveway, this custom built ranch home has a great deal to offer: over 4,500 square feet of living space, 4+ bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, finished lower level, attached 4 car garage and detached 24x30 garage. A true chef's kitchen with granite counter tops, gourmet appliances, Garland Range, Allure hoods, granite counter tops, island seating, eat in area and loads of cabinet space! Master bedroom features a grand closet, en suite bathroom and patio doors to the courtyard with views of the Rock River. The additional bedrooms are all terrific size with larger closets. Custom floor plan also features a formal dining room with over sized wood burning fire place, large den, eat in kitchen area and formal dining space off of the kitchen. Much of the wood used for the trim and doors was milled from trees on the property. Many added bonuses including: granite floors, granite window sills, central vac, back up generator & dog run area. A truly serene and must see property!



4440 & 4456 Carthage Drive, Rockford \$955,000 Call JD

Opportunity! This 8 unit building composed of (6) 2 bedroom and (2) 1 bedroom units plus in house laundry; being sold as a package with 4456 Carthage Dr for a total of 16 units at \$955,000; is conveniently located directly across from Collins Aerospace which creates additional rental opportunities beyond the standard demand that the city of Rockford already provides! Immediate value add potential... capitalize on rising rental rates and see the cashflow grow! One's loss is another's gain. The heavy lifting has been done for you.



1942 Sunrise Drive, Rockton \$249,000 Call Boone

Welcome to 1942 Sunrise Dr, located in the charming town of Rockton, IL. This stunning 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home is nestled in a quiet neighborhood and features updated finishes throughout. As you enter the home, you'll be greeted by a spacious living room with LVP floors throughout and large windows that offer plenty of natural light. The updated kitchen boasts stainless steel appliances, solid stone countertops, and a breakfast island perfect for entertaining guests. The master bedroom includes an en-suite bathroom and a walk-in closet. Two additional bedrooms and a full bathroom complete the living space. The partially finished lower level offers additional living space and includes a cozy family room. The spacious fenced in backyard is perfect for outdoor entertaining and includes a patio. Conveniently located near restaurants, shops, and parks, this home has everything you need to make it your perfect oasis. Don't miss this opportunity to make this delightful house your forever home!



000 Third Ave., Ashton \$50,000 Call Rebecca

2.3 ACRE LOT IN THE HEART OF ASHTON! Bring your ideas to this large lot located near downtown Ashton. Currently zoned residential and being moved for hay, this lot has endless possibilities. Large parcels in village limits like this one do not come for sale often. Call today for more information. City water and sewer available.



6846 S. James Drive, Rochelle \$178,900 Call Becky

Rochelle ranch!! This 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 car brick front ranch has a full walkout basement and sits on a fenced (new privacy fence '22) .4 acres. Main level has been primarily freshly painted with new carpet in LR. Family room has wood burning fireplace with stone & brick front, stairs to LL and slider to deck. Kitchen has SS gas double oven, SS refrigerator, countertop microwave, & garbage disposal. Kitchen & family room have brand new LVP flooring. Master bedroom has double closets & attached MBA (shower needs to be replaced). LL has a game room with wood paneled walls plus a rec room separated by French doors. Full walkout to screened in patio. New sump pump '23, new water meter (Aqua), furnace with air cleaner about 6 years old, water heater about 10 years old, water softener, Blink security cameras, roof about 8 years old. House is being sold AS-IS due to relocation.

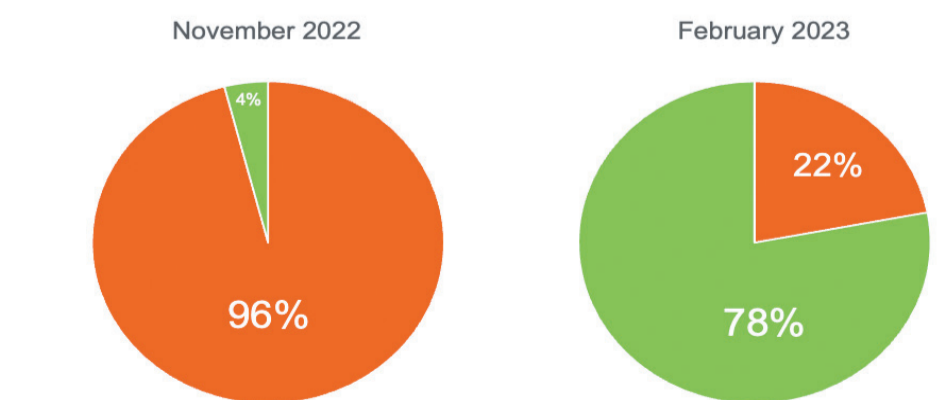
THINK TWICE BEFORE WAITING FOR LOWER HOME PRICES

As the housing market continues to change, you may be wondering where it'll go from here. One factor you're probably thinking about is home prices, which have come down a bit since they peaked last June. And you've likely heard something in the news or on social media about a price crash on the horizon. As a result, you may be holding off on buying a home until prices drop significantly. But that's not the best strategy.

A recent survey from Zonda shows 53% of millennials are still renting right now because they're waiting for home prices to come down. But here's the thing: the most recent data shows that home prices appear to have bottomed out and are now on the rise again. Selma Hepp, Chief Economist at CoreLogic, reports:

Home Prices Up in Majority of Country

Major Turnaround in 50 Largest Markets



Source: Black Knight



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SPORTS NEWS

50 miles on back-to-back days

IT'S a cold, snowy Monday morning and I'm watching the Boston Marathon in the comfort of a warm home. For me, it is a day of rest after doing 50-mile races near Pekin and Rock Island, which thankfully was done in warm weather.

In fact, 15 minutes after I finished up at the Loud Thunder Forest Preserve near the Mississippi River, a ferocious storm blew in and the drive back home Saturday night on Interstate 88 was almost as difficult as the actual run.

That wasn't the case when I left Oregon on Thursday evening for the Potawatomi 50-mile race at McNaughton Park outside of Pekin. It was gorgeous drive south on Highway 29 along the Illinois River.

Runners attempting to finish 200 miles around the park on 10-mile loops had already begun by the time I arrived. Compared to those attempting 200, 150 and 100-mile runs, I was a slacker.

This slacker was still satisfied to complete both races, especially after dropping out of a 100-mile race in the mountains of Utah last fall because of fatigued legs.

You wouldn't think Illinois could compare with Utah for climbs, but land can get surprisingly steep by our major rivers. It was challenging terrain at both McNaughton and Loud Thunder.

Whatever challenge the hills presented was made up in picturesque views of spring emerging along the trails. Yes, it's a chore to run 50 miles, but if one can appreciate the beauty of nature along the way, the journey is a lot smoother.

Keeping hydrated and fed well at two well-stocked aid stations, Friday's race in the heat reaching 80 degrees went off without a hitch other than a shoe issue.

Since we run through a creek each loop, I brought an old pair with a big hole in one of the shoes with the intention of throwing them away after 20 miles or so. Duct tape fixes anything and that is what I used to wrap around the hole.

However, it doesn't work quite as well when it gets wet. Eventually it came loose, and I tried putting on another pair.

By then, my feet had swollen up and the other shoes were too tight, thus relegating me to putting on the wet shoes back on. Fortunately, they stayed in one piece until the finish without duct tape.

Finishing time was 12:45 and it was a quick bite before departing for rural Rock Island. In burning up 6,000 calories in a 50-mile race, nutrition is important.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, bananas, pickles, potatoes, pretzels, cheese and bean quesadillas, chicken soup, cookies, soda and watermelon are commonly found at the aid stations. Not exactly gourmet cuisine, but easy to digest, a key for keeping one's stomach settled.

Otherwise, the much-dreaded "gut bomb" may occur, making it exceedingly difficult to finish.

Upon reaching Loud Thunder, it was another night of car camping and a good one at that, with seven hours of uninterrupted sleep. For someone who just got his Medicare card this month, that was a bigger achievement than running 50 miles.

Day two of racing was fine until a midday shower created slippery conditions on the trails. Fortunately, I brought cross country ski poles and that kept me from falling into the crevasses.

Since everyone else started with fresh legs, I was in last place by myself for first 30 miles. At least I had complete solitude to enjoy the 1,700 acres of Loud Thunder, which is not quite as large as Castle Rock or Lowden-Miller here in Ogle County, but definitely hillier with the 6,600 feet of climbs.

At one point I began to worry whether or not I would finish by the 14-hour cut-off, but eventually began to pass other competitors and finish in 13:21. Strangely, I felt less tired upon finishing than when starting and can attest to a euphoric feeling, the so-called runners high, that allows a person to run without pain. It was like I was floating on air.

On a side note, I later heard that Pekin also got hit with the same storm Saturday night and the trails became complete slop, creating a nightmare for those trying 100-plus miles. If they were feeling pushed to limit from muscle aches and sleep deprivation, this only added to the misery.

Some people called me insane for running 50 miles on back-to-back days. I don't think so. The real crazy ones were caked in mud back in Pekin, slipping and sliding through the dark of night with a cold front chilling them to the bone.

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



Andy Colbert



OES's Kendra Ege places third at wrestling nationals

Oregon Elementary School sixth grader Kendra Ege placed third in the nation at the USMC Women's Nationals Wrestling tournament in the 14U 72 pounds division.

AREA SPORTS

Ogle county track teams compete at Byron boys relays

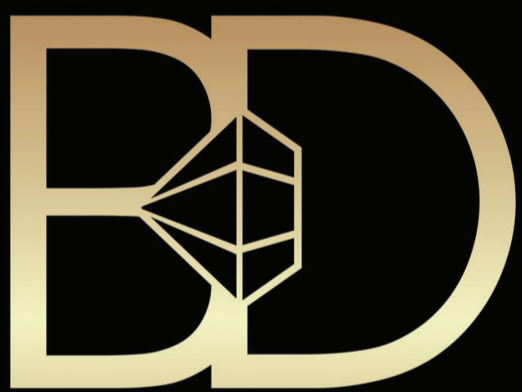
Ogle County boys track teams recently competed at the Byron boys relays event. Forreton finished third (83 points), Stillman Valley finished fourth (70 points) and Byron finished sixth (64 points).

OJHS bowlers compete at sectional tournament

The Oregon Junior High School boys and girls bowling teams competed April 15 in the IESA State Sectional tournament held at Plum Hollow Family Center, Dixon. Both the boys and the girls teams finished the day in fourth place, good enough to advance to the state finals next weekend at Joliet Town & Country Lanes. The boys finished with a three-game total of 1,828 and were led by eighth-place medalist Zakk West with a 509 series (139,201,169). He was followed by Diego Hernandez's 496 series, Ethan Rowe's 479 series and Asher Kramer's 344 series. Freeport Middle School won the boys division with a 2,108 series.

The girls totaled 1,555 and were led by fifth-place medalist Abi Kalnins with a 482 series (174,183,125). She was followed by Carli Bailey's 411 series, Savannah Nagy's 330 series, Whitley Key's 236 series (two games) and Katy Miller's 96 (one game). Loves Park Harlem won the girls division with a 1,843 series. The top-10 place winners received medals and Oregon had the distinction of holding both 11th-place spots, missing by one place for a medal (Bailey and Hernandez).

See page 3



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SPORTS NEWS

From page 2

AREA SPORTS

Oregon softball defeats Mendota

On April 15, the Oregon varsity softball team defeated Mendota 22-7 in five innings. Abree Barker went five-for-five with four RBI and three stolen bases for Oregon and Ava Hackman, Ella Dannhorn, and Gracen Pitts had three hits each. Abigail Rogers and Emma Schlichtmann had two hits apiece as the Hawks cruised to the win.

Stillman Valley track teams compete at Rollie Morris Invite

On April 15, the Stillman Valley boys and girls track teams competed in the Rollie Morris Invite at Spring Valley (Hall). The Cardinals girls team placed seventh with 51.5 points and the boys team finished fourth with 88 points.

Oregon softball falls to Rock Falls

On April 17, the Oregon varsity softball team fell to Rock Falls 2-1. Laila Anderson and Reilee Suter had 2 hits each for the Hawks.

Oregon girls soccer defeats Byron

On April 18, the Oregon varsity girls soccer team defeated Byron 1-0. The Hawks scored on a goal by Jazmyne Swope, who was assisted Olivia Wynn. Sarah Eckhardt had 11 saves in goal for Oregon. The Hawks' record was raised to 5-1-2 (3-0 conference) with the win.

Stillman Valley track teams compete at Genoa-Kingston

On April 18, the Still-

man Valley boys and girls competed at the Genoa-Kingston Boys & Girls Open. The girls team finished in second place with 146.5 points and the boys team finished in second place with 143 points.

Oregon girls soccer defeats Rockford Lutheran

On April 19, the Oregon varsity girls soccer team defeated Rockford Lutheran 8-1. The Hawks were led by Anna Stender (three goals and Mya Engelkes (two goals). Alyssa Mowry, Jazmyne Swope and Tegan Champley also added goals for the Hawks. Assists were made by Mowry (two), Olivia Wynn, Addison Rufer, Noelle Girton and Gracie Prose. Sarah Eckhardt made two saves in goal for the Hawks, who raised their record to 6-1-2 (4-0 conference).

SCORES Girls varsity soccer

April 13: Stillman Valley 2, Winnebago 1
 April 15: Lisle 4, Stillman Valley 1
 April 18: Stillman Valley 3, Genoa-Kingston 2

Varsity baseball

April 12: Winnebago 13, Stillman Valley 6
 April 13: Stillman Valley 14, Genoa-Kingston 4
 April 15: Stillman Valley 5, Freeport 4
 April 18: Byron 3, Stillman Valley 0
 April 19: Stillman Valley 4, Byron 3

Varsity softball

April 13: Stillman Valley 12, Byron 2
 April 15: Sycamore 16, Stillman Valley 1
 April 15: Sycamore 11, Stillman Valley 0
 April 18: Stillman Valley 11, Genoa-Kingston 1

OREGON PARK DISTRICT WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Spring Flower and Plant Sale

Jumpstart your garden with a stop at the annual Oregon Park District Spring flower and plant sale, located in Kiwanis Park at the location of the Rivers Edge Farmers Market. Annuals, perennials, vegetables and more. This sale is the perfect cure for spring fever. Sale will take place on Saturday May 6th from 8:00AM-1:00PM. Vendor registration fee is \$15R/\$18NR. Final vendor registration deadline is May 3rd.

Spring Garden Planters With Hagemann's Horticulture

Even small spaces can be beautiful with the help of a garden planter. Let Tyler Hagemann and the staff of Hagemann Horticulture guide you through plant selection and care for your own 14" garden planter. Registration includes 14" pot, soil, and five plants. Come ready to get hands-on as you plant your own pot perfect for your porch, patio, or spring gift giving. Class takes place from 6:30-8:00PM at Merlin's Greenhouse. Three class dates to choose from, Wednesday April 26th, Thursday April 27th, and Tuesday May 2nd. Registration cost is \$55R/66NR, deadline to register is April 19th.

Cinco De Mayo Empanadas with Lynn's Kitchen

Lynn Kaufman of Lynn's Kitchen will join us on Wednesday May 3rd at 6:00 PM at Cork & Tap to share a tasty empanada recipe perfect for adding some flavor to any Cinco De Mayo Celebration. Participants will need to bring some dishes and utensils from home, and Lynn Kaufman will supply all ingredients and instruction. Participants will leave class with a dish of empanadas ready to take home and bake and

a recipe to enjoy again at home. Deadline to register is April 26th, registration is \$38R/45NR. A full supply list will be emailed to participants after registration closes.

A Gift for Mom Children's Class-Cin's Treasures

Nothing says THANK YOU on Mother's Day like a handmade gift. On Saturday May 6th, Cindy Hendrickson of Cin's treasures will open her studio in Conover Square Mall for a special children's class where participants craft a wooden flower block for mom or grandma. Class begins at 4:00 PM, enjoy exploring Conover Square while your children craft. Crafts will need time to dry after class, plan to pick them up at a later date. Class is open to children aged 8-16, registration is \$22R/\$26NR, deadline to register is April 29th.

Grown Up Field Trip: Franklin Creek

Who says field trips are only for kids? Take a trip back in time on May 17th to the Franklin Creek Grist Mill Historic site in Franklin Creek State Park for a special guided tour led by Franklin Creek Conservation Association Staff. See how the grist mill was built, operated, and restored. Transportation is provided by Oregon Park District Vans, and all facilities we will visit are wheelchair accessible. We will depart Nash Recreation Center at 12:30 PM and will return at roughly 4:00 PM with a quick stop at the Nachusa Grasslands overlook for wildlife viewing.

Hike to Strike Hunger Walk

Retired park ranger Grant Afflerbaugh will lead you on a moderately paced hike through the Lowden-Miller State Forest, providing his expertise on Illinois flora and fauna. All proceeds from this walk go to the Oregon United Methodist Church's free meals program. Meeting location will be sent to participants after registration closes. Hike will take place on May 13, 9:00AM, registration fee is \$4R/\$5NR, deadline to register is May 6th.

Drop in Playtime

Bring your toddlers and preschoolers (aged 6 mos-5 years) and come drop in on Friday mornings from 10-12:30 to meet friends and actively play at the Nash Recreation Center. We will have mats, balls, pop up tents, music and more set up in the river Room for children to exert some energy and get out of the house. This program is free for members and daily fee for everyone else. Come on out to play! Children must be accompanied by a caregiver who remains with them the entire time. This program runs from January 14-May 19. No registration required.

Circa '21 Theatre Trips

Live Theatre is back in business at Circa '21 in Rock Island, IL and the Oregon Park District has two trips planned to see shows. The second show is Mamma Mia! This show is about a daughter's search for her father when she brings three men from her mother's past back to the Greek island paradise, they last visited

20 years prior. The timeless music of ABBA helps to tell the story. This trip for adults takes place on May 24 from 10 AM to 4 PM and includes transportation by OPD van and your meal and ticket at Circa '21. Cost is \$58 for residents and \$68 for non-residents and registration deadline is May 8.

Camp OPD

Registration is now open for Camp OPD Summer 2023: Literary Times. Camp runs from May 30 through August 11. Tuesday through Thursdays feature activities that are themed around different book series. Familiarity with the book series is not required to enjoy the camp activities. Each week will feature a field trip on Wednesday. Mondays and Fridays may be added each week for an additional cost and will feature non-themed activities, with Fridays being spent at the Splash Pad. Don't miss out on this summer of fun for your child. Space is limited to 24 kids each week. See the website for details about costs, themes and field trips.

Adult Sand Volleyball League

This Co-Ed Sand Volleyball League will be played at our sand volleyball courts at Park West on Thursday evenings. There will be regular season followed by an end of year tournament. Teams may have up to 6 players on the court at a time, but may never exceed 3 males on the court. Players must be 18+ and graduated from High School. Gather your friends and come on out for some summer fun on Thursday nights! Season starts May 18th, and deadline is May 11th. Fee \$165

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LOCAL NEWS

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Help stock Our Makerspace

Do you have crafting material, supplies or tools that you don't need anymore? Donate them to the Byron Library and help us stock our new makerspace! Yarn, thread, fabric, needles, paper – you name it, we can use it. Please bring all craft supply donations to the front desk. We will be accepting donations through the end of May.

Cinco de Mayo – Guacamole

Tuesday, May 2. 6 – 7:00 pm. Erica is going to be mixing up some homemade guacamole for Cinco de Mayo. Watch a demo and enjoy a taste test. You'll be prepared to create your own guacamole to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Please call 815-234-5107 or visit Byron.evanced.info/signup to register.

Free Comic Book Day!

Saturday, May 6. 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Stop by the library from 9:00 am- 12:00 pm and pick up your free comic books! We have comics for all ages. Come early to guarantee the best selection. Weather permitting, we will have it outdoors in the parking lot, otherwise, it will be in the downstairs lobby. No registration required!

Spring Thyme

Monday, May 8. 6 – 7:30 pm. Have you ever tried watercolors? Join us for an evening of painting as Cathy shows you some easy and fun brush strokes as we create a springtime potted plant with watercolors. Visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.

Ladies Night Out – Favorite

Things Party

Tuesday, May 16. 6 – 7:00 pm. You are cordially invited to a "Favorite Things Party" as we celebrate Ladies Night Out. Think of something that you love that's between \$5.00 and \$7.00. Bring 3 of that item to the party unwrapped. At the party, you'll have a chance to share your favorite item and then draw the name of 3 people who will go home with your favorite item. Everyone leaves with three amazing new finds. Refreshments will be served. Visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.

DIY Toad House

Thursday, May 25. 6 – 7:30 pm. Toads are a gardener's best friend, eating over 50 insects a night! Create a toad house to attract these amazing amphibians to your yard or garden. To register, please call 815-234-5107 or visit Byron.evanced.info/signup.

Curbside Delivery

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

Visit the Byron Library Facebook page to keep up to date on library news and virtual programs! Be sure to also check out the Byron Library and Byron Library Teen Instagram pages!

FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

National Library Week

April 23rd - 29th. Hooray! It's National Library Week! This year's theme is "There's More to the Story" so stop in during the week to discover all your library has to offer! While you're here, be sure to sign up for our giveaway baskets and try to win one of our "guess me" jars. We can't wait to see you!

New Materials

New children's nonfiction includes: Places to Amaze You, Weird Animals to Shock You, and World Records to Wow You, as well as Baseball Trivia, Basketball Trivia and Football Trivia.

Book Sale

May 4th & 6th. In conjunction with Forreton's Garage Sale Days, we are holding our semi-annual book sale during our regular hours on Thursday, May 4th and Saturday, May 6th. We have a wide variety of books for all ages, as well as many DVDs and music CD's. Be sure to stop in and look through our selection!

Toddler/Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:00 am. Bring your favorite toddler or preschooler for a time of stories, songs, crafts, and fun! This relaxed program is a great way for little ones to meet new friends and discover the joy of reading. Please call the library to register or if you have any questions.

Community Room


Looking for a place to hold your event? Our community room (with a small kitchenette) is available for meetings, parties, showers, family reunions, and more. Please call the library at (815)938-2624 for additional information.

Soft Plastic Recycling


We are collecting film-type plastic for recycling. This includes plastic bags, zipper type baggies (with the zip portion removed), cereal/snack bags, bubble wrap, and other soft plastic. Please make sure bags are free from debris and remove all paper/sticker labels. Thank you!


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LOCAL NEWS

ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

Rock River Center is a resource center located at 810 S. 10th Street, Oregon. Do you need help with Benefit Access Application for a license plate discount, Medicare, housing, homemaker service, heating assistance or other things? Our Information & Assistance Specialists are available at various locations throughout Ogle County. Our activities and trips are open to all ages. Call our office at 815-732-3252 with any questions. Visit us on the web at www.rockrivercenter.org and like us on Facebook.

"Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia"

The Alzheimer's Association will be at Rock River Center, in Oregon on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to present this free program.

Learn basic information on the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages, risk factors, research, and FDA-approved treatments.

The Alzheimer's Association provides care and support to those affected by Alzheimer's and all other dementia through free, high-quality education programs. A question and answer period will follow.

Please call 815-732-3252 to register for this very informative program. Advance registration requested.

Social Isolation Presentation

Ashley Dober, of Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living (NICIL) will be at Rock River Center on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Ashley will give an overview of the services NICIL provides, a presentation on Social Isolation, and engage the attendees in an activity.

Advance registration requested by April 26. Please call 815-732-3252 if you plan to attend this very informative program.

Blood drive

The Rock River Center, located at 810 South 10th Street in Oregon, IL is hosting their annual Community Blood Drive on Friday, May 5, 2023. The staff of Rock River Valley Blood

Center (RRVBC) will draw blood between 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

As the only provider of blood products and services to 13 regional hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin, the Rock River Valley Blood Center needs to see 800 donors per week. The RRVBC service counties include Boone, McHenry, Ogle, Rock, Stephenson, Walworth, and Winnebago. Please bring a friend to donate. RRVBC has a goal of 7,000 new donors annually to celebrate their 70th anniversary!

If you are at least 17 years old, (16 years old with parental consent) and are in general good health and weigh at least 110 lbs., you should be eligible to donate blood.

If you are a first-time donor, please bring a photo ID. You can donate whole blood every 56 days. The process is safe and simple, and one unit can save up to three lives.

Rock River Center has been hosting blood drives since 2015 and have received 175 donations. The donations are split into three products that can be given to three different patients. This means up to 525 lives may have been saved. Join us in sharing the Gift of Life.

Donors can make appointments by calling Rock River Center at 815-732-3252; online at rrvbc.org or by calling 815-965-8751 or 877RRVBC-99. Walk-ins are available

For more information, contact the Rock River Center or the Rock River Valley Blood Center (RRVBC) at the numbers listed above.

Support groups

Cancer support group meets the fourth Wednesday of March, June, September and November from 2-3 pm.

Caregiver support group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10-11:30 a.m.

Diabetic support group meets the first Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon.

Low vision group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from noon to 1:30 p.m.

For more information on any of our Support Groups, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 or 1-800-541-5479.

MT. MORRIS LIBRARY

Story Time!

Join us this week as we read about WIND! Ms. Donna will be reading books all about the wind and children will create a craft this 'Wind'nesday, 4/26. Story time is every Wednesday @11:15, bring your little ones to enjoy stories and a craft at the Mount Morris Library!

Adult Book Club

The April book is "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig. Everyone is welcome to join this book club group! Copies of the book are available at the library. This group will meet in-person on Monday, April 24th at the library.

Cookbook Club!

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 "Eat to Live Quick and Easy Cookbook" by Joel Fuhrman and bring your dish to pass at our next meeting! Join us on Tuesday, May 2nd @6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!

Ink with a Friend: Card Making at the Library

Join us in May 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, May 11th 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 May 4th!

Lego Club!

Our next Lego night is Thursday, May 18th, 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.

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 2022.

Display Case Showings

Stop by to see our new display for the month from Cynthia Laughlin! She is showcasing her own acrylic art pieces. It's not just for nails! Enjoy the whimsy of all her miniature creations (and some nail designs)! We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to share their treasures in our display cases. If you are interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
624 Luther Drive, Byron IL 61010 815-234-5277
Pastor: Janet Wold
Sunday Worship Service held at 9:00 am. A recording of each Sunday's worship service is available on our Facebook page and our website later in the day. Communion is served every Sunday. Sunday School for ages 3 through Adult is held at 10:00 am September through May. Confirmation studies for 7th and 8th grade students are held each Sunday morning at 10:00 am. Monday afternoon Bible Study is held at 1:30 pm via Zoom. In person Bible Studies are held Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm and Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 pm. Book Club and The GATHERING meet monthly; quilts meet twice monthly. Visit our website <http://www.AllSaintsByron.org> or call the church office for further information.

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

BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
226 E. Second St., Byron, IL 61010 - Phone 815-234-7431 - Fr. Richard Rosinski. Weekday Masses: Tuesday - Friday 7:30am, Weekend Masses: May - August Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 8:00 am and 10:00 am, September - April Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 8:00 am and 10:45 am; Reconciliation: Fri. 8:00 am - 8:30 am; Sat. 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm or by appointment

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

UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON
A Member of the United Church of Christ
701 W. Second Street; PO Box 927, Byron IL 61010, 815-234-8777
Email: ucb@comcast.net
Website: unitedchurchofbyron.org
Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spellious
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson
Sunday Schedule & Worship opportunities:
Service of Meditation & Prayer: 8:15am- 8:45am
Adult Sunday School Hour: 9am
Kids Sunday School: (for ages 3 thru 5th grade) 9:30-10:15am
Coffee & fellowship time: 9:30am - 10:30am
Main Worship: 10:30am
Spark Youth Group (for ages 6th grade thru 12th grade) - Sundays, 5pm-7pm
For complete ministry schedule and other activities, please check our website or Facebook page or contact the church office.
Whoever you are or wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
"Building Faith for Life"
6467 N. German Church Rd., Byron, IL - Ph. (815) 234-8032 - beaconhillbyron.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 448, Byron, IL 61010
Pastor: Gary Cortese
Service Times: Sundays at 10AM; Wednesday night Faith-Lift at 6:30PM
Find us on Facebook/ Beacon Hill Assembly of God

CHANA

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

DAVIS JUNCTION

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

FORRESTON

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

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

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

LEAF RIVER

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

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

LINDENWOOD

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

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

KINGS

ELIM REFORMED CHURCH
140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068 • Pastor Marv Jacobs
Phone 815-562-6811 E-mail: gaelimchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.gaelimchurch.org
Sunday morning worship 10:00 am

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"By God's grace in Christ, we LIVE, LOVE, and SERVE"
All are welcome here!
9:30 am - Sunday Worship with Communion open to all
10:45 am - Sunday School (Sep - May)
www.disciplesumc.org
(815) 734-4853
102 N Maple Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054
Rev. Julie Bunt, Pastor

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

409 W. Brayton Road, Mt. Morris, IL 61045 Phone 734-4573
Pastor-Rodney Caldwell. Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship service available online, call for details. Other activities currently suspended due to pandemic. Email: mtmcb@frontier.com

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

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD
East Oregon Chapel Church of God
The Sharing is Caring Church.
107 N Daysville Rd. Oregon, IL Phone: 815-732-2960.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Monday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Breakfast is served the Fifth Sunday of the Month beginning at 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday activities: Adults & Children meet weekly beginning at 6:30pm.
In the event that Oregon Schools are not in session we do not meet on Wednesdays.

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH
2997 N. German Church Rd., 815-732-6313
3 miles east of Oregon on Rt. #64 then 2 miles north on German Church Rd.
• Rev. Josiah Youngquist
www.EBENEZERREFORMED.com • Sunday school 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST
Pastor Matthew J. Smith 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 815-732-7683
Worship at 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month. Lighthouse will lite up your life!

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

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

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

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

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1000 Highway 64, West (Hwy 64 W & Mongan Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon • 732-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George
Webpage: saintbrides.org • E-mail:saint.bride.church@gmail.com •
Worship Services: Sunday 10 am Holy Communion with Hymns Christian Education Available

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC
114 S. 5th St. Oregon, IL Phone: (815) 732-2367
Website: stpaulnalcoregion.weebly.com
10:15 a.m. Fellowship/Education hours
11:30 a.m. Worship

POLO

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

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

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

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

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

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

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

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

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION
Pastor Brad Pittman www.graceisforyou.com
10479 E. High Rd., Stillman Valley, IL 61084 • 815-973-1369
Worship Service: Saturday at 5pm

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
12473 Montague Road, Winnebago, IL 61088
Located West of Tower Road on Montague Rd.
Sundays: Worship Service at 9:30 am.
Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Friday 9am-2pm.
Phone: 815-335-2609. Email: middlecreekchurch@gmail.com

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

National Library Week- April 23-29

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries of all types across the country. Join us during National Library Week to explore all we have to offer. From picture books and large print to audiobooks and ebooks, library of things collection items, book clubs, story times, yoga, craft classes, lectures and more. Check out reading material from the Oregon Public Library this week and receive a scratch-off ticket (Oregon Public Library District cardholders only) for every 3 readable items checked out. Prizes for the lucky winners. If you haven't checked us out lately, you're missing the full story!

Tiny Art Show - Celebrate World Art Day - Get your votes in!

All art entries will be exhibited during the month of April. Voting will occur between April 12th-29th and prizes will be awarded to those who receive the most votes.

Book Clubs

Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet Tuesday, April 25, 6 pm at the Library to discuss The Ruin of Kings by Jenn Lyons. Books on Tap meets Thursday, April 27 at 6 pm to discuss The Candy House by Jennifer Egan. The 2WBC Book Club meets May 10, at 12:30 pm to discuss I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, May 21 -stop by the Library to find out what you're reading & where you're meeting! The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, May 17, at 1:00 pm to discuss the Sea of Tranquility by Emily St. John Mandel.

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.

Preschool Story Time (18 months - 5 years)

Join us at the Library for stories and crafts on Mondays at 10 am. Registration is required. Go online or call to register.

Did you know we have a SEED LIBRARY?

Bring seeds to share to the library- fruits, vegetables, flowers and native seeds are the best. NO GMO SEEDS OR SEEDS OVER 2 YEARS OLD. To add seeds that you have saved or purchased to our collection, bring them to the Circulation Desk and request a seed envelop for each plant. Please fill out as much of the information on the envelope as you can, put in enough seed to grow at least five plants, and return the envelope to Circulation staff. You do not need to have a library card to donate seeds or 'borrow' seeds.

TRIVIA at the Rock River Center- May 4th at 12:30pm

Test your knowledge of sports, history, movies and much more. Come alone, bring your friends and make a team of 4, or join a team when you arrive. Registration required, www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or call (815) 732-2724.

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

National Library Week

Join us for National Library Week, April 24th-29th. There will be guessing jars to calculate, door prizes to register for, and goodies to take home.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

LEGO Club

Monday, May 1st, 5:00 PM. It's the 1st Monday of the month already! Show off your creativity! All LEGO bricks provided. Masterpieces will be on display for the whole month.

Story Time

Thursdays, 10:00 AM. Miss Jana will have stories and crafts for toddlers-kindergarten age kids.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Book of the Month

Journey with Cussy Carter, or Bluet as she is more commonly known, as she delivers books on her Packhorse Librarian route in Appalachia Kentucky during the Great Depression. Cussy has to deal with loneliness, poverty, and discrimination, all while facing harsh conditions on the book route. Stop by the circulation desk to pick up a copy of The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson.

April Take & Make Craft

Welcome in spring with this buzzing bumble bee craft. Stop by the circulation desk and pick one up while supplies last.

Card Making

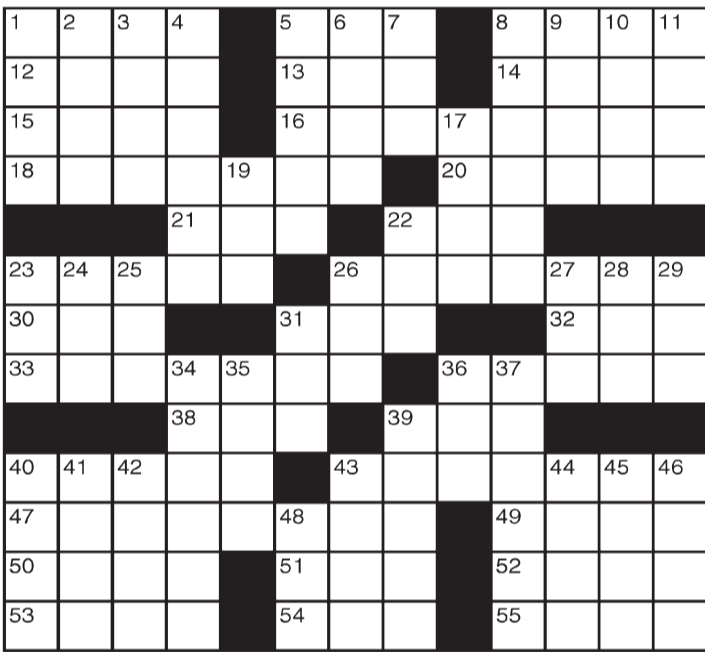
Saturday, May 20th, 9:00 AM. All supplies provided or you may bring your own! Design your own card for that special Dad in your life for Father's Day.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Burden
- 5 "Terrif!"
- 8 Confront
- 12 Guesser's words
- 13 Rushmore face
- 14 Big-screen format
- 15 Banner
- 16 Actuality
- 18 Prepare for printing
- 20 Staffers
- 21 Small batteries
- 22 "Today" rival, briefly
- 23 Bizarre
- 26 "The West Wing" actor
- 30 Altar constellation
- 31 Group of whales
- 32 Pledge
- 33 Was behind schedule
- 36 "Thank Me Later" rapper
- 38 - tear (raging)
- 39 Sticky stuff
- 40 Cockeyed
- 43 Worldly
- 47 Stop signal
- 49 Small iPod
- 50 Story
- 51 Calendar abbr.

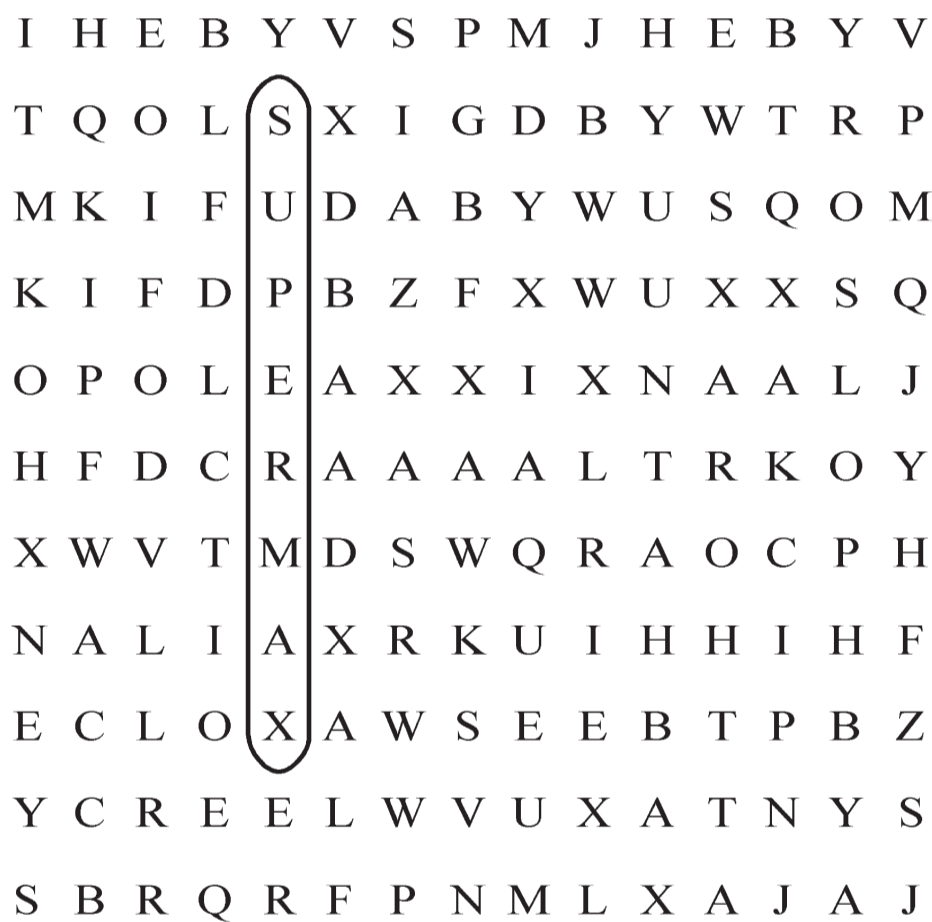


- 9 During
- 10 Sidewalk eatery
- 11 Former mates
- 17 Mary's follower
- 19 Melancholy
- 22 Deity
- 23 Series of battles
- 24 Historic period
- 25 007 creator Fleming
- 26 Caviar base
- 27 Lab eggs
- 28 Stir-fry pan
- 29 Lamb's dam
- 31 School support org.
- 34 Did nothing
- 35 Con
- 36 Medico
- 37 Bout segments
- 39 Very beginning
- 40 Jocular Johnson
- 41 Ship wood
- 42 Between jobs
- 43 Actress Elisabeth
- 44 Cannes milk
- 45 "Downton Abbey" role
- 46 Cheer (for)
- 48 Joke

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MAGIC MAZE

ENDING IN "AX"



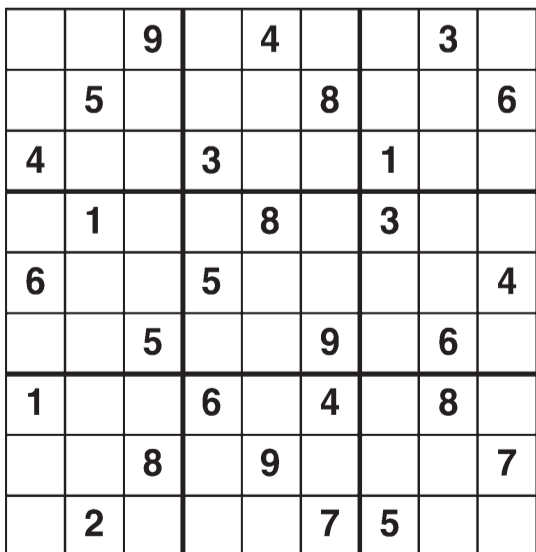
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: CAPITAL OF NOVA SCOTIA

- Ajax
- Climax
- Pickax
- Surtax
- Anthrax
- Earwax
- Poleax
- Syntax
- Beeswax
- Flax
- Relax
- Thorax
- Broadax
- Hoax
- Supermax

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

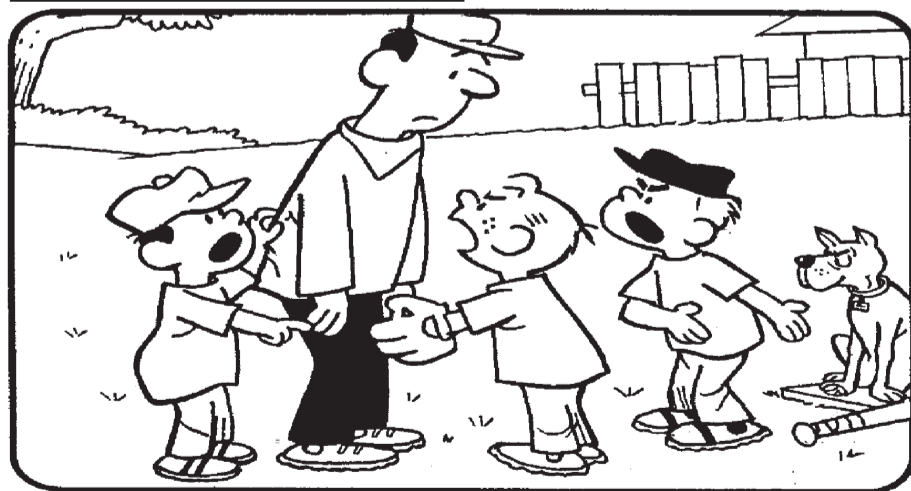
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

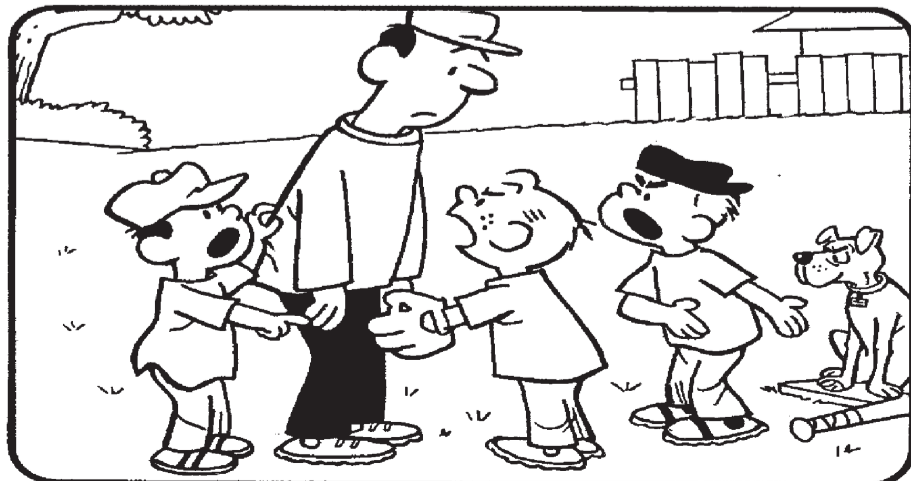
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HOCUS-FOCUS

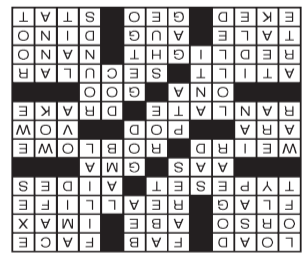
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



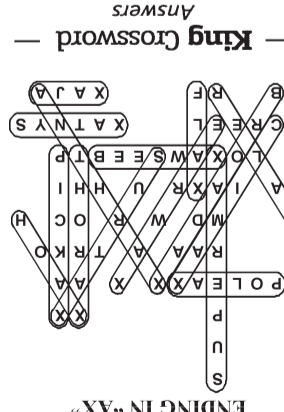
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Shrubbery is shorter. 2. Shirt is shorter. 3. Collar is different. 4. Fence is shorter. 5. Cap is reversed. 6. Ears are different.



Solution time: 23 mins.



ENDING IN "AX"

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Classified Marketplace

FREE!

Sell your household items for free.

Total value of item must be \$200 or less. (15 words - one week - 7 publications - price must be listed)



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: Edward Holder
Linda Holder
116 Primrose Lane
Davis Junction IL 61020

Date of Notice: April, 10th 2023
You are notified that SCI Rolling Meadows LLC has declared that a certain mobile home 1990 Vin# HE2281 located at 116 Primrose Lane Davis Junction IL 61020

is an abandoned mobile home within the meaning of the Abandoned Mobile Home Act. Unless all delinquent monies owed \$6245.00 are paid and electric and water service restored to this mobile home within 30 days of the date of this notice, SCI Rolling Meadows LLC shall remove and dispose of the mobile home, and it shall be disposed of or sold at public auction free and clear of any existing liens.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, you should contact the following person.

Cecilia Raza
SCI Rolling Meadows LLC
4989 N. US RT. 251
Davis Junction IL 61020
1.815.200.1229
No. 0418 (April 10, 17, 24)

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: James Allen
116 Foxglove Lane
Davis Junction IL 61020

Date of Notice: April, 10th 2023
You are notified that SCI Rolling Meadows LLC has declared that a certain mobile home 1986 Schult, Vin# M208440 located at 116 Foxglove Lane Davis Junction IL 61020

is an abandoned mobile home within the meaning of the Abandoned Mobile Home Act. Unless all delinquent monies owed \$6245.00 are paid and electric and water service restored to this mobile home within 30 days of the date of this notice, SCI Rolling Meadows LLC shall remove and dispose of the mobile home, and it shall be disposed of or sold at public auction free and clear of any existing liens.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, you should contact the following person.

Cecilia Raza
SCI Rolling Meadows LLC
4989 N. US RT. 251
Davis Junction IL 61020
1.815.200.1229
No. 0419 (April 10, 17, 24)

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: Edward D. Ritchie
150 Dayflower Circle
Davis Junction IL 61020

Date of Notice: April, 10th 2023
You are notified that SCI Rolling Meadows LLC has declared that a certain mobile home 1987 Holly Park, Vin# 010P16786 located at 150 Dayflower Circle Davis Junction IL 61020

is an abandoned mobile home within the meaning of the Abandoned Mobile Home Act. Unless all delinquent monies owed \$6245.00 are paid and electric and water service restored to this mobile home within 30 days of the date of this notice, SCI Rolling Meadows LLC shall remove and

dispose of the mobile home, and it shall be disposed of or sold at public auction free and clear of any existing liens.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, you should contact the following person.

Cecilia Raza
SCI Rolling Meadows LLC
4989 N. US RT. 251
Davis Junction IL 61020
1.815.200.1229
No. 0420 (April 10, 17, 24)

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: Emma Beam
418 Club Cir
Belvidere IL 61008
Date of Notice: April, 10th 2023

You are notified that SCI Rolling Meadows LLC has declared that a certain mobile home 1988 Schult, Vin#236468 located at 118 Jasmine Avenue Davis Junction IL 61020 is an abandoned mobile home within the meaning of the Abandoned Mobile Home Act. Unless all delinquent monies owed \$6245.00 are paid and electric and water service restored to this mobile home within 30 days of the date of this notice, SCI Rolling Meadows LLC shall remove and dispose of the mobile home, and it shall be disposed of or sold at public auction free and clear of any existing liens.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, you should contact the following person.

Cecilia Raza
SCI Rolling Meadows LLC
4989 N. US RT. 251
Davis Junction IL 61020
1.815.200.1229
No. 0421 (April 10, 17, 24)

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: Ronald W. Bannister
Plantation MHPK
8046 RT 76 LOT 1
Belvidere IL 61008
Date of Notice: April, 10th 2023

You are notified that SCI Rolling Meadows LLC has declared that a certain mobile home 1988 Fairmont, Vin#MY8867328K located at 117 Primrose Lane Davis Junction IL 61020 is an abandoned mobile home within the meaning of the Abandoned Mobile Home Act. Unless all delinquent monies owed \$6245.00 are paid and electric and water service restored to this mobile home within 30 days of the date of this notice, SCI Rolling Meadows LLC shall remove and dispose of the mobile home, and it shall be disposed of or sold at public auction free and clear of any existing liens.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, you should contact the following person.

Cecilia Raza
SCI Rolling Meadows LLC
4989 N. US RT. 251
Davis Junction IL 61020
1.815.200.1229
No. 0422 (April 10, 17, 24)

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: Plantation MHPK
8046 RT 76 LOT 1
Belvidere IL 61008
Date of Notice: April, 10th 2023

You are notified that SCI Rolling Meadows LLC has declared that a certain mobile home 1988 Fairmont, Vin#MY8867328K located at 117 Primrose Lane Davis Junction IL 61020 is an abandoned mobile home within the meaning of the Abandoned Mobile Home Act. Unless all delinquent monies

owed \$6245.00 are paid and electric and waater service restored to this mobile home within 30 days of the date of this notice, SCI Rolling Meadows LLC shall remove and dispose of the mobile home, and it shall be disposed of or sold at public auction free and clear of any existing liens.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, you should contact the following person.

Cecilia Raza
SCI Rolling Meadows LLC
4989 N. US RT. 251
Davis Junction IL 61020
1.815.200.1229
No. 0423 (April 10, 17, 24)

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: Lighting Bear Investments LLC
2726 Stearman St.
Poplar Grove IL 61065
Date of Notice: April, 10th 2023

You are notified that SCI Rolling Meadows LLC has declared that a certain mobile home 1982 Fleetwood, Vin#GAFLIAC09071370 located at 120 Foxglove Lane Davis Junction IL 61020 is an abandoned mobile home within the meaning of the Abandoned Mobile Home Act. Unless all delinquent monies owed \$5110.00 are paid and electric and water service restored to this mobile home within 30 days of the date of this notice, SCI Rolling Meadows LLC shall remove and dispose of the mobile home, and it shall be disposed of or sold at public auction free and clear of any existing liens.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, you should contact the following person.

Cecilia Raza
SCI Rolling Meadows LLC
4989 N. US RT. 251
Davis Junction IL 61020
1.815.200.1229
No. 0424 (April 10, 17, 24)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on April 6, 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: Top End Products LLC, DBA Pajamees, 701 Oaks Lane, Byron, IL 61010. Dated: April 6, 2023
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk
No. 0426 (April 17, 24, May 1)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE)
MATTER)No.
OF THE)2023
ESTATE)PR 15
OF:)
HAROLD E.)
UNZICKER,)
Deceased,.)

CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of Harold E. Unzicker of Oregon, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on April 4, 2023 to Ann M. Mokros of Lena, Illinois, whose attorney is Douglas P. Floski, of Floski Law Office, LLC, at 220 W. Third Street, P. O. Box 1007, Byron, Illinois, 61010-1007.

CLAIMS against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 South 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication of this Notice, or within three

months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed.

ANN M. MOKROS, Independent Executor
No. 0427 (April 17, 24, May 1)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for the project described below will be received at the office of the Village Clerk, 106 N. Elm Street, Davis Junction, IL 61020 until 10:00 am on 5/10/23. Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of the Village Clerk, 106 N. Elm Street, Davis Junction, IL 61020 at 10:00 am on 5/10/23.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Location: 410 E. Chicago Avenue
Project length: N/A

Proposed Improvement: Removal and replacement of maintenance garage driveway

1. Plans and proposal forms will be available in the office of: Plans and proposals forms shall be obtained electronically in PDF format from the Willett, Hofmann & Associates, Inc. website at www.willettthofmann.com. Contractors shall click on "Bid Login" on the homepage of the website and follow the instructions. The contract eBidDoc# (project number) is 8468674. The project Manual PDF can be downloaded from the website by depositing twenty-two dollars (\$22.00) by credit card. Said deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE.

2. X Prequalification If checked, the 2 apparent as read low bidders must file within 24 hours after the letting an "Affidavit of Availability" (Form BC 57) in triplicate, showing all uncompleted contracts awarded to them and all low bids pending award for Federal, State, County, Municipal and private work. One original shall be filed with the Awarding Authority and two originals with the IDOT District Office.

3. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive technicalities and to reject any or all proposals as provided in BLRS Special Provision for Bidding Requirements and Conditions for Contract Proposals.

4. The following BLR Forms shall be returned by the bidder to the Awarding Authority.

a. Local Public Agency Formal Contract Proposal (BLR 12200)
b. Schedule of Prices (BLR 12201)
c. Proposal Bid Bond (BLR 12230) (if applicable)

d. Apprenticeship or Training Program Certification (BLR 12325) (do not use for project with Federal funds.)
e. Affidavit of Illinois Business Office (BLR 12326) (do not use for project with Federal funds.)

5. The quantities appearing in the bid schedule are approximate and are prepared for the comparison of bids. Payment to the Contractor will be made only for the actual quantities of work performed and accepted or materials furnished according to the contract. The scheduled quantities of work to be done and materials to

be furnished may be increased, decreased or omitted as hereinafter provided.

6. Submission of a bid shall be conclusive assurance and warranty the bidder has examined the plans and understands all requirements for the performance of work. The bidder will be responsible for all errors in the proposal resulting from failure or neglect to conduct an in depth examination. The Awarding Authority will, in no case, be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses or changes in anticipated profits resulting from such failure or neglect of the bidder.

7. The bidder shall take no advantage of any error or omission in the proposal and advertised contract.

8. If a special envelope is supplied by the Awarding Authority, each proposal should be submitted in that envelope furnished by the Awarding Agency and the blank spaces on the envelope shall be filled in correctly to clearly indicate its contents. When an envelope other than the special one furnished by the Awarding Authority is used, it shall be marked to clearly indicate its contents. When sent by mail, the sealed proposal shall be addressed to the Awarding Authority at the address and in care of the official in whose office the bids are to be received. All proposals shall be filed prior to the time and at the place specified in the Notice to Bidders. Proposals received after the time specified will be returned to the bidder unopened.

9. Permission will be given to a bidder to withdraw a proposal if the bidder makes the request in writing or in person before the time for opening proposals.
No. 0434
(April 24, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received for the following sections by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, Illinois, until 2:00 P.M. May 5, 2023 for:

1. 23-21000-00-GM Rockvale Township Paving

2. 21-00346-00-BR Stillman Road Culvert Proposals are available at the Ogle County Highway Department, 1989 South IL Rte. 2, Oregon, IL between the hours of 7:00 A.M.

And 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday.

The Road and Bridge Committee reserves the right to accept or reject and or all bids.
No. 0436
(April 24 and May 1, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ogle County Highway Department is requesting qualifications from interested firms for Phase I & Phase II Preliminary Engineering for the following Ogle County projects:

1. New concrete box culvert on Skare Rd in Flagg Twp.
2. Roadway and intersection improvements and a new box culvert on Lowell Park Rd in Pine Creek Twp.
3. New bridge or bridge superstructure on Big Mound Rd in Scott Township.
4. New bridge superstructure on Mill Road in Byron Twp.
5. New bridge superstructure on Razorville Rd in Rockvale Twp. Qualifications are due by 3:00 PM on May 15 2023. Additional information can be found on the QBS page of the Ogle County Highway Department website or by contacting the of-

office at 815-732-2851 between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday.
No. 0437
(April 24 and May 1, 2023)

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Lenny Bryson
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815-239-1436

Hacksauction.com
A&T Auction Services, LLC

Travis Cunningham
(815) 297-4595

Located in Forreston, IL



PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

Thursday, April 27th to

Saturday, April 29th

April Consignment Sale-A & T Auction Services
8821 N. Mulberry Rd., Leaf River, IL, 61047

This is an ONLINE Sale ONLY.

Please visit <https://aandtauctionservices.hibid.com/> for sale viewing beginning 4/26/2023.

Personal Property: Glassware and Dishes, including Milk Glass; household items; decorative plates; Native American items; Figurines; Haviland Tea Set; Hand Tools; Various power tools (including Craftsman, Dewalt, and Milwaukee); Treadmill; Yard Tools; Arctic Cat Snowmobile, Multiple Riding Lawn Mowers; Toys; Furniture-including sofa and recliner; some antiques; and much more! Plenty of variety-something for everyone!

Item Viewing: There will be NO in-person viewing for this sale. Items for viewing online only.

Item Pick-up: Items will be available for pick-up on Tuesday, May 2nd from 4-6pm at the sale site (address 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

ECKERT & ECKERT ESTATE/TAG SALE

1819 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport, IL

Friday, April 28, 2023 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Saturday, April 29, 2023 9:00 A.M. - 12 Noon

Art Work; Books, Books & more Books; Household Furnishings; China; Bedroom Furniture; Dining Room Sets; Office Desk & Supplies; Silver Service; Pots, Pans & Dishes; Small kitchen appliances; Lawn & Garden tools; Assorted hand tools & shop/garage supplies; Plus much more.

For Photos & Details log onto:

www.auctionbug.biz
www.rudyontheweb.com

04-24-2023

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FREE! Sell your household items for free. Total value of item must be \$200 or less. (15 words - one week - 7 publications - price must be listed)



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.

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

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For

more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

in advance."

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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

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.

305 GARAGE/RUMMAGE SALES

Multi-Family Garage Sale! Ridgeview and Open View Drive, Byron **Thurs., April 27 4-7pm, Fri., April 28 8-4pm, Sat., April 29 8-noon** Variety of Items: Furniture, Kitchen, Household, Bikes, Pool, Kids' items, etc.



H.O.P.E

For Free Help or Information Call 815-562-8890 24 Hours

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

"This publication does

203 HELP WANTED

Byron CUSD #226 has openings for **Bus Drivers** SIGN-ON BONUS Available Contact Barb Rundle at 815-234-5491 For more information

10112021

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

An Advertising Proverb

When Mark Twain was editing a newspaper in Missouri, one of his subscribers wrote in, saying that he had found a spider in his newspaper and wondered whether it was a sign of good or bad luck. Twain's response: "Finding a spider is neither good luck nor bad. The spider was merely looking over our newspaper to see which merchant was not advertising, so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door, and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever afterward."

CUSTOM Construction Systems. Residential/ Commercial Roofing. Shingles/Metal/Flat. 815-871-7835. (05-24-23)

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

OREGON/ MT. MORRIS Newer 1, 2 & 3 BR APTS. Water, sewer, garbage inc. w/most units. HOUSES some w/garages, all in like new condition. Starting at \$295/mo. 815-734-4348 or 815-590-2302

511 STORAGE UNITS

CAROL'S SELF STORAGE IN OREGON Reasonable Rates Sizes 10'x24' & 6'x10 Call 732-2466

K&P SELF STORAGE 1563 Kysor Drive, Byron (next to D&W Garage) **815-247-8518** OUTSIDE STORAGE NOW AVAILABLE Storage Unit Sizes: 5' x 10' 10' x 10' 10' x 15' 10' x 20' 10'x30'

Estate Sale

1458 W. Indian Heights Drive, Oregon **Thursday 4/27 & Friday 4/28 8:00 - 5:00 Saturday 4/29 8:00 - 3:00** Tools - Tables Full of Screwdrivers, Hammers & Wrenches, Table Saw, Bench Grinder, Sander. Wooden Ladders, Snow Blower, Yard Sticks, Rulers, Pens, Pencils, Playing Cards, Record Player, Cabinet & Records, China Cabinet, Collectible Glassware: Milk Glass, Blue Glass, Carnival Glass, Nesting Hens. Bell Collection, Men's XL Clothes, Ties, Tie Clips, Cuff Links, Hats, Women's Dress Shoes Size 9, Vintage Jewelry, Antiques - Tricycles, High Chair, Sears Infant Wooden Sled with Handle & More. Collection of License Plates, Too Much to List! Find Photos on Market Place, Cash Only

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION

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- Refrigerators • Freezers
- Washers/Dryers • Stoves

We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

6331 11th Street, Rockford **815-262-3900** 04092023

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

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

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Hosts | Cooks | Kitchen

Apply within or email resume to lavigna@frontier.com (815) 732-4413 03062023

PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Part Time Receptionist

The Oregon Park District is accepting applications for a part time Receptionist. Position requires approximately 20 hours weekly during the day, 2 alternating weekend shifts, and additional hours are available during the holiday seasons and employee vacations. Hourly wage begins at \$13.50/hr. Position includes facility pass family membership and family program discounts. Applications are available online at www.oregonpark.org and accepted at Nash Recreation Center, 304 S. 5th St., Oregon. Further information may be attained by contacting Megan Wolfe @ (815)732-3101 or megan@oregonpark.org.

Board Treasurer

The Oregon Park District is accepting applications for the Board Treasurer. Position requires approximately 5-10 hours monthly throughout the year. The Treasurer serves as the primary liaison between the Board and Staff on financial matters. Primary responsibilities include approving of all checks issued and verification of monthly financial reports and documents. A successful candidate will have an understanding of, and experience with, good financial management and reporting practices. Position pay scale begins at \$25/hr and is commensurate upon experience. Applications are available online at www.oregonpark.org and accepted at Nash Recreation Center, 304 S. 5th St., Oregon. Further information may be attained by contacting Erin Folk @ (815)732-3101 or erin@oregonpark.org.



301 ANTIQUES

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

305 GARAGE SALES

EARLVILLE TOWN-WIDE SALES, April 28 and 29 8am-3pm. Collectibles, sports items, Military, Household, Furniture and Novelty Items.(04-26-23)

ESTATE/GARAGE SALE, Friday 4/28 - Saturday 4/29, 8AM to 3PM, 7 Orchard Lane, Mt. Morris. Furniture, Tools, Antiques, Household items, Cash Only. Rain or Shine. (04-26-23)

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.

100+ ROMANCE Novels. \$20 for all. Call Joyce 815-456-2839. (04-26-23)

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED. BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.

LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY



Last week, at Julia Hull District Library (Stillman Valley), patrons learned about the golden age of travel with Leslie Goddard's historical portrayal of Betty the Pan Am Stewardess.

Storytime at the Library

Join us at the library, every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., for songs, stories and crafts! Ages 2-5. Space is limited: call to register: 815-645-8611.

Adult Book Club

Pick up a book, then join us for a lively discussion of former child star, Jannette McCurdy's, candid and compulsively readable memoir, "I'm Glad My Mom Died." Monday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. Adults only. Copies of the reading available on loan. Email Joanna at jkluever@mail.meridian223.org to register for a link to this Zoom program.

Tween Scene: Pictionary Party

Dust off your speed, imagination, guessing ability and horrible drawing skills. You'll need them for this larger-than-life version of the game that's both classic and ridiculous. Tuesday, May 2 at 6:00 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Cricut Lab: Beyond Paper & Vinyl

Did you know? You can cut a variety of materials with your Cricut beyond paper and vinyl. Join us Thursday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m., and learn the proper tools

and equipment settings for cutting felt, leather, wood and more. BYOCricut Explore Air or Maker, mats, blades and device with Cricut app installed. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

DIY Stained Glass Suncatcher

Celebrate sunny days with this splendid spring craft. Children will use simple supplies to create a stained glass-inspired suncatcher. Saturday, May 6 at 10:00 a.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Young Critics Book Club

Join us for a book discussion and hands-on

craft/activity all about the Graphic Novel, "The Flamingo" by Guojing. Tuesday, May 16 at 6:00 p.m. Copies of the reading available on loan. Ages 7-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Teens: Who Wants to be a Millionaire?

Want to earn a million bragging rights? Answer questions that increasingly get harder to earn the top prize. Need help? Text a friend, ask the audience or get your host to give you a 50/50 chance. After that, trust in your final answer. Friday, May 19 at 3:00 p.m. Ages 13-18. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Polo Lions make donation to Polo Youth Softball

At the Polo Lions Club meeting April 4 at the White Pines Lodge, President Winton Bocker presented Larry Loomis a donation of \$350 for Polo Youth Softball.



Stillman Valley Lions Club and Leo Club Spaghetti Dinner

with salad, bread, dessert and milk or coffee
additional drinks available ala-carte
April 27, 2023 • 4:00 - 7:30 PM
Fritz Wodden Nickel Restaurant
208 N Walnut Street • Stillman Valley, IL
Adults: \$12.00 (\$10.00 Advance)
Child 5 through 12: \$8.00 • Under 5: Free
Carryouts Available
Proceeds to fund Lions Club local charitable activities

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Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!

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CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

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2023 HOME OPPONENTS



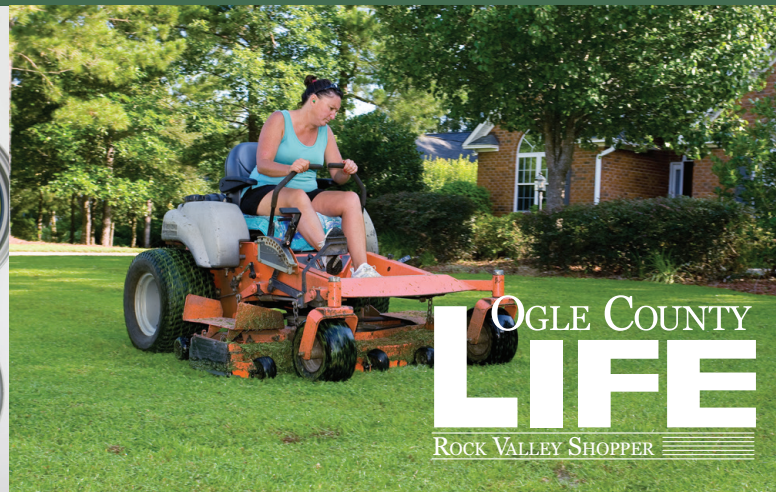




Who's Who in Real Estate & Mortgage Lending & Spring Home Improvement



Monday,
April 24,
2023
•
Section C



OGLE COUNTY
LIFE
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

Real estate financing options

THE decision to buy a home is significant. Real estate is the biggest investment the average person will make in his or her lifetime, which underscores just how significant the home buying decision can be.

The real estate experts at Zillow recently reported that the national median price of a home in the United States is \$272,446. However, since the National Association of Realtors reported a record low housing inventory late in 2020, the average house price has been rising rapidly nationwide. The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis estimates the median home sales price at \$374,900, and certain states have much higher prices. WOWA, a real estate and finance technology company, says the average sale price of a home in Canada was \$679,051 in July 2021.

Most people do not have \$300,000 to \$600,000 in savings on hand to purchase a home in cash. That means they'll need to rely on financing to pay for their

dream homes.

Conventional lending

Conventional lending refers to when a bank or another financial institution loans a home buyer money to buy a home. This is one of the most common ways to fund a home purchase. Personal credit score as well as credit history help determine eligibility and interest rates for conventional loans. Availability of assets as well as income level are some additional determining factors. Conventional loans are traditionally 10-, 15- or 30-year notes and will require a certain percentage as the down payment to secure the loan. The bank will determine the down payment requirement, which is typically somewhere between 3 and 20 percent.

FHA loan

A Federal Housing Administration loan is issued by an FHA-approved lender. These loans are designed for low-to-moderate-income



Most people do not have \$300,000 to \$600,000 in savings on hand to purchase a home in cash. That means they'll need to rely on financing to pay for their dream homes.

borrowers, according to the financial guide Investopedia. FHA loans require lower minimum down payments and lower credit scores than many conventional loans. FHA loans also require mortgage insurance up front, plus annually for 11 years or the life of the loan depending on the length of the loan.

HELOC

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Credit, commonly called a HELOC loan, borrows against the available equity in your home to create a line of credit, much like a credit card. These funds can be used for large expenses or to consolidate higher-interest rate debt on other loans, according to Bank of America. It may be possible to use a HELOC to secure funding to make improvements to a home for those who want

to flip it as an investment property.

Private money lenders

Individuals investing in real estate who do not intend to use a property as a primary residence may turn to private money lenders. These investors can tap into capital from personal connections and lend at

specified interest rates and payback periods, according to Fortune Builders, a real estate investing resource. Keep in mind the interest rate will likely be higher with a private lender than through a conventional lender. The repayment term also will be shorter.

VA-backed loan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has a program for acquiring loans through conventional lenders that will be partially guaranteed against loss through the VA. This enables a lender to give better loan terms, such as the option to pay no down payment. Interested parties need to qualify for a Certificate of Eligibility and then work with qualified lenders.

People have several options to finance the purchase of a home. These loans can help make the dream of home ownership a reality. Potential buyers are urged to speak with mortgage professionals or financial planners to consider their options.

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Simple tips to improve your status with mortgage lenders

OWNING a home is a dream shared by millions of people. Investing in property that can be owned within 15 to 30 years of closing on the home makes more financial sense to many than continuing to rent and having little to show for it over time.

The first step to take when planning to enter the real estate market is to ensure that your finances are in order. Various factors will influence individuals' ability to secure a mortgage, and these are some ways to make yourself more attractive to prospective lenders.

- Check your credit report. Lenders will check your credit report before deciding if you are a risk or a safe bet for a mortgage. So it makes sense to check your credit report prior to speaking with a lender. The Federal

Trade Commission says everyone can get one free credit report a year from each of the three credit reporting bureaus. If you split it up, you can get a credit report every four months so you are aware of anything that may adversely affect your ability to get a mortgage loan. A credit (FICO) score that's too low may disqualify you from a mortgage. Each lender sets its own thresholds when they price and approve loans, but the higher your credit score, the better.

- Improve credit standing. One way to improve your status in the eyes of lenders is to pay down credit card balances to reduce your credit utilization ratio. A high utilization occurs when there is a high balance in relation to the credit limit, says Business Insider. Also, it may be wise to avoid any credit inquiries

through new credit card applications for several months before applying for a loan, as these inquiries can affect your score.

- Be realistic about what you can afford. Do your homework and determine your target interest rate and monthly payment as well as what down payment you can afford. It will help you research potential lenders and provide an idea of what may be offered to you.

- Pay bills on time. Paying bills promptly not only helps you avoid late fees, but also positively affects your credit. The financial resource The Mortgage Reports urges diligence when paying rent, as late rent payments can bar you from getting a mortgage. Lenders look at rent history as the biggest indicator of whether you'll make mortgage payments on time.

These are some

of the ways to make a prospective home buyer look better in the eyes of mortgage lenders. Individuals can speak with financial professionals about what else they can do to improve the possibility of securing mortgages at the best rates possible.



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Did you know?

A joint study from researchers at the University of Alabama and the University of Texas at Arlington found that curb appeal can have a significant impact when selling a home.

That study, which examined Google Street View photos and sales data from more than 88,000 properties, found that homes with high curb appeal sold for an average of 7 percent more than

similar homes with less inviting exteriors.

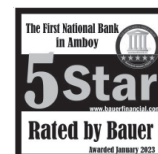
The study also revealed that, in slow markets with greater housing inventory, homes with high curb appeal sold for as much as 14 percent more than homes with uninviting exteriors.

Homes defined as having high curb appeal for the study included those with features including well-maintained lawns and professional landscaping.



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Exterior renovations that can improve home value

RENOVATING a home to improve its value can be a smart investment. Interior improvements, such as updating kitchens and baths, offer good return on investment, but there are plenty of exterior renovations that can add value to a home and give it that coveted “wow” factor.

Landscaping

Abundant and well-planned landscaping can instantly boost curb appeal. According to the landscaping company Lawn Starter, 71 percent of prospective home buyers say a home’s curb appeal is an important factor in their buying decisions. As buyers use the internet to look for their dream

homes, there’s no denying a beautifully landscaped, nicely photographed property can entice buyers to click and read more about a house.

Address insects and minor repairs

Improving home value may come down to fixing areas of the home that can negatively affect its appeal to buyers. Hire an inspector to look at key components of the house and recommend what needs to be fixed. This way it is discovered before home buyers come in and do their own inspections. Termite infestations, deteriorating roofs and hidden water leaks



are some things that might need fixing.

Improve the entryway

The front door is the focal point of a home’s exterior.

Invest in a new door or paint it a striking color to add appeal. Remodeling magazine’s “Cost vs. Value Report 2019” indicates changing an entry door to a steel replacement can offer 74.9 percent ROI. Such a door provides visual

appeal and added security — things buyers look for. In addition to the front door, make sure that the entryway has a level walkway, steps that are in good repair, accents that are free from rust or tarnish, and decorative plants.

Outdoor lighting

Outdoor lighting can add to the ambiance of a property and serve as a security feature. Utilize different lights, such as a bright light by the entry, uplighting in trees and shrubs for drama, a light-lined path to the door to improve visibility, and motion-detection lights to improve the security of the property.

Repaint (or reside) the exterior

A fresh coat of paint or new (or cleaned) siding can instantly give homes a facelift. Neutral, warm and inviting colors tend to have the widest appeal. Adding manufactured stone veneer to the home can offer a 94.9 percent ROI, says Remodeling. And after doing the front door and siding, investing in a garage door replacement offers the highest ROI of all exterior projects listed on the “Cost vs. Value Report 2019.” This improvement returns 97.5 percent when selling.

Knowing which improvements add value to a home can help homeowners tailor their efforts to those that are most financially beneficial.

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Exterior renovations that boast the best ROI

REMODELING with a return on investment in mind can be a smart strategy for homeowners, whether one is thinking about moving in the next few months or further down the road. Though this approach is an inexact science, in many instances, it's savvy for homeowners to consider what buyers may want when planning home improvements.

Homeowners may be surprised to learn which renovations garner the best ROI at resale. The home loan and refinancing company RenoFi indicates that overall home improvement projects provide a 70 percent ROI on average. Many high-ROI projects add functional space and improvement. The following are some exterior renovations that help homeowners recoup the most money at resale, according to Remodeling magazine's "2022 Cost vs. Value Report."

1. Garage Door Replacement: 93.3 percent recouped of \$4,041 cost
2. Manufactured Stone Veneer: 91.4 percent recouped of \$11,066 cost
3. Siding replacement (Fiber Cement): 68.3 percent recouped of \$22,093 cost
4. Window replacement (Vinyl): 67.5 percent recouped of \$20,482 cost
5. Siding replacement (Vinyl): 67.2 percent recouped of \$18,662 cost
6. Window replacement (Wood):

66.3 percent recouped of \$24,388 cost

7. Deck addition (Wood): 64.8 percent recouped of \$19,248 cost

8. Entry Door Replacement (Steel): 63.8 percent recouped of \$2,206 cost

The majority of renovations on Remodeling magazine's list of the best investments are exterior renovations, making this area of a home a particular point of interest for homeowners. The only interior project that cracked the Top 10 ROI for projects was a minor midrange kitchen remodel.

Exterior renovations perhaps add the most bang for your buck because they're not only functional, but also because they add immediate curb appeal. Much in the way it has been said people eat with their eyes first — which is why chefs spend so much time on elaborate plating — buyers will judge a property by how it looks when they arrive, even before they've stepped inside a home. In essence, home buyers often judge a book by its cover. A worn exterior may indicate to potential buyers that the home was not maintained, however false that assumption may be.

It's important for homeowners to consider all factors before beginning a renovation. Certain projects offer a stronger return on investment than others, and that's a significant consideration for homeowners thinking of selling their homes.

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How to make outdoor living spaces more comfortable

PRIVATE backyards are now go-to spaces for recreation and entertainment and great places to recharge the body and mind.

One ripple effect of the COVID-19 pandemic was more time spent outdoors, even if it was predominantly on one's own property. OnePoll, in conjunction with the lawn care company TruGreen, surveyed 2,000 American

homeowners and found participants spent 14 hours outside every week in 2021, which was three hours more than prior to the pandemic. In addition, respondents admitted that time spent outdoors was therapeutic.

A separate survey conducted for the International Casual Furnishings Association found that people now spend more time relaxing, gardening, exercising, dining, and entertaining outside than in years past. Though COVID-19 may no longer dominate headlines, the desire to enjoy outdoor spaces has not waned.

While enjoying outdoor living areas, homeowners can do all they can to make these spaces comfort-



able and welcoming. The following are some good starting points.

Get all lit up

Outdoor spaces can be enjoyed no matter the hour when there is ample lighting. That could be why the International Casual Furnishings Association reports those who plan to renovate their outdoor spaces list outdoor lighting as a priority. Outdoor lighting not only sheds light on entertaining spaces, but also makes spaces safer and more secure.

Increase privacy

No matter how friendly homeowners

are with their neighbors, there comes a time when privacy is paramount. Fencing, whether it is wood or vinyl, or even a natural fence made from closely planted hedges, can ensure residents feel comfortable venturing outdoors to swim, take a cat nap or even star gaze in private.

Address the elements

Homeowners should note the direction their backyard faces and the typical daily conditions of the space. For example, a yard that faces southwest may get plenty of strong sun during the day, requiring the addition of shade trees, covered

patios or arbors to cut down on the glare and heat. If the yard is often hit by winds, trees or bushes planted strategically as windbreaks can help.

Sit comfortably
High-quality comfortable seating increases the likelihood that homeowners will want to stay awhile in their outdoor spaces. A deep seating set complete with plush chairs, outdoor sofa or love seat and chaise lounge chairs gives people more opportunity to sit and stay awhile.

Take a dip

A pool can be the perfect gathering spot on a warm day, while a spa/hot tub

can bridge the gap to cooler weather. According to the Family Handyman, soaking in hot tubs can relax tired muscles after a long day, loosen up stiff joints, improve cardiovascular health, and reduce the time it takes to fall asleep.

Bite back at bugs

Homeowners may want to consider using a professional exterminator to get rid of ticks, mosquitoes and other nuisance insects from outdoor spaces.

As people spend more time enjoying their properties, they can consider the many ways to make outdoor living spaces more comfortable.

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The basics of fertilizing a lawn

SPRING marks the return of lawn and garden season. Lawns often bear the brunt of winter's wrath, so spring is a great time to nurse them back to health, and fertilizing can be an essential component of that process.

Fertilizing a lawn can be intimidating. An array of fertilizers, with each seemingly designed to address a different issue, can make homeowners' heads spin when visiting their local lawn and garden center. However, fertilizing is a very simple task that any homeowner can tackle. In fact, fears about fertilizing are often unfounded and can be overcome with some basic knowledge of the process.

- Identify which type of grass is in the yard. The home improvement experts at HGTV note that turfgrass is divided into two categories: cool-season grass and warm-season grass. A local lawn and garden center can help homeowners identify which type of grass is in the yard, and this often depends on location. Fescue, bluegrass and perennial ryegrass are some examples of cool-season grasses, while Bermuda, bahia, St. Augustine, and zoysia are considered warm-season grasses. Identifying which type of grass is in the lawn is important because that will indicate when to fertilize. Cool-season grasses are typically best fertilized in early spring, while warm-season lawns can benefit from an application just

before especially warm temperatures arrive.

- Survey the lawn to identify which spreader to use. A small yard or a thriving lawn with only a few bald or unsightly patches may not need a full application of fertilizer. In such instances, a hand spreader can suffice. For larger lawns and areas, a broadcast spreader is the ideal option. Spreaders have multiple settings, and the fertilizer package will indicate which setting to utilize when using the product.

- Test the soil prior to purchasing fertilizer. The lawn experts at Pennington® note that a simple soil test can reveal soil pH and phosphorous and potassium levels. Soil tests can be purchased at most home improvement stores and lawn and garden centers, and they can help homeowners determine which fertilizer will most

benefit their lawns.

- Water the lawn prior to fertilizing. The experts at Scotts® recommend a good watering a few days prior to fertilizing a lawn. Such an approach ensures the soil is ready to accept the fertilizer once it's applied.

- Follow the instructions carefully. Detailed instructions are typically provided on fertilizer product packaging. Once homeowners have identified and purchased the product they need, they can simply follow the instructions on the packaging, including how and when to water after application, which can make fertilizing less intimidating.

Fertilizing in spring can help a lawn recover from the previous summer and winter, ensuring it's lush and green when summer entertaining season arrives.



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What to know about refinancing a mortgage

HISTORICALLY low interest rates have made now a good time to be a homeowner. According to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, also known as Freddie Mac, the average interest rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage in mid-September 2021 was 2.86. Just ten years earlier, the average rate was 4.09. That's a significant dip, and one that's saving today's homeowners tens of thousands of dollars over the life of their mortgages.

Interest rates dipped during the pandemic and have remained low ever since. That's unlikely to last forever, which has given many homeowners a sense of urgency regarding refinancing. Refinancing can be financially advantageous, but there are some things homeowners should know prior to contacting their lenders.

Refinancing does not always save money over the long haul

It's hard to blame homeowners who jump at the chance to refinance their mortgages. Refinancing is often



associated with significantly lower monthly payments, and such savings can be used to finance home improvements, pay for tuition or build retirement nest eggs. However, homeowners won't necessarily save money over the long haul if they're refinancing an existing 30-year mortgage with another 30-year mortgage.

The mortgage experts at Mortgage Calculator note that a Change Terms mortgage refinance is characterized by a shift to a loan charging a lower interest rate. The initial savings with such a refinance are undeniable, but changing from one 30-year to another 30-year restarts the mortgage clock, which can add years to the time homeowners will be repaying their debt. As a result, homeowners may end up paying more interest over time than they might have had they just kept their initial mortgage.

Homeowners interested in a Change Terms refinance may want to look into switching from a 30-year to a 15-year mortgage. A shorter term mortgage will increase the monthly payment, but the loan will reach maturity much faster, greatly reducing the amount of interest homeowners will pay over the life of the mortgage.

Refinancing can be costly

Lower monthly payments might be the number that catches homeowners' eyes as they look to refinance, but it's important that homeowners recognize that refinancing is not free. In fact, the personal finance experts at Kiplinger note that refinancing incurs many of the same costs that homeowners had to pay when they signed their initial mortgage papers.

That includes fees, taxes and appraisal costs. These costs are sometimes paid up front, but they also might be rolled into the loan balance.

In the latter instance, homeowners could be paying interest on their refinancing costs. Homeowners who are

refinancing solely because of lower interest rates should know that some lenders raise interest rates to compensate for refinancing costs. That can negate the savings and end up costing homeowners more money than the original mortgage.

Refinancing is an

option for homeowners who want to save money.

Homeowners can speak with a financial advisor to determine if this is the best way to save money over the long haul or if refinancing will ultimately cost them more over the life of the mortgage.

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