

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12

Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour as we spring forward and Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12 at 2 a.m.

OGLE COUNTY LIFE

ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



VOLUME 33, ISSUE 51

MONDAY
March 6, 2023

FREE

Visit www.oglecountylife.com

Ogle County's most widely read weekly newspaper!

KNOW IT TODAY



Man arrested in Rochelle death case

A Palatine man was arrested Tuesday stemming from the September 2022 death of a Rochelle woman. **10A**

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
54 31	43 27
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
40 24	35 22
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
35 23	36 25

OBITUARIES

- Ronald Bjorklund
- Verlo DeWall
- Judith Dudley
- Roger Hartman
- Cornelia Petritz
- Wayne Seymour
- William Tracy
- Richard Way

See page A4 & A5

INSERTS

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

Oregon woman found deceased following report of car in pond at Mt. Morris golf course

Sheriff: No foul play suspected, autopsy took place Tuesday

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

MT. MORRIS — An Oregon woman was found deceased on the evening of Sunday, Feb. 26 following the report of a vehicle in a pond at Sunset Golf Club at 216 Sunset Hill Lane in Mt. Morris, Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle and Ogle County Coroner Lou Finch said.

Finch identified the woman as Erin Groves, 39, of Oregon. On Sunday afternoon, a Sunset Golf Club employee located what they believed to be the roof of a vehicle submerged in one of the

ponds on the north end of the property of the golf course. The sheriff's office and Mt. Morris Fire Department responded and confirmed it to be a vehicle and called in divers from the Byron and Oregon Fire Departments, VanVickle said.

Divers looked inside the submerged vehicle and determined it was unoccupied. They began searching the rest of the pond until light was lost, which stopped the water search for the night. Deputies were also searching the area around the pond and located Groves approximately 300-400



yards from the vehicle in a fence row, VanVickle said. "At this time it looks like exposure to the elements is probably going to be the cause of death," VanVickle said. "There will be an autopsy Tuesday, but we don't suspect any foul play."

VanVickle said the pond where the vehicle was found is not close to any roadway and tracks appeared to show that the vehicle traveled through the golf course "a significant distance before it ended up in the pond."

"It appears a person

ended up in the pond and got out of the pond and was walking away from the area," VanVickle said. A missing persons post was circulated on Facebook over the weekend in search of Groves. The post said Groves was last seen leaving a bar and grill in Mt. Morris on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 12:30 a.m. driving a burnt orange Dodge Caliber.

VanVickle said the Oregon Police Department took a missing persons report on Groves over the weekend and he believes that the time frame fits how the car was found.

Williams retires after 39 years as RCH chaplain

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital Chaplain Judy Williams is retiring this month after 39 years in her position.

Williams has spent her time at the hospital supporting and giving spiritual guidance to RCH staff, patients and their families. She lends a friendly ear when someone wants to talk or is going through a tough health or personal situation.

"From minor things to major things at a hospital, people have emotions about them," Williams said. "It's about showing people that what they're going through is important and trying to give them some love from Christ in all of that. It blesses me to be able to do it, and I hope I could give some hope and comfort to them."



Williams would typically spend her time as chaplain coming into the hospital each morning and checking to see what sort of patients the hospital had that day and if there was someone who was going

to potentially pass away or just found out about a disheartening diagnosis. She would go and see patients that told staff that they wanted to see the chaplain.

See RCH page 2



Oregon Park District receives grant from Ogle Natural Areas Alliance

The Ogle Natural Areas Alliance recently announced it awarded the Oregon Park District with a \$1,500 grant to support its new outdoor education program. Events and Adult Programming Coordinator Caleb Jenks will use the grant to build out a curriculum and purchase supplies to help kids and adults alike engage with the outdoors and learn about our local wildlife, natural areas and ecosystems. ONAA thanked the park district and wished it good luck with the new programming. From left to right are ONAA President Trevor Hogan, Jenks, OPD Executive Director Erin Folk and OPD Superintendent of Recreation Tina Ketter.

Stillman BANK

Still Local. Still Solid.
Still Here For You. Since 1882.

www.stillmanbank.com

Holcomb Bank
Where Relationships Matter

Save the Date!

Customer Appreciation Dinner
March 15, 2023
4:30pm - 6:30pm
Kings School, Kings IL
Drive Thru Style Spaghetti Dinner

Sunny Island RV
Rockford, IL
815.874.7226

www.SunnyIslandRV.com

RV Sales - Service - Accessories
New Travel Trailers From \$19,995

Let Us Sell Your RV
Consignments Welcome!

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX WITH AN ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGE!

NMLS# 440162

Talk through the benefits of an ARM with Leah, Dave or Vanessa today!

815.234.2561 | byronbank.com

Byron Bank

LOCAL NEWS

RCH: Williams will continue outreach

From page 1

Williams' job as chaplain required her to be available at all times and she occasionally received a call in the middle of the night to come into the hospital. She believes that half, if not more, of her work involved being there for and talking with RCH staff members.

"This is a stressful place," Williams said. "Sometimes it's staff members stopping by and giving them a little encouragement. Sometimes it's praying with them and sometimes it's just letting them talk. People need to talk to be able to continue to function and I like to think I was a safe place and people could share things with me and be able to keep doing their good, every-day job."

Williams called most days as a hospital chaplain "difficult, emotional and painful," but said she believes God prepared her to shoulder that emotional weight. Before she was chaplain, she worked at RCH in admitting and in the emergency room. She believes that even before she got certified, she was a chaplain in her heart "from day one."

"When you've seen really terrible things happen and you know that you can maybe help that person through, it makes it better and gives you a sense of, 'I'm doing what I'm supposed to do,'" Williams said. "I am where I'm supposed to be, being the chaplain here. I love my



job. I'm blessed that I got to come here. I hope that I gave a lot of love while I was here. I hope I made a difference in some people's lives. I believe that God does, and I wanted to share that with them. God is the strength, not me. I'm just the delivery woman. That makes me happy."

Williams also spent time officiating weddings for people she met through RCH as chaplain. She's often officiated funerals as well, some honoring people she spent time with at the hospital during their treatment. She wants to continue doing those things in retire-

ment. She doesn't want to give up being "chaplain of the community."

"I want to keep doing that," Williams said. "I want to continue to reach out to people and do things like funerals and weddings and help where I can. I just won't be on call 24/7 here, and that's hard. I won't be coming in in the middle of the night anymore. Unless they call me. If they call me, I'll come. I hope the community knows that I'm still chaplain."

Williams plans to spend her retirement with her husband, and the couple is planning on doing some

traveling. She's already had her last day of work and has cleaned her office out. RCH hosted a retirement celebration for her on Feb. 23.

"It's going to be really tough to leave this place and the people here," Williams said. "I've already cried a lot. I had my last day where I gathered up my stuff and left. I couldn't go and visit everyone here because I would've cried and been here until the next day. I've made a lot of valuable friends here. Because I come from a small family, this family became my family. They made my birthdays special or felt for me when I had my hip replaced. Those are the hard parts of leaving a place. It's the people who you've made friends with that support you. I felt very supported here."

Williams believes the small-town aspect of Rochelle has made it easier for her to be chaplain and to comfort those in need. She believes that having at least some sort of prior relationship with someone helps them to relate and open up. She thanked the RCH administration and her coworkers for all 39 of her years.

"It's just been my dream job," Williams said. "Some people probably wouldn't think that a little place like this would be a dream job. But it is. Because these are the people I love. It's my community. I'm going to miss it here a lot. I really love serving God. Being here, I can do that all the time."



Scott R. Bowers Memorial Fund makes donations

The Scott R. Bowers Memorial Fund recently donated two shotguns to Four Rivers Ducks Unlimited for the Greenwing drawing. Shown are Landon Dempsey, 11, of Byron with his new Mossberg youth model semi-auto 20-gauge shotgun and Avery Hogan, 7, of Byron with her new Rossi youth model 20-gauge single-shot shotgun. The banquet was held at Hairy Cow Brewery with a Mardi Gras theme on Feb. 21 (Fat Tuesday). Pictured with the winners are Scott's father and son, Mike and Brayden. Scott Bowers was a Boone County deputy and passed away in 2020. The Bowers family wished to thank the Four Rivers Ducks Unlimited Chapter and Pete Oliver for their dedication to conservation projects that were so important to Scott.



Byron Rotary offers scholarship

BYRON – Rotary Club of Byron is once again offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a worthy Byron High School senior.

The 2023 "Bob Adams Service Above Self Scholarship" is being offered for the 14th year to a graduating senior who plans to further his or her education in the fall. The winner will be someone who has demonstrated academic achievement while exemplifying the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self". Family income is not a consideration.

Bob Adams was a charter member of Byron Rotary whom the club credits with tirelessly working to establish a local club and to expand our membership. Because of Bob's vision, and with the support of the Byron community, the Rotary Club of Byron helps in the worldwide effort to eradicate polio, to assist victims of natural disasters and to provide clean drinking water to small villages in third world countries.





Locally, Byron Rotary provided seed funding for the Byron High School Pantry, made donations to the Byron Cemetery war memorial, funded construction of the Byron Forest Preserve Sled Shed, collects pop tabs to help pay for family stays at Ronald McDonald House and provides financial assistance to foster families through Believe in the Children. The club also joined with other community members to provide the beautiful mural downtown across the street from Byron Bank.

Applications

Applications for the "Bob Adams Service Above Self Scholarship" are available in the Byron High School Guidance Office and on the students' Naviance-Family Connection Accounts. The application deadline is Monday, April 17. The winner will be announced at the Honors Convocation on May 10 at 6:30 p.m.

MAKE US YOUR
First Choice
for MRI

At Rochelle Community Hospital, we're investing in the newest technology to provide you with the most comfortable – and convenient – experience. We offer the latest in digital MRI capabilities, including:

-  **Greater patient comfort & access**
 - Our wider bore provides the largest patient aperture in the industry
-  **Increased acceleration**
 - Exam time reduced by up to 60%
 - Up to 99% noise reduction
-  **Quicker scheduling at our community hospital**
 - Get an appointment sooner at RCH, versus 3-4 weeks at a larger healthcare system
-  **Enhanced breast imaging capabilities**



Experience the difference with our upgraded MRI.

Call **815-562-2181 ext. 1350** to schedule an MRI or visit rochellehospital.com/mri for more information.

LOCAL NEWS

Tri-County Opportunities Council announces 2023 scholarships

ROCK FALLS—At least 12 scholarships will be awarded by Tri-County Opportunities Council to income-eligible students residing in the agency's service area.

The scholarships are worth up to \$1,250 and have been made available by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCEO) through its Community Services Block Grant funds.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the scholarship competition: The applicant must be a member of an income-eligible household. The applicants must attend an Illinois-accredited post-secondary educational institution of higher learning during

the fall of 2023. Applicants must be a resident of Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark or Whiteside County in Illinois.

Students must be considered full-time (minimum of 12 semester hours) to qualify for the full \$1,250 scholarship.

Part-time students will be considered in the competition. However, scholarship awards will be pro-rated if they are selected as a winner.

Applications

The application deadline is March 24, 2023.

Further information and application forms may be obtained by contacting the office at 800/323-5434, extension 710, or on the website at www.tco-chelps.org.

Locals named to Augustana College's fall semester dean's list

ROCK ISLAND—Augustana College announced more than 1,000 students were named to the dean's list for the 2022-23 fall semester. Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a four-point scale for courses taken during the term.

They include: Leslie Bandera of Oregon, Jenna Hale of Davis Junction, Jonathan Hansen of Lindenwood, Maja Johnson of Stillman Valley, Emily Medford of Monroe Center and Isabella Olalde and Adam Thorsen of Mount Morris.

OES Counselor nominated for ISBE award

OREGON—Oregon Elementary School Counselor Krystal Stewart was the OCUSD #220 nominee for the Student Support Personnel of the Year as part of the Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel Awards.

Krystal was nominated for her leadership in the student services department, supporting students in crisis and partnership with community organizations to better serve students.

Krystal will be awarded



an award of Meritorious Service at the Those Who Excel Banquet in April.

Sarantakos nominated as Community Volunteer of the Year for OJSHS work

OREGON—Oregon Community Unit School District 220 recently congratulated Illinois State Board of Education Those Who Excel award winner Mr. Matt Sarantakos. Sarantakos was nominated as the Community Volunteer of the Year and recognized with an award of excellence.

"Mr. Sarantakos volunteers numerous hours assisting with our theatre productions, specifically with lights and sound," a district Facebook post said. "Mr. Sarantakos gives so much of himself to our fine arts programs. He has been a catalyst in upgrades in the theatre. He is also a great teacher, as he helps the student technical teams learn and understand how to operate the lights and sound. Mr. Sarantakos is an amazing member of the OJSHS community. We are beyond grateful for all he gives of himself to make sure we have the best productions possible! Thank you, Mr. Sarantakos! We are so happy to honor you at the Those Who Excel banquet in April."



OCUSD's Pace nominated for ISBE award

OREGON—Oregon Community Unit School District 220 recently congratulated District Food Services Director Kelly Pace for being the district's nominee for the Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel Educational Support Personnel award for the 2023-24 School year.

"Mrs. Pace was recognized for her outstanding leadership of the food services department," a district Facebook post said. "Kelly took on with exceptionalism, the challenge that the pandemic forced upon her department in her first year as Food Services Director and has since continued to go above and beyond for our students and staff."

Kelly will be awarded an Award of Meritorious Service at the 49th Annual Those Who Excel Banquet on April 29.



OES teacher nominated for ISBE award

OREGON—The Oregon School District recently congratulated Oregon Elementary School third grade teacher Katie Groharing for being OCUSD #220's nominee for the Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel Teacher of the Year Award for the 2023-24 school year.

Mrs. Groharing was recognized for her leadership at OES, outstanding academic outcomes and commitment to improving instructional practices across the district. Groharing will be awarded an Award of Meritorious Service at the 49th Annual Those Who Excel Banquet on April 29.



A Special Thank You.

Accidents happen...and you never know how they will change you, until they do. Some have said I am lucky to be alive. And while I do indeed feel lucky to have survived my accident, I have felt even luckier to be blessed with such an amazing community of family, friends, first responders, medical staff, therapists, well-wishers and neighbors who have supported, visited and encouraged me and my family beyond imagine through my ongoing recovery and rehabilitation. Please know how much gratitude I have for each and every one of you.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,
Roger Watts

Brookville UM Church
Fish Fry Supper
4:30-7:30 pm
March 10, 2023
Adults \$15.00 Children 5-12 \$8.00
Children 4 & Under FREE
Carry Outs Welcome
Bake Sale
02202023
Junction of Rt. 52 & 64, Polo, IL

NOTICE
Ogle County - Consolidated Election

EARLY VOTING and GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION & VOTING will be conducted at the Ogle County Clerk's Office located in the Old Courthouse at 105 S. 5th Street, Oregon, IL.

Early Voting
February 23, 2023 - April 3, 2023
Monday thru Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 1, 2023
9:00 a.m. - Noon

Grace Period Registration & Voting
March 8, 2023 - April 4, 2023
Monday thru Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dated this 16th day of February, 2023
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk and Recorder

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

Lucy

Are you looking for a couch dog? Or maybe just an older gal? I could definitely be the one for you!! My name is Lucy. My favorite spot is on the couch cuddled up near my person. I still have some spunk in my step for a ten year old and enjoy playing with toys or taking short walks. In my foster home, I was around other dogs, kids and cats without any problems! Fun fact about me, I was at Tails six years ago when at the time I had 13 puppies! My foster home actually had one of my kiddos and I got to hang out with him these past few weeks. Do you have room on your couch and your heart for a wonderful girl like me? My adoption fee has been fully sponsored in honor of a friend's birthday, so I'm all ready to go home with you!

Adopt ME

ROCHELLE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Compassionate, quality care for your companion.
Dr. Nicole Marquardt
Dr. Lynn Deets

A Full-Service Clinic

- Experienced Groomer
- Boarding and Daycare
- Surgical Laser
- X-ray
- Gas Anesthetic
- On-site Laboratory
- Geriatric Care
- Dentistry

www.rochellevet.com
(815) 562-5207
1381 N. 7th St., Rochelle

Lobby Hours:
Mon-Fri 8-5
Sat 8-noon

Grooming

Trust with a Groomer is important - our Groomer has over 10 years experience & expertise.

Please call for appointments

dachsies to DANES
Boarding And Grooming
815-453-2843
1751 Melugins Grove Rd Steward, IL 60553

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Did you Know?

A cat uses its whiskers to determine if it can fit into a space.

Call:
Andrew Heiserman 815-561-2123
Christel Ackland 815-561-2153
or
Chris Grimm 815-561-2125

to advertise on the Pet of the Week Page!

LOCAL NEWS



School District celebrates Bus Driver Appreciation Week
 The Forrester Valley School District recently celebrated Bus Driver Appreciation Week. Members of the district's transportation department include: Dan Miller, Glenn Wichman, Jim Hillman, John Mershon, Chet Strehlow, Cliff Schoonhoven, Jean Noonkesser, Kirk Janicke, Kelley Parks, Erin Leibow, Marsha Birkholz, Brent Smith, Laura Hill (transportation director), Troy Rudy, Mike Gaston, Heather Weaver and Joel Tuten.

Roger D. Hartman

OREGON—Roger D. Hartman, 75, of Oregon passed away Feb. 26 at Rock River Hospice and Home in Sterling following a brief illness. Roger was born January 12, 1948, in Freeport, the son of Joseph W. and Mabel (Broege) Hartman. Raised and educated in Mount Carroll, he graduated from Mount Carroll High School in 1966. Roger married Janice Brunner on Nov. 25, 1967, in Mount Carroll. He worked as a quality control technician at Clinton Corn Processing Company for 13 years. Roger graduated from Sauk Valley Community College in 1988 and returned to work as a quality control technician at Loparex (Daubert) in Dixon, until his retirement in 2011. He was a proud union member, and an enthusiastic Democrat. Roger and Janice made their home in Fulton, and raised three children, later moving to Oregon. Roger's greatest priority was his family, always showing his love and devotion to his children and grandsons. Enjoying family meals, going fishing, building O-gauge model train layouts, and supporting the Chicago Cubs were among his favorite pastimes.



He is survived by his wife, Janice Hartman of Oregon; his children, Kate Hartman of DeKalb, Phillip Hartman of Sterling and Benjamin and Dawn Hartman, and grandsons, Owen and Emmett Hartman, of Batavia; his sister, Nancy Zink of Shannon; and his niece, April Zink, of Alachua, Florida. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Karen Coulter of Texarkana, Texas; his brothers-in-law, Robert (Sheila) Brunner of Chadwick, Illinois, and Kurt (Pam Naples) Brunner of Mount Carroll; two nieces, Hillary Brunner and Elizabeth (Chris Zwolan) Brunner; and nephew, Nicholas (Noel Leckemby) Brunner of Sacramento, California. Roger was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Joseph E. and Frank W. Hartman; and a niece, Emily Coulter. Family and friends will be invited to a memorial service to be announced at a later date. Join us in honoring Roger's memory by supporting the important work of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley <https://www.catholiccharitiesrgv.org/Donations.aspx> or Rock River Hospice and Home bit.ly/rrhospice

Friday 5pm-9:30pm

2022 VOTED BEST OF OGLE COUNTY

FISH FRY FRIDAYS

208 N. Walnut St. Stillman Valley 815-645-9828

WOODEN 5 NICKEL RESTAURANT & BAR EST. 1991

PUBLIC WELCOME, DINE IN OR CARRY OUT. CHECK FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES

SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH ROCHELLE, IL

2023 Lenten Fish Fry Dinners

St. Patrick Parish Center 236 Kelley Drive

FRIDAYS IN LENT
 FEB 24
 MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
 5:00-7:00 PM

Fish Dinner
 ADULT (11YRS+) \$15
 SENIOR CITIZEN (65+) \$14
 CHILDREN (4-10YRS) \$10
 Includes 2-3 pieces of baked or hand breaded fried cod and everything on the menu excluding pizza

Pizza Dinner
 ADULT (11YRS+) \$13
 SENIOR CITIZEN (65+) \$12
 CHILDREN (4-10YRS) \$8
 Includes 2 slices of pizza (1 slice for children's dinner) and everything on the menu excluding fish

FAMILY RATE - \$50
 Parent(s) and children 18-under - DINE IN ONLY
3-UNDER - FREE
 50/50 RAFFLE - HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE - CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE

MENU
 Dr. Del's Baked & Hand Breaded Deep Fried Cod
 Tartar Sauce & Lemon Slices
 Alfano's Cheese Pizza
 Macaroni & Cheese
 French Fries
 Potatoes w/Parsley
 Green Beans
 Cole Slaw
 Dessert & Beverages
 (Beer & Wine Available)

Dinner proceeds support St. Patrick Youth Ministry. A special thank you to Knights of Columbus for their support of our ministry!

CATCH OUR FISH FRY!

Friday Night Fish Fry!

Your Choice of
Cod \$13 OR **Perch \$15**

Fish Fry Special!
Pollock (All you can eat) - \$13

4-8 pm
 Other seafood available/Full menu available

Win some money gaming!

Maxsons Restaurant & Riverboat

1469 N. IL Rt 2 Oregon IL 815-732-6761 Maxsons.net

VFW Post 8739

1310 W. Washington St. Oregon, IL 815-732-6851

Every Friday Fish Fry
 Cod, Catfish & Shrimp Dinners

Served Fridays 4pm-8pm
 Public welcome, dine in or carry out.

453-2103 • Ashton, IL

RALPHIE & LuLu's Inc.
 Est. 2001

FISH FRIDAY

Every Friday night Serving 5 - 8 p.m.

Fried cod, baked cod, bluegill or shrimp

\$13.95 - \$14.95

Includes: choice of potato (baked, french fries or onion rings), full fresh salad bar with homemade soup and complimentary dessert

Dine in, carry out or curbside delivery

812 Main St. - Ashton

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

OREGON — On Feb. 14 at approximately 9:34 p.m. deputies responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Commercial Street in Baileyville. After investigation, deputies placed John Lehmann, 58, of Freeport under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Lehmann was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 15, Ogle County detectives arrested Jesus F. Cornejo-Garcia, a 37 year-old male of Rochelle, for eight counts of possession of child pornography under 13 (class

two felony). In December 2022, Illinois State Police investigators initiated an investigation after receiving information that Cornejo-Garcia was allegedly engaged in downloading child pornography. A thorough investigation ensued in conjunction with the Illinois Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, the ISP, Belvidere Police Department, Rochelle Police Department and the Ogle County Sheriff's Office. A search warrant was executed on Feb. 15 at Cornejo-Garcia's residence. During the warrant execution, investigators

seized evidence supporting an arrest for child pornography.

On Feb. 15 at approximately 5 a.m. deputies responded to the 600 block of North Second Street in Holcomb regarding a reported disturbance. After an investigation, deputies placed Laura A. Dee, 35, of Machesney Park, under arrest for disorderly conduct. Dee was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 15 at approximately 2:54 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of North Kilbuck Road and East Illi-

nois Route 72. After an initial investigation, deputies placed Ali M. Saleh, 23, of Rockford, under arrest for driving unlicensed. Saleh was additionally cited for avoiding a traffic control device. Saleh was released from the scene on an I-Bond and provided with a future court date.

On Feb. 15 at 10:47 p.m. deputies responded to the area of 7000 W. Penn Corner Road for the report of a vehicle in the ditch. After an investigation, it was discovered the vehicle struck a mailbox prior to entering the south ditch. The driver, Frank Hatch, 68, of Polo was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Hatch was also issued citations for expired registration and improper lane usage. Hatch was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 16 at 7:31 a.m. deputies, along with the Polo Fire and Ambulance and the Mt. Morris Fire Department responded to the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Freeport Road for a report of a three-vehicle accident with serious injuries. Upon investigation, deputies determined that a 2003 GMC Yukon driven by Rebecca A. Marschang, 50, of Polo, was northbound on Freeport Road and was unable to stop for a stop sign, possibly due to icy road conditions. As a result the GMC entered the intersection and collided with a 2011 Honda Accord driven by Karen S. Harmon, 57, of Lanark that was eastbound on Illinois Route 64. After being struck by the GMC, the Honda then spun into the westbound lane where it was struck by a 2016 Peterbilt semi-tractor and trailer driven by Robert S. Engen, 45 of Champlin, Minneosta that had been westbound on Illinois Route 64. Engen was uninjured in the collision and Marschang was transported by private vehicle to Freeport Memorial Hospital for treatment of possible minor injuries. Harmon was pronounced deceased at the scene by the Ogle County Coroner and was transported to the Ogle County Coroner's Office. The Incident remains under investigation. Sheriff's deputies were assisted at the scene by the Illinois State Police as well as the Polo Police Department.

On Feb. 16 at approximately 5:23 a.m. deputies and Lynn-Scott-Rock EMS responded to the intersection of Northwestern Avenue and North Junction Road in Davis Junction regarding a vehicle parked in the roadway with two unresponsive male occupants. After an investigation, deputies placed Julio C. Ramos, 21, of Rochelle, under arrest for driving under the influence. Ramos was additionally cited for illegal parking and illegal transportation of alcohol. The passenger, identified as Anthony C. Nunez, 18, of Rockford, was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol and released on an I-Bond. Ramos was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 17 at about 10 a.m. in the Judicial Center parking lot deputies arrested Matthew Rodkey, 49, of Rockford for unlawful possession of a controlled substance (crack cocaine). Rodkey was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held pending a bond hearing. Deputies were assisted by Ogle County Police.

On Feb. 17 at approxi-

mately 5:20 p.m. deputies responded to a driving complaint of a vehicle traveling southbound in the 11,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. A short time later deputies located the vehicle before conducting a traffic stop on it at the intersection of Illinois Route 2 and Town Line Road. After investigation, deputies placed Ryan Dinkelman, 36, of Mt. Morris under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Dinkelman was additionally issued a citation for improper lane usage. Dinkelman was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 17 at approximately 4:10 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 38 at Dement Road in Rochelle on a 2002 maroon GMC Yukon. After conducting an investigation Gilberto Quintana, 26, of Lee was arrested for driving while license suspended. In addition, Quintana was issued citations for possession of cannabis/improper container, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, expired registration and failure to display driver's license. Quintana was transported to the Ogle County Jail on a valid Dekalb County warrant where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 18 at approximately 9:17 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Flag Road. After investigation, deputies placed Alejandro Gonzalez-Gonzalez, 21, of Rochelle under arrest for aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol, possession of a controlled substance (cocaine - class four felony), driving under the influence of alcohol, no valid driver's license and improper container of cannabis/driver. Gonzalez-Gonzalez was also issued citations for speeding, improper lane usage, illegal window tint and operating an uninsured vehicle. A passenger in the vehicle named Juan Mandujano-Camacho, 26, of Rochelle, was also placed under arrest for an active failure to appear Ogle County warrant and possession of a controlled substance (cocaine - class four felony). Both Gonzalez-Gonzalez and Mandujano-Camacho were transported to the Ogle County Jail where they were held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On Feb. 18 at approximately 3:38 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on East Illinois Route 64 near Chamberlain Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested William A. Marshall, 42, of DeKalb, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Marshall was issued additional citations for following too closely and failure to signal. Marshall was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 18 at approximately 5 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 500 block of North 4th in Oregon. After further investigation, deputies arrested Christian Bejna, 34, of Oregon, for a failure to appear Ogle County warrant for driving while license suspended. Benja was also charged with another count of driving while license suspended. Benja was taken into custody and transported to the Ogle County Jail in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 19 at approximately 8:47 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop for disobeying a stop sign and an inoperable plate

light. Upon further investigation, deputies arrested Brian Henson, 39, of Byron, for driving while license suspended. Henson was later released on an individual bond and was given a later court date.

On Feb. 19 at approximately 12:36 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 103. After brief investigation, deputies arrested Michael A. Bear, 30, of Rockford, for driving while license revoked. Bear was issued additional citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and an equipment violation. Bear was subsequently transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 19 at approximately 3 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 88 at mile marker 76 on a 2018 blue Chevrolet Equinox. After conducting an investigation, Sydney Morgan Mittan-Ybarra, 24, of Davenport, Iowa was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Mittan-Ybarra was also issued a speeding citation for traveling 88 miles per hour in a 70 miles per hour zone. Mittan-Ybarra was released on an I-bond and provided with a future court date.

On Feb. 19 at approximately 1:11 a.m. deputies responded to a residence in the 9,000 block of East Fowler Road in reference to a home invasion in progress. Prior to arrival, deputies were updated with information that a male offender had been shot by someone living at the property. Deputies responded to the scene and administered aid to the offender after learning the male had been shot at least once in the lower abdomen. Rochelle and Flag Center EMS arrived on scene a short time later and began administering aid. The male subject was then transported to the Rochelle airport, where he was flown to Saint Anthony's Hospital in Rockford by a Life Flight helicopter. The male subject at the time was in critical, but stable condition. The incident remains under investigation pending possible charges.

On Feb. 20 at approximately 1 a.m. hours deputies were involved in a police pursuit that started westbound on East Illinois Route 64 at Moore Road. The pursuit continued westbound and the offending vehicle, a red Ford Mustang, reached speeds of 120 miles per hour and disregarded multiple traffic control devices. The pursuit continued through Oregon city limits and the vehicle proceeded to crash and finally come to rest at 14 East Front St. in Mt. Morris. The driver identified as Derrick Holmes, 33, of Highwood, was taken into custody and charged with aggravated fleeing to elude, driving under the influence, reckless driving and multiple traffic violations. Holmes was transported to the Ogle County Jail until further proceedings with a judge.

On Feb. 20 at 7:40 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of West Illinois Route 64 for a speeding violation. After an investigation, Charles West, 51, of Byron was arrested for unlawful possession of cannabis 100-500 grams (class four felony). West was also issued a citation for speeding. West was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he will be held pending a court appearance before a judge.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

RALPHIE & LULU'S

Join us on Friday, March 17th for corned beef and cabbage dinner!

Includes: choice of potato (baked, french fries or onion rings), full fresh salad bar with homemade soup and complimentary dessert

Saturday we serve up Chicken Ralphie – a fan favorite

The slots are hot and the beer is cold

Serving dinner Wednesday 5 - 8 p.m. | Friday and Saturday 5 - 8 p.m.

812 Main St. - Ashton

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

<u>Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery</u>	
A.A. Hotline	800-452-7990
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.	
Oregon	732-3157
Rochelle	562-3801
<u>Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline</u>	
HOPE of Ogle County	562-8890 or 732-7796
Counseling Services, Court Advocacy, Latina Advocacy, and Shelter programs	
<u>Education</u>	
University of Illinois Extension-Ogle County	
421 W Pines Rd, Oregon 61061	732-2191
<u>Low Income Housing</u>	
Ogle County Housing Authority	
200 W Washington, Oregon	732-1301
<u>Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County</u>	
P.) Box 628	
Oregon, IL 61061	732-6855
<u>Mental Health</u>	
Family Counseling Services	962-5585
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.	
Oregon	732-3157
Rochelle	562-3801
The Serenity Shed Grief Services	732-2499
<u>Senior Citizens Services</u>	
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
<u>Sexual Assault/Abuse</u>	
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling	
24-hour hotline	636-9811
412 W Washington, Oregon	732-0000
<u>Therapeutic</u>	
Pegasus Special Riders	973-3177
<u>Veterans' Services</u>	
Rock River Center	732-3252
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499
Medical Transportation	677-6515
<u>Wellness Services</u>	
Ogle County Health Dept	
907 Pines Rd, Oregon	562-6976
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle	562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499

LOCAL NEWS

Forreton High School names fall 2022 honor roll

FORRESTON—Forreton High School recently named its honor roll students for the fall 2022 semester.

Excellent honor roll (3.75-4.0)

Freshmen: Caroline Bawinkel, Danica Fong, Gavin Fox, Noah Genandt, Cadan Hoffman, Kyla Lamm, Elizabeth Ludwig, Jeremiah Newill and Jayda Perkins. Sophomores: Ericka Alexander, Ennen Ferris, Evelyn Haller, Dausyn Heslop, Ayla Kiper, Sophia Lewis, Colton McGlynn, Lucas Nelson, Josiah Newill, Michael Owens, Morgan Penn, Lacey Politsch, Aubrey Sanders, Alec Schoonhoven, Dane Setterstrom and Aidan Yordy. Juniors: Sydni Badertscher, Jenna Greenfield, Nevaeh Houston, Zoriah Jenkins, Kaeden Motszko, Owen Mulder, Micah Nelson, Julia Parra, Autum Pritchard, Codey Rohdy, Alexander Ryia, Paige Scott, Elizabeth

Shenberger and Nikolas Valenzuela. Seniors: Elizabeth Bishop, Brooke Boettner, Kristina Bondele, Rylee Broshous, Mikayla Brown, McKenna Green, Hailey Greenfield, Owen Greenfield, Bryonna Harson, Daemyn Heslop, Dixie Johnson, Lily Johnson, Johnathan Kobler, Alexis Koehl, Emma Manus, Alaina Miller, Alexander Milnes, Sydney Regez, Chloe Reubin, Madyson Schoonhoven, Hailey Schultz, Brock Smith, Kobe Southerland, Kaia Stralow and Emalee VanDeWarker.

Honor roll (3.0-3.74)

Freshmen: Emilee Bocker, Emma Chamberlin, Hunter DeWall, Kylie Dieterman, Kailey Encheff, Brady Gill, Darin Greenfield, Hayden Harvey, Jacquelyn Hernandez, Ethan Holaday, Emma Hundertmark, Min-Jee Johnson, MaKenna Jordison, Braelyn Kloster, Jakob Kobler, Kayden Loomis, Anthony Maestas,

Hunter Miller, Brooklynn Parra, Gage Rozakis, Christian Ryia, Kaylynn Schiesher, McKenna Zink and Brady Zipse. Sophomores: Tayton Bandy, Evan Boettner, Devin Bratt, Maddie Chesnek, Grace Kaiser, Daniel Koehl, Deigon Krieger, Aspen McGlynn, Jayleigh Newill, Cassie Pals, Ashlyn Rinaldi, McKenna Rummel, Mason Sanders and Jaiden Schneiderman. Juniors: Haleigh Altherr, Samantha Appel, Elly Bamberg, Letrese Buisker, Hannah Harvey, Ella Ingram, Grant Johnson, Olivia King, Brynn Lamm, Keeli Larson, Zachary Pierson, Natalia Roach, Christopher Symons, Dylon Timmer, Andrew Wells and Madison Zipse. Seniors: Katelynn Alexander, Andrew Baumann, McKenna Crase, John DeHaven, Cole DeWall, Drew Dieterman, Payton Encheff, Jace Engbert, Quinten Frederick, Kyler Ganz, Sydney Greenfield, Carli Hollis, Colin Kuhn, Logan Miller, Ian Pannkuk, Maia Sanders and Lacie Williams.

Kishwaukee College announces graduates

MALTA — Kishwaukee College is proud to announce the graduates for the fall 2022 semester. Graduation honors are divided into three categories based on final cumulative grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale: summa cum laude indicates a cumulative GPA between 3.75-4.0; magna cum laude indicates a cumulative GPA between 3.5-3.749; and cum laude indicates a cumulative GPA between 3.25-3.499. Students who fulfill requirements for a certificate and have a final cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher are awarded a certificate with distinction. Students who are members of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society are recognized as PTK.

The graduate total for the semester is 145 students who completed a total of 162 degrees and certificates for fall 2022.

The following students completed the requirements for graduation from Kishwaukee College:

Byron — Ralee Tecora Corkran, Associate in Science, Summa Cum

Laude.

Creston — Ariel Janae Zuercher, Associate in Arts, Cum Laude.

Davis Junction — Mikayla Savannah Garnhart, Associate in Science; Samuel J. Keast, Associate in Science.

Esmond — Carly C. Summers, CERT, Basic Nurse Assisting.

Kings — Keri Jean Creason, CERT, Medical Billing and Coding, With Distinction; Sara R. Sanderson, Associate in Arts, Summa Cum Laude, PTK.

Monroe Center — Erica Bethany Floyd, Associate in Science, Magna Cum Laude.

Mt. Morris — Megan D. Buttens, Associate in Arts, Magna Cum Laude.

Oregon — Soren Balle Cates, Associate in Science; Teresa Jo Jacobsen, AAS, Horticulture Floral Design, Summa Cum Laude; Fatjona Kamberi, AAS, Registered Nursing, Summa Cum Laude.

Rochele — Kyle Daniel Aldridge, AAS, Registered Nursing, Cum Laude; Kaitlynn M. Cook, CERT,

Medical Assistant, With Distinction; Angel Cruz, Associate in Arts; Rhyllie Erdman, Associate in Science; Edgar Javier Garcia, Associate in Arts; Arlette Garcia, Associate in Science; Ahllam Khattab, Associate in Arts; Mandi Faith Lamb, AAS, Registered Nursing, Associate in Science, Summa Cum Laude, PTK; Ryan Patrick Mickey, Associate in Arts; Ilse Mariana Molina, Associate in Science, Magna Cum Laude; Jose A. Morales, CERT, EMT, With Distinction; Chelsea Nicole Nally, Associate in Arts; Gabriel S. Neece, CERT, Google IT Support; Johnathan Vaughn Nguyen, Associate in Science, Magna Cum Laude; Tanner Peterson, Associate in Arts; Nicole Marie Sheets, AAS, Registered Nursing, Magna Cum Laude, PTK; Kevin Daniel South, AAS, Marketing and Management; Erika Marcela Villalobos-Miller, Associate in Arts; Kayla Elizabeth Wiedemann, Associate in Science.

Stillman Valley — Nicole Scullion, AAS, Registered Nursing.



Lebers of Mt. Morris welcome new baby

MT. MORRIS — Reggie Arlen Leber was born Feb. 18, 2023 at 8:54 a.m. weighing seven pounds, 14 ounces and at a length of 19.5 inches. He was born at KSB Hospital in Dixon to parents Joseph and Cassandra Leber of Mt. Morris.

Reggie will join one sibling, Myles Leber. His grandparents are Tracy and Steve Bushland of Mt. Morris, Dennis and Toni Massolle of Oregon and Julie and Bill Leber of Loves Park. Nancy Bearman of Oregon is a great grandparent.

August and Hutton Rundle named to MTSU fall dean's list

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Former Byron residents and Byron High School graduates August T. Rundle and Hutton W. Rundle have been named to the fall 2022 dean's list at Middle Tennessee State University.

To qualify for the

dean's list distinction at MTSU, a student must maintain a current semester GPA of 3.5 or above and have earned a minimum of 12 semester hours.

The "dean's list" notation applies only to undergraduate students.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH 9

Here is a great opportunity to try something new or just have a fun night out with friends at the Mt. Morris Senior Center! Do you know how to play Euchre? Would you like to learn? On Thursday, March 9, the Mt. Morris Senior Center will be hosting a Euchre Tournament at 9 E. Front St. in Mt. Morris. We will start by teaching those who would like to learn how to play the game (or those who just need a refresher) at 5:30 p.m. If you already know how to play, please be there by 6 p.m. so you can get instructions as to how this tournament will work, and at 6:15 p.m. the tournament will begin. There will be plenty of snacks and drinks provided, but you may also bring your own adult beverages. The cost for this evening is \$10, and there will be case prizes. There is no need to RSVP,

but if you have questions please call the senior center at 815-734-6335. All ages (18+) are welcome. Let's have some fun together!

MARCH 11

Chana United Methodist Church is hosting its annual Chicken Noodle Lasagna Dinner Drive Thru on Saturday, March 11 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$12 and includes: a hearty portion of homemade (from scratch) noodles and chicken, a generous piece of homemade lasagna and fresh from the oven apple crisp. Chana UMC is a certified kitchen and is COVID-19 compliant. Dinner is drive thru only.

MARCH 15

Basics of Medicare Byron: An educational and informational presentation only on the Medicare insurance

program will be presented for the community at 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15 at the United Church of Byron located at 701 W. Second St., Byron. The emphasis will be on the eligibility and enrollment periods, benefits, and options concerning all parts of Medicare. All are welcome. Presenter will be Greg Wills for the program. This program is sponsored by the Legacy and Endowment Committee of The United Church of Byron as a community service. The United Church of Byron is a fun and diverse church with a heart for mission! Check us out at www.unitedchurchofbyron.org. Disclaimer: We do not offer every plan in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-Medicare to get information on all of your options.

STEVE BENESH & SONS
3923 N River Rd Oregon IL 61061
815-732-2384
stevebeneshandsons.com

A Furry AffHair-Primp Your Pet Grooming Salon
815-677-3356
Arlette Howerton, Owner
Like us on Facebook 3926 W. IL Rt. 64
Afurryaffhair@gmail.com Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054

Your Independently Owned Community Bank Since 1882
Stillman BANK
Byron 815-234-5626 Oregon 815-732-7956 Rochele 815-562-7071 Rockford 815-332-8100 Roscoe/Rockton 815-623-1800 Stillman Valley 815-645-2266
www.stillmanbank.com Member FDIC 09282015

COMPLETE FEED & RUSTIC RELICS
Vintage Chicks & Feed
Leaf River, IL
700 IL Route 72 E • Leaf River • 815-973-2432
Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 9am-5pm

Byron Forest Preserve District
7993 N. River Road
Byron, IL
(815) 234-8535 Ext. 200
Visit our website: www.byronforestpreserve.com
09282015

Etnyre
"Providing rewarding careers for over 120 years"
1333 S Daysville Rd. Oregon, IL 61061 • Apply at www.etnyre.com/careers

HILLIKER ELECTRIC
LICENSED, BONDED, & INSURED
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WIRING
Call 815-441-8207 for a free quote or to schedule service today!
HILLIKER.ELECTRIC@GMAIL.COM • FRANKLIN GROVE, IL

Scott Stephens, Agent
500 Gale St
Oregon, IL 61061
Bus: 815-732-6690
www.scottlstephens.com
State Farm
For All Your Insurance Needs.

Are You Buying a home? Relocating? Refinancing?
Call Us Today!
THE HARVARD STATE BANK
HARVARD • HERRON • OREGON • ROCKFORD
Your Friends in Banking
510 W. Washington St. • Oregon, IL 61061
815.732.3111 • www.webhsb.com

OGLE COUNTY LIFE
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER
211 HWY. 38 EAST, ROCHELLE 61068
815-732-2156
www.oglecountylife.com

VIEWPOINT

"Congress shall make no law. . .

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

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

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On March 17, 1756, St. Patrick's Day was celebrated for the first time in New York City at John Thompson's Crown and Thistle public house. Interestingly, Thompson was nicknamed "Scotch Johnny," and his tavern was only part-time Irish.

* On March 16, 1834, Charles Darwin, on the HMS Beagle, anchored in the British-owned Falkland Islands for the first time, to carry out a zoological survey. At first unimpressed by the desolate landscape, he soon discovered fossils of about 400 million years old, most of which are now housed in London's Natural History Museum.

* On March 19, 1916, eight Curtiss "Jenny" planes of the First Aero Squadron were used in support of the 7,000 American troops who had invaded Mexico with the intent of capturing Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa, marking the U.S.' first use of air combat.

* On March 18, 1922, British lawyer Mohandas K. Gandhi was sentenced to prison in India on the charge of civil disobedience after urging for mass civil disobedience, including boycotts of British educational institutions and law courts and foreign-made goods. His speeches always emphasized the wrongness of physical violence. He served just two years of his six-year sentence.

* On March 15, 1956, the musical "My Fair Lady" made its Broadway debut. Based on George Bernard Shaw's play "Pygmalion," it starred Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews in the lead roles of domineering Professor Henry Higgins and his protegee, the equally strong-willed but good-hearted Cockney flower seller named Eliza Doolittle. It was an immediate smash hit.

* On March 13, 1997, a heated debate was launched among believers in UFOs when a series of unidentified lights appeared above Phoenix, Arizona. It was later revealed that the lights were not from alien aircraft, but illumination flares dropped from a U.S. Air Force plane.

* On March 14, 2014, it was announced that public transportation systems in Paris, France, would run for free for three days in an effort to combat the heavy smog and air pollution the country was experiencing due to unseasonably warm temperatures.

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

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.

Being in a group has its advantages

LOOKING back on life it seems the most fun I've had was with others. Old high school buddies, fraternity brothers and farm bureau folk I've met along the way.

There's plenty of good memories there after 66 years and I hope to have a few more years to make a few more.

Some things I could elaborate on, then again there's others that I've been sworn to secrecy never to repeat. Then there's the ones that usually elicit from folks "And you are still alive?!"

Yep, being in a group has its advantages. Same goes for agriculture and the work we do at farm bureau.

So I'm sharing with you an article from Scott Herndon, president of Field to Market. Made me think about how things moving forward need to look. Enjoy.

Collaboration. That was a key theme that emerged from the inaugural Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture Farm Bill & Agriculture Policy Conference recently held at the American Farm Bureau Federation's D.C. office.

Commodity groups, stakeholder organizations, a member of Congress, Hill staff, a USDA official, growers and more, all gathered for the event to discuss their priorities for the 2023 farm bill. Unsurprisingly, many shared the same goals – improve the baseline, protect crop insurance, broaden partnerships for voluntary, incentive-based conservation efforts and more.

Each of those goals were connected by the same thread – a need to collaborate to achieve these priorities.

The concept of collaboration was not new to the groups in the room, and is certainly not new to Field to Market, whose mission centers around collaboration across the agricultural supply chain to support resilient ecosystems and enhance farmer livelihoods.



Ron Kern

For over 15 years, Field to Market has united the agricultural value chain to advance sustainable outcomes for agriculture, encouraging collaboration to reach shared goals. Throughout the year, we host convenings, like the Farm Bill & Agriculture Policy Conference, to bring organizations with diverse perspectives together to discuss strategies to unite and make meaningful partnerships that will improve sustainability outcomes.

If there are two things we know, it is that the journey to a sustainable future cannot be achieved alone and that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the challenges we are facing. Field to Market's membership is united to overcome the serious challenges of our time, as well as continuously evolving to include more diverse voices at the table.

By bringing together five membership sectors – affiliates, agribusinesses, brands & retailers, civil society and growers – in a precompetitive space, all sectors of the agricultural value chain come together to collaborate to meet the growing demand for food, feed, fiber and fuel in a sustainable and responsible way.

Field to Market members have access to the Fieldprint Platform, a pioneering assessment framework that allows supply chain participants at every stage of their sustainability journey to measure the environmental impacts of

commodity crop production and identify opportunities for improvement.

With over 4.5 million acres of farmland across 36 states enrolled in projects within the Fieldprint Platform, supply chain actors are harnessing the power of collaboration to drive sustainable agriculture forward. Members are exploring new and innovative ways to deploy conservation practices on the ground, in ways that are beneficial to farmers and help protect their bottom line. As farmers know, economic sustainability is a fundamental component of agricultural sustainability.

Participating companies are also able to utilize the Fieldprint Platform to reach their own environmental sustainability goals, utilizing data outputs including greenhouse gas emissions factors to show progress.

In a time where the challenges impacting our nation's farmers and value chain stakeholders are continuing to evolve, Field to Market is working to foster collaboration to reach shared goals.

We all must challenge ourselves to think outside the box and consider the innovative ways we can collaborate to reach a goal shared with someone sitting across from us in the value chain. We sincerely value our relationship with the American Farm Bureau Federation and its many grower members.

We are stronger, together, and I welcome conversations on how Field to Market can further collaborations that reach shared goals.

"One man alone can be pretty dumb sometimes, but for real bona fide stupidity, there ain't nothing can beat teamwork." -Edward Abbey

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

It's none of your business

“WHY aren't you drinking?”

My former boss slurred those words as he looked across a table while he and my co-workers downed a pitcher of beer at a mandatory staff pizza party.

Drinkers ask that question. Not only is it off-putting and rude it's ubiquitous.

I've never quite understood why that's anyone's business but my own; but it's asked continually in the circles where I have worked: politics and journalism.

I don't care if someone drinks around me. Why should they care if someone doesn't drink around them?

Please note, I'm not talking about beer and burgers fellas or those who enjoy an occasional sip of wine. I'm talking about those who lack an on/off switch, who don't know when is when.

My first exposure to alcoholism was my maternal grandfather. He started the day with a shot of whiskey before breakfast and couldn't function without some amount of alcohol flowing through his veins.

My recollections of him are primarily as a sad drunk, always in a stupor in his red recliner, smoking Marlboros and playing solitaire. Did I ever see him fully sober? I don't know.

Neither his wife nor three children drank alcohol. Growing up, my mother remembered hellacious arguments as Grandpa disappeared with his drinking buddies to spend money on booze rather than food or rent.

Addiction is a pernicious disease.

My mother, a registered nurse, was convinced a genetic predisposition for alcoholism lurked in our DNA. Recent scientific studies have since found there is a genetic component to substance abuse. So, maybe she was onto something 40 years ago.

Regardless, I chose not to start drinking. I'm 58 years old and have never tasted alcohol. That's not a badge of honor or disgrace. It's just a choice. Interesting enough, both presidents Biden and Trump make the same claim about lifelong abstinence from alcohol. Both men also have a history of family substance abuse.

In school, I was hassled a bit for not engaging in the hard-drinking lifestyle. I chose friends who didn't care.

But it's in the workforce that I've found the pressure to conform to a particular behavior the most extreme. When I was a young reporter, my abstinence from alcohol was mentioned as a detriment during a formal job-performance

evaluation.

The boss said a good reporter has to be a drinker to really understand the world. It would be easy to mark this off as one bad boss among many good ones. But it's a situation I keep encountering.



Scott Reeder

Years later, I found myself in another state sitting next to another boss, as I sipped my Diet Coke, and he slurred, "Is this some sort of religious thing, you know, that you don't drink?"

No, it isn't. But if were, would it be any of your business?

By that time in my career, I was supervising people, some of whom had substance abuse problems.

During one out-of-state meeting, I saw one particular reporter's hands shake and he'd shift uncomfortably in his chair. He'd then announce that he forgot something in his hotel room and disappear for a fix.

When I expressed concern, I was told, "He's not an alcoholic – they go to meetings." Not a compassionate way to deal with someone who is suffering – or a smart way to deal with a team member who is impaired.

The organization claimed it couldn't afford an employee assistance program but hosted plenty of events with open bars. Usually before opening the bar the boss would point to one fellow who would often get sloshed at lunch before returning to work and announce, "Don't get in front of him on the way to the bar, he'll run you over."

Where he saw amusement, I saw a problem. Alcoholism isn't a matter of bad character. It's a disease and should be treated as such.

But when I'd raise concerns to those above me about employees in my charge, it was dismissed with a wave of the hand as if to say, "You're a teetotaler, what do you know about alcohol?"

Yeah, the problem is the folks who don't drink – not the ones who can barely function. Privately, I guided one of my co-workers into a 12-step program.

At future work gatherings, he'd be sipping coffee while others were downing cocktails.

Inevitably, someone would ask, "Why aren't you drinking?" He'd shift uncomfortably from foot to foot and try to come up with a response.

How about: It's none of your business.

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

STOP BY THESE BUSINESSES

and see why they were **VOTED #1 in Ogle County!**



Voted Best: Pizza, Family Restaurant, Italian Restaurant, Pasta, & Appetizer

Alfano's
Pizzeria and Italian Restaurant

Taste The TRADITION
Taste The DIFFERENCE

Dine In • Carry Out •
• Home Delivery • Pizza • Pastas •
• Sandwiches • Salads •
• and Lots More!

Dine-In • Carry Out • Home Delivery
1115 TURKINGTON TERRACE, ROCHELLE
815-562-3312



Voted Best: Plumbing Company & HVAC Company

ANDERSON
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

LENNOX
HOME COMFORT SYSTEMS
Innovation never felt so good.™

815.562.8784
email: aphc621@yahoo.com

621 1st Ave. • Rochelle, IL 61068



Voted Best: Tax Service

Brown's Tax Service
Carolyn Brown

516 Fourth Ave. | Rochelle, IL
815-440-1224 | 815-561-6861 | carolyn@brownstaxoffice.com



Voted Best: Carpet Cleaning Business

ChemDry
Drier. Cleaner. Healthier.™

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
209 Powers Road
Rochelle, IL 61068
815-762-7555




Voted Best: Butcher Shop, Steak, & Brat

Tues-Fri - 9a-5:30p
Sat - 9a-4p

815-384-3620
headons2go.com
103 N. Main Street | Creston

HEADONS
FINE MEATS
EST. 1970
CRESTON, IL

— LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON —
FACEBOOK



Voted Best: Karaoke Bar

Kenny's Place

Best Karaoke in Ogle County

• Karaoke • Video Gaming • Game Room • Daily Drink Specials

Sun 11am-11pm • Mon-Wed 10am-1am • Thurs-Sat 10am-2am
411 Cherry Ave. • Rochelle, IL • 815-562-6568



Voted Best: Non-Profit

Donation & Volunteer-Based Eatery and Community Pay-What-You-Can Cafe

THE KITCHEN Table

7034 S. Klondike Road, Rochelle • 815-561-9074
kitchentablerochelle@gmail.com • volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org
kitchentablerochelle.org



Voted Best: Furniture Store & Moving Service

MEYERS
FURNITURE & FLOORING

209 Powers Road, Hwy 251 N
Rochelle, IL
www.meyersfurniture.com
(815) 562-8792



Voted Best: Bank, Local Lender & Financial Advisor

Stillman BANK

Best Local Bank
Best Lender
Best Financial Planner

Thank You!

www.stillmanbank.com

Byron • Oregon • Rochelle • Rockford • Roscoe/Rockton • Stillman Valley



Voted Best: Attorney Office

Tess, Crull & Arnquist
Attorneys At Law

www.tesscrulllaw.com
815-562-8754

1090 N. 7th St.
Rochelle

Eric Arnquist, Russell Crull & David Tess



LOCAL NEWS

Palatine man arrested and charged with murder in September 2022 death of Rochelle woman

Freeman faces 4 counts of 1st degree murder in death of Devin Gibbons

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Tuesday, a Palatine man was arrested and charged with four counts of first degree murder stemming from the September 2022 death of a Rochelle woman.

On Sept. 18, 2022 at 10:46 a.m. Rochelle Fire and Police Departments were dispatched to an apartment located at 503 7th Ave. for smoke in a residence. Upon entry into the residence, fire personnel located a deceased female. The fire was deemed suspicious, and additional investigators arrived on scene.

The victim was identified as Devin K. Gibbons, 28, of Rochelle. During the course of the investigation, Gary C. Freeman, 27, of Palatine was developed as a suspect. On Tuesday, Freeman was arrested in Schaumburg and transported to the Ogle County Jail and charged with four counts of first degree murder, one count of residential arson and one count of concealment of a homicidal death. A grand jury indicted Freeman Tuesday.

Freeman is currently in the Ogle County Jail on a \$10 million bond. He appeared in Ogle County Circuit Court Wednesday afternoon for the first time.

A press conference was held Wednesday morning in Rochelle by Ogle County State's Attorney Mike Rock and RPD Chief Eric



Ogle County State's Attorney Mike Rock speaks at a Wednesday press conference in Rochelle announcing the arrest of a Palatine man in the case of 28-year-old Rochelle woman's death. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

Higby. Rock detailed the charges against Freeman and reminded the public that they are merely allegations and he is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Freeman faces three counts of first degree murder (class M felony) punishable by 20-60 years in prison. Truth in sentencing applies to those charges, meaning any sentence he receives within that range will be served for the full term. He's also charged with one count of first degree murder in a cold and calculated fashion, which is also a class M felony

and makes the defendant, if found guilty, eligible for natural life sentencing.

The residential arson charge is a class one felony punishable by 4-15 years in prison and the concealment of a homicidal death charge is a class three felony punishable by 2-5 years in prison.

"On behalf of my office, I can't thank law enforcement enough for the amount of work that they put into this case, particularly the Rochelle Police Department," Rock said. "It was hundreds of hours and a number of law enforcement agencies came



On Feb. 27, Rochelle Police arrested Gary C. Freeman, 27, of Palatine, and charged him with four counts of first degree murder stemming from the September 2022 death of Devin K. Gibbons of Rochelle.

together on this. We're very hopeful that we're going to be able to bring justice for Devin Gibbons' family at the conclusion of this case."

Rock said Wednesday that Gibbons and Freeman knew each other and declined to elaborate any further. Gibbons did have children, but officials declined to say Wednesday whether Freeman was the father. Rock did say law enforcement was aware of "pending legal matters in family court" that helped inform their investigation.

Law enforcement and the state's attorney's office do know where the children are at this point, Rock said. He declined to talk about any potential witnesses to the alleged crime when speaking Wednesday. RPD

is not aware of Freeman living in Rochelle at any time in the past.

"I believe the facts are going to indicate that there was some type of relationship between them and violence was the end result," Rock said.

Rock said the cause of Gibbons' death will come out during the course of the court proceedings and officials believe she was already deceased before the fire. Higby declined to discuss the cause of the fire and said that will be revealed in court proceedings as well.

RPD narrowed its investigative search to Freeman "within a short amount of time," Rock said.

"One of the counts alleges that this was done in a cold and calculated way," Rock said. We believe there was premeditation and a plan involved when he came to Rochelle."

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, State Fire Marshal's Office, The Red Cross, Illinois State Police Crime Scene Investigators, Ogle County Coroner's Office, Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Rockford and Chicago Offices), Schaumburg Police Department, Palatine Police Department, Sterling Police Department and Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center assisted

with the investigation.

Rock said he believes that due to the nature of the case, the investigation was brought to "about as swift a conclusion as it could have been."

"Good, old-fashioned police work led us to today," Rock said. "A number of interviews and speaking to a number of people, collecting a lot of evidence and having that all analyzed, all this was work done by law enforcement. We had meetings while the investigation was ongoing and we worked together as a team and that's how the charges came about. It was hundreds of hours put in on this case."

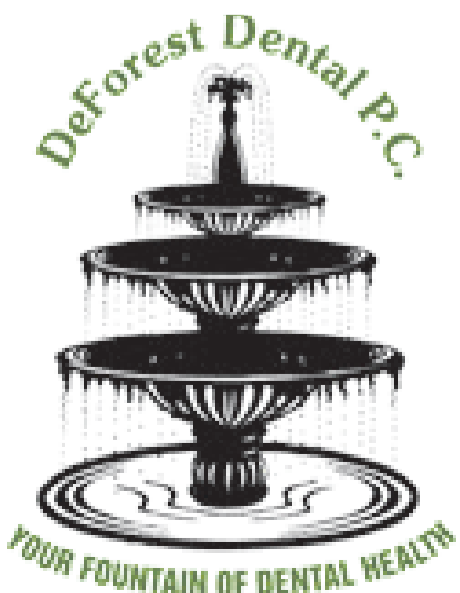
Higby thanked all of the law enforcement agencies that assisted with the case, along with his own officers and detectives.

"Fortunately in Rochelle, we do not have many crimes of this magnitude," Higby said. "When they do happen, it can be a burden on a smaller agency. We're immensely appreciative of all of the law enforcement and other entities that came together to help us bring this case to a resolution. I'd like to specifically point out Deputy Chief Terry Inman, Det. Sgt. John Kaltenbach and Det. Elvis Baneski. Without their work, this does not come to fruition. They put in a lot of hard work on a difficult case and I want to publicly thank them for all of the hours they've spent on it."



DeForest Dental PC wishes Erin an incredible 50th Birthday!

We are so grateful for her 27 years of service and commitment to our patients.



invisalign
The Clear Alternative to Braces

**606 W. Washington St.
Oregon IL 61061
815.732.3225
www.deforestdental.com**

Monday-Friday 8-5pm

SPORTS NEWS

Byron girls basketball headed to state after 52-45 win

Tigers return to the state finals for the fourth time in school history

BY ANDY COLBERT
CORRESPONDENT

ELGIN – An attacking DePaul College Prep girls basketball team kept coming and coming at the Byron at the Class 2A super-sectional. Byron, which jumped out to a 12-4 lead and never trailed, had an answer each time in a 52-45 win. “Yes, they were really an attacking offense and we had to weather the storm,” post player Ava Kultgen said. “The entire time, we ignored the noise, played our game and stayed calm.”

That synopsis by the senior all-state candidate summed up the fast-paced game at Elgin Community College. The closest DePaul would come was within two points early in the second quarter and then with three minutes left in the game.

Throughout the post-season, Byron coach Eric Yerly has stressed that survival is all about defense. That was truly the case in those final three minutes,

as DePaul was forced into three turnovers and missed five of six shots.

Another significant aspect at that juncture was that Kultgen and freshman Macy Groharing had scored 37 of Byron’s first 43 points. That’s when an outlier gave the Tigers a much-needed spark.

Following a missed Byron shot, Karsyn Bielskis broke a three-minute scoring drought to keep her team ahead 45-39. Four straight points got DePaul within 45-43, before Bielskis hit critical free throws on consecutive possessions for a 49-43 advantage.

“I really just knew this could be the last game for the seniors and wanted to pull it together,” Bielskis said.

Byron was also aided by DePaul’s best player, Nora Leadstrom, fouling out in that same time frame. Leadstrom, who battled Kultgen in the paint, made seven of DePaul first eight baskets, as the Rams (29 percent for the game) only shot 3-for-15 in the first quarter.



The Byron High School varsity girls basketball team is headed to state after a Class 2A super-sectional win over DePaul College Prep. (Courtesy photo)

Meanwhile, the Tigers looked sharp in the opening minutes, with Kultgen, Bielskis, Groharing and Malia Morton all scoring for a 12-0 lead.

“We made a big emphasis on starting early,” Yerly said. “The more I watched game film of

them, the more nervous I became. I knew this would be a tight game.”

With Groharing taking a break early in the second quarter, Byron had four quick turnovers and DePaul pulled with 14-12. After she came back in, it was all her (21 points) and Kultgen (18) keeping pacing with Rams.

Kultgen made a pair of inside shots on left side drives and Groharing finished the quarter up with seven more points, two of which came on a nifty Kultgen assist.

“Macy’s a special player,” Yerly said. “Someone had to step up and her and Ava did that.”

Kasey Galloway start-

ed to get hot for DePaul and put in five points to pull her team from a 26-16 deficit to 26-21 at halftime.

“I thought we did a good job of attacking their 1-3-1 zone, but they killed us in transition,” DePaul coach Sarah Zarymski said.

In the third quarter, it was another heavy dose of Groharing and Kultgen before Morton put in a lay-up off a steal for a 39-33 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Essentially, it was an even game throughout other than the early lead Byron started with. The fourth quarter was a back-and-forth until Byron took control late in the contest.

“This was the closest we’ve come in one of these,” said Zarymski in regard to the other two super-sectionals they have been in.

DePaul College Prep (25-7) is a 10-year old school and was formerly known as Gordon Tech. Byron (33-2) returns to the state finals for the fourth time in school history, claiming titles in 2016 and 2017 under 12-year coach Yerly (286-86).

Other than Byron holding a 44 to 29-percent shooting advantage, rebounding, turnovers and free throws shooting were about even. A key for the Tigers was forcing the Rams to take off balance shots.

SERVICE CALL SPECIAL
\$29.95 ANY BRAND
We Service All Makes & Models. Test & check.
Over 30 Years Experience.
AFFORDABLE WATER
815-625-3426
Toll Free: 877-353-7638

Anderson Plumbing & Heating Inc.
LENNOX
Serving Rochelle For More Than 25 Years
Quality Service Free Estimates
Residential & Commercial
562-8784
Lic.#058-087891

NORTH AMERICA'S #1 Selling Walk-In Tub
Featuring our *Free Shower Package*

Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing with Safe Step Walk-In Tub's **FREE Shower Package!**

- ✓ First walk-in tub available with a customizable shower
- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

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

15% OFF with No Payments for 18 Months! plus a Free Shower Package

safestep
www.YourSafeStep.com
815-515-4749

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

MADE IN TENNESSEE
LIFETIME LIMITED WARRANTY






Five fresh/soph Hawk wrestlers move on to sectionals
The Oregon Hawks started their fresh/soph state series Feb. 26 in DeKalb. Seven wrestlers took the mat with five moving onto Sterling Sunday, March 5 at sectionals. They include Jackson Messenger (champion, 113), Landyn Windham (182 runner up, not pictured), Andrew Young (195 runner up) Landen Elder (220, third place) and Briggs Sellers (champion, 285). (Courtesy photo)

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates
Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

6-month	4.9	% ^{APY*}	Minimum deposit \$1000
1-year	5.1	% ^{APY*}	Minimum deposit \$1000
2-year	5.0	% ^{APY*}	Minimum deposit \$1000

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

 Cindy Byrd, CFP Financial Advisor 315 W Washington St Oregon, IL 61061 815-732-4377	 Charles Schaeffer AAMS, CEPA Financial Advisor 222 N Walnut St Stillman Valley, IL 61084 815-645-2185	 Casandra Rowley Financial Advisor 315 W Washington St Oregon, IL 61061 815-732-4377
---	--	---

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 03/01/2023. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by FDI-1867L-A ©2023 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AECSPAD

SPORTS NEWS

Hawk softball set to fly high in 2023

Oregon returns 9 from 2022 regional winner

BY NATE ROGERS
HEAD COACH

OREGON—The off-season was a productive one for the Oregon Hawk softball program. The team first took to the field playing in a July Wednesday night league versus teams like Freeport, Orangeville, Forreston and Lena-Winslow. Led by seniors Laila Anderson, Ava Hackman, Liz Mois, Abigail Rogers, Reilee Suter and Imagin Terlikowski, the Hawks had a 6-3-1 record during the summer league. These games included a tie with reigning IHSA third place Forreston and a blowout victory over perennial power Orangeville. The group of seniors have played in big games all throughout their high school careers and will be fantastic leaders for a team full of young and talented players. Hackman and sophomore Emma Schlichtmann led the Hawks pitching this summer, and even freshman Alexi Czochara got in on the action helping pitch the Hawks to a victory

over Pearl City. Hackman, Suter and Mois have all received softball all-conference honors in the past. Rogers and Anderson started many games for the Hawks as underclassmen over the past two years making big contributions at the plate, on the bases and in the field. These seniors are definitely hungry to leave their mark!

Travel softball has been a big part of the Oregon Hawks successful ways and the Oregon Avalanche 18U saw 13 girls from the high school team play this fall. Speedy junior slapper Haleigh Burkhart and power hitting Abi Fletcher showed up big for the summer and fall teams. Returning varsity players Gracen Pitts (junior) and Sarah Stevens (junior) have also seen their skills grow while playing for their 18U Aftershock team. The junior class has paid their dues and area ready to spread their wings in 2023 at the varsity level. Sophomores Ella Dannhorn (Pride), and Emma Schlichtmann (Thunder-



The Oregon Hawks varsity softball team celebrating its 2022 Regional title in Rock Falls. The 2023 Hawks return nine varsity letter winners from last year's team. (Courtesy photo)

stix), Kaelin Shaffer (Avalanche), Madi Shaffer (Avalanche), and Abree Barker (Avalanche) all have worked hard to develop their skills over the summer, fall

and winter. Last year, the power hitting Dannhorn was named to the all-conference listing as a freshman, a rare feat.

The Big Northern Conference will be hotly

contested with North Boone, Rock Falls, Stillman Valley, and of course Oregon, all having solid programs. 2022 saw North Boone edge Rock Falls, Oregon

and Stillman Valley to take the BNC with Oregon and Stillman tying for the conference title in 2021. Oregon also has a strong non-conference schedule playing Newark, Lena-Winslow, Marengo, Orangeville and Pearl City. The players understand playing great competition is the best way to improve and grow one's game. You can follow all the Oregon Hawks softball action on a user-friendly app called GameChanger. The app runs games live and has the entire schedule loaded for you when you subscribe to the team. You can also come out and support the Hawks softball team at any home game at Oregon Park West. We definitely appreciate all the wonderful fans who come to cheer us on at our home games! The Hawks will be coached by new additions Karly May and Abby Baker along with returning coaches Ryan Dannhorn, Ryan Fletcher, Jeff Hendricks and Nate Rogers.



Oregon Junior High wrestling wins IESA regional

The Oregon Hawks Junior High Wrestling team recently won the IESA regional championship. Oregon Community Unit School District congratulated Coach Marchetti, Coach Martin and all of the sixth, seventh and eighth grade wrestling team members on the regional championship. (Courtesy photo)

AREA SPORTS

Boys varsity basketball

Feb. 22: Stillman Valley 52, Kewanee 46 (Stillman advances to Feb. 24 regional championship)

Feb. 24: Princeton 69, Stillman Valley 37 (regional championship)

Girls varsity basketball

Feb. 23: Byron 61, Stillman Valley 38 (Byron wins Class 2A Winnebago sectional final)



Read and Recycle



VFW Post #8739
1310 W. Washington St., Oregon, IL
815-732-6851

Bar and Kitchen Open at 4PM
Carry out and kitchen are open:
Monday 4pm-7pm, Wednesday 4pm-8pm & Friday 4pm-8pm

Fish, chicken and shrimp carry out on Fridays!

BINGO Wednesday 5:30pm
Karaoke 3rd Friday 7:00-11:00pm
Watch for Live Entertainment!

SLOTS ARE WAITING!

J&J Gaming

Game machines open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 4-Close

Recycle 

KING BLACKTOP

For All Your Blacktop, Concrete and Sealcoat Needs

- ◆ Installation of NEW Blacktop Parking Lots & Driveways
- ◆ Commercial & Residential
- ◆ Driveway Additions
- ◆ Blacktop Repairs/Patching
- ◆ Sealcoating/Crack Filling




Concrete Stoops - Patios Sidewalks

Serving Ogle, Boone & Winnebago County for over 33 years


815-234-4171
or
815-234-2225


www.kingblacktop.com

3499 E TOWER RD
PO BOX 652
BYRON, IL 61010

H.O.P.E
For Free Help or Information
Call 815-562-8890 24 Hours
All Calls Are Confidential.
Support, Advocacy, Referral Services,
Shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children.
HOPE of Ogle County

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

It's tax time!!!


Jennifer Lungstrom, CPA, EA


Silene Walters, CPA, MAS

We do income taxes, payroll & bookkeeping.

WALTERS Accounting Inc.
202 N. Walnut, Stillman Valley
815.645.8979
www.WALTERSTAX.com

01162023

08222022

Here's Our Card

Whatever you're looking for, these local businesses ask you to consider them first.

Accounting
Jeanette Heesaker, CPA
Masters in Business Administration and Finance
 Certified Managerial Accountant
 Accounting and Tax Services
 For Business/Individual/Partnership
132 W. Second St., Suite 1 • Byron, IL 61010
(815) 234-8100

Air Conditioning
HEATING AIR CONDITIONING

 turn to the experts
GAUL'S CLIMATE CONTROL
815-734-7314
 Randy Gaul 604 N. Division
 815-946-2386 Polo, Illinois 61046

Auto

GENE GREEN
 Sales Agent
Forreston Car Care
 204 S Ash Ave
 Forreston, IL 61030
 Cell: 815-238-7966
 forrestoncarcare@gmail.com

Auto

Hank's Repair
 Hank Kaiser-Owner
 ASE Certified
 P.O. Box 31
 54 Stephenson St.
 German Valley, IL 61039
 Bus. ph. 815-362-3451 Cell ph. 815-238-5144
 Fax ph. 815-362-2316

Auto Repair
ILLINOIS AUTO REPAIR & TIRE

Tony Kurzac
 Sell New & Used Tires/Rims
 All Makes & Models
 Cars/Truck Service
 Lowest Price Around
 107 E. Washington St.
 Route 64
 Oregon, IL 61061
 815-312-7089
 illinoisautorepairtire@yahoo.com

Bathtub Refinishing
PORCELAIN SPECIALISTS
 PORCELAIN & FIBERGLASS REFINISHING
 AND REPAIR
 TUB TILE, SINKS, SHOWER ENCLOSURES,
 FLOOR REPLACEMENT
 KOHLER AUTHORIZED REPAIR
BILL CHANCE
 815-247-8686
\$20⁰⁰ OFF
 thru 3/32/23
A TUB ABOVE THE REST

CABINETS


ValleyCraft
 Custom Cabinet LLC
Handcrafted quality to last a lifetime
 ♦ Kitchen - Bath - Laundry - Office - and more!
 ♦ Fully Custom, From Design to Installation
 ♦ Free Estimates, Friendly Local Service
 Contact Eric 815.973.9951
 Fax 815.900.2090
 Come visit our showroom
 2477 E. IL Hwy 64
 Oregon, IL 61061
 Appointments Appreciated

CARPET CLEANING
3-D Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

 900 W. Washington St.
 Oregon, IL 61061
 Heather Ruchti
 Ph: (815) 762-5307

Concrete

CONCRETE INC.
 Free Estimates
 Fully Insured
Neil Wills
 President / Owner
 Flatwork / Foundations
 815.978.6073
 741 Oaks Lane
 Byron, IL 61010

CONCRETE

Yoder Concrete Construction LLC
 Dixon, IL
 Concrete Driveways
 Walkways
 Floors
 Patios
 Resealing
 Free Estimates!
 Jerold Yoder
 815.202.8787

Construction
Mark Miller Construction
 For All Your Building Needs!
Commercial/Residential Work
 SERVING OGLE COUNTY FOR OVER 30 YEARS
 • New Construction • Roofing • Windows • Additions
 • Complete Remodeling • Siding • Painting • Interior/Exterior
 • Drywall • Flooring • Decks
 Free Estimates • Lead Certified
815-761-1626

Construction
NAVARRO & SONS Construction Company
 Free Estimates ***** Sr. Citizen Discount
Ceramic Tile • Wood Floors • Painting • Siding- Basements • Room Additions • Baths • Kitchens
 Over 25 yrs. exp. Custom touch No job too big or too small
FRANK NAVARRO • OREGON / BYRON
PHONE: 815-234-7588 FAX: 815-234-7568

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FIVE ALARM FIREWORKS CO.
 PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS
 PHIL GIUFFRE 773-415-4277 OREGON, ILLINOIS
 WWW.5ALARMFIREWORKS.COM
 FESTIVALS, CONCERTS, WEDDING HOMECOMINGS, CORPORATE EVENTS

FENCING
PRAIRIE FENCE
 Dixon, IL
815-677-1402
 Agicultural - Residential - Commercial
 - Hi-tensile electric - Vinyl fencing
 - Woven wire - Chain link
 - Board rail - Split rail
 - Horse fence - Privacy
FREE ESTIMATES!

Firewood
AT'S FIREWOOD
 815-751-2255
 ALL HARDWOODS, SEASONED,
 DELIVERED, STACKED

GARAGE DOORS

Illinois DOORMASTERS LLC
 Oregon, IL
Merlin Fox - 815-440-9827
 merlin@illinoisdoormasters.com
SERVICING AND INSTALLING GARAGE DOORS

Gutters

A.R. Services
CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES
5" & 6" Seamless Gutters
815.406.8172
 arservices15@yahoo.com
GUTTER GUARDS & GUTTER CLEANING

HAIR CARE

Leaf River Kutz
 122 Main Street <Leaf River Il
Men, Women, Kids
HAIR CUTS 815-738-6122

HANDYMAN
C.J. HOME MAINTENANCE and REPAIR
 We fix almost anything in and around the home!
20 Plus Years Experience
Regular and Emergency Service 24 Hours A Day 7 Days A Week
 Phone 1-815-234-4511 Byron, Oregon,
 Cell 1-815-222-6239 Mt. Morris Areas

HOME IMPROVEMENT
 Insured FREE ESTIMATES
INTEGRITY
 HOME IMPROVEMENT & RENOVATION, LLC
 New Construction • Complete Remodels • Additions • Windows
 Doors • Sunrooms • Kitchens • Basements • Baths • Garages
 Dan Houston 815.871.5748 • Craig Kosch 815.566.7424
www.integrityhomeimp.com

LAWNCARE
 "Your prescription for a healthy yard!"

TURF OF ILLINOIS
 Fully Licensed
 Lawn Treatments
 Tree & Ornamental Care
 General Pest Control
 Mosquito Suppression
 Over 15 Years Experience
Toby Behmer
 Owner/Applicator
 Stillman Valley, IL
 815-393-6471
 toby@turfxil.com


PAINTING

Tennison Painting
 Specializing in:
 New Construction
 Commercial & Residential
 Interior & Exterior - Painting & Staining
 Wall & Ceiling Repair - Texturing Walls
 & Ceilings - Insured
 Ph: (815) 501-2893
 Email: jimtennison@gmail.com
 www.TennisonPainting.com

PAINTING
 WALLPAPER PAINTING STAINING
K & J DECORATING, INC.
 Specializing in painting or staining kitchen cabinets or woodwork.
 Insured Over 40 Years Experience
Ken Kline Cell (815) 353-5754
 Stillman Valley, IL

PET GROOMING
 by
Dun Wright Grooming

MOBILE GROOMING
 • Pets Groomed at Your Home
 • Less Stress on Yourself and Your Pet
 • No More "Separation" Anxiety
 • No More Day-Long Waits for Pets
 • Cut of Your Choice (depends on coat condition)
 • Specialty/Flea Baths Available
 • Bath/Hand Blow-Drying/Toe Nails Clipped
Contact person: 815-440-4779 Pam Wright

Storage Sheds

Rocky Ridge Structures
 We Specialize in Portable/Quality Built Storage Sheds
 • Stock & Custom Design
 • Many Options Available
 • Competitive Pricing
 • Site Preparation Available
 See Displays at 3500 S. Chana Rd. Chana IL 61015
 Call Norm or Albert for Free Literature packet
779.861.3542

TREE CARE

HOOVER Horticulture
 Serving Ogle County Since 1996
 • Trimming & Removals • Climbing Specialists • Insect & Disease Control
 • Planting Service • Arborist Consulting
 Fully Licensed & Insured
732-4710
 "Your Trees Deserve a Certified Arborist!"


TREE SERVICE

High Top Tree Service LLC
 Tree Removal/Trimming*Storm Damage
 Stump Grinding*Climbing Specialist
 Fully Licensed and Insured
Tyler Smith
 815.980.0678
 tyler@hightoptreeservice.com
 hightoptreeservice.com
 5509 E. Woodburn Rd.
 Byron, IL 61010

TREE REMOVAL

PINE VIEW TREE SERVICE
Tree Trimming Removal Stump Grinding Storm Clean Up
Gabriel Mack
 P: 779-251-0254
 F: 815-946-4372

WATER SOFTENER

SERVICE CALL SPECIAL
\$29⁹⁵ ANY BRAND
 Offer Expires 4/30/20
 We Service All Makes & Models. Test & check.
Over 30 Years Experience.
AFFORDABLE WATER
815-625-3426
 Toll Free: 877-353-7638

Wouldn't you like your business card seen by 28,500 people?
CALL 815-732-2156

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

109
CEMETERIES AND LOTS

For Sale

Burial Plot in

Sunset Memorial Gardens

880 N Alpine Rd., Rockford, IL

(Garden of Last Supper)

\$4,480.00 (no personal checks)

Fees include the following:

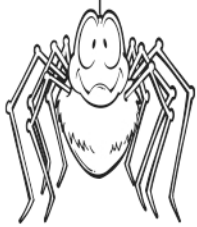
Endowment

Care, Quit Claim Fee and

State of Illinois deed fee.

Call 815-645-5008

ADVERTISE
WITH US



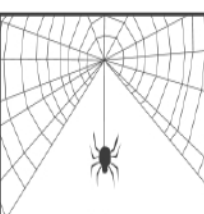
203
HELP WANTED

SCHOOL BUS

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."

La Vigna
RESTAURANT

**NOW HIRING
All Positions**
Servers | Bartenders
Hosts | Cooks | Kitchen
Apply within or email
resume to
lavigna@frontier.com
(815) 732-4413

03062023

307
MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

**NEW MILFORD
REFRIGERATION**

**NEW, USED
SCRATCH & DENT**
• Refrigerators • Freezers
• Washers/Dryers • Stoves

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

6331 11th Street, Rockford
815-874-2257

11222020

TEXT AND
WHATEVER

JUST

DON'T

TEXT

AND



STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG



NHTSA

**Stay
Connected
With Your
Hometown News**