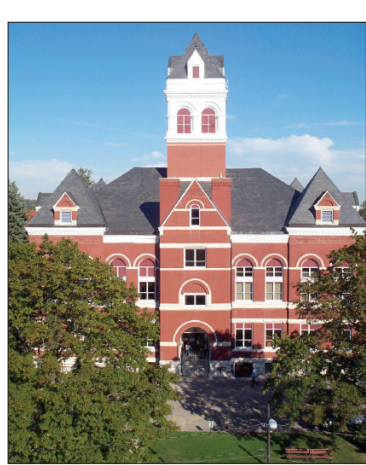


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VOLUME 34, ISSUE 02

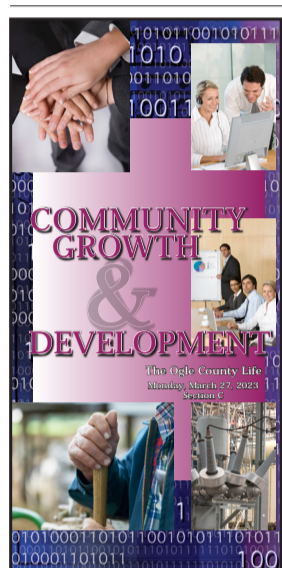
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Progress - Sections C & D

## WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
44 30	42 26
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
49 33	49 34
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
50 32	51 33

## OBITUARIES

- Mary Allen
- Judith Aurand
- Barbara Giese
- Wanda Lee Reynolds
- Harold Unzicker

See page A4

## INSERTS

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

# Jail roof solar project update presented

### Human resources information system approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**OREGON** — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board heard an update from Board Member Don Griffin on its project that involves solar panels in the roof of the recently-constructed Ogle County Judicial Center.

The Ogle County Judicial Center replaced the former Ogle County Jail, which was recently demolished. Stateline Solar is the county's contractor on the solar panel project and board members were shown photos of the progress on Tuesday. The county saw delays in receiving equipment for the project such as inverters and a switch.

"We did get the inverters in finally and then we were waiting for the switch we needed," Griffin said. "That all came in and the contractors were on

site last week. The inverters have been mounted on the outside wall. That's all been installed and hopefully next week they'll be on site to finish the majority of that project and we should be getting close to being operational. We're seeing movement on it. It's a matter of once it's all hooked up, finishing the net metering connection with ComEd."

## Human resources

The board approved the purchase of a new human resource information system from Paycom by a vote of 22-1. The system involves a \$6,500 initial cost and \$1,500 payroll cost and expenses each pay period will depend on the number of employees receiving compensation.

Paycom was the lower of the final two systems the board considered, Board Chairman John Finfrock



Ogle County Board Chairman John Finfrock and Vice Chairman Patricia Nordman look on during Tuesday's meeting. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

said. A human resource information system is required for record keeping, and Finfrock said the county has not had one "for quite a long time."

"We want to get started so we can get it faster and be able to use it and meet requirements," Finfrock said. "I think we did our due diligence."

The agreement with

Paycom does not involve a contract. The county will have access to a support team for it. Board Member Bruce Larson said the cost per person paid per pay period will be \$165.

## Road & bridge

The board unanimously approved a bid from Martin & Company Excavating for \$1.629 million for

a project that will replace the existing bridge on Leaf River Road over Leaf River with a longer bridge with a larger opening.

For the work, the board appropriated \$539,000 from the federal aid matching fund, \$500,000 from the county aid to bridge fund and \$591,000 from the county's REBUILD Illinois fund for a total of \$1.63 million for the county's portion of the project.

The board also unanimously approved a bid from Martin & Company Excavating for \$356,061.58 for its Eagle Point Road overflow culvert project, which will construct an additional box culvert adjacent to an existing structure on Eagle Point Road just east of Brookville Road.

For the work, the board appropriated \$360,000 from the county aid to bridge fund.

See COUNTY page 2



## RTHS dismisses early following stabbing incident between 2 students

One juvenile flown to outside hospital with significant injuries

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Township High School dismissed students early at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 20 due to a stabbing altercation that took place between two students that resulted in "significant injuries" to one student, press releases from Rochelle Township High School District 212 and Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said.

At 9:24 a.m. Monday an Ogle County deputy requested an ambulance to RTHS in reference to a student that had been stabbed, the press release said. RTHS

immediately initiated planned protocols locking the building down and requiring students to stay in classrooms. RTHS's on-site school resource officer, school nurse and other personnel handled the student situation until paramedics from the Rochelle Fire Department and additional law enforcement arrived.

The sheriff's press release said that two male juveniles, both aged 17, were involved in a physical altercation.

See RTHS page 2



## Oregon Park Board recognizes employees Sansone and Suter for years of service

The Oregon Park District Board of Commissioners recognized Mary Sansone and Brent Suter on March 14 for their years of service. Sansone is the custodial and support services supervisor and has been employed by the district for 25 years. Suter is the assistant superintendent of parks & facilities and has been employed by the district for 15 years. The Oregon Park District thanks Mary and Brent for their commitment and dedication to excellence in parks and recreation. Awards were presented by Mark Tremble, board president.



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# LOCAL NEWS



Ogle County Board members heard an update on the solar project on the roof of the Ogle County Judicial Center. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

## COUNTY: Board approves annual pavement marking applications

From page 1

The board unanimously approved a bid from Countryman, Inc. for \$55,593 for annual application of pavement markings on county highways. For the work, the board appropriated \$56,000 from its motor fuel tax fund.

Each of the bids approved Tuesday was the low bid.

### Trees

Board Member Susie Corbitt said that the county's oak tree planting project is progressing and Morton Arboretum will be making a presen-

tation at 4 p.m. before next month's county board meeting on April 18.

"We will have an open meeting," Corbitt said. "We encourage the public to come and hear the presentation on the importance of planting native trees."

## RTHS: Teen treated for injuries

From page 1

"The Rochelle Fire Department transported both juveniles to Rochelle Community Hospital, one with minor injuries and one with significant injuries, who was later flown to an outside hospital," the press release said. "Officers from the Rochelle Police Department and additional deputies and investigators from the sheriff's office responded to RTHS to assist." The early dismissal

was called due to the altercation and the need for a continued investigation by law enforcement, the district press release said. Students exited the building under the supervision of local law enforcement. The school provided busing transportation and parents picked up students in the back of the building. All after-school programming was canceled. RTHS notified students that from 2-3:30 p.m. they could come back to process the events of the day with available

counselors.

"RTHS has fully cooperated with the Ogle County Sheriff's Office and the Rochelle Police Department as they have investigated this matter throughout the day," the district press release said. "The initial investigation concluded there is no evidence to indicate anything other than an isolated incident between the two students identified today."

Monday's statement from the school district said it had no further comment regarding the situation as it is an active investigation with pending results. RTHS resumed normal schooling on Tuesday, March 21.

No other Rochelle school buildings were impacted by the incident or early dismissal Monday.

VanVickle's press release said results of the investigation are pending and media was asked to refer any questions regarding charges to the Ogle County State's Attorney.

## Be Yourself: Spark Ideas!

"One of my family friends had breast cancer. This project kind of represents her and that makes me feel good."

David Cunningham

### A boy, unafraid to be himself, inspires a project

WHEN David Cunningham wore his bright pink shirt to school one day, everyone made fun of him. David is a spirited kid. He shrugged it off, because he likes pink. It's a good thing David is so comfortable being himself, because his bright pink shirt started a conversation that would inspire the entire class to take on a challenging project to raise funds for Serenity Hospice.

reality. They spent time researching local non-profits. They put together a Google form and voted. The decision was close to unanimous. They would donate the funds to Serenity Hospice and Home. In order to create an amazing, marketable design the students decided to have a competition. Caleigh Rybicki's tiger pawprint inspired design was the winner. "I was really surprised. I didn't expect mine would win. Especially because I thought some of the other ones were really good too," Caleigh humbly shared. She was grateful to be a part of this project explaining, "It feels really good to do something to help people locally."

skills and learned about giving back to the community. They negotiated in order to get the tee-shirts at factory cost, earning a higher profit margin in order to raise the maximum amount of funds. They created promotional flyers and order forms. Once the tee-shirts were made and delivered, they organized a "pink out day" on the same day as the School Assembly: everyone wore their shirts to raise awareness of breast cancer. Student Miya Dunk designed and made a big check that the class presented to Serenity's CEO, Lynn Knodle.

Many of the students know people impacted by cancer and have friends or family who directly benefited from Serenity's services. This reinforced the importance of giving locally. They are proud of how hard they worked to raise funds for Serenity. This hands-on learning experience taught them more than any textbook ever could... and most certainly shaped many of them into lifelong philanthropists!

### Pink for breast cancer

When Mrs. Fletcher, an eighth grade teacher at Byron Middle School, overheard classmates teasing David about his bright pink shirt, she re-directed the conversation towards the fact that it was currently October, breast cancer awareness month. This sparked an unexpected conversation and some brilliant ideas, "Wouldn't it be cool if everyone wore a pink shirt on the same day to raise awareness of breast cancer? Even better, what if we designed and sold the pink shirts to raise money for a local nonprofit organization?" The students started to brainstorm what it would take to make this idea a

### A hands-on learning experience

Throughout the project, from ideation to implementation, the students gained many practical



Miya Dunk and Caleigh Rybicki (above) and David Cunningham (right)



Mrs. Fletcher's 8th grade fifth hour History class

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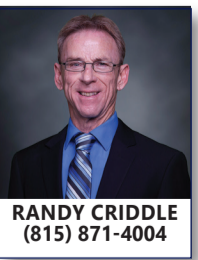
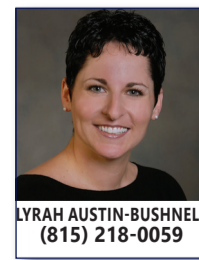
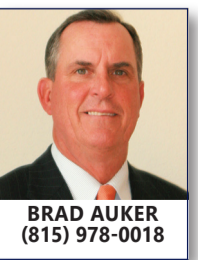
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# LOCAL NEWS

## Byron Bank hires Sullivan as mortgage loan originator

**BYRON** — Byron Bank is pleased to announce the addition of Kristie Sullivan, mortgage loan originator at our Byron location.

Kristie has over 20 years of experience in servicing the Northern Illinois and South Wisconsin areas. Kristie has extensive experience in writing all types of mortgage loans, including conventional, FHA, VA, and in-house specialty loans.

“We are thrilled to have Kristie on our mortgage lending team,”



Brent Baker, Byron Bank president, said. “Her experience, profession-

alism and commitment to her customers will be a huge asset to our already-skilled team.”

When she is not working, Kristie enjoys spending quality time with her friends and family. She also enjoys expressing her creativity through crafting and decorating her home and yard. Kristie is a devoted animal lover, finding great joy in caring for her pets and contributing to animal charities.

Stop by the Byron Bank location in Byron to welcome Kristie!

## April Fool’s Day at the Byron Museum on April 1

**BYRON** — Byron Museum of History will be hosting three award-winning taxidermists on Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Local taxidermists Jim Hess, Richard Ward and Bob Wagner will be working on their current projects and demonstrating their techniques for museum visitors.

Some finished mounts will be displayed along with several touchable hides and tools of the trade. Visitors will see a wide array of fish, birds and mammals. Bring your questions, museum admission is always free.

There’s also time to enter to win a bottle of Calumet 16-year-old Bourbon \$169.99 retail value. Donated by County Market, 100 percent of proceeds going to the museum. Raffle tickets are available by request at the County Market liquor service desk through March 31. Cash only donations of \$5 each or \$20 for five chances to win. Drawing will be held on April 1 at 2 p.m., need not be present to win. Thank you for your support and good luck!

Byron Museum of History is currently hosting its Spring Art Show through March 29, featuring work by members of

the Eagles Nest Art Group. The Eagle’s Nest Art Group welcomes all forms of art including oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastels, photography, fiber art and several other forms of art. The group welcomes all who are art-minded to participate in its full schedule of programs, classes, and art show opportunities. To learn more call (815)732-7783. Find us on Facebook at Eagle’s Nest Art Group, Oregon, Illinois.

Visit the Byron Museum Wednesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., admission and group tours are free. Call the Museum at 815.234.5031, or send an e-mail to info@byronmuseum.org to schedule a group tour. The Byron Museum of History is located at 110 N. Union St. in Byron, Illinois, 61010. Our website address is www.byronmuseum.org

The Byron Museum of History is dedicated to preserving the Byron area’s rich history through exhibits, programs and artifact preservation. The Museum Complex consists of a large exhibit hall with varied displays and encompasses the historic Read House - which is a listed Underground Railroad site on the National Park Service’s Network to Freedom.

## County paint, aerosol recycling and shredding event is April 15

**OREGON** — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a latex paint/aerosol can recycling and document shredding event on Saturday, April 15 at 909 Pines Road in Oregon. This event is for Ogle County residents only and identification is required. No permits are required for this recycling event.

Latex paint will be collected for recycling from 8 a.m. until noon. The first 10 containers of latex paint per vehicle will cost \$1 per quart-sized container, \$2 per gallon-sized container and \$10 per five-gallon pail. The OCSWMD will subsidize the remaining cost to recycle the latex paint. Any additional containers of latex paint will be charged the full price to recycle, which is \$3 per quart, \$6 per gallon, and \$20 per 5-gallon pail. Cash, credit card or checks payable to “EarthPaint.org” will be accepted for payment.

Oil-based paints, stains, and varnishes and spray cans will also be accepted. Residents will have to cover the full cost for recycling oil-based paints, stains, and varnishes. Costs to recycle are \$6 per quart-sized container, \$10 per gallon-sized container, and \$25 per five-gallon pail. Cash, credit card or checks payable to “EarthPaint.org” will be accepted for payment.

No business or contractor paints accepted. No bulking or combining of latex paint. Bulked latex paint cannot be recycled in this program.

EarthPaint.org is a nonprofit business in the Chicago area that works with adults with special needs and disabilities to sort and recycle unwanted latex paint into new paint or other products.

Aerosol cans, small 14-16-ounce propane cylinders and small butane cylinders will also be accepted by Flatcan Recycling. There is no cost for up to 10 containers. For over 10 items aerosol cans will be \$1 each and propane and butane cylinders will be \$3 each for recycling. Most aerosol spray products will be accepted for recycling. Flatcan Recycling will also accept alkaline batteries for recycling for \$4 per pound and one child car seat at no charge. Additional child car seats will be \$20 per seat.

In addition, secure, on-site document shredding will be conducted by Freeport Recycling’s Shred-Beast truck from 9 a.m. to noon. There is a limit of three boxes per vehicle. No business or institutional material accepted. There is no cost to residents for paper shredding, because the OCSWMD will cover the cost of the Shred-Beast truck and staff.

Please call the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020, email solid-waste@oglecountyil.gov, or visit www.oglecountyil.gov or the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department on Facebook for more information about this recycling opportunity.

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## Nash pool to be closed for repairs April 1-30

**OREGON** — Nash Recreation Center pool will be closed April 1-30 for repairs. Repairs include removal and reconditioning of the coping stones and addressing leaking in the pool trough. While these repairs are being completed staff

will also address many preventative items to ensure the pool is in good working order upon opening.

Nash Recreation Center passholders that will not be utilizing the facility during the pool closure may turn their passes into

the front counter to extend their passes for the 30 days of closure. Thank you for understanding while staff continues to work to provide a quality facility for our patrons. For questions or more information contact Nash Recreation Center at 815-732-3101.

## Ogle County Sheriff’s Office announces St. Patrick’s Day DUI enforcement results

**OREGON** — The Ogle County Sheriff’s Office announced that it made five driving under the influence arrests and issued 229 total citations during the St. Patrick’s Day enforcement period which ran from March 10-19.

The citations and other offenses include: 17 citations for revoked, suspended or no valid driver’s license offenses, four arrests for outstanding warrants, one felony drug arrest, five arrests

for driving under the influence, three arrests for cannabis violations, 23 citations for speeding violations, 29 citations for registration violations and 22 citations for insurance violations.

“We strongly enforce traffic laws for one reason – to save lives,” Sheriff Brian VanVickle said. The Ogle County Sher-

iff’s Office joined forces with state and local law enforcement and highway safety partners in the St. Patrick’s Day enforcement campaign.

The St. Patrick’s Day enforcement campaign was funded by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

## Grand Detour Annual Town Meeting is April 11

**GRAND DETOUR** — Grand Detour’s Annual Town Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 11, the second Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. at the Grand Detour Town Hall for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the town.

Agenda: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Elect a Moderator, Minutes of Last Year’s Meeting, Balances Read, Old Business: Spray for Mosquitoes, Road & Bridge Money; New Business: None and Adjourn.

The regular monthly meeting will follow.

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**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  
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Obituaries

# Mary J. Allen

Mary J. Allen, 76, passed away March 12, 2023, after a brave, yet brief fight with cancer. Her last days were spent with the caring staff of Serenity House surrounded by friends and family.

Mary was born December 4, 1946, to Jeanette and Heber Richards in the Upper Peninsula just across the river from Michigan Tech University. After attending school at Southern Illinois University, Mary had an incredible 50-year career in dental hygiene. Practicing with many dental offices and some hospitals along the way, she had the privilege of inspiring the next generation of hygienists as an instructor before her retirement.

She is survived by nine grandchildren (Megan, Avery, Ethan, Ben, Maia, Mackenzie, Tyler, Mina and Livie), three children, (Patrick, Jen and AJ), two brothers, (Guy and John) and her loving husband of 31 years Pat, along with many nieces and nephews. Her sister Barb, first husband John, and her parents preceded her in death.

In life, Mary was a dreamer and loved adventure. She was especially passionate about the thrill of trail riding and experiencing God's creation from horseback. On the water, she loved kayaking or just being part of the crew catching fish in a boat. From the shores of Lake Superior to the sands of Florida, she would always pick up treasures to capture the memory of beach life. She fulfilled a lifelong dream of

walking where Jesus did in Israel and was always up to watch an epic movie where good guys overcome impossible odds (especially if there were horses).

Her primary focus was worshiping God and telling others about Jesus. One of the ways she demonstrated His love was to advocate for women. Mary served as area President and other offices of AGLOW International ministries for many years. Pouring herself into the lives of women afforded her opportunities to travel all over the country for conferences.

Locally, she enjoyed serving in the Byron Women's club and could be seen chatting it up as owner of Cherished Boutiques.

Of all the flowers and delicious produce of her garden, her favorite was forget-me-nots. You will not be forgotten Mary.

A Celebration of Life will be held April 15th, 2023, at Forest City Fellowship of Rockford at 11am. See their website for location details: <https://www.forestcity-fellowship.net/>

A light lunch will conclude the celebration at the church.

In her memory, please consider donating to one of the following:

- Serenity Hospice and Home - <https://serenityhospiceandhome.org/>
- Water is Basic (women's well repair initiative) - <https://waterisbasic.networkforgood.com/projects/104956-women-s-well-repair-initiative?>



# Barbara E. Giese

OREGON – Barbara E. Giese, age 88, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon. She was born in Oregon on December 10, 1934 the daughter of Martin and Jennie (Krull) Janssen.

She graduated from Oregon High School Class of 1952. Barbara married the love of her life, Kenneth L. Giese on May 9, 1954 at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oregon. He preceded her in death on January 26, 2023.

Barb worked for the Ogle County Bank, E. D. Etnyre, Commonwealth Edison which she retired from in 1995. They opened the Riverview Gulf Restaurant in 1955 and owned other businesses including the Donut Shop. They also managed the 1890 Club.

Barb was a long-time member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and the ladies' VFW Auxiliary. She loved being a snowbird in Florida for 19 years with her husband Ken. She loved being outdoors boating and camping on the Rock River in the warmer months. Barb started the Red Hat Group in Oregon and was Queen Mother for 7 years.

Barb was a giving person with a big

heart who enjoyed volunteering wherever needed including the Rock River Center, Ogle County Fair and Serenity Hospice and Home. When she was not busy, she enjoyed winding down with a good book and listening to country music. More than anything, Barb was passionate about making sure to take the time to make other people smile.

She is preceded in death by her parents, brother and husband Ken.

She is survived and will be greatly missed by her sister, Leta Thomas of Mesa, AZ; and special nieces and nephews, Gary (Joan) Janssen, Marty (Marianne) Thomas, Tammy (Kurt) Nipple, Zack Thomas, Amy (David) Johnson, special sister-in-law Mary Giese and many others that were greatly loved.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at the Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home in Oregon with Pastor David Rogula. Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM until the time of the service. Burial will be in the Ebenezer Cemetery near Oregon.

In lieu of flowers memorials are established for Serenity Hospice and Home. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com)



# Wanda Lee Reynolds

WINNEBAGO — Works in Rockford. Wanda Lee Reynolds, 95, of Winnebago, IL gained her beautiful angel's wings, Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Serenity Hospice & Home in Oregon, IL peacefully with her beloved family by her side. Wanda

To know her was to love her. Wanda immediately lit up any room she entered. She was such a classy woman that touched so many lives. She loved her family and friends with all of her heart and filled her home with warmth and



kindness. Wanda had an incredible love for the Chicago Cubs and Bears. She hardly missed a Cubs game and was a die-hard fan! She was so blessed to see the Cubs win the World Series in 2016.

She truly enjoyed spending time at her cottage on Blueberry Lake in Couderay, WI. Wanda was a member of the Middle Creek Presbyterian Church near Winnebago and sang in the choir over 60 years. She enjoyed being an Elder, Mariner and attending Circle. Her hobbies included gardening, fishing, playing cards (she was the card shark), casinos, knitting, playing the piano, and

entertaining family and friends.

Wanda is survived by her children, Chuck (Jo Ann) Reynolds (Oregon), Sue Lancaster (Winnebago), Jan Fletcher (Winnebago), son-in-law, Denny Miller (Morrison); sister-in-law, Lynne Nelson (Rockford); grandchildren, Monica (Mike) Rasmussen, Harry Ray Miller, Jenny (Dale) Ralston, Angela (Damian) Acosta, Brian Lancaster, Chris Fletcher, Kelly Fletcher (Torrence Griffin); step-granddaughters; Denise (Larry) Schultz, Darla (Chris) Crescenzo; great-grandchildren, Mattie, Eric, Emily, Austin, Jalen, Kobe, Adrian, Kirah; great-great-grandchildren, Ezra, Silas, Luka; several nephews and nieces; and her special "Puppy Dog Max".

She was predeceased by husband, Harry "Butch" Reynolds; brother, Guy Nelson; daughter, Kathleen Miller; grandson, Derrick Miller; sons-in-law, Denny Fletcher, Ron Lancaster.

Funeral service 12:00 p.m., with a visitation starting at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 25, 2023, at the Middle Creek Presbyterian Church, 12473 Montague Rd., Winnebago with Pastor Willie Little officiating. Interment at Middle Creek Cemetery. In lieu of flowers a memorial will be established.

Arrangements by Genandt Funeral Home, 602 N. Elida St., Winnebago. For an online obituary and tributes go to [www.genandtfuneralhome.com](http://www.genandtfuneralhome.com).



Judith A. "Judy" Aurand, 82, passed away on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon IL with her son and daughter by her side after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. Born on June 13, 1940 in a tenant house in rural Ashton, IL, Judy was the sixth of seven children born to Samuel and Elma (Allsup) Cultra.

Judy attended a one-room Union country schoolhouse from first through fifth grade and then a "town" school, eventually graduating from Ashton High School in 1957 at the age of 16 with 28 in her graduating class. She was a hard worker and started at age 10 by picking asparagus, de-tasseling corn, and doing line work for Del Monte in Rochelle. In high school Judy car-hopped with her best friend, Shirley Engelkes Frahm. They double dated, partied and had a lot of good, wholesome "1950's" fun with a friendship that has stood the test of time and many cocktail hours.

While at a square dance in Chana with Shirley in 1957, Judy met John A. DeVries. They were married on January 22, 1958, and her life as a farm wife began. She worked hard farming over 1500 acres and raising 300 angus beef cows. Their marriage produced four children that became her world. In the late 1960's they established DeVries Grain and Fertilizer in Byron, IL.

After a divorce in 1985, Judy happily left the farm and worked for McGregor's Subscription and then Progressive Graphics in Oregon as an office manager. Later, Judy became a Realtor for Century 21 and then co-founded Blackhawk Realty in the late 1980's.

On August 20, 1993, Judy remarried to LaMonte "Butch" Aurand in Las Vegas, NV. Butch operated heavy machinery and also attained his real estate license, so they could work as a team.

In 2003 Judy started REMAX of Rock Valley in Oregon with her daughter, Carla Benesh. Judy won countless awards throughout her real estate career. She was

a member of the Rockford Area Realtors Association, the National Association of Realtors and the Mt. Morris Moose Lodge.

Judy was also very active in her children's lives which included traveling across the country attending Arabian horse shows and taking flying lessons. A proud lifetime member of the NRA, she believed in the right to bear arms and did. After retirement Judy enjoyed swimming, traveling, target shooting, lobster and cocktails. She adored Elvis. Judy was very patriotic and a "regular" at the Oregon VFW. She even made her famous potato salad for many VFW luncheons.

Judy is predeceased by her husband, parents, daughter Amy Luepkes, infant daughter Catherine Lynn DeVries, sister Ella Marie Miller, and two brothers Bill and Don Cultra.

Judy is survived by her children John (Cathy) DeVries of Madison, Mississippi and Carla (Tony) Benesh of Oregon, IL.; three sisters: Carol Link of Ottawa, IL.; Mary Ellen Merritt of Towanda, IL.; and Karen (Ed) Arensdorf of West Branch, Iowa; five grandsons: Bryan (Erica) DeVries; Brett (Jennifer) DeVries; Blake Benesh; David (Kimberly) Luepkes; and Austin (Anna) Luepkes; eight great-grandchildren: Caroline, Harper, Carson, Hudson, Graham, Ember, Emerson, and Autumn; and several nieces and nephews. She was also extremely close to her cousin, Charlotte Westcott.

Funeral services will be held 10:30 AM, Monday, March 27, 2023 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th Street Oregon, IL with the Rev. Michael Hoffman, pastor of the Oregon Church of God officiating. Visitation will be held Sunday at the funeral home from 4-6 PM. Burial will follow the funeral service at the Byron Cemetery. A memorial fund is established in Judy's name for the Serenity Hospice and Home Monarch Butterfly Release.

Visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com) to leave a condolence or memory of Judy.

# Harold E. 'Harry' Unzicker

OREGON—Harold E. "Harry" Unzicker, age 74 died Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at his home in Oregon. He was born July 14, 1948 in Freeport, IL the son of Paul and Jean (Schreiner) Unzicker.

He graduated from Rockford East High School in June of 1966, attended North Park College from 1966-1967 then attended Rock Valley College from 1967 – 1968. Harry enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Oct. 1, 1968 and served 13 months in the Republic of Vietnam from 1969 – 1971. He was Honorably discharged on Sept. 1, 1972. He once again attended Rock Valley College from 1972 – 1973 before transferring to Eastern Illinois University where he graduated with a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education in 1975.

Harry married Dianna M. Mokros on August 9, 1985 in Oregon, IL. She preceded him Feb. 17, 2019.

Harry taught at Bellvue Grade School from 1975 – 1977, Medinah Middle School from 1977-1979, and Roosevelt Jr. High School from 1979-1981. He managed Long John Silvers restaurant from 1981-1983. He became Co-owner for the Silo Supper Club in Oregon, IL from 1983-1988. Harry also worked for Century 21, Northwinds Real Estate, Sears Corporate

office, Co-owned Game Day Apparel, Owned Dynamic Apparel and Design, and Managed the Oregon VFW Post 8739 in Oregon. He was a member of the Rochelle VFW Post 3878.

He was predeceased by his parents and wife Dianna. He is survived by his brother Kevin Unzicker of Oregon, Sister Sandra (Bob) Czarnowski of Rockford, IL, cousin Renold Smith of Durham, N.C. brother-in-laws Greg (Melody) Mokros of Freeport, Lyle (Kristine) Mokros of Plattville, WI, and Albert (Ann) Mokros of Lena, IL, nephew Cody Unzicker of Mt. Morris, IL and many nieces and nephews, and Tracy Jacobs who was a very special friend and neighbor of Dianna and Harry.

Funeral service will be held 10:00 am, Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th Street in Oregon, IL with the Pastor Dave Rogula officiating. Visitation will be Monday evening at the funeral home from 5-7 pm. Burial will be at the Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport, IL.

A memorial fund is established for the Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon, IL. Please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com) to leave a condolence or memory of Harry.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Stockton named February Student of the Month at Polo High

Senior plans to attend plan Coe College after high school

**POLO** — Polo Community High School senior Kamryn Stockton was recently named the school's February Student of the Month. She received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts.

Stockton is the daughter of Nicole Sofolo and Troy Stockton. She participates in golf, cross country, track, Student Council, Spanish Club, FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America), FFA, Drama Club and National Honor Society.

After high school, she plans to attend Coe College and double major in pre-law and social and criminal justice. She hopes to become a prosecuting attorney and, eventually, a judge. She'll be continuing her golf career and playing for the women's golf team at Coe College.

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

What does it take to be a successful high school student?

-Study hard, but also have fun! High school can take a lot of hard work and effort, depending on your class load. Motivation may be lacking at times (I know from experience) but you just have to push through and get done what needs to get done. It is worth it in the end, trust me.

What is your life's philosophy?

-"Be the reason someone smiles today."



What class do you find really engaging and why?

-I find Food and Culture really engaging. It is taught by Mrs. Carrie Grobe and it is such an interesting class! We talk about different countries from around the world and what their culinary culture is like. It is very interesting to see what other countries' diets are like compared to the United States. We make traditional dishes from the countries throughout the unit and it is so fun!

What are your two favorite extracurricular, volunteer or community activities you participate in?

-My first favorite activity is golf. I just love the game, and I have worked hard to become good at it. It is fun, yet frustrating at the same time. You also meet so many new people and you create friendships that last a long time. Golf has taught me many things over the four years I have played. It has taught me to never give up, even if you feel like everything is against you, and to always

keep a positive attitude because if you don't, things could go bad really quickly. My other favorite activity is competitive dance. Dance has taught me a numerous amount of things. It has taught me teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and how to be a positive role model.

Please share a moment, group event or activity at school that was meaningful or memorable.

-The most meaningful/memorable moment in my high school years was when the girls cross country team qualified for sectionals for the first time in Polo history. It was the best race I had run all year long. I remember our coach, Tony Hardin, being so excited for us. It was such an amazing experience!

What is your hope for the future?

-My hope is that everyone lives a, what they consider, meaningful life. My hope is that everyone will be happy with the life they choose and live their lives to the fullest!



### Oregon Rotary hears presentation, donates to Pegasus Special Riders

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, the Oregon Rotary was pleased to welcome Rosemary Muldowney and David Diveley from Pegasus Special Riders. They provided an informative presentation on the services Pegasus offers, and they showed pictures of the unfortunate storm damage that impacted the program. Rotary understands the importance of the service that Pegasus provides and Rotarian Chris Madden was pleased to a donation on behalf of the club to help continue their work.

## Stillman Valley Lions Club to host spaghetti dinner April 27

**STILLMAN VALLEY** — The Stillman Valley Lions Club and Leo Club will host a spaghetti dinner on April 27 from 4-7 p.m. at Fritz Wooden Nickel Restaurant at 208 N. Walnut St. in Stillman Valley.

The meal will include spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert and milk and or

coffee with additional drinks available ala-carte.

The cost for adults is \$12 (\$10 in advance), children 5-12 cost \$8 and children under five are free.

Carryouts are available. Proceeds will fund local Lions Club charitable activities.

## Mt. Morris Senior Center announces trip to West Virginia

*Trip set for June 19 through 23*

**MT. MORRIS** — This five-day, four-night trip will take place from Monday, June 19 through Friday June 23.

Double occupancy is \$900 per person and single occupancy is \$1,199.

Package includes the following plus much more for your enjoyment: four nights lodging, four Breakfasts, one lunch, two dinners, Cass Scenic Railroad, Smoke Hole Caverns, Blackwater Falls State Park, Tour of Cleveland, Creation Museum and taxes & meal gratuities.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up prior to the meetings please call Barb Burke at 815-238-8645, or contact the Mt. Morris Senior Center at 815-734-6335



### Byron High School February Students of the Month named

Byron High School Students of the Month were recently named for February. Pictured from left to right are: BHS Assistant Principal Andrew Donaldson, Alex Booker (ninth grade), Audrey Markham (10th grade), Abbie Baker (11th grade), Ava Kultgen (12th grade) and Stillman Bank Executive Vice President & COO David Mecklenburg. Each of the students received a monetary gift for their achievement.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Carl Cole and Crossroads Blues Society visit Byron Middle School

**BYRON** — Crossroads Blues Society brought the talented “Mr. C” Carl Cole to Byron Middle School for three great Blues In The Schools sessions on Friday, Feb. 24. Three class periods, one each for seventh, eighth and then sixth grade students, were spent learning about Blues music and participating in fun, character-developmental music sessions.

Crossroads President Steve Jones introduced each of the three programs with a short history of the Blues and how the Blues evolved into all the different forms of American popular music we have loved over the years. Then it was Mr.

C’s turn. He played and sang songs that delivered positive messages that allowed the kids to sing and dance along. The songs not only gave them an appreciation of the Blues but also an appreciation of being positive and working together.

Carl champions the Young Eagles Success (YES) Club, an effort with Rockford and Freeport students to build self-esteem, promote citizenship and working together. Crossroads has conducted Blues In The Schools programs since 2002 to teach students about the Blues and has now done over 800 programs for more than 104,000 students. The sessions were part of cel-

ebrating Black History Month for both Carl Cole and Crossroads Blues Society. These Crossroads BITS programs are provided to schools free of charge. Both Carl and Crossroads have websites you can find with a quick search on your web browser on your computer or telephone.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

**OREGON** — On March 14 at approximately 1:20 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 251 and Dutch Road. After an investigation, deputies cited Terry Rosenbaum for no valid driver's license. Rosenbaum was given an I-bond for his citation and given a future court date.

On March 14 at approximately 7:41 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 at mile marker 105. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Troy L. Neal, 34, of Rockford, for driving while his license was revoked. Neal was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond. Neal was additionally given a written warning for an inoperable registration light.

On March 14 at approximately 12:28 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 14,000 block of West Illinois Route 72. After investigation, deputies placed Wesley Short, 28, of Forreaston, under arrest for driving while license suspended, possession of cannabis over 30 grams to 100 grams and improper container of cannabis/driver. Short was additionally issued citations for operating an uninsured vehicle and illegal window tint. Short was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On March 15 at approximately 12:44 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 9,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After brief investigation, deputies arrested Jose Valdivia-Sotelo, 21, of Spencer, Iowa, for no valid driver's license. Valdivia-Sotelo was issued additional citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and an equipment violation. Valdivia-Sotelo was given an I-Bond with a return court date later next month and released on scene.

On March 15 at 5:53 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 251 and Illinois Route 64. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Fidel Navarro-Labato of Rochelle for driving without a license. Navarro-Labato was released on a \$2,500 individual bond. Navarro-Labato was also issued citations for speeding and improper lane usage.

On March 15 at approximately 6:32 a.m. deputies and Oregon EMS responded to the 6,000 block of East Illinois Route 64 for a reported single-vehicle accident. During the investigation, deputies discovered that an eastbound vehicle, operated by Heather L. Schiller, 29, of DeKalb, struck a deer in the roadway. Schiller was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital for minor injuries. No citations were issued.

On March 15 at 9:32 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. As a result, Ashley A Martinez, 28, of Oregon was arrested on an Ogle County warrant for driving under the influence. Martinez was additionally charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and issued a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Martinez was transported to the Ogle County Jail in lieu of bond.

On March 15 at approximately 7:12 p.m. deputies

initiated a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of South Lowell Park Road. After further investigation Steven D Baldwin, 60, of Dixon, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Baldwin was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond. Baldwin was also cited for illegal transportation of alcohol and speeding.

On March 15 at 1:45 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Junction Way and Illinois Route 72. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Matthew Hart of Chana, for driving without a valid license. Hart was released on a \$2,500 individual bond with a return court date. Hart was also issued citations for disregard stop sign and operate uninsured vehicle.

On March 16 at 10:26 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the Shell Gas Station in Grand Detour (8120 South Illinois Route 2) for a suspicious vehicle. After an investigation, Brice Reynoldson, 44, of Regina, Saskatchewan was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Reynoldson was also issued a citation for open alcohol container/driver. Reynoldson was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On March 17 at approximately 2:38 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of East Illinois Route 64 and Rocky Hollow Road. Upon further investigation deputies arrested Anthony Walsh, 28, of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended and unlawful possession of cannabis. Walsh was released on an individual Bbond with a future court date given.

On March 17 at approximately 10:47 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of North Illinois Route 251 and Dutch Road. Upon further investigation deputies arrested Manda Katuta, 35, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license. Katuta was released on an individual bond with a future court date given.

On March 17 at approximately 8:46 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 106. After brief investigation, deputies arrested Edward Brown Sr., 53, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license. Brown was issued an additional citation for illegal window tint. Brown was given an I-Bond with a return court date later next month and released on scene.

On March 18 at approximately 2:54 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Willow Road. After investigation deputies placed Katlyn Quandee, 28, of Dubuque, Iowa, under arrest for an active failure to appear Jo Daviess County warrant and no valid driver's license. Quandee was additionally issued a citation for speeding. Quandee was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

On March 18 at 6:04 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Merchant and Union Street in Byron. After an investigation, deputies cited William Muraski, 73, of Byron for no valid license and expired registration. Muraski was released on an I-Bond and given a

future court date.

On March 18 at approximately 12:05 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 17,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After brief investigation, deputies arrested Anthony Christmas, 27, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended. Christmas was issued additional citations for disobeying a stop sign and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Christmas was given an I-Bond with a return court date later next month and released on scene.

On March 18 at approximately 3:52 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of East Illinois Route 38 and South Caron Road in Rochelle. After brief investigation, deputies arrested Beth Phanenbecker, 46, of Malta, for no valid driver's license. Phanenbecker was issued additional citations for suspended registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Phanenbecker was given an I-Bond with a return court date later next month and released on scene.

On March 19 at approximately 6:58 p.m. deputies responded to the 700 block of Central Street in Woosung for the report of a domestic disturbance. After investigation, it was learned that the alleged offender, Brian W. Hackbarth, 57, of Woosung, had left the scene prior to police arrival. Hackbarth was located near the intersection of Galena Avenue and Bloody Gulch Road in Dixon where he was taken into custody for domestic battery. Hackbarth was transported to the Ogle County Jail with no bond and waits for an appearance before a Judge. Ogle County deputies were assisted by the Lee County Sheriff's Office and Dixon Police Department.

On March 19 at approximately 2:12 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 38 and Dement Road. After investigation, deputies cited Tyler House, 27, of Chillicothe for driving while license suspended, no insurance and suspended registration. House was given an I-bond for his citations and released from the scene.

On March 19 at approximately 1:08 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 111. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Jose Romero-Ruiz, 32, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for driving while his license was suspended. Romero-Ruiz was released on an I-Bond with a return court date later next month and released on scene.

On March 20 at 11:44 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of East Illinois Route 72. As a result, Brian S. Galor, 31, of Rockford, was arrested on a Lee County warrant, possession of methamphetamine and possession of a controlled substance. The driver, Danielle M. McKellips, 35, of Rockford, was cited for speeding and released at the scene. Galor was transported to the Ogle County Jail pending an appearance before a judge.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### April 2

Disciples United Methodist Church in Mt. Morris is hosting a Potato Bar on Sunday, April 2 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No registration is needed. Donations will be accepted. Proceeds will be used toward the missions of the church. The church is located at 102 Maple Ave., Mt. Morris. Call 815-734-4853 with any questions.

### April 3

The Leaf River United Methodist Church is hosting a Community Blood Drive on Monday, April 3. Staff from the Rock River Valley Blood Center will draw blood between noon and 5 p.m. Why do people give

blood? Because they like to help others, and because giving feels amazing. In busy, complicated times, giving blood is an easy, meaningful way to make a difference. In fact, this simple give can enhance the lives of up to three people. Giving blood only takes about one relaxing hour, and we - and your body - do all of the work. Remember, blood is a gift - straight from the heart. Your heart. Please share it today!

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

Join us in sharing the Gift of Life. For more information or to schedule an appointment, you can find the Leaf River United Methodist Church on

Facebook or contact Cheryl at cheryl\_newcomer@yahoo.com, or the Rock River Valley Blood Center at 815/965-8751, toll free at 877-RRVBC-99 or on the web at www.rrvbc.org. Thank you!

### April 30

Due to popular request, Disciples United Methodist Church in Mt. Morris has added a fifth Potato Bar to its schedule on Sunday, April 30 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. No registration is needed. Donations will be accepted. Proceeds will be used toward the missions of the church. The church is located at 102 Maple Ave., Mt. Morris. Call 815-734-4853 with any questions.

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# VIEWPOINT

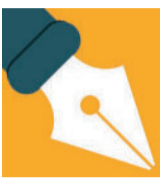
"Congress shall make no law. . ."

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Mike Feltes, General Manager  
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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## Tries to clarify Oregon Park Board investigation statement

Dear editor,  
As many are aware by now the Oregon Park District has released their second statement about complaints and allegations regarding the workplace environment at the park district. If this seems confusing, I will try to provide some clarification from my point of view. As I wish to be transparent, during the fall of 2021 complaints were made by my daughter. She was not the first nor the last former employee to raise similar concerns. However, without a doubt, she has been the most persistent. Complaints that were voiced dealt with a hostile workplace environment, workplace harassment, nepotism, possible misuse of public funds and favoritism among others.



report did not make a final determination or decision, but rather was created by the park district's legal counsel as part of the park district's deliberative processes regarding an investigation involving park district personnel." Therefore, we can conclude that the investigation into the workplace conditions was ongoing regardless of the statement read by the then president which informed the public otherwise.

Fast forward to the March 2023 board meeting which was the last meeting prior to the election on April 4, 2023. There are three openings on the board. Two current board members are not running for reelection. There is a possibility that there could be three new members post-election. At the March 2023 meeting, following executive session, the current president also read a statement that "Our investigator has concluded that no further investigation is required at this time." For the second time, this statement informs the public the issues with management have been addressed, policy changes have been made and the investigation has concluded. Here is the problem, now the board is making a similar statement through the current president without a clear agenda item and without a formal reading of the issue at hand to adequately inform the public before voting. The OMA clearly states: "Final action (voting) must occur in open session. No final action may be taken at a closed meeting. Final action must be preceded by a public recital of the nature of the matter being considered and other information that will inform the public of the business being conducted." (5ILCS 120/2e).

I would highly encourage all Oregon Park District voters to vote in the upcoming election and let this information be a part of your consideration in that regard.

**Glenn (Gus) Himert**  
Oregon

## Progress and the sacrifices we make for it

IMAGINE, if you can, this scene from about 50 years ago. You pull into a gas station, where you're greeted at the pump by an attendant who fills your tank, washes your windshield — even checks your oil, coolant and tires if you wish. You pay him and drive away, all without leaving the comfort of your car.

We can only dream of that kind of service today, as we stand in the cold and rain at a so-called convenience store, and watch the gallons and dollars roll by on the pump. It's a sacrifice we make in the name of progress. We can add it to a list of modern inconvenient conveniences, one that also includes self-service checkout in stores and airline travel in general.

All of them are here to stay, and will become more entrenched with the passage of time. New ways of doing things don't necessarily take over because they're better, but instead simply because they have to. We can see it by going back in time, 10,000 years ago, when people began to abandon their hunting and gathering ways and took up farming.

The so-called agricultural revolution was far from the unmixed blessing we might imagine. Jared Diamond, in his book, "Guns, Germs, and Steel," reports that early farmers suffered from more diseases and physical ailments, ate less well and had shorter life spans than their hunter-gatherer ancestors. Agriculture, with its more organized and layered society, also gave rise to social inequalities and conflicts that hadn't existed before.

It nevertheless won out because it produced more food per unit of land than nature could provide — at the price of a more narrow and less nutritious diet. Farmers and herders were therefore able to have more — although less healthy — children, who in turn needed ever more land in order to be fed. And so it went, on and on.

Yuval Hariri, in his book, "Sapiens," puts it this way: "This is the essence of the agricultural revolution: the ability to keep more people alive under worse conditions." Wheat and other domesticated plants and animals thrived in this system by enticing humans to work and suffer in order to care for them.

"We did not domesticate wheat," says Mr. Hariri. "It domesticated us."

Once it started, there was no going back without starving. Hunters and gatherers couldn't compete against the overwhelming numbers of farmers, and gradually joined, retreated from, or were killed off by them. Humans as individuals suffered, but humanity as a whole multiplied and spread throughout the planet, and became its dominant species.

We, like our farming ancestors, believe we're making decisions in pursuit of a better life. In fact, we too are driven by forces that we don't control and only vaguely understand. Progress serves its own needs first, and only incidentally benefits individual people.

Self-service, a triumph of efficiency over convenience, is one example. So are the so-called time-saving devices that we work so long and hard to own, but that merely speed up the pace of our lives instead of expanding our leisure time. "One of history's few iron laws," says Mr. Hariri, "is that luxuries tend to become necessities and spawn new obligations."

Ten thousand years after the agricultural revolution, we seem less happy than hunter-gatherers. They live in the present, and their few wants are easily fulfilled. We strive to have ever more, always looking to the future, and are never satisfied.

We mustn't forget the blessings that agriculture eventually brought to humankind, at least in the advanced economies of the world. The same is true of today's competitive economic system. There's no going back for us, at any rate, any more than there was for early farmers.

What we can do is keep a grip on what's truly valuable in these changes, and to refuse to be lured into striving for the rest. It's critical to distinguish between wants, which tend to be many, and needs, which, when we look closely, are few. We're in control of our lives, and our destiny, to the degree that we do.

*Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who served school districts in Ogle County. His column runs monthly in The Ogle County Life. For previous articles, you can follow him on Facebook at <http://fb.me/lowellharp>.*



**Lowell Harp**

## The push to redesign Illinois' state flag

ILLINOIS has the ugliest flag in the union and state Sen. Doris Turner wants to do something about it.

The lawmaker from Springfield has introduced legislation to create a commission to develop new flag designs for the General Assembly to consider by Sept. 1.

"After more than 100 years of the same design, I think it's time to rework it," Turner said in a prepared statement. "I'd like to see us take a community approach to create a new design for Illinois' official state flag."

Back in 1915, the various Illinois chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution had a contest to design the state flag. The Rockford chapter won with a rather drab imprint of the state seal on a white background.

For their effort, the state awarded the chapter \$25.

Illinois paid too much. That streamer is boring. Really boring.

But, hey, how much creativity do you expect from a group of all-white women who could trace their ancestry back to the American Revolution?

Not only is it a dull design, it's an origin story that would make anyone yawn.

Just compare it to Alaska's. Back in 1927 the Alaska territory did not have a flag and the governor thought creating one would help pave the way for statehood. So, he launched a contest among the state's school children.

Benny Benson, a 13-year-old Aleut boy living in an orphanage in Seward, drew a flag that is perhaps the nation's most beautiful.

The banner's dark blue color symbolizes the Alaskan sky and the forget-me-not flowers found across

its wilderness. The stars emblazoned on this background can be seen in Alaska's pristine sky. And the North Star is an appropriate symbol for the northernmost part of the United States.

When Benny won the contest, lawmakers awarded him a watch and a \$1,000 scholarship to study diesel mechanics. It's doubtful any of the ladies who designed Illinois' emblem ended up crawling under an engine block.

Complaints about the Illinois flag are nothing new. In 1969, Navy Chief Petty Officer Bruce McDaniel of Waverly, then serving in Viet-

nam, wrote a letter home complaining about the Illinois flag. It was one of many state flags which hung in his mess hall but its identity was always questioned, so McDaniel requested that the flag carry the state's name.

In response the word "Illinois" was added to an already homely banner. Talk about putting lipstick on a pig.

When I was reporter in Galveston, Texas, I received a phone call from a woman angry about a photo we ran on the front page of the Lone Star flag being raised over the city after a hurricane.

"Do you see what's wrong with that photo?" she hollered.

"Um, no ma'am."

"The flag is going up the pole upside down. How could you run such an image?"

"Well, we were just reporting the news, not giving instructions on proper flag display."

I can't imagine that visceral reaction from an Illinoisan seeing their state emblem improperly exhibited. (Texas school children actually pledge allegiance daily to the state flag.)



**Scott Reeder**

## 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.

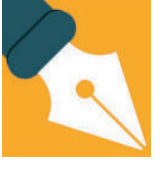
Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. Writers are urged to use discretion and refrain from sarcasm or personal attacks.

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.

## Thoughts on Polo School Board race

Dear editor,  
What does it mean to have an axe to grind? According to Cambridge University Press and Assessment, it means "to have a strong personal opinion about something that you want people to accept and that is the reason why you

do something." That somewhat ungrammatical definition may explain why someone runs for a local office. They are said to have an axe to grind. I have discovered recently that two of the six candidates running for school



board in Polo home school their children. People who home school their children have no business making decisions for our school district. They do not support our schools. It seems to me that people who do this have an axe to grind. Local elections are important. Please pay

attention to them and vote in the April 4 Consolidated Election. Your child's future education may depend on it.

I will be voting for Jennifer L. Grobe, Deanna Mumford, Richard Knutson and Suzanne Hall Stout.

**Muriel Messer**  
Polo



# LOCAL NEWS



### Ogle County Bar Association donates to OCEC life skills program

On Friday, March 17, the Ogle County Bar Association donated \$400 in funds to the Ogle County Education Cooperative Life Skills Program. The funds will be used to directly purchase self-care kits for students in need. We thank the Ogle County Bar Association for your philanthropy. Pictured left to right: Mrs. Courtney Arnquist, OCEC nurse supervisor; Mr. Eric Arnquist, Ogle County Bar Association member and Mr. Russell Crull, Ogle County Bar Association president.



### Oregon Lions donate \$2,500 to VFW

The Oregon Lions Club recently made a donation to the VFW in Oregon. A donation of \$2,500 was accepted by Bob Coulter from the VFW. The Oregon Lions Club recognizes the importance of supporting an organization that offers services, not only to its members, but also to the Oregon community at large and want to thank all the members of the VFW in Oregon who volunteer their time and talents to the operation of this facility. Six United States veterans helped to present a check for \$2,500 to Coulter. From left to right: Lion Jerry Hinrichs, Lion Jim Hoff, Coulter, Lion Ed Smola, Lion Duane Moser and Lion Chuck McCourt.

The Oregon Park District Board would like to recognize Oregon Park District staff's considerable achievements over the past 18 months. Park District's Management and Staff remained fully engaged and committed to the Park District's mission – delivering the highest quality of park and recreational services and facilities to our residents.

#### November 2021

- Expanded our partnership with the Village of Progress to provide inclusive recreation opportunities to their adult consumers. Programming now includes swimming once per week and a specialized sport once per week.

#### January 2022

- District concluded the fiscal year with \$2,112,382 in fund balance reserves. End of year fund balance was \$232,857 higher than budgeted.
- Reduction in recreation fund expenses combined with increased recreation fund revenues resulted in an increase in recreation fund balance of \$141,027.
- All funds met their annual fund balance goals with the exception of the paving and lighting fund in which the funds were used to complete paving improvements at Park West.
- Membership revenue was \$46,216 greater than budgeted.
- The district completed \$986,891 in capital improvement projects during fiscal year 2021.
- The district improved the monthly board reporting to include a visual dashboard that displays the district financial and usage status.
- Implemented a new website calendar to visually display all district program offerings.

#### March 2022

- Wipfli presented the districts 2021 audit. All financial statements presented fairly and in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. The district's net position increased by \$192,012 from the prior year.
- Completed the Extended Time classroom transition from Blackhawk Center to the elementary school. The transition provides improved program access for participants, expanded play space and increased safety measures.

#### May 2022

- Completed ADA improvements identified in the capital improvement plan and ADA audit at Park West and Lions Park.
- Revamped and approved Park Use Ordinances.

#### June 2022

- Installed a mini-pitch at Park West. This is only the 2nd location in the state of Illinois.

#### July 2022

- Swim lesson participation hit an all time high at 172 registered participants for the month.

#### August 2022

- Installed two new pickleball courts at Mix Park.

#### September 2022

- Completed a Board Self Evaluation led by Peter Murphy, IAPD.
- Two full-time employees attended the NRPA conference.

#### October 2022

- District received the Robert Stouffer Special Recognition Award at the Village of Progress Annual Dinner.

#### November 2022

- District full-time staff completed two training courses. The Totally Responsible Person/Organization and the 5 Behaviors of a Cohesive Team. Both with HR Source.

- District secured \$4,750 in athletic sponsorship funds to assist in controlling program expenses and maintaining program fees to provide reasonably priced athletic programs.
- The District received a playground grant in the amount of \$43,726.

#### December 2022

- District concluded the fiscal year with \$2,079,975 in fund balance reserves. The end of year fund balance was \$124,067 higher than budgeted.
- District's partnership with Oregon High School athletics to provide athletic camps for youth participants continued to be successful and the district utilized the net proceeds and donated \$10,908 to OHS athletics.

#### January 2023

- The District continued to achieve its annual fund balance goals. The primary operation funds, the corporate fund and recreation fund, both exceeded their fund balance goals as well as their budgeted year ending fund balances.
- The district conservatively budgeted for a rebound in facility usage and program participation for the 2022 fiscal year. Both facility usage and program participation exceeded expectations. Primary pass revenue and general recreations exceeded their budgets by \$105,265.
- Overall activity fees revenue increased 23% in 2022.
- Program participation hit an all time high in 2022 with 13,555 program participants. This was 9% higher than 2021.
- The district completed \$1,064,758 in capital improvement projects during fiscal year 2022.
- The district continues to contribute to the Long-Term Capital Replacement Fund created in 2019. The district contributes approximately 5% of annual capital expense/year. The estimated FY 23-year end balance is \$357,570.
- Athletic Coordinator passed the CPRP exam. Three employees are now classified as CPRP, one employee is a CPRE, and one employee is a CPSI. 38% of the staff is now certified by the National Recreation and Park Association.
- Nine full-time employees attended the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference. Staff attended 61 hours of continuing education over the course of 3 days.
- IPRA Exceptional Workplace Award Winner
- Aquatic facility users exceeded 10,000 participants for the month of January. The single highest monthly total in District history.

#### February 2023

- Approved contract for an updated Values Based Strategic Plan
- Received a \$1500 grant from Ogle Natural Alliance for outdoor education programs.

#### March 2023

- Two full-time employees attended the Great Lakes Training Institute



# LOCAL NEWS



**Oregon Park District board recognizes Hagemann family**

The Oregon Park District Board of Commissioners recognized the Hagemann Family with the Friend of the Park award on March 14. The Hagemann Family has allowed the district to create partnerships with Merlin's Greenhouse, Hagemann Horticulture, Cork-N-Tap and River's Edge Experience to expand participation in adult programming by 243 percent since 2018. The Oregon Park District thanks the Hagemann Family for their commitment to improving program opportunities and willingness to support community initiatives. The award was presented by Mark Tremble, board president. Pictured: Tremble, Merlin Hagemann, Tyler Hagemann, Melissa Stacy and Jason O'Neil.

## Polo PD releases calls for service

**POLO** — The Polo Police Department recently released its general calls for service for the weeks of March 6-19. Citizen complaints: 23, animal complaints: five, disturbance/domestic: one, fire/medical assist: two, alarm/open door: two, lock out: three, 911 hang up: two, traffic stops: three and county assists: two.

## County to run plastic bag and film recycling program

**OREGON** — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) is happy to announce that the department will be running a trial program for plastic bag and plastic film recycling for the residents of Ogle County.

The abundance of plastic bags is a major environmental issue and many county residents have issues with access to a recycling program that accepts these items. The OCSWMD understands this and wants to help keep as much plastic as we can out of landfills and the environment, and provide a means to recycle these materials.

This program will start on March 6 and continue until Wednesday, Sept. 6. Items accepted include empty, clean and dry grocery bags, bread bags, cereal bags, plastic shipping envelopes and wrap, case overwrap, bubble wrap, salt bags, Ziploc bags and clean, dry produce bags. Residents can drop off their plastic bags any time for recycling at the County Annex Building located at 909 Pines Road in Oregon (blue recycling bin by entrance) or at the Old Courthouse first floor lobby during business hours. Plastic bags will also be accepted at all other recycling events hosted by the OCSWMD throughout the above listed time period.

While recycling these plastic bags is beneficial and important, the OCSWMD reminds residents that waste reduction must come before recycling. The OCSWMD encourages residents to avoid excess packaging and seek out reusable options for packaging whenever possible.

For a list of accepted bags or if you have questions about recycling in Ogle County call the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020, email [solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov](mailto:solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov), visit the county website at [www.oglecountyil.gov](http://www.oglecountyil.gov), or go to Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept. on Facebook.

# Oregon American Legion Post seeking Ogle County veterans

**OREGON** — Your brothers and sisters of Oregon Post #97 American Legion take this opportunity to thank you for your service to our great nation.

Each and every one of us stood ready to do whatever was asked of us to defend our nation and families without a second thought.

Without a doubt we would do it again if the need arose and that attitude is what makes our nation so strong.

We all have much in common no matter what branch we served in.

Here at Post 97 we all stand ready and eager to welcome you into our fold.

We meet at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Oregon VFW Post #8739.

Please come and fill out an application form and join us for some great fellowship and camaraderie.

# HAM GIVEAWAY

## WIN A \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE TOWARDS YOUR EASTER HAM!

By simply dropping off your entry at these participating businesses. One winner per business.\*  
 Deadline for entry is Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at Noon.  
 Winners will appear in the April 3, 2023 Life. Winners' certificates will be mailed before Easter!

**Byron County Market**  
 Rt. 2 Byron, IL • 234-2311

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION

**First State Bank**  
 SHANNON • POLO • LAKE CARROLL

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION

**SUPERVALU**  
 204 N. 4th St. Oregon

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION

Your Independently owned community bank since 1882  
**Stillman BANK**

1445 IL Rt. 2 North Oregon, IL 608 W. Blackhawk Dr. Byron, IL 101 E. Main St. Stillman Valley, IL

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION

**Koeller Forrester Hardware**  
 Where Hometown Hardware Tradition Continues

104 E Main St. Forrester, IL 815-938-2240

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION

**Byron Bank**  
 Byron • Davis Junction • Poplar Grove  
 MEMBER FDIC

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION





# SVHS band director nominated as RSO Music Educator of the Year

**STILLMAN VALLEY** — Stillman Valley High School's Director of Bands, Mr. John C. Gelasi, has been nominated as Rockford Symphony Orchestra's Music Educator of the Year. Mr. Gelasi teaches Wind Symphony, Introduction to Guitar, and Pop Music History at the high school as well as junior high band and lessons.

"In 2016 the RSO created the Outstanding Music Educator Award to recognize an outstanding music educator in our community. Current, full-time educators in Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Rock Counties who teach music in public or private schools are eligible to be nominated.

Nominees embody the following qualities: Demonstrates passion for music education and is a leader in the music education com-

munity. Has a documented successful music education program and his/her school. Makes a measurable difference in the lives of their students

The Award Winners will be formally announced from the stage of the Coronado at the RSO's April 29 performance, with a reception to follow the concert.

Mr. Gelasi is in his second year of teaching at SVHS and Meridian Junior High.

"I am so proud to learn that Mr. Gelasi has been honored by the Rockford Symphony Orchestra as a nominee for Music Educator of the Year," SVHS Principal Leslie Showers said. "He is an outstanding teacher, who has elevated the quality of music produced by our talented students and breathed life into our instrumental music program."



**Leslie Showers**  
SVHS Principal

"I am so proud to learn that Mr. Gelasi has been honored by the Rockford Symphony Orchestra as a nominee for Music Educator of the Year. He is an outstanding teacher, who has elevated the quality of music produced by our talented students and breathed life into our instrumental music program."

**In Memory**

**Rest In Peace Judy Aurand**  
**1940-2023**

**Our Office's Founding Mother**  
**Gone, but never forgotten.**

**NEW LISTING**

**510 S 4th Street, Oregon**  
**\$155,000 Call Rebecca**

PICTURE PERFECT! 3 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom home that is magazine worthy! Tastefully decorated throughout, there is nothing to do but move right in! Open concept living space with eat in kitchen area and dining room. Kitchen boasts white cabinets, stainless steel appliances and large pantry area. Doors off of the kitchen open to your large 4 season porch lined with windows, providing loads of natural light! Cherry hardwood flooring and neutral paint colors throughout the main floor are sure to please. Large living room open to a bonus room currently serving as a playroom but could easily be converted into a home office or formal dining room. Upstairs there are 3 bedrooms and a large full bathroom. Lower level offers finished square footage for additional living or working space. Fully fenced backyard featuring stunning landscaping including: raised garden beds, hydrangeas, red bulb tree and a pollinator plot. All of this close to Parks, downtown and Schools.

**NEW LISTING**

**866 N. Ill Route 2, Oregon**  
**\$349,000 Call Rebecca**

3+ ACRES WITH ROCK RIVER FRONTAGE! Your property search stops here with this updated home featuring a 3 car attached garage and additional 24x60 heated garage offering parking for up to 6 vehicles! With 3,000 square feet of finished space, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and potential for 2 additional bedrooms in the lower level, this home has loads of living space! Main floor is spacious with soaring ceilings in the large living room. Kitchen has white cabinets, new stainless steel appliances along with an eat in area. There is also a stunning sunroom off of the kitchen where you can spend your days relaxing. Custom built home with custom features: double sided gas fireplace, built ins, central vac, many oversized windows with built in blinds, first floor laundry, exterior basement entrance and oversized master suite with en suite bathroom featuring a walk in closet and jacuzzi tub. There are two bedrooms on the main floor along with a full bathroom. The lower level has a large rec room and two bonus rooms that are finished and currently serving as a guest room and home office. Detached building has several garage doors and parking for 6 vehicles- making it a great space for your hobby's or toys. Tucked down a long drive, this home offers a great deal of privacy while also being close to town. Make an offer today, so you can dock at your property this summer!

**4933 N. Marrill Road, Byron**  
**\$429,900 Call Carla**

New Listing in highly rated Stillman School district! This sprawling ranch on acreage with full exposure offers over 2000 sq ft of main floor living with all appliances staying. Gorgeous Hickory kitchen cabinetry. You'll love the open floor plan with this split ranch design. Vaulted ceiling in the great room with fireplace. Large eat-in kitchen with sliders to the deck with views for miles and miles! The main floor master suite offers a Jacuzzi tub with separate walk in shower and huge walk in closet! There's a fully finished lower level with its own sauna, separate bedroom or office, and huge rec room area with another wood burning fireplace. The lower level also has a beautiful patio area. The separate stairway entrance from the garage to the lower level makes it easy for unloading to the basement! Plus newer windows and sliders throughout and the newer roof! 2 out buildings that are 54x36 and 36x24. The lower level flooring is plumbed for radiant heat. Conveniently located between Byron and Stillman area in a beautiful country location. All this and more with stores, restaurants and shopping only minutes away!

**2446 N. River Road, Oregon**  
**\$449,900 Call JD**

WOODED ACREAGE WITH RIVER ACCESS... charming 5 bedroom 2 bath cape cod with tons of great features & full of potential. This property is nestled on over 11 acres of land with a flag shaped parcel that approaches the very popular Rock River. The home itself features a perfect mix of class & functionality: A galley kitchen with oak cabinets, gas stove, & a brand new high-tech refrigerator; mud room with main floor laundry; dining & living rooms, each featuring hardwood floors and fireplaces respectively & a beautiful sun-room overlooking the brick paved patio. There are 3 bedrooms on the main floor, with one full bath, and an additional bath with 2 larger bedrooms upstairs. This home is complimented by a detached 3+ car garage that is partially heated & insulated, a 42x36 outbuilding with electrical service, whole home generator, and newer propane furnace & water heater. Make this home yours today before it is too late!

**4874 Antioch Drive, Rockford**  
**\$179,900 Call Taylor**

PRICED BELOW APPRAISAL!! Welcome to 4874 Antioch Dr, a beautifully maintained home located in a quiet neighborhood. This charming 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom ranch-style home boasts many features that are sure to impress. As you enter the home, you are greeted with a spacious living room that flows into the open-concept dining area and family room areas. The master bedroom features an en-suite full bathroom. Two additional bedrooms provide ample space for a growing family, home office, or guest room. A second full bathroom with a bathtub and shower combo completes the living space. The spacious backyard features a large deck perfect for summer barbecues, a newer above ground pool, and a fenced-in yard for privacy and security. The home also has a two-car attached garage and a partially finished basement that is awaiting your final touches. This home is conveniently located near shopping, dining, and entertainment options, as well as easy access to major highways for commuting. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make this beautiful home yours!

**000 N. River Road (10 Acres), Byron**  
**\$89,900 Call Jamie**

Do you love the outdoors? Here is your opportunity to own your own private recreational island! Hunting, Fishing, Camping, Boating, Kayaking, just to name a few things you can enjoy with this property! Perfectly nestled in the best location of the Rock River. Sandbar is just located across the river. 2 Public boat launches are within minutes away. Near Prairie View Golf Course and Downtown Byron. 5 minutes to Oregon. 20 minutes to Rockford. 90 minutes to Chicago.

**508 N. 6th Street, Oregon**  
**\$220,000 Call Lori**

Grand, family friendly home. Here is your opportunity to live in a neighborhood with many grand homes. This house on .60 acres is a mix of old world charm and huge modern family room. Features include 9 foot ceilings, 2 wood burning fireplaces, built in hutch and cabinetry, living room with historic tin ceiling, light fixtures from the original period. Outside you will have a beautiful lot, great views, wood deck, huge 3 season porch with vaulted ceiling. The garage is 28 x 48 feet plus a 6 foot overhang on the north side. The 2 overhead doors are 8.75' x 8.75', so bring your bigger vehicles. So many people looking for oversized garages!! Don't miss out on this gem.

**303 Cherry Avenue, Polo**  
**\$64,000 Call Mark**

Looking for a smaller home that is very AFFORDABLE? Take a look at this 2 bedroom, 1 full bath home in Polo! 1 bedroom and bath on the main floor and 1 bedroom upstairs. Possibility for a second bath in the basement where there is already an existing shower and sink. Living room/Dining room combo has hard wood floors and cabinets on one end for more storage. Furnace was new in 2017 and there is basement laundry hook up. Windows are 10 years old and detached 2 car garage has nice metal roofing. Whether you live here yourself or use as an INVESTMENT property, this could be the inexpensive home you've been looking for!

**Rebecca Hazzard**  
815-985-6235

**Carla Benesh**  
815-631-1699

**Mark True**  
815-973-2180

**Lori Peterson**  
815-677-1873

**JD Gieson**  
815-970-3506

**Boone Lockard**  
815-677-8656

**Carrie Rowland**  
815-440-2145

**Jenny Kirchner**  
815-994-1079

**Josie Kuss**  
815-994-1079

**606 E Washington St., Oregon, IL**  
**815-732-9100**

**Taylor Miller**  
815-751-8943

**Merri Cruz**  
815-988-7947

**Casey Cline**  
217-840-8855

**Jamie Pendergrass**  
815-243-4310

**Ashley Patterson**  
815-291-6308

**Erin Spence**  
815-262-5555

**Stephanie Wendt**  
815-985-2055

**Jenn Goley**  
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Jesus...*

**PALM SUNDAY - April 2**  
• 10 am Worship

**MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 6**  
• 7 pm Communion Service

**GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE - April 7**  
• 7pm @ Red Brick Church

**EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE - April 9**  
• 7 am Sunrise Service  
• 7:45 am Easter Breakfast  
• 10 am Gathered Worship

**St. Paul  
Lutheran Church**  
- Holy Week Services -

*Loving Christ, Sharing Christ,  
Trusting Christ*

**Maundy Thursday Service**  
April 6 - 5:30 PM

**Easter Sunday Service**  
April 9 - 8:30 AM

Join us for Easter Brunch after worship!

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**Maundy Thursday Worship - 7 pm 4/6**  
**Good Friday Worship - 7 pm 4/7**  
**Easter Vigil Saturday - 7 pm 4/8**  
**Easter Sunday - 9:30 am 4/9**

**ALL are Welcome!**




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AT VALLEY COVENANT**  
PALM SUNDAY | MAUNDY THURSDAY | GOOD FRIDAY | EASTER SUNDAY

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**PALM SUNDAY :** 9am - "Gather"  
April 2nd 10:15am - Worship Service

**GOOD FRIDAY :** 7pm - Community Worship Service  
April 7th at Red Brick Church

**EASTER SUNDAY :** 10:15am - Worship Service  
April 9th

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**PALM SUNDAY ~ APRIL 2**  
8:15am: Lectio Divina Meditative Service  
10:30am: Worship

**MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ APRIL 6**  
6:30pm: Soup Supper & Service with Communion

**EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 9**  
8:15am: Lectio Divina Meditative Service  
9:15am: Easter Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt For Kids  
10:30am: Worship

**All are welcome!**

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Palm Sunday (4/2) 10:00 am Service  
Maundy Thursday (4/6) 5:00 pm Service/Supper  
Easter Sunday (4/9) 10:00 am Service

**All Are Welcome!**

May the power of Easter resurrection life be the main story of our lives, because Easter is more than a feel-good day on the calendar. It has to do with the most powerful gift we have received in the world: The power of God coming through His son Jesus Christ. Through the Easter experience God can do amazing things in our lives.

From St. Bride's Episcopal Church we're bringing this Easter message hoping it will touch you with many blessings in the name of the One whose Resurrection we celebrate, Jesus Christ.

**Happy Easter!**

# SPORTS NEWS

## AREA SPORTS

### Oregon softball defeats Milledgeville

The Oregon varsity softball team opened its season on March 20 with a 12-10 victory over Milledgeville. Ava Hackman struck out 5 batters to help seal the victory for Oregon. Reilee Suter had a clutch 2 RBI double to help the Hawks storm back from a five-run deficit. Ella Dannhorn, Haleigh Burkhart, Imagin Terlikowski and Sarah Stevens all had hits for the Hawks.

### Hawks prevail over Indian Creek

On March 21, Oregon softball prevailed 12-10 over Indian Creek. Ella

Dannhorn led the Hawks softball team with two home runs. Reilee Suter and Gracen Pitts each homered to lead Oregon to the win. Emma Schlichtmann got the win in the pitchers circle for the 2-0 Hawks striking out six batters in four innings.

### Scores

#### Varsity softball

March 21: Marengo 9, Stillman Valley 2

#### Varsity baseball

March 21: Stillman Valley 14, Hinckley-Big Rock 4

March 22: Stillman Valley 3, Fulton 2

## OREGON PARK DISTRICT WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

### Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter egg hunt is returning to Oregon Park West Thursday April 6th at 5:00 PM. Children can hunt for easter eggs with other children their age, and egg hunt start times will be staggered by age group. Families can enjoy photos with the Easter Bunny and a spring themed storywalk before or after their egg hunt. Registrations are FREE, but required for all egg hunters, parents, grandparents, and older siblings are all welcome to attend. Deadline to register is March 29th.

### 5th and 6th Grade Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt

Looking for some Easter Fun, but too old for a traditional egg hunt? Join us in Oregon Park West Thursday April 6th at 8:00 PM for an after dark egg hunt. Bring your own flashlight and basket, and search for prizes before they are gone. Registrations are FREE, but required for all egg hunters. Deadline to register is March 29th.

### Perky Pelican Drop-In Event

Come out to Park East to watch American white pelicans and other migrating birds Saturday April 22, 8:00-10:00 AM. Enjoy birding from the wheelchair-accessible Park East observation deck with free coffee provided by Oregon Park District Staff. This program is a free, drop in event, no registration is needed. Free coffee while it lasts.

### 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. All vendors who register before April 15 receive a \$5 early-bird discount.

### 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. 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.

### 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.

### Easter Fun at Nash

Join us on April 5 in the River Room at Nash for some Easter fun. We will be

making sock bunnies and tie dying eggs to decorate your home for Easter. There will also be Easter cookies to decorate. The Easter Bunny will even be making a visit. This event is for kids aged 3 to 12. Registration Fee \$3/ \$4 NR. Deadline is March 27th

### 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 first is on April 12 to see Grumpy Old Men. This show is about two aging neighbors, Max, and John, who have been feuding for more than 50 years. Then beautiful Ariel moves in across the street and the rivalry goes to a whole new level. This trip for adults takes place on April 12 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 March 11. 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 April 23.

### 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.

### Spring Pickleball Tournament

Come and play in our Spring Pickleball Tournament on Tuesday March 28th. This tournament will be a doubles tournament. Teams can be made up of male, female, or co-ed. Players must sign up as a team. Nash does have a limited number of paddles that are available to play with.

Registration Deadline: 3/21/23  
Fee: \$25per team/ \$30NR  
Limited teams allowed..... don't wait to register!

### Womens 3v3 Basketball League

Womens Basketball League is back at the Oregon Park District! Games are played 3-on-3 on a half court at Nash. Teams will compete in a regular season followed by a tournament to conclude the season. This is a fun opportunity for all skill levels to play in a competitive atmosphere. The league will be self officiated and all players must be 18+ years old and graduated from High School. Number of teams is limited, so register early! Cost per team \$100. League is on Wednesday evenings from April 5th through May 10th. Deadline for participation is March 29th.

### Baseball and Softball 2023

Registration is open for all of our Baseball and Softball programs, featuring options for ages 3 years old through 14 years old. Whatever your skill and age level, we have a program that will help develop your skills and ensure that you will have a fun season! Coaches are needed for all levels, please email lesley@oregonpark.org if you are interested in coaching. Variety of age groups - Call 815-732-3101 or www.oregonpark.org to register.

# How enrollments have changed

AFTER a longer than usual enrollment adjustment period due to the pandemic, the IHSA recently rolled out new figures for the 2023-2025 school years. These are enrollments that will be used to classify where each school fits into a particular sport.

Sadly, Ohio is down to 30 kids in the entire high school. That it half of what they had in 1986 when they took second in the state in basketball and a third of the enrollment in the 1960s.

As the town slowly died, an effort was made 20-30 years ago to offer free land to anyone willing to build a house and hopefully bring a family in. But, towns all over the north-west part of the state are dwindling.

Here is a list of NUIC schools with enrollment from an old 1966 IHSA handbook I found and those of the 2023. It should be noted that enrollment actually peaked in the mid 1970s, with the surge of baby boomers in high school. (School, 1966, 2023, percentage change).

- AFC, 315, 144, -54.
- Amboy, 405, 203, -50.
- Dakota 250, 256, +2.
- Durand, 200, 179, -10).
- East Dubuque, 285, 200, -30).
- Forreston, 382, 239, -37).
- Freeport Aquin, 338, 81, -74).
- Fulton, 420, 286, -32.
- Galena, 370, 242, -34.
- Lanark, 340, 199, -41.
- Lena-Winslow, 350, 239, -32.
- Milledgeville, 276, 121, -56.
- Orangeville, 260, 102, -60.
- Pearl City, 181, 130, -28.
- Pecatonica, 230,

- 270, +17.
- Polo, 330, 178, -46.
- Scales Mound, 100, 80, -20.
- Stockton, 330, 161, -51.
- Warren, 320, 109, -66.
- West Carroll, 847, 269, -68.

To clarify, the 1966 enrollments include the total of other school districts that eventually fed into today's district, i.e. Thomson, Mt. Carroll and Savanna now making up West Carroll or Ashton and Franklin Center as AFC.

Other than a pocket between high-population centers of Freeport and Rockford, where Dakota, Durand and Pec are located, the rest of the area experienced drastic drops in enrollment.

Many factors attribute to this, such as a decline in jobs, inadequate transportation systems (think if how many decades Highway 20 expansion has been stalled), decline of family farms and shuttering of big industry, such as the Army Depot in Savanna.

Another huge difference are fewer children being born. Families of four, five or six kids which were commonly found in the 1960s and 70s are a rarity today.

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



Andy Colbert

The only exception is football, which is divides 256 qualifiers into eight classes. Otherwise, every school knows in advance which class it will be in.

For area schools, it's pretty much business as usual. However, the success factor is back in effect and some private schools that fed into smaller classes are now being bumped up, such as Elmhurst Immaculate Conception in football.

That impacts Byron, which gets a break from that enrollment-advantaged grid program. Winter and spring success factors for the privates will be announced later and will certainly help out public schools from a competitive balance.

Last week, mention was made about tiny schools like Ohio and Scales Mound in basketball and my curiosity got me to look up current enrollments and com-

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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](http://www.rockrivercenter.org) and like us on Facebook.

### April Outing of the Month

Thurs., Apr. 13. Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens  
NEW 3-Part Butterfly Exhibit.  
Video/Watch Butterflies Emerge/

Tour. \$8/pp ticket price / Out-of-county activity fee. Sign-up & Purchase Tickets by April 6, 2023. (tickets must be purchased in advance). Limited seating available

### One-Woman Musical

Featuring: Jillann Gabrielle. Monday, April 17, 2023. Showtime: 1:00 p.m. Place: Rock River Center. (Sponsored by Rock River Center & Oregon Public Library). Joan Crawford and Bette Davis, iconic superstars of the silver screen from the 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's and beyond, find themselves in Purgatory...IN THE SAME BODY!!

Involved in a real and manufactured feud for most of their screen careers, the ladies defend their lives to the powers that be.

Comedic rapid-fire exchanges and attacks drag out all the skeletons from each other's closet. Exhaustingly researched, this innovative one-woman musical presents fourteen songs with hilarious, brilliant lyrics. Fireworks!

Reservation Information: Make your reservations at Rock River Center 810 S. 10th St, Oregon, or by calling 815-732-3252. Reservation requested by Tues., April 11, 2023 so we can be prepared. Please call the Center at 815-732-3252 for more information.

### Orthopedic Care and Treatment

Join us at Rock River Center on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., for a presentation on Orthopedic Care and Treatment. Our speaker

Gadini O. Delisca, M.D. of XCEL Orthopedics at Rochelle Community Hospital provides orthopedic care for all ages. He welcomes any questions you may have about orthopedics.

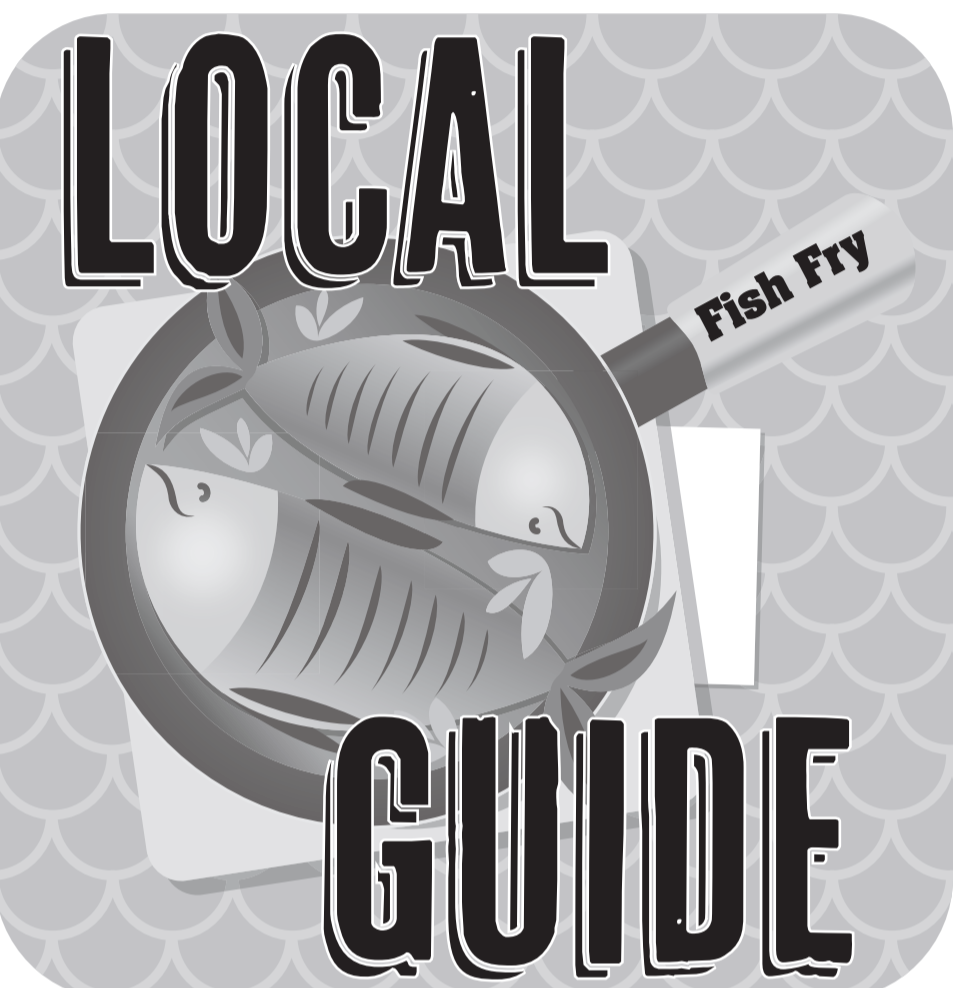
Advance registration requested. Please call 815-732-3252 if you plan to attend this very informative

### April 2023 Yoga

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Registration: Call 815-732-3252



**LOCAL**  
**GUIDE**  
Fish Fry



**FISH FRY FRIDAYS**  
208 N. Walnut St.  
Stillman Valley  
815-645-9828  
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

**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

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

**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

**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.



**RALPHIE & LuLu's**  
Inc.  
Est. 2001  
453-2103 • Ashton, IL

**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

## BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Special Hours

The Byron Public Library will be closed Sunday, April 9 in observance of the Easter holiday. We wish all of our patrons a safe and happy Easter!

### Blackout Poetry

Monday, April 3. 6-7:00 pm. April is National Poetry Month! Come for a relaxing evening as you learn the simplicity of creating your own blackout poetry. Beth will show you how easy it is to take a written piece of literature and turn it into a poem of your own. Visit [Byron.evanced.info/signup](http://Byron.evanced.info/signup) or call 815-234-5107 to register.

### Tiny Art Show

Monday, April 10. 5:30-7:00 pm.

We are going to have a Tiny Art Show during the month of May at the library. Please join us to create a 4"x4" project. (Anyone can paint an abstract.) Your painting will be returned after the show. Visit [Byron.evanced.info/signup](http://Byron.evanced.info/signup) or call 815-234-5107 to register.

### DIY Tiny Library

Thursday, April 20. 6-7:30 pm. Celebrate national library month by creating your very own tiny library. Visit [Byron.evanced.info/signup](http://Byron.evanced.info/signup) or call 815-234-5107 to register for this program.

### Curbside Delivery

The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside

service! Place your holds online at [byronlibrary.org](http://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!



**OJSHS's Benton wins award at Kish art exhibition**

Alayna Benton, Oregon Junior Senior High School sophomore, recently won first place in Mixed Media at the Kishwaukee College High School Exhibition, an Oregon Community Unit School District 220 Facebook post said. The district congratulated Benton on her award.

## FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Garden Walk

Are you planning a beautiful vegetable garden or an amazing floral landscape this year? We're looking for local residents who would like to assist in a Garden Walk fundraiser for the library. The event would be held during Sauerkraut Days, which is the first weekend in August, and the only requirement is a willingness to share the beauty of your lovely lawn or garden. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Julie at (815)938-2624 or [forrestonpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:forrestonpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

### Toddler/Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:00 am (when school is in session) 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. Storytime does not meet when Forrestville Valley schools are on break.

### 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!



**Read and Recycle**

## Weekly Brain Busters

### King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Release money  
5 Officer  
8 Wife of Zeus  
12 "Born Free" lioness  
13 Billboards  
14 Elliptical  
15 Region of northern Italy  
17 Breathing (Abbr.)  
18 Start a round  
19 Aviary noises  
21 Irish actor Stephen  
22 Visibility hindrance  
23 Arced tennis shot  
26 Like some humor  
28 Avoids work  
31 Gumbo or bisque, e.g.  
33 Work unit  
35 Minn. neighbor  
36 Writer Lessing  
38 Pouch  
40 "Rah!"  
41 Metric measure  
43 — Alamos  
45 Big lizard  
47 Of the lower back  
51 Gasp for air

**DOWN**

1 Karate level  
2 Skin soother  
3 "Woe —!"  
4 Hard work  
5 Commuter's cash-on-hand

6 Quirky  
7 Intimidate, with "out"  
8 Where earth meets sky  
9 Battery brand  
10 Grate  
11 Swiss peaks  
16 Not many  
20 Actor Holbrook  
23 "Acid"  
24 Tic-tac-toe win  
25 French red wine  
27 Decade parts (Abbr.)

29 Air safety org.  
30 Firmament  
32 Pittsburgh team  
34 Runs like a horse  
37 — Salvador  
39 Brilliant stroke  
42 College study  
44 Big hit  
45 Apple product  
46 Big bash  
48 Party cheese  
49 Tosses in  
50 Deli loaves  
53 Long time

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### MAGIC MAZE ● U.S. WOMEN IN SPACE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: **First American Woman Sally —**

- |        |              |        |          |
|--------|--------------|--------|----------|
| Chawla | Dunbar       | Magnus | Rubins   |
| Clark  | Fisher       | Meir   | Seddon   |
| Cleave | Higginbotham | Ochoa  | Sullivan |
| Currie | Jemison      | Resnik |          |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

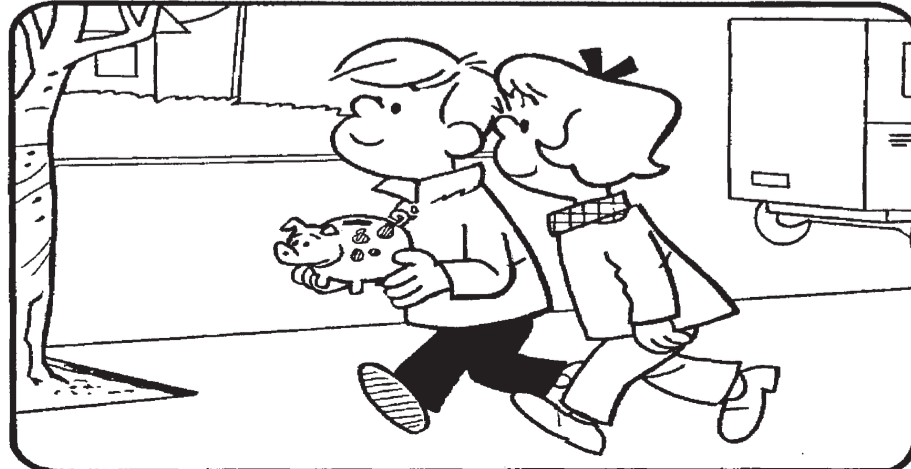
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Poster is missing. 2. Fireplug is missing. 3. Arm is missing. 4. Headset is missing. 5. Belt is missing. 6. Light strip is missing.

**King Crossword**

**Answers**

18. HIGGINBOTHAM  
21. RABBIT  
22. GUESS  
23. ROSE  
24. U.S. WOMEN IN SPACE  
25. LAMB  
26. VALENTINE  
27. GUESS  
28. GUESS  
29. GUESS  
30. GUESS  
31. GUESS  
32. GUESS  
33. GUESS  
34. GUESS  
35. GUESS  
36. GUESS  
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51. GUESS  
52. GUESS  
53. GUESS  
54. GUESS  
55. GUESS  
56. GUESS  
57. GUESS  
58. GUESS  
59. GUESS

Solution time: 24 mins.

U.S. WOMEN IN SPACE

**Weekly SUDOKU**

**Answer**

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

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# LOCAL NEWS

## JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

### Storytime at the Library

Join us at the library, every Wednesday at 10:00 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 Bobby Finger's page-turner of a first novel, "The Old Place." Monday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. Copies of the reading available on loan. Email Joanna at [jkluever@mail.meridian223.org](mailto:jkluever@mail.meridian223.org) for a link to this virtual program. Adults only.

### Tween Scene:

### (Soda) Pop

### Playdough Science

Get ready for an experiment that's fizzy, bubbly and sweet. We're making everyone's favorite hands-on toy: playdough, with a twist! We'll try adding different varieties of pop to

see how they affect our final product. Tuesday, April 4 at 6:00 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611

### Fun Day Monday: Rainbow Science

School's out for the day! Head to the library for some creative play. Spring is finally here and a mix of rain and sunshine means rainbows. We'll experience every color of the rainbow with a variety of science experiments using simple supplies. Monday, April 10 at 1:00 p.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Cricut Lab: Converting Photos into Cuttable images

Experienced Cricut users will learn how to convert a simple photo into a cuttable vinyl image. BYOCricutExplore Air or Maker, cutting mat, cords, blades and device with Cricut app installed. Please have

an image downloaded to your device prior to class. Thursday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Flying High: Betty the Pan Am Stewardess

Fasten your uniform buttons and get ready to travel back to the golden age of air travel. In the 1960s, when jets were new, the stewardess was an all-American fantasy: hostess, nurse, cook, therapist and even sex symbol. In this historical portrayal, historian Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., takes you on an exciting, true story about the real-life stewardesses for Pan Am, the most glamorous U.S. airline. Learn about serving the rich and famous, about the strict height, weight and age requirements, about cooking gourmet meals and enduring some wild rides. Buckle up! This is one flight you won't forget. Monday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.



### Introduction to Ancestry: Genealogy Basics and Census Records

Explore Census records using Ancestry Library Edition! This class will cover the basics of genealogy. Then, we'll practice how to search for and read census informa-

tion. Monday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Teen Crafternoon: Bad Art Competition

Think you're "bad" at art? Perfect! You'll be in good company, Dive into our art supplies to

create your own "disasterpiece"—whether it's wacky or just plain tacky. No talent necessary. Friday, April 28 at 3 p.m. Ages 13-18. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Library closings

The library will be closed April 7-8 for the Easter holiday. No materials will be due during this time.

## 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



Last week, adult crafters met with Joanna at Julia Hull District Library (Stillman Valley), to learn how to turn motel-style keychains into playful fashion accessories.

## Lorado Taft campus offering 4 summer camp sessions

**OREGON** — This summer, Lorado Taft will be offering four summer camp sessions! Two sessions are for children ages 7-12 and occur June 20-23 and July 31-Aug. 4. One session is for all girls aged 7-15 and happens July 10-14. Our camp for 5-6 year-olds occurs on June 26-30.

June 20-23 is a four-day camp themed around a competition against the Taft counselors! Campers will compete against the Taft staff in all types of games and puzzles from archery to camouflage. Do you think you have what it takes to defeat the Taft staff? This camp fee is \$110 for the first child and \$90 for any subsequent children, because of the shortened schedule.

Our littles session for children ages 5-6 will be held June 26-30. This is our Fairy Tales and Tails Camp! We will read some of the classic fairy tales, create our own adventures and learn about the "magical" creatures in our forest! The camp will start at noon and end at 4:30 p.m. Lunch and a snack will be provided. The fee for this camp is \$80 a child.

On July 10-14 we invite all girls aged 7-15 to join us for our first-ever all girls camp called Camp GO (Girls Outdoors)! During this week, we will learn archery, build shelters and delve into cryptozoology as we learn about the myths and legends of the world. The fee for this camp is \$130 for the first child and \$100 for any subsequent

children in the family. Early drop off and late pick up will be available for an additional fee.

Our July 31-Aug. 4 is called Camp Hollywood! Each day's theme will be a genre of movie. This camp will include everything from improv, creating our own skits and practicing our action moves. This camp is for anyone aged 7-12. The fee for this camp is \$130 for the first child and \$100 for any subsequent children in the family. Early drop off and late pick up will be available for an additional fee.

Camps (except the June 26-30 camp for 5-6-year-olds) will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. with the exception of Friday, when we will end at 2 p.m. Families are invited to lunch and a presentation on Friday of each camp (with an exception of the camp on June 26-30), during which the campers will show what they have been working on during their week at the camp. There is an additional fee for family members attending the Friday lunch. The safety of our campers and their families, as well as our staff, is extremely important to us! IDPH guidelines for camps, as well as NIU Protecting the Pack guidelines, will be followed. For more information or to register, contact Alyssa Parker at 815-732-2111, ext. 125 or at [aparker4@niu.edu](mailto:aparker4@niu.edu). Registration is also available on the Lorado Taft Campus website at <http://go.niu.edu/taft-camp>

# 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**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 24, 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: Brick and Mordor, 14603 W. Coffman Rd., Forreston, IL 61030 and Dutch Dragons Equestrian, 14603 W. Coffman Rd., Forreston, IL 61030 Dated February 24, 2023 Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk No. 0308 (March 13, 20 and 27, 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. April 6, 2023 for:  
1. 23-XX000-00-GM 2023 Township Sealcoats,  
2. 23-00000-02-GM 2023 County Sealcoats,  
3. 22-26131-00-FP Oregon-Nashua Township Paving,  
4. 23-06143-00-RS Flagg Township Paving  
5. 23-13116-00-RS Marion Township Paving  
6. 22-00000-04-GM Center/Bethal Roads Resurfacing  
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. Mar 20 & 27 No. 0312 (Mar. 20, 27)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN RE )  
THE )  
ESTATE OF: )  
SHIRLEY )  
NOREEN )  
DOYLE, )  
Decedent. )CLAIM  
NOTICE  
Notice is given of the death of Shirley Noreen Doyle of the City of Monroe Center, County of Ogle, State of Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 2, 2022, to Scott D. Doyle of 4897 N. Wendorf Rd., Monroe Center, IL 61052, County of Ogle, and whose attorney is Maria N. Berger of Berger Law Firm, LLC, of 418 W. Blackhawk Dr., Suite 102, Byron, IL 61010.  
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, Illinois 61061, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this claim notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. Clerk of the Court No. 0315 (Mar. 20, 27, April 3)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
On Monday, April 17, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. a joint meeting of the following school districts: (Amboy, Ashton/Franklin Center, Creston, Eswood, Forrestville Valley, Kings, Meridian, Oregon, Polo, Rochelle Elementary, Rochelle Township High School, and Steward) will take place at the Ogle County Educational Cooperative office, 417 N. Colfax, Byron, Illinois. The purpose of

the meeting will be to discuss each district's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who attend private, or parochial schools or are home-schooled within one of the local public school districts for 2023-2024 school year. If you are a parent of a private, parochial or home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of one of the named local public school districts you are urged to attend. To register please call Tammy Moser at the OCEC office 815-234-2722 ext. 1017. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Matt Zilm, Director of the OCEC at 815-234-2722 No. 0319 (March 27, 2023)

**NOTICE**  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the legal voters, residents of the Town of Rockvale in the County of Ogle and the State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said town will take place on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 being the second Tuesday of said month, at the hour of 7:30 PM at 6057 Illinois Route 2 North, Oregon, IL, for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider the following: Supervisors Report. Dated March 21, 2023 Karen Wolber, Town Clerk No. 0320 (March 27, 2023)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Rockvale Township Meeting Dates for 2023-2024 Always the 3rd Monday of the Month @ 7:30 PM  
April 17, 2023  
May 15, 2023  
June 19, 2023  
July 17, 2023  
August 21, 2023  
September 18, 2023  
October 16, 2023  
November 20, 2023  
December 18, 2023  
January 15, 2024  
February 19, 2024  
March 18, 2024  
No. 0323 (March 27, 2023)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
STERLING FEDERAL BANK, F.S.B., Plaintiff, vs. JACQUELINE M. SANCES, JAMES M. HEATHER AND CAPITAL ONE BANK(USA), N.A., Defendants. 2023 FC 19  
PUBLICATION NOTICE  
Capital One Bank (USA), N.A.  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given you, Capital One Bank (USA), N.A., Defendant in the above-entitled action, that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Ogle County, Case No. 2023FC19 by Plaintiff Sterling Federal Bank, F.S.B., in which the Complaint seeks foreclosure of a mortgage owned by Sterling Federal Bank, F.S.B., dated May 18, 2011, and recorded May 20, 2011, as Document No. 201103354, among the land records of Ogle County, Illinois, in which Plaintiff is the Mortgagee of certain real estate owned by Mortgagors Jacqueline M. Sances and James M. Heather, and that foreclosure of said mortgage action is now pending in said court and that the property affected by said cause is described as follows:  
Lot 12 of Kable Addition, a subdivision located in the Northeast Quarter of

Section 27, Township 24 North, Range 9 East of the 4th P.M., Mt. Morris, Ogle County, Illinois; according to the Plat thereof recorded July 22, 1930 in Book F of Plats, page 5 Document No. 197957. Common address: 213 Sunset Lane, Mt. Morris, IL 61054  
Capital One Bank (USA), N.A. has liens on the property being foreclosed by virtue of two Judgments against Defendant James M. Heather, the first Judgment in the amount of \$1,861.31, recorded July 9, 2018 as Document No. 201803749 and the second Judgment in the amount of \$1,313.56, recorded January 22, 2019 as Document No. 201900394. Consequently, unless you, Capital One Bank (USA), N.A. file your answer to the Complaint in the action or otherwise make your appearance in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Ogle County, Illinois, at the Ogle County Courthouse, 106 S. 5th Street, Oregon, IL 61061, on or before April 27, 2023, a default judgment may be entered against you at any time after that date, in accordance with the prayer of the Complaint. A judgment of foreclosure entered pursuant to the Complaint would be subject to your right to redeem or reinstate within the time and manner provided by law, if any.  
Kimberly A. Stahl Ogle County Circuit Clerk Lisa A. Gabriel - ARDC 6196272 Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff 202 E. 5th Street I.P.O. Box 404 Dixon, IL 61021 P: (815) 625-8200 gabriel@wmpj.com No. 0325 (March 27, April 3 and 10, 2023)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN RE THE ADOPTION OF: ALICE BAXIN XOLO, a minor,  
MARESA BAXIN XOLO, Petitioner )  
No. 2022 AD 7 vs. ALICE BAXIN XOLO, a Minor,  
DILIA DENICE BAXIN XOLO, Biological mother, UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER, ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, Respondents.  
ADOPTION NOTICE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN  
TAKE NOTICE that a petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Ogle County, Illinois, for the adoption of a child named ALICE BAXIN XOLO. Now, therefore, unless ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, file an answer to the Petition in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of Ogle County, Room #300, 106 S. 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois 61061 on or before the 1st day of May, 2023, a default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgement entered into accordance with the prayer of the Petition. Maresa Baxin Xolo, Petitioner  
Eric D. Morrow SMITH, BIRKHOLZ & MORROW, P.C. 129 S. Fourth Street, P.O. Box 10 Oregon, IL 61061 (815) 732-6124 No. 0326 (March 27, April 3 and 10, 2023)

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**  
To the legal voters, residents of the Town of Leaf River in the County of Ogle and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, being the

second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 6:45 p.m. at Leaf River Township Hall, 12 Main St., Leaf River, IL for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:  
1) Approval of 2022 meetings minutes  
2) Annual Township Financial Statement  
3) Setting Moderator's salary for 2024  
4) Setting date, place, and time for 2024 Annual Town Meeting  
5) Other business as brought before the meeting  
Dated: March 21, 2023 Janet Cunningham Leaf River Township Clerk No. 0327 (March 27, 2023)

**ADVERTISE WITH US**

### 103 AUCTIONS

**ONLINE REAL ESTATE AUCTION RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**  
hacksauction.hibid.com  
BIDDING CLOSES: Thurs., March Beginning 30th @ 4 P.M.  
Property 1: Two-Unit Property Located at 605-607 Bridge St. Winslow IL 61089  
Property 2: Single Family 2-Story Home Located at 1231 S. Maple Ave., Freeport IL 61032  
By Order of the Circuit Court. This is an 'Online Only Auction'. 10% Buyer Premium. Contact Hack's Auction & Realty Inc. For Terms & Further Information at 815-239-1436.

**ONLINE AUCTION**  
Antiques, Farm Toy Collection & Art Pottery  
BIDDING CLOSES: Sun., April 2nd Beginning @ 6 P.M.  
Hack's Antique Center  
400 W. Third St., Pecatonica, IL 61063  
Great Auction! Featuring Antiques & Collectibles; Primitives; Art Pottery & Hull Art; Stoneware; Country Store; Show Cases & Spool Cabinets; Advertising; Old Tobacco & Smoking Pipes; Railroad Lanterns & Lighting; Pocket Knives & Old Padlocks; Jewelry; Vintage Camera & Photography Collection; Art & Carnival Glass; Old Sleepy Eye; Longaberger; Dolls; Small Antiques; WW II Photographs; Quality John Deere & International Farm Toy & Machinery Collection (200+) - Many Precision Classics & Prestige Models - Big Bud - Yoder - 70% Boxed, Farm Implement Books & Memorabilia; **More!**

**Dolan Trust - 80-Acre Farm Home & Buildings Auction**  
SUN., APRIL 23rd - 1:00 P.M.  
7464 Blomberg Rd., Cherry Valley, IL 61016  
Featuring 80-Acre Farm to be Sold in (2) Parcels. Cherry Valley Twp. - Part of Section 23.  
Auction Conducted Live On-Site  
Parcel 1: 75 Acres +/- Of Good High Producing Farmland. Nearly All Tillable. Major Soil Types: 223 B Varna, 293A Andres, 152A Drummer, 102A La Hogue. Soil Pl: 122.8  
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**PUBLIC AUCTION**

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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)



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### 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.

### 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

### 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

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### 127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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

### 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare

facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

### 301 ANTIQUES

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

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

### 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.

### 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

### 501 APARTMENT FOR RENT

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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

**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' x 30'

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

### 203 HELP WANTED

**Truck Driver/ Equipment Operator Employment Opportunity**  
Ogle County Highway Dept  
Applicants must be at least 18 yrs of age and have a Class B CDL with Full Air Brakes. Heavy equipment experience is a plus. Apply in person 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM or contact the office for an application. Applications must be received by April 3, 2023  
Ogle County Highway Dept  
1989 S IL Rt 2, Oregon, IL  
815-732-2851  
highway@oglecountyiil.gov  
www.oglecountyiil.gov

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Sell!

### 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

## Deputy Superintendent of Facilities

Salary Range: \$50,000-54,000 DOQ  
The Oregon Park District is hiring a Deputy Superintendent of Facilities to perform high-level oversight in the operation and maintenance of Nash Recreation Center.  
The Deputy Superintendent of Facilities will be responsible for planning, developing, and implementing building maintenance and custodial services, identifying purchasing and contracting opportunities, and implementing long-range building maintenance plans. This position will report directly to the Superintendent of Parks & Facilities and be responsible for supervising support staff. A successful candidate will have experience in building maintenance best practices, budgeting, contracted services and the ability to provide leadership and guidance to employees who report directly to them. Position will be expected to have a strong understanding of complex and technical building systems, including HVAC, plumbing and pool operations.

An associate degree or successful completion of a skilled trade program is preferred. A minimum of 5 years of professional experience in facilities maintenance or an equivalent combination of education and experience is also preferred. Position must perform all job tasks within the rules and guidelines of the Oregon Park District's policies and procedures.

**Employee Benefits:** Medical, dental and vision coverage - Life Insurance - IMRF Pension Plan - Paid holidays, sick time, and vacation time A full job description is available upon request.

Deadline for submission is April 15, 2023. Resume, references and employment application can be submitted to Dan Griffin at dan@oregonpark.org.



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**Summer Employment Roadside Mowing Positions**  
Ogle County Highway Dept  
Applicants must be at least 18 yrs of age. Starting wage is \$13/hr. Apply in person 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM or contact the office for an application. Please submit applications by April 12, 2023  
Ogle County Highway Dept  
1989 S IL Rt 2, Oregon, IL  
815-732-2851  
highway@oglecountyiil.gov  
www.oglecountyiil.gov

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All Calls Are Confidential.  
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**HOPE** of Ogle County  
P.O. Box 131 Rochelle, IL 61068 Public Service Announcement

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Please leave message.  
09052022

# LOCAL NEWS

## BMS students organize a Valentine's dance fundraiser

**BYRON** — Miya Dunk and Caleigh Rybicki are two Byron Middle School students who have helped organize dances for student council. This year the pair decided it would be fun to have a Valentine's Day dance and use it to raise over \$700 for the Byron Schools Food Pantry. They chose to donate the proceeds to the school food pantry because it provides such a great service to the students in our district and their families and provides them with something so many of us take for granted. The

girls presented the idea to BMS Principal Mike Sand, and once he approved it, they took care of promotions. Miya and Caleigh spent their mornings before school selling tickets and found time to work on decorations, and recruiting adults to chaperone. Nikki Yerly, Susan Freyer and Caryn Hoover founded and run the school food pantry. For more information or to make a donation, please contact them by email (SFreyer@byron226.org) or on their Facebook page Byron Schools Food Pantry.



From left to right: Miya Dunk, Caleigh Rybicki and Susan Freyer.



### Polo FFA helps out with toy show

During the toy show in Polo on Saturday, March 4 the Polo FFA helped unload the dealers and bring their merchandise into the school and then helped the dealers load their merchandise back into their vehicle. The Polo FFA also served donuts, coffee, water, pop, chips, cookies, pulled pork sandwiches, Italian beef sandwiches and hot dogs. The Polo FFA also raffled off an Allis Chalmers tractor. The dealers said the FFA members were very courteous, polite and very helpful. Among those that participated in the event were Sawyer Marceau, Ag Instructor Stephanie Schultz, Ally Cytrych, Kylie Cisketti, Jasmine Ludwig, Ag Instructor Alec Wetzell, Carl Vock and Brogan Shank. The Polo Lions club thanks the FFA members that helped. They did a great job.

## Wells selected to University of Minnesota Twin Cities dean's list

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** — Baileyville's Julia Wells, a junior in the college of biological sciences, has been named to the 2022 fall semester dean's list at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, the university announced today. To qualify for the dean's list, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

## Eisele graduate from Upper Iowa

**FAYETTE, Iowa** — Upper Iowa University is pleased to announce Molly Eisele of Byron graduated cum laude meritorum with a bachelor of science degree in accounting in December 2022.

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# COMMUNITY GROWTH



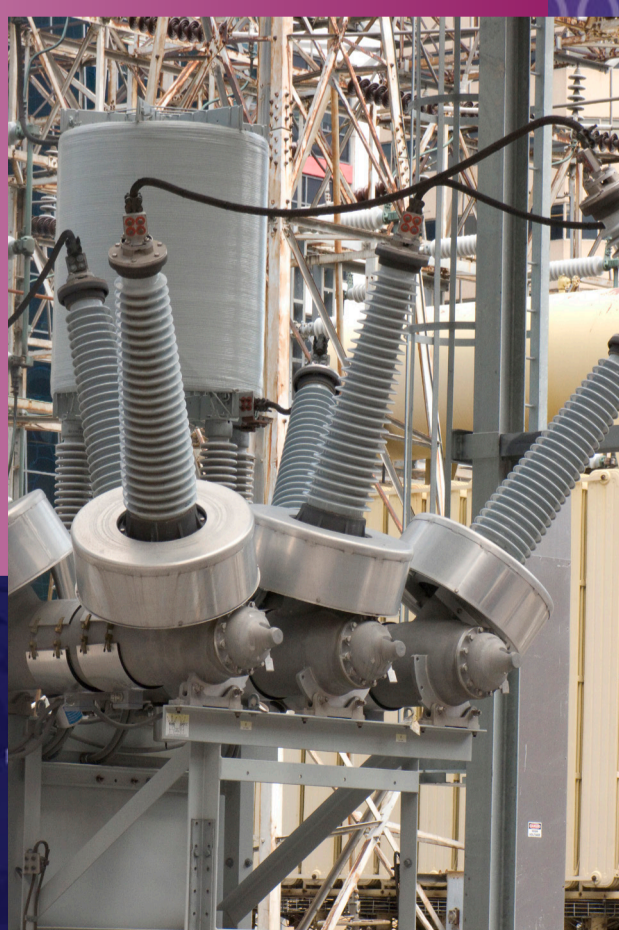
# DEVELOPMENT



The Ogle County Life

Monday, March 27, 2023

Section C





# Crest Foods Co., Inc. running strong for three generations

**C**REST Foods Co., Inc. is a third generation family owned and run food manufacturer nestled in rural Ashton, IL. The company was founded in 1946 and has grown from humble beginnings to a workforce of over 650 people. Within their walls, you will find three distinct divisions: Contract Packaging, Consumer Products and Stabilizer Systems. What does that mean? Let us break it down for you.

The Contract Packaging Division specializes in dry ingredient blending and packaging for major retail brands. From cereal to baking mixes, dry soups and sides to meal kits, they package it. Crest has 36 finished production lines that can produce over 2,000,000 retail units per day. That means you can't walk into a grocery store without seeing something that was packaged at Crest. You probably have something in your kitchen cupboard from Crest right now!

The Consumer Products Division takes things a step further, actually developing the products in addition to packaging them. Adding this valuable R&D service allows Crest to offer a truly turn-key

solution for brands. Rounding out the company is the Stabilizer Systems division, which develops and manufactures custom functional stabilizer blends that can be found in cottage cheese, ice cream, sour cream and other products – both dairy and non-dairy.

While Crest employs around a dozen sales and technical service personnel located throughout the country, all of the company's operations lie in Ashton, IL. So what keeps a company not just surviving, but thriving for 77 years in the rural Midwest? In one word: culture. Crest takes great pride in their culture-driven business. They treat their employees like family, embrace their rural values and have some fun every day.

All full time Crest employees receive standard insurance benefits along with an annual raise and bonus, paid holidays and time off and tuition reimbursement. That's not all though. They also receive free access to the on-site nursing staff, fitness center and EAP counselor. Celebrating your 10 year anniversary with Crest? Pack your bags, because the company is about to



send you on a paid vacation! Employees have taken their 10 year trips

to a variety of locations, including Florida, Hawaii and Poland. It's no surprise that Crest has many 20, 30, and 40+ year employees in their ranks!

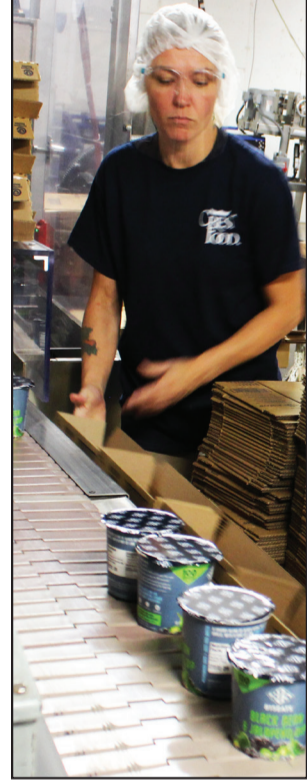
The company is constantly evaluating their benefits and policies to make sure it serves its employees well. For that reason, Crest recently committed to creating a healthy, safe, and stigma-free work environment through by participating in the Illinois Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative (RFW). The RFW initiative encourages environments where employers, employees and communities can collaborate to create positive change and eliminate barriers for those impacted by substance use disorders.

Its goal is to create a culture of caring and support by providing employees access to tools, information and resources that support their physical and emotional well-being.

If all of this sounds good to you, you're in luck because Crest Foods is hiring. A variety of positions are available, including production workers, truck drivers, line mechanics, and quality assurance technicians. Ideal candidates will be hardworking, dedicated and ready to work in a fast paced manufacturing environment. Positions are available on all shifts, including a four day work week on second shift.

Visit [CrestFoods.com/Careers](http://CrestFoods.com/Careers) for a full

list of available positions and to apply online!





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CULTURE.  
TRADITION.**

**CREST  
FOODS**

recovery  
friendly



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All Crest Foods employees receive standard benefits, including paid holidays, paid time off, annual bonus, annual raises, insurance program benefits, and 401K and retirement.

**CREST FOODS EMPLOYEE BENEFITS ALSO INCLUDE:**

**10 YEAR TRIP**

Employees celebrating 10 yrs with Crest receive money to go on vacation

**EMPLOYEE LOANS**

Crest will co-sign on 7% interest payroll deduct loans up to \$5,000

**FREE FITNESS CENTER**

24/7 fitness center is equipped for cardio and weight training

**ON-SITE NURSES**

Nursing staff available 32 hrs/week to assist with minor aches to cholesterol testing

**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Free, confidential counselor available 4 hrs/week

**CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Our CIP rewards employees with approx \$4,000 in cash prizes annually for their valuable suggestions

**BENEVOLENCE PROGRAM**

The Crest Benevolence Fund discreetly helps employees when circumstances beyond their control put them in a difficult financial position

**WALKING CLUB**

Log your miles and Crest Foods will donate to a local charity you pick

**EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING**

Employees can give back to the community by donating their time in opportunities organized by both Crest and by local charities and organizations

*Scan to view all open positions and apply!*

**CRESTFOODS.COM/CAREERS**



# PROGRESS

## Byron Forest Preserve District has it all



### Nature, award-winning museum, banquet facilities, golf – something for everyone

The Byron Forest Preserve has grown and progressed for over 40 years. The District has become a key part of life for many who live in the Byron Community as well as Ogle County and beyond. With offerings from banquet facilities to golf to museums, you can find something especially for you!

The Jarrett Prairie Center houses the administrative offices along with a small gift shop, a hands-on natural history museum, and beautiful banquet facilities. Other features include a huge wrap around deck and amazing

views from the third highest point in Ogle County!

The banquet facilities in the Jarrett Prairie Center have been renovated over the last few years and are now complete!! The Blazingstar Room will now accommodate up to 240 people. It's a perfect space for weddings, family reunions, quinceañeras, holiday parties, conferences, and every other special occasion. Features include stacked stone walls, a fireplace, and spider chandeliers to enhance the atmosphere for your event. The Museum is also available with its

unique layout of exhibits as the backdrop for your event. The Museum features a 2600 sq. ft. wrap-around deck for those outdoor celebrations. You can choose your own caterer for your event. Bar service is available. Affordable wedding packages are also offered.

The Jarrett Prairie Center is open daily with free admission. If you would like to setup a guided tour of our banquet facilities, please call Raul Leon at 815-234-8535 x200. Habla español.

The Byron Forest Preserve owns and operates many other facilities and ameni-

ties. PrairieView Golf Club is a 4.5 star rated 18-hole golf course. PrairieFire Golf & Grill is an indoor/outdoor golf facility with Toptracer technology and a very tasty menu! The Heritage Farm Museum and Weiskopf Observatory offer free programs and tours for the public. The District has nine Preserves with over 38 miles of trails within Ogle County that are ready for those who love to hike, explore, and enjoy the outdoors!

Go to [www.byronforestpreserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com) or find us on Facebook for further information.



Jarrett Prairie Center Museum



Jarrett Prairie Center Museum

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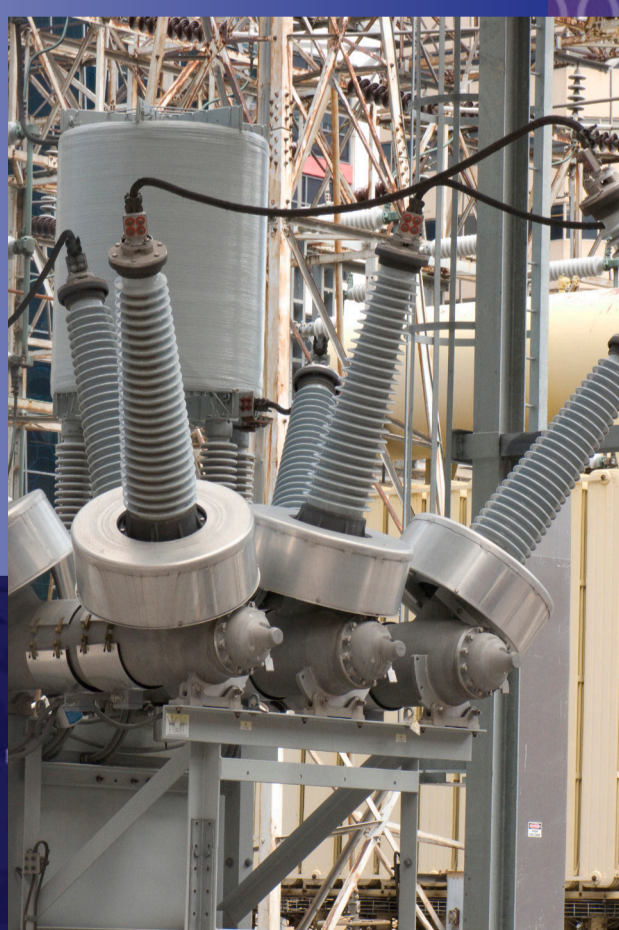
Jarrett Prairie Center Blazingstar Room



# COMMUNITY GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT



The Ogle County Life  
Monday, March 27, 2023  
Section D



# PROGRESS

## Sinnissippi Centers expands to meet increasing needs

*Getting creative with recruitment*

**S**INNISSIPPI Centers, a behavioral health system providing services in 7 counties in Northwestern Illinois, is taking steps to meet the increasing needs of individuals and families in the region. Formerly limited to serving residents in Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties, Sinnissippi has expanded to Stephenson County by opening a Freeport office and is providing care coordination services for youth in Bureau and Henry counties.

Opening a new location in an additional county is one example of the agency's expansion but additional programs and services have also been added to what Sinnissippi has to offer. The Living Room Drop In Center in Dixon serves adults who have behavioral health needs and would benefit from some additional supports. The Medication Assisted Recovery program was developed for individuals who are in Recovery from a substance use disorder.

These expanded services and locations have created a recruitment challenge. "We used to be able to list a position and just have candidates apply," says Anita Carney, Sinnissippi's Recruitment and Retention Manager. "Now we

are open to talking with candidates who might not see their dream job posted but know they want to work for Sinnissippi. We have so many

**"We are finally seeing State and Federal funding that allows us to implement the programs and services that we always knew were necessary..."**

**Patrick Phelan**

positions on the horizon and it's difficult to list exactly what those positions will entail." Recruitment efforts are extending to high school and even middle school students to introduce the idea of a career in community behavioral health.

"It's an exciting time to be in this field," says Sinnissippi CEO Patrick Phelan. "We are finally seeing State and Federal funding that allows us to implement the programs and services that we always knew were necessary but that weren't funded sufficiently for us to be able

to offer them. We've also been able to increase staff salaries to levels reflective of the difficult work they do." Phelan adds that additional expansion is in the works—by adding additional physical locations and additional programs and services.

If you have ever considered a satisfying career helping your most vulnerable neighbors—even if you don't know exactly what that looks like—there may be a place for you on the Sinnissippi team. Contact Sinnissippi's Human Resources Department at [careers@sinnissippi.com](mailto:careers@sinnissippi.com) or 815-595-3176.



### Services for all ages including

- Individual and family counseling
- Relationship counseling
- Treatment for mental illness
- Treatment for substance use
- Intensive Outpatient Program
- Crisis prevention
- Psychiatric services
- Treatment related to trauma
- Recovery support



**SINNISSIPPI CENTERS**  
*Together we inspire wellness*

**800-242-7642**  
**[www.sinnissippi.org](http://www.sinnissippi.org)**



Family caregiver survey rating: ★★★★★

*Providing care with the utmost dignity & love.*

**Serenity Hospice & Home is one of only 6 hospices in the entire state of Illinois to receive a 5-Star Rating on the Family caregiver survey through CMS! Only one other hospice with an overlapping service area received a 5-Star rating. You can access this information at [Medicare.gov](http://Medicare.gov)**

**The survey collects information from family caregivers on hospice care experiences in regards to our quality in 6 domains.**

**91%**

**willing to recommend this hospice compared to Illinois state average of 83%**

- Communication with family
- Getting timely help
- Treating patient with respect
- Emotional and spiritual support
- Help for pain and symptoms
- Training family to care for patient



**[www.serenityhospiceandhome.org](http://www.serenityhospiceandhome.org) \* 815-732-2499**

# PROGRESS

## Rochelle Community Hospital upgrades MRI capabilities

**ROCHELLE** — The latest in imaging technology has a new home in Rochelle. The Rochelle Community Hospital Imaging Department recently upgraded its MRI capabilities with the addition of the Canon Encore Vantage Orian. According to Radiology Manager Joy Miller, this extensive upgrade will reduce patients' exam times and reduce noise by up to 99%. "Our patients will notice a significant change in the length of their MRI exams. Most exam times are reduced by 40%," Joy explained. "This has always been an issue when it comes to patient satisfaction, so we are anticipating this will make our patients much happier." While speed is certainly a welcome benefit to the patient, Joy added the upgrade will also allow Rochelle Community Hospital to expand its imaging and diagnostic services in the future.

"Speed is the biggest advantage, but we've also added a power injector that will allow us to conduct additional studies. For example, we will add breast MRIs to our imaging services, allowing a more detailed view of the breast tissue and enabling our team to diagnose and treat potentially life-threatening conditions early on."

Using Advanced intelligent Clear-IQ Engine (AiCE) deep learning technology, the Vantage Orian provides clearer images than ever, reducing imaging noise and enabling 3T-like image quality at a



patient-friendly 1.5T field strength. Additionally, the Vantage Orian promises faster scan times across the entire body in both 2D and 3D thanks to its Compressed SPEEDER acceleration technology. The Pianissimo technology of the Vantage Orian

minimizes operating noise for quiet scanning, and the machine's short magnet and 71-centimeter bore provide an open scanning environment for the patient, ensuring a more relaxing, comfortable experience. Joy explained this state-of-the-art technology al-

lows our team to conduct more thorough, clearer scans, which allows small imaging departments to fill gaps in their imaging capabilities. Thanks to this upgrade, she said, Rochelle Community Hospital remains on the cutting edge compared to other area

hospitals.





"As a small hospital, we can't provide every imaging service our patients need, so the imaging we can provide needs to be the best. By keeping our equipment up to date, we can give the best imaging possible," Joy stated.

"Upgrades like this keep us ahead of other larger facilities that can't replace theirs as often." Early diagnosis and treatment start at Rochelle Community Hospital.

To schedule an appointment, call 815-562-2181, ext. 1350.

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](http://rochellehospital.com/mri) for more information.

**Join Our Team**  
Rochelle Community Hospital operates as an independent and stable hospital

**We Grow, You Prosper**

- Competitive Pay
- Paid Time Off
- 6 Paid Holidays
- 401(k) Plan
- Employee Discounts
- Career Advancement
- Positive Teamwork
- Community Based
- And More!

Visit Our Website:  
[RochelleHospital.com/Careers](http://RochelleHospital.com/Careers)



# Invest in Our Community

Eat, drink and shop with a purpose by supporting the locally owned businesses that bring variety, diversity, jobs and economic prosperity to our neighborhoods!

## 5 GREAT REASONS to Go Local

**1 Support Our Local Economy**



**47.7%**  
Local Recirculation of Revenue  
47.7 percent of each purchase at local independent retailers is recirculated locally, compared to 13.6 percent of purchases at national chain stores.



**64.9%**  
Local Recirculation of Revenue  
64.9 percent of each purchase at local independent restaurants is recirculated locally, compared to less than 30.4 percent of purchases at national chain restaurants.

Source: Civic Economics Survey of Independent Businesses

Remember that taxes paid locally help support the community schools, infrastructure, libraries and local programs that benefit you, your neighbors and your family.

**2 Encourage Local Job Creation**



**58.9 Million People or 47.5% of U.S. Employees Are Employed by Small Businesses**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015

When local businesses thrive, they likely hire more employees, who in turn have more money to spend in the community.

**3 Reduce Environmental Impact**



**> 1 Billion Metric Tons of CO2 Is Produced Annually By Global Shipping & Transport of Products**

Source: International Maritime Organization

Locally owned businesses often make more local supply purchases than national chains, reducing the packaging and transportation use that comes with shipping. Many local businesses are also set up in town centers, making them more accessible by bike, foot or public transportation.

**4 Contribute to Our Community's Unique Character**

Independent shops and restaurants inspire variety, innovation and a unique aesthetic that makes our town a more appealing place to shop, dine, work, visit and live.

**5 Enjoy Personalized Service & Selection**



Local businesses care about what local consumers want. They're personally invested in their offerings, so they're keen to understand the needs of their customers and go the extra mile to meet them.

Let's Work Together to Invest in the Future of Our Community... As Your Local Newspaper, We Encourage You to Support the Small Businesses You See Advertising With Us. Thank You for Shopping, Dining and Thinking "Local!"



815-732-2156 • 211 E IL Route 38, Rochelle