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# Ogle County Life

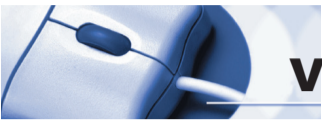
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



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MONDAY  
Feb. 6, 2023

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## KNOW IT TODAY



### Poper named Polo student of the month

Polo High School student Lindee Poper was recently named December Student of the Month. **3A**

## WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
43 34	38 29
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
41 28	38 22
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
30 20	33 22

## OBITUARIES

- Kenneth Giese
- Wilma Hongsermeier
- Alvin Klapp
- Verna Seymour
- Dena Smith

See page A4

## INSERTS

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

# OJSHS's 'Ms. Rad' named National Teacher of the Year finalist

'I'm so incredibly proud of the work done in schools here and across the state'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — Oregon Community Unit School District 220's mission statement is "to educate students to be lifelong learners who are productive, responsible citizens."

"In that pursuit, we don't just look at academics," District Superintendent Tom Mahoney said. "We also look at student involvement and activities that connect kids to school to achieve better and thrive. We look at service and how our kids can learn to serve our community and others. We look at leadership and how we develop that and provide opportunities for students to grow. In all of these things, we hear them and think, 'That's Kim.' She is a mission-driven teacher."

The "Kim" Mahoney was referring to is Oregon Junior Senior High School Spanish Teacher Kim Radostits. At a press



Oregon Junior Senior High School Spanish Teacher Kim Radostits was previously named 2022 Illinois Teacher of the Year and has spent the past year on a state-sponsored sabbatical. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

conference Wednesday, Jan. 25, Radostits, known to students as "Ms. Rad", was named one of five finalists for 2023 National Teacher of the Year by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Radostits was recently named 2022 Illinois Teacher of the Year.

Radostits will fly to Washington, D.C., in late February to interview with the National Teacher of the

Year selection committee, which is composed of members of national education organizations that represent parents, principals, administrators, teachers and civic leaders. If selected as the 2023 National Teacher of the Year, Radostits will embark upon a year of honor and service, representing Illinois as she crosses the country to speak at hundreds of events, advo-

cate for students, elevate the contemporary issues teachers face and inspire future teachers to join the profession. CCSSO will announce the 2023 National Teacher of the Year in March.

"In my 16 years in the profession, I've experienced a tremendous amount of joy as I've grown alongside the students in my classroom and the colleagues in my building," Radostits said. "I love being Ms. Rad. And I love wearing every hat that comes with that role. I'm so incredibly proud of the work done in schools here and across the state. At the onset of the pandemic, we were all asked to do the unimaginable. Here we are three years later, and I can confidently say that we have grown, we are stronger and we have proven time and time again that we are capable of amazing things."

See AWARD page 2

# County farmers short on snowfall this winter

'It's good in spring to have adequate moisture'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

OGLE COUNTY — On Jan. 30, Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Ron Kern said that despite a recent substantial snowfall, county farmers are still short on normal snowfall levels of a typical year.

"It depends on what we get by when we start getting close to spring when things start to thaw and what kind of moisture we'll have with melting snow and potential for rain," Kern said. "I think we're a little short on moisture, but I just don't know that it's that critical right now. We'll see when we start getting into March and what kind of start we'll get to the spring."

Kern said that a few years ago dry fall, winter and spring seasons caused problems for farmers. Adequate moisture for spring planting is important for crop germination to get it off to a good start.

"We're a long way from getting any planting done in mid or late April, if we're lucky," Kern said. "We have a ways to go. I haven't seen any drought monitor maps lately, but I believe the last one I saw said we

were sitting pretty well."

As far as 2022 fall tillage and anhydrous ammonia application work to prepare for spring 2023, Kern said less frost in the ground in the fall allowed most Ogle County farmers to do that work if they desired to.

Some farmers are now opting for split applications of anhydrous ammonia in both the fall and the spring, Kern said. That input has been one that farmers have seen rise in price amid ongoing issues including inflation, higher fuel prices and supply chain disruptions.

"From what I understand, I think a lot of the input costs have stabilized," Kern said. "I'm not going to say they've gone down that much, but they're not rocketing up like they were last year and they've kind of evened out."

Winter work for Ogle County grain farmers includes booking inputs for the next year and moving grain depending where it's sold along with cleaning out grain bins and getting equipment ready.

See FARM page 2

## Did you get your voluntary pay envelope?

OGLE COUNTY — The Ogle County Life is offering readers a chance to become honorary staff members of the paper by participating in the annual Voluntary Payment promotion.

Envelopes were inserted into our Jan. 30 issue. If you didn't receive an envelope or have any questions, call our office at 815-732-2156. Also, 10 percent of any money donated in February will be donated to our local senior centers.

For over 38 years, we have been providing the Life to readers free of charge. We expect to continue to be able to do this for many years to come.

However, newsprint and postage costs do continue to rise, and any contributions that readers can make greatly help defray these costs and enable us to provide the best product possible.

"Our readers' generosity has played a big part in helping us achieve our goals, including continuing to offer a free e-edition," Life General Manager Mike Feltes said.

"In addition to helping out the paper, anyone making a voluntary payment will also be helping our local senior citizens, as we in turn make a donation to area senior centers on your behalf.

The envelopes can be mailed in to P.O. Box 175, Rochelle, IL 61068, or put in our drop box at Conover Square.

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# LOCAL NEWS



Ogle County farmers are hoping for more snowfall this winter to allow for moisture in the spring to build on a fruitful 2022 harvest.

## FARM: For some, winter work involves livestock

*From page 1*

For livestock farmers, winter work involves feeding cows, hogs or chickens and combating winter weather by doing things like keeping water from freezing.

"You're probably fighting a pretty sloppy feedlot most of the time," Kern said. "I know some farmers are starting to calve now. You have that to take care of if you're a beef producer. You know, it's winter and you just do the best that you can. Some people out there enjoy this time of year, but I don't happen to be one of them. Particularly for livestock producers, this time of year can be a bit of a struggle in making sure that everything is operating the way it should be."

## AWARD: Radostits named National Teacher of the Year finalist

*From page 1*

Radostits has spent the past year as Illinois Teacher of the Year on a state-sponsored sabbatical, speaking at conferences and visiting schools across the state to share information about her work at OJSHS.

Radostits' accomplishments at OJSHS have included developing a program called Hawks Take Flight, which uses evidence-based metrics to identify eighth and ninth grade students most at risk of not graduating on time. The program pairs these students with a mentor and provides personalized, data-informed, relationship-based support through weekly check-ins, goal setting and feedback. The Hawks Take Flight program "drastically" decreased the number of Fs earned by OJSHS ninth graders and increased graduation rates.

"In the five years we have worked together I have watched often in awe of the relationships and care that Ms. Rad has exemplified with some of the most challenged students at OJSHS," Dr. Heidi Deininger, OJSHS principal, said. "These relationships have resulted in high school diplomas for students that had very little belief in themselves and were convinced they would never make it."

OJSHS student Alyssa Leary spoke during the



Oregon Schools Superintendent Tom Mahoney speaks at a Jan. 25 press conference naming Spanish Teacher Kim Radostits as a finalist for 2023 National Teacher of the Year. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

press conference about when she was a freshman during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. She said during that time, Radostits went "above and beyond" to make sure remote learning was still engaging and beneficial.

"She did everything in her power to make sure that we were getting the most out of the experience that we could," Leary said. "I couldn't have gotten through freshman year without her help. Her support didn't end then. Her lasting effect carried with me and my classmates all throughout the rest of high school. Every time I see her, she checks in

with me to see how I'm doing. She cares so deeply that each little check in with her students truly brightens her day."

Illinois State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen Ayala attended the press conference Jan. 25 to congratulate Radostits, who she chose as 2022 Illinois Teacher of the Year. The national teacher of the year has not been from Illinois since 1968.

Ayala said being a national finalist speaks volumes about Radostits and the impact she's had at OJSHS.

"I was struck by her accomplishments and contributions inside and outside of the

classroom," Ayala said. "More importantly, I was struck by her message that teaching is fundamentally about relationships and students need to know that we care before they'll care about what we know. She's used her time this past year to spread the message that every student can learn, and that when we invest in relationships with our students and their families, they feel more connected to the school and the content we're teaching."

Radostits called the past year "incredibly inspiring" as she's been able to connect with educators and aspiring educators across the state. But she misses being in the classroom with her students at OJSHS.

"With this new honor comes a mixed bag of emotions for me," Radostits said. "I'm excited to have the opportunity to continue to make connections with people all across the United States. I want to continue to do that on behalf of my students and colleagues. If you're listening to me right now, take the time to thank a teacher. Today and every day they're making sure the future of this nation is bright by investing in the students we have in our classrooms."

## 2023

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MINDY & DUKE THOMAS

### BABY BRAGGER

CHARLES BYRON HOLLAND  
April 16, 2022



Proud Parents  
TERAH & STEVE HOLLAND

Proud Grandparents  
CRAIG & JULIE CHEATHAM



## Now Accepting New Patients

### Hulsebus Chiropractic Clinic would like to welcome Dr. Mario Rosales to the practice.

Hulsebus Chiropractic, in Byron is pleased to welcome Dr. Mario Rosales to the practice. Dr. Rosales is a second generation chiropractor and Palmer College graduate. Dr Rosales grew up in the Rockford area. He is accepting new patients. He practices "Palmer Package" as well as Sacral Occipital Technique and Cox Technique.



Thank you to the gentleman who purchased my groceries at Super Valu, before finding out my card was being held due to suspicious activity.  
*Richard Trank  
Mt. Morris*

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<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>7:30-12:00   2:00-6:00</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>8:00-12:00   2:00-6:00</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>7:30-12:00   1:00-5:00</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>8:00-11:00</b>

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# LOCAL NEWS



**Byron High School December Students of the Month named**  
**Congratulations to the Byron High School Students of the Month for December. Pictured from left to right are: Stillman Bank Executive Vice President & COO David Mecklenburg, Lauryn Shank (12th grade), Rosalie Hegberg (11th grade), Morgan Nelson (10th grade), Jaxson Krall (ninth grade), and Byron High School Principal Jay Mullens. Each of the students received a monetary gift for their achievement.**



**Polo Community High School senior Lindee Poper was recently named the December Student of the Month at the school and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts. (Courtesy photo)**

## Poper named December Polo Student of the Month

**POLO** — Polo Community High School senior Lindee Poper was recently named the December Student of the Month at the school and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts.

Poper is the daughter of Chuck Poper and Lisa Cassens. She participates in volleyball, basketball, softball, student council, FCCLA, Spanish club and National Honor Society. After high school, she plans to attend Sauk Valley Community College to further her academic career and possibly her athletic career for two years and then transfer to a four-year university. She plans to major in either engineering or business. The Polo senior answered a list of questions upon winning student of the month.

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

-Turn in your work on time, study for exams, and ask your teachers questions.

What is your life's philosophy?

-Work hard and have fun.

What class do you find really engaging and why?

-My biology class is interesting to me because I find it fascinating learning about how all organisms function and grow. Also, I like doing the hands-on experiments with my awesome lab group.

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

-Basketball and student council are my favorite extracurricular activities. I love basketball because I am very competitive and it has taught me that hard work pays off. Student council is my favorite club because it allows me to be a part of many fun events our school has to offer. The club has taught me how to become a better leader, more responsible, and more independent.

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

-This past Christmas, our Student council held a drive for items to give to the residents at our local nursing home. We were able to go into the nursing home and actually give them their gifts. We also got to sing a couple Christmas songs to them. It was very heartwarming to see the joy on their faces as we were one of the first big groups that was allowed into the nursing home since the start of COVID-19.

## 3 locals named to the fall 2022 dean's list at Aurora University

**AURORA**—Aurora University has named the following students to the dean's list for the fall 2022 semester: Alivia Bradford (nursing) and Katelyn Byerley (exercise science) of Byron and Breanna Dehaan (criminal justice) of Oregon. The dean's list recognizes full-time undergraduate students who have earned a 3.6 GPA or higher.

## Benton graduates from Bradley University

**PEORIA** — Oregon native Kaylee Benton graduated with a BA, BS in world languages and Cultures - Spanish, International Business from Bradley University in the fall 2022 semester. Benton was among over 300 students who earned degrees.

## Two from Byron named to University of Dubuque dean's list

**DUBUQUE, Iowa** — The University of Dubuque congratulates the following students on being appointed to the fall semester 2022 academic dean's list: Grace Lagerhausen and Zachary Tucker of Byron. Full-time students in good academic standing (registered for and having earned 12 or more letter grade credits for the term) who earn a term grade point average of 3.5 or above and who do not have any grades of Incomplete for the term are named to the dean's list.

## Byron Middle School names first semester honor roll students

**BYRON** — Byron Middle School recently announced its honor roll students for the first semester of the 2022-23 school year.

High honor roll (all A's) - Eighth grade: Briggs Barton, Alayna Brandt, Macyn Burris, Myla Draheim, Miya Dunk, Emma Franchi, Aubrie Fuller, Zebedeo Gautier, Jayce Keesee, Abygael Krueger, Elinor McHale, Lila Morehead, James Odom, Cael Ohoro, Inaki Paulino, Ashley Potter, Caleigh Rybicki, Denton Shank, Conner Welt, Nathan Wheeler and River Wygant. Seventh grade: Elliot Blache, Grace Burnes, Easton Burris, Elyse Coffey, Gavin Early, Kylee Grove, Lucy Gura, Layne Hilliker, Larkin Knoll, Chloe Lee, Grace Lindemann, Kaden McGough, Aubin Oliver, Reid Passmore, Ella Pifer, Bayley Pruett, Hanna Roberts, Avery Roewer, Brady Schmidt and Ella Tunink. Sixth grade: Matthew Chisholm, Hadley Dolan, Evan Fuller, Brittan Mullens, Noah Nicholson and Gracy Smith.

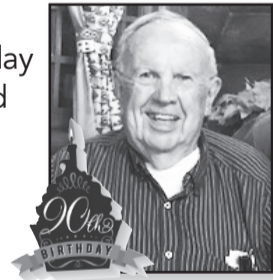
grade: Landon Bonvallet, Riley Boyer, Madelyn Capellan, Mallory Clark, Oren Cox, Jasen Daskalov, Amaya Gallegos, Nathaniel Groen, Hayden Hall, Jacob Harris, Addison Helms, Isabel Hill, Jordan Holifield, Brenna Hubbard, Morgan Jennings, Brady Kann, Wyatt King, Lucas McConnell, Mason McNeal, Dylan Meyer, Michael Muzzarelli, Dylan Nelson, Marley Rocha, Aiden Salo, Emma Shine, Alexa Slater, Wyatt Stacy, Braden Swanson, Renee Tegtmeyer, Layla Vvanti, Aven Waldschmidt, Savannah Wallery, Alexis Wiley, Lucas Wiley and Josiah Yohnka. Sixth grade: Anna Ashley, Brooks Auker, Mae Baier, Ryland Baker, Kalliope Barker, Bryan Bechtel, Khloe Bennington, Blaike Boehle, Alaina Bradford, Gwen Brandt, Rees Burle, Hunter Buttram, Daniel Cornett,

Aias Dufoe, Samantha Dunham, Marissa Dunk, Rylee Farrey, Alexander Freedlund, Bennett Gamlin, Molly Girten, Emma Goley, Jade Grimes, Tate Hall, Addlyn Hardy, Lauren Harmon, Emery Henert, Lacey Jackson, Lucas Kuehn, Bryan Lauderdale, Parker Magne, Madelyn Martz, Jaxson Mayborne, Kylie Meyer, Brinley Mullens,

Lexa Nunez, Samantha Ohoro, Elijah Oltmans, Aaron Pearson, Zachary Pleimann, Edward Rybicki, Sophia Schmidt, Luke Shenberger, Stella Soltis, Irelynn Spedding, Kyane Starr, Teagan Stien, Kamden Tobiason, Makenna Towle, Julian Trainor, Macie Trueblood, Jackson White, London Wygant and Lexi Yohnka.

The family of William "Bill" Clark of Mt. Morris is holding a card shower in honor of his 90th birthday on Feb. 13, 2023.

Please help him celebrate this special day by sending cards and well wishes to 314 Emily Street, Mt. Morris, IL 61054. Many thanks!



Kathy Clark, and Bill's children Karen, David, and Julie and their families, and Ralph Carpenter

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Kenneth L. Giese

**OREGON** – Kenneth L. Giese, 94, died Thursday, Jan. 26 at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon with his loving and devoted wife Barb at his side.

He was born March 7, 1928 in Dixon the son of Fred and Johanna (Heider) Giese. Ken attended Dixon Schools. Ken married Barbara E. Janssen on May 9, 1954 at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oregon.

He worked over 25 years for Sieg Automotive Parts as a manager. Ken served his country in the U.S. Army from 1950-1953. Ken was a longtime member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church, a 50-year member of the Oregon Masonic Lodge #420, and the Oregon VFW Post 8739.

He and his wife Barb loved being snowbirds in Florida for 19 years. He liked boating on the Rock River, doing his own yardwork, doing word puzzles



and building model cars. He rebuilt his own 1964 Corvair convertible.

Ken was predeceased by his parents, brothers William and Fred Giese, and sister Mary Craig.

He is survived by his wife Barb of Franklin Grove, brother Robert Giese of Dixon, sister-in-law Mary Giese of Dixon, sister-in-law Leta Thomas of Mesa, Arizona and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30 at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oregon with the Rev. Carl Rasmussen officiating. Visitation was held Sunday, Jan. 29 from 3-5 p.m. at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th St., Oregon. Burial was in the Ebenezer Cemetery near Oregon.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund is established in Ken's name for the Serenity Hospice and Home, the Rock River Center and the St. Paul Lutheran Church.

### Wilma La Verne Hongsermeier

**MT. MORRIS** — Wilma Hongsermeier 90, of Mt. Morris stepped into the arms of her Savior, Tuesday morning Jan. 31, after an extended illness.

She was born the second of six children to Mr. Verde A. and Mrs. Mamie F. (Cox) Coble of Flora, Illinois on June 19, 1932.

Wilma was an above average student during her academic career and received a Certificate of Award for an A average in spelling in the eighth grade. Later, her knowledge of spelling became very useful to her children and grandchildren. Her school days were

accentuated by her involvements in dance, cheerleading, volleyball and other popular sports of that time period. As in many large families, she participated in home keeping, most notably maintaining a large garden of fruits and vegetables. She often reminded her children, "We grew everything we ate and we wasted nothing."

In 1950, upon graduation from Flora High School, she moved to Dixon, having obtained employment at Public Service Company. That winter, after accepting a blind date, she met her future husband, Cpl. Roy William Hongsermeier U.S.A.F. They were married during a snowstorm on Dec. 20, 1951, and moved to Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska where Wilma began her life as the military wife of an officer of Strategic Air Command Army Air Forces. Upon completion of military service, they moved their young family to Mt. Morris to begin working in the family retail business Acker's Shoe Store, later becoming Roy's Shoes and Togs on Wesley Avenue in downtown Mt. Morris.

Never one to sit idle, Wilma preferred staying busy. She spent her time raising three sons, supporting her husband's business, maintaining a prolific garden, cooking and baking, working as a seamstress doing sewing and alterations of all kinds, and becoming involved in her local community and church.

Wilma was a woman of faith. Her Christian walk was the mainstay of her entire life. She believed in the power of prayer. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren can testify to her



daily routine of bible study and prayer. There were multiple times, that her sons referred to and found comfort in the certainty that their mother prayed for them (and their families) daily by name.

The highlights, underlines and notes in her much-used tattered bible are a tender and now precious reminder of her devotion.

Whether it was her involvement in the Christian Women's Club, Church Choir, Tutoring Club, Women's Missionary Society, Ladies Prayer Circle or her role as Sunday School Teacher and Church

Deaconess, her belief in the power of prayer was at the center of her commitment to serving her church community. She was described as a loving and caring woman and faithful friend.

She is survived by her sons, Michael Lee (Mary) Hongsermeier, of Rockford, Bruce Arnold (Cindy) Hongsermeier, of Mt. Morris, eight grandchildren, who will miss her famous angel food cake with seven-minute frosting and her thumbprint cookies, nine grandchildren who eagerly anticipated her chocolate brownies, her sister Judith Buhs Morris of Casa Grande, Arizona and several devoted nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 35 years Roy William Hongsermeier (1986) and her eldest son Ronald Wayne Hongsermeier (2020).

We would like to thank our family and friends for the heartfelt expressions of sympathy we have received from multiple social media outlets. Thank you for sharing your memories of Mom with us. With grateful hearts, we extend our thanks to the staff of Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon for the care and compassion we received while Mom was in residence there.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 11 a.m. at Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris, 102 S. Seminary Ave. Memorials of remembrance can be made to The Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris or Serenity Hospice and Home of Oregon.

Arrangements were entrusted to Finch Funeral Home, 405 E. Hitt St. Mt. Morris, IL 61054 815-734-6156.

### Alvin G. 'Al' Klapp

**STILLMAN VALLEY** – Alvin G. "Al" Klapp, 89, passed away on Friday, Jan. 20. He was born Oct. 31, 1933 in German Valley the son of Thomas and Jennie (Borgman) Klapp.

He attended Pecatonica Schools. Al married Diana Hall on Jan. 3, 1976 in Monroe Center. They recently celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary. He worked at Rockford Products for 47 years. After retirement he worked part time for the City of Byron maintenance department.

He was a member of the Monroe Center Community Church and the Stillman Valley Snowmobile Club. He enjoyed woodworking, golfing and snowmobiling.

Al was predeceased by his parents, daughter Debra Sass, brother Wilbur (Marge) Klapp and brother-in-law Jim Combs.

He is survived by his wife Diana Klapp; three sons: Tom (Diane) Klapp, Kevin (Karen) Klapp, and Terry Klapp;

step daughter Dawn (Aaron) Aaronson; sister Linda Combs; grandchildren: Tanya, Daniel, Briana, Carissa, Justin, Nathan, Terry, Jr., Tisha, Mike, Chris and Trae; numerous great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would especially like to thank Kristi Ashley, Tiffany and Joe from the Generations at Neighbor's Alzheimer's unit in Byron.

A visitation was held from 5-7 pm, Thursday, Jan. 26 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 136 W. Roosevelt Road in Stillman Valley. A memorial service was held 10:30 am, Friday, Jan. 27 at the funeral home with the Rev. Robert Mellon, pastor of the Monroe Center Community Church, officiating. Burial will follow the service at the Monroe Center Cemetery.

A memorial fund is established for the Stillman Valley Fire Station and the Monroe Center Community Church.

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



### Verna M. Seymour

**BYRON** – Verna M. Seymour, 93, died Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Generations at Neighbors in Byron.

She was born Feb. 24, 1929 in Elmyra, New York the daughter of Earl and Grace (Lemon) Walker. She married LeRoy Seymour on Aug. 10, 1946 in New York.

Verna owned and operated her own sign painting business for many years. She loved arts and crafts including crocheting name plates and quilting. She liked being outdoors and gardening.

Verna was predeceased by her par-

ents, her husband LeRoy, son Jeffery Seymour, sister Marion Folk, brother Marvin Walker, and two great-grandchildren Destiny and Caleb.

She is survived by her children Gary (Cathie) Seymour of Florida, Sherry (John) Brockmann of Belvidere and Marta Robertson of Byron, six grandchildren, many great grandchildren, and many great-great grandchildren.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

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



### Dena Lynn (Perkins) Smith

**OREGON** — Dena Smith of Oregon, 60, passed away peacefully on Nov. 13, 2022 at Oregon Rehabilitation Center.

Dena was born July 31, 1962, in Ottawa. She was the daughter of Philip and Virginia (Penoyer) Perkins. Dena completed two years of high school at Stillman Valley High School in Stillman Valley before the family moved to Texas. She continued her education and graduated in 1980 from Evant High School in Evant, Texas. Dena had two daughters: Virginia (Schwarz) Martinovich and Cassandra Thompson. On July 25, 2003, Dena married the love of her life, Gerald Smith. They celebrated 19 beautiful years together.

Dena previously worked at Avery Dennison, Rochelle, and Syncreon, Belvidere, where she made many lifelong friendships with many of her co-workers.

Dena and her husband enjoyed riding their Harley and took it on several trips to Sturgis. Later Dena and her husband became avid campers and loved camping and traveling and often took her daughters and grandchildren with them.

Dena was the best grandmother to her amazing grandsons, Jayden,

and Jaxson Martinovich. She loved having her grandchildren spend the weekend with her and watching them play sports. Dena enjoyed putting puzzles together, playing cards and

games with her friends and family. Dena loved connecting with her family and friends and you could always count on her to know what was happening within the family. Dena will always be known for her homemade sugar cookies and peanut brittle that she enjoyed making with her daughters. If you knew her, she loved you fiercely.

Dena is survived by her husband Gerald Smith of Oregon, her daughters Virginia (Todd) Martinovich of Loves Park, Cassandra Thompson of Mount Morris, her grandsons Jayden and Jaxson Martinovich of Loves Park, her parents Philip and Virginia Perkins of Steward, her sisters Deborah (Perkins) Woodall of Sycamore, Dawn (Perkins) Johnson of Rochelle, nephews; Matthew Johnson, Brandon Johnson, and Christopher (Bridgette) Woodall and niece; Angela (Jose) Villarreal and many great-nephews and great-nieces and one great-great-niece and many cousins and countless friends that she loved like family.

She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.



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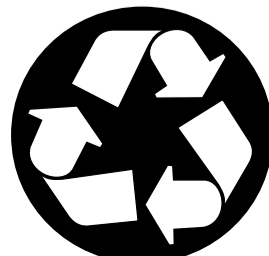
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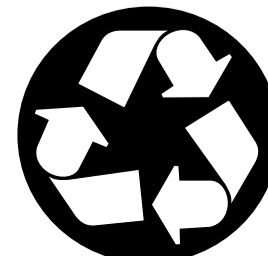
### Report policy

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

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



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Byron High School names honor students from first semester

**BYRON**—Byron High School recently named its honor students from the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year.

Ninth grade – All A’s: Barker, Annabella M.; Gamlin, Kendall L.; Green, Brynn P.; Groharing, Macy K.; Hammes, Braiden C.; Martz, August L.; Salo, Ava G.; Silva, Avril B.; Starwalt, Timothy S.; Wheeler, Molly C. and Zumdahl, Parker D. HIGH HONORS: Abate, Gavin M.; Basler-Heather, Adyson M.; Baxter, Payton O.; Bonvallet, Olivia A.; Booker, Alex R.; Burnes, Mason R.; Chapman, Addison N.; Chen, Zi Han; Considine, Caden J.; Dale, Kaleah J.; Daskalov, Jordan T.; Ebens, Wyatt E.; Gonzalez, Yareli; Hilliker, Micah J.; Khouangsavanh, Katanyah; Kilduff, Brooklyn A.; Lane, Madison M.; Linhart, Courtney J.; Madden, Laila B.; Mendoza, Andrew W.; Newton, Cason P.; Palacios, Dillila K.; Panttila, Brinkli A.; Payne, Andrew M.; Pleimann, Emma J.; Politsch, Kade R.; Prose, Tatum A.; Roberts, Gwendolyn K.; Rohde, Gavin J.; Rosavelasquez, Amelie Z.; Roschi, Alya M.; Shenberger, Evan D.; Smith, Madelaine E.; Spedding, Avelynn A.; Vincer, Ethan J.; Whitaker, Charles J. and White, Jacob S. Auken, Weston J. HONORS: Boehm, Gabriel A.; Bonte, Annabell R.; Bradford, Eva K.; Carter, Natalie M.; Crampton, Avalynn F.; Fulrath, Ella R.; Gautier, Zion P.; Grove, Logan N.; Irvin, Arianna M.; Kerchner, Joel T.; Krane, Zachary T.; Marchini, Layni E.; Norris, Dalton C.; Scheck, Brady D.; Smith, Mason D.; Smith, Seth M. Jr.; Tunick, James E. and Vajgrt, Xander T.

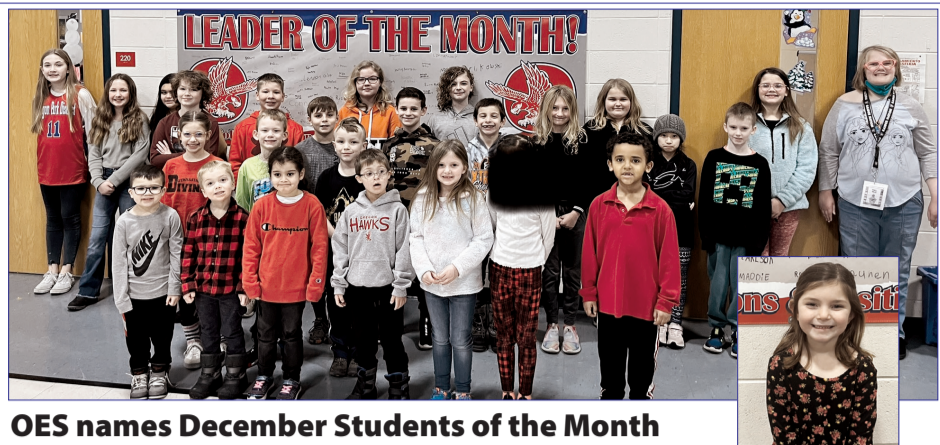
Tenth grade – All A’s: Bechtel, Hannah C.; Boatman, Taylor K.; Brown, Rory G.; Cassens, Nicholas J.; Chen, Xiang Yi; Dietrich, Claire M.; Franchi, Gianna L.; Groen, Rebekah H.; Hanes, Ella R.; Kilmer, Natalie R.; Mugrage, Benjamin A.; Ramos, Liliana M.; Rehberg, Hayden M.; Roush, Bryson T.; Sober, George T.; Stoll, Sadie A. and Wilde, Raven T. HIGH HONORS: Ankney, Kayla M.; Baker, Davis B.; Bauer, Alyssa R.; Bielskis, Karsyn R.; Boatman, Thomas K.; Brass, Nolan A.; Brown, Tatum L.; Chaney, Quen-

tahn D.; Connell, Liam H.; Cover, Haley R.; Cross, Sophia R.; Cunningham, Olivia N.; Dale, Talon J.; Degand, Dakota K.; Ebersohl, Audrey J.; Flores, Darlena R.; Fuller, Addison G.; Gentz, Samuel A.; Haas, Hunter J.; Harrolle, Westin J.; Helms, Averi D.; Henert, Delaney J.; Henkel, Claire C.; Horwedel, Austin M.; Jones, Meredith E.; Knoll, Brayden A.; Larson, Hayden E.; Lawver, Jacob S.; Lemke, Brenna C.; Markham, Audrey M.; McKinney, Delaney G.; Moser, Abigail M.; Norris, Jackson D.; Nyamwange, Sarah N.; Palmgren, Skylar G.; Palzkill, Jaden M.; Penrod, Jessica R.; Poulsen, Miami T.; Ross, Jaret B.; Rothmel, Chase J.; Schilling, Neve O.; Shank, Dillon S.; Squires, Brittany L.; Torres, Jahaira; VanBriesen, Kaydon J.; Vincer, Bailey E.; Vincer, Trey A.; Wagner, Brock A. and Williams, Evajane. HONORS: Baker, Gina M.; Barton, Brock M.; Claunch, Jared B.; Emery, Kamryn G.; Gorzynski, Rylee M.; Johnson, Maximus J.; Johnson, Noah J.; Kesler, Riley T.; Kurzwinski, Trace A.; Luedtke, Leif E.; Mershon, Cooper G.; Nelson, Morgan E.; Pauley, Benjamin R.; Peterson, Lena-Tari K.; Rhea, Madilyn M.; Springer, Dylan N.; Yianibas, Kallie A. and Zumdahl, Brooklyn G.

Eleventh grade – All A’s: Baker, Abigail L.; Carby, Aiden D.; Dolan, Taryn M.; Fish, Brianna L.; Freedlund, Andrew R.; Groharing, Madison L.; Gruber, Alexa G.; Little, Reese E. and Remhof, Fynn T. HIGH HONORS: Adler, Elise M.; Brandt, Maison J.; Buser, Carson P.; Connell, Abigail J.; Cornett, Naomi J.; Cross, Bailey M.; Dahlstrom, Emily K.; Drake, Nicholas A.; Druien, Allison V.; Dyck, Elizabeth A.; Fulrath, Alexander F.; Galster, Maverick L.; Groharing, Carter S.; Hammes, Jasmine J.; Hatcher, Hannah J.; Hegberg, Rosalie P.; Hildreth, Clair L.; Imel, Hope M.; Jackson, Jenna M.; Kann, Paityn C.; Kilduff, Braylon E.; Lancaste, Jack D.; Lee, Conner A.; Maldonado-Iniguez, Kevin G.; Mrozek, Jazmine J.; Perkins, Joshua K. Jr.; Perkins, Matthew J.; Rakowski, Faith L.; Ross, Jacob R.; Scheck, Hailey K.; Shouer, Sarah J.; Small-

wood, Reily G.; Smith, Ashlyn R.; Sterling, Bailey E.; Stoddard, Macey S.; Swanson, Wyatt A.; Tillett, Sarah L.; Tucker, Ryan V.; Turner, Haley E. and West, Hailey L. HONORS: Adams, Traiden T.; Aken, Kye D.; Aranda, Raegan K.; Barber, Jacob S.; Behn, Carsen T.; Bousum, Aiden J.; Conderman, Carson M.; Gautier, Ophelia C.; Gehrke, Bruce A.; Hall, Noah D.; Henkel, Ashton M.; Ingram, Nickolas C.; Jones, Kiley I.; Lenz, Taylor A.; Mindock, Josephine A.; Newton, Remi L.; Paulino, Armani J.; Pruitt, Melina S.; Shank, Ayden G.; Spencer, Leila N.; Watt, Emily M.; Wichman, Everett A. and Wilde, Jericho L.

Twelfth grade – All A’s: Baker, Brayden A.; Bielskis, Brittny M.; Haas, Alaina M.; Kesler, Nicholas P.; Kilmer, Audrey G.; Kultgen, Ava J.; Laurence, Josslyn M.; McHale, Shannon P.; Nielsen, Gracelyn K.; Palmgren, Ashton J.; Reiche, Joseph L.; Smith, Braden J.; Smith, Sydney R.; Swan, Dylan P.; Swiech, Lily S. and Whitmer, Brooke M. HIGH HONORS: Bargren, Hunter F.; Bell, Nathan L.; Carlson, Lauren M.; Carlson, Maia K.; Cone, James F.; Davis, Jennasyn G.; Denton, Mara R.; Duke, Dominik G.; Ebens, Neil G.; Eisele, Prezley A.; Fleege, Ella K.; Freedlund, Mikalah J.; Grundstrom, Ella G.; Hardy, Isabel G.; Hawthorne, Keslee R.; Henert, Kennedy R.; Janovsky, Zachary M.; Kann, Jacob M.; Krall, Ava M.; Lindquist, Madison R.; Malone, Alexis M.; McLester, Zaddock A.; Mershon, Charles S.; Morgan, Harley D.; Moser, Madison E.; Murphy-Voiles, Kathleen G.; Politsch, Tyson J.; Poulsen, Jeremiah D.; Pruett, Reece C.; Reed, Tyler J.; Rehberg, Emmalyn N.; Rock, Michael T.; Rosavelasquez, Bella C.; Salisbury, Cole J.; Scullion, Chloe E.; Shank, Lauryn R.; Sholes, Cooper A.; Shultz, Hadlea N.; Smith, Corinna M.; Sober, John S.; Spencer, Adrien M.; Strohecker, Kennedy M.; Swartz, Hayden J.; Wicklein, Jonathan M.; Wieck, Colton L.; Winkhart, Xiomara A. and Wolfley, Bryan D. HONORS: Allen, Bryce D.; Burke, Connor W.; Duncan, Jasmine R.; Heslop, Aiden J. and Johnson, Lita M.



OES names December Students of the Month

**OREGON** — The following students were named Students of the Month at Oregon Elementary School for displaying outstanding leadership and positive behavior: Jacob Graf, Brea Sager, Daniel Hitchcock, Andrew Garmon, Lavontre Hatfield, Paisley Plock, Henry McAullife, Lola Arias, Presley Oliver, Caleb Zshornack, Leona Raper, Colin Larsen, Mya Jacinto, Elijah Moore, Lauren Laurent, Channing Berg, Maverick Pope, Zach Folk, Ella McMillian, Rose Seidelman, Scarlett Roberts, Caysen Cicchetti, Anthony Caposey, Lexi Wills, Ethan Johnson, Alexis Breeden, Cade Suter, Roman Pfoutz, Kaileena Pham, Gianna Quadraro, Marley Smith, Delaney Wilson, Riley Crawford, Jaxson Oltman, Alleah Pennington, Liam Howells, Rozlynn Warner, Antwon Howard, Fiona Terwedow and Rowen Wehmhoefer.



Photo of all Forreston Junior High School spelling bee participants.

## Forreston Junior High School conducts spelling bee

**FORRESTON**—Forreston Junior High School held its annual spelling bee on Friday, Jan. 20. Students, parents and staff watched as the qualifiers from the language arts classes of Mrs. Griseta, Mrs. Leddy and Ms. Meyers, competed for the title of top speller. 26 students from sixth, seventh and eighth grades took part in the competition.

Cora Schmidt and Jillian Moore battled to earn first and second place honors respectively. Sixth grader, Cora, is the daughter of Erin and Eric Schmidt of Forreston. Jillian, an eighth grader, is the daughter of Dr. April Moore and Chris Moore of German Valley. After 16 total rounds and three rounds of head-to-head competition, Cora spelled the words “exhilaration” and “pioneered” to earn the championship medal. Jillian earned the runner-up spot after correctly spelling “retribution” but misspelling “reenactment.”

Cora will compete in the Lee/Ogle/Whiteside



Forreston Junior High School spelling bee winner and alternate: Cora Schmidt and Jillian Moore.

County Regional Spelling Bee held at Dixon High School on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 10 a.m. good luck to Cora as she represents Forreston Jr/Sr. High School at the Regional Bee in Dixon.

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# LOCAL NEWS



## MJHS November Student Leaders of the Month named

**STILLMAN VALLEY** — Meridian Junior High School would like to congratulate the November Student Leaders of the Month. These students were first nominated and voted on by their classmates for the November trait – success and also Leader In Me Habit three – put first things first. Congrats to the following (from left to right): Kaylee Hulstedt (sixth grade), Cecilia Bishop (seventh grade), Casey McCleary (seventh grade), Vaughn Schamper (eighth grade), Whitt Carter (sixth grade) and Brinna Sutliff (eighth grade).

## 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

Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. **962-5585**

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**

## OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Police investigate crash

### Jan. 19

At 3:19 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 5th Street municipal parking lot involving a 2005 Ford driven by Antonio H. Galvan-Herrera, 44, Rockford, and a parked 2022 Toyota owned by Vault Trust, LSR, Byron. No citations were issued.

### Jan. 24

At 7:25 a.m., Oregon Police issued Brian D. Schumaker, 45, Sterling, a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 100 block of Daysville Road.

At 12:49 p.m., Oregon Police issued Betty J. Thoreson, 84, Byron, a citation for speeding 43 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

### Jan. 26

At 7:58 a.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash at the intersection of 7th and Washington Streets involving a 2008 Ford driven by Dawson J. Lewis, 18, Oregon, who struck a 2022 Subaru belonging to Mason J. Hayenga, II, 34, Oregon. Lewis was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

At 9:51 p.m., Oregon Police issued Ana M. Jungerman, 17, Dixon, a citation for speeding 52 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h.

zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

### Jan. 27

At 5:16 a.m., Oregon Police issued Muriel P. Casinger, 60, Oregon, a citation for disobeying a traffic control device. This violation occurred at the 10th and Washington Streets.

### Jan. 29

At 8:05 a.m., Oregon Police issued Evelyn R. Villareal, 22, Sterling, a citation for speeding 50 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. This violation occurred in the 400 block of South 4th Street.

At 7:29 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash where a 2020 Ford driven by Richard L. Bunton, 69, Oregon, struck a parked 2020 Ford owned by Gerald L. Newman, 54, Oregon. Bunton was issued a citation for failure to give information after striking an unattended vehicle.

At 10:17 p.m., Oregon Police issued Paul M. Snow, 28, Dixon, a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 300 block of North 4th Street.

Twenty parking citations and seven verbal warnings issued during the week of Jan. 23-29.

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

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

# Man arrested for aggravated domestic battery

**OREGON** — On Jan. 17 at approximately 6:32 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the Mount Morris Estates at lot 12 in reference to a disturbance. After investigation, deputies placed John Hitchcock, 40, of Mount Morris under arrest for aggravated domestic battery. Hitchcock was transported to the Ogle County Jail and where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On Jan. 17 at approximately 9:23 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. After investigations, deputies placed Steven Smith, 52, of Dixon under arrest for possession of methamphetamine 15-100 grams (class one felony), possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine (class X felony). Smith was additionally issued citations for no rear mud flaps and operating an uninsured vehicle. Smith was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On Jan. 19 at approximately 11:10 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,500 block of North Illinois Route 2. After a brief investigation, Nicole Jones 44, of DeKalb, was arrested for driving while license suspended. Jones was also cited for suspended registration and released on scene with a future court date.

On Jan. 19 at 9:51 p.m. deputies, with the assistance of Rochelle Police Department, responded to a car in the ditch at Illinois Route 251 and Scott Avenue in Hillcrest. After a brief investigation, Megan Lockinger was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Lockinger was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond. Lockinger was also issued citations for suspended registration, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, disregarding a stop sign, improper lane usage, and leaving the scene of an accident.

On Jan. 19 at 7:03 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. As a result, Jose A. Colindres Chacon, 35, of Rockford was arrested for no valid driver's license. Colindres was additionally issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and no tail lights. Colindres was released on an I-Bond with a court date to appear.

On Jan. 20 at approximately 5:13 p.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle property damage accident at the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies placed Amber Appelgren, 38, of Machesney Park under arrest for aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol, driving under the influence of alcohol and no valid driver's license. Appelgren was additionally issued citations for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and illegal transportation of alcohol. Appelgren was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held pending court appearance in front of a judge.

On Jan. 20 at 11:08 a.m. following a

traffic stop in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 2 deputies arrested Kaitlyn Omann, 23, of Rockford for unlawful possession of cannabis improper container and reckless driving. Omann also received citations for passing on the shoulder and speeding. Gavan Matthews, 25, of Rockford was arrested for unlawful possession of cannabis 30-100 grams. Both were lodged in the Ogle County Jail.

On Jan. 21 at 2:11 p.m. following a traffic stop at Illinois Route 26 and Coffman Road, deputies arrested Brandon Sickles, 37, of Freeport for unlawful possession of cannabis improper container. Sickles also received citations for illegal transportation of alcohol and disobeying a stop sign. Sickles was released on scene and will appear in court at a later date.

On Jan. 22 at approximately 10:22 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of East Twombly Road and Dement Road. After investigation, deputies arrested Diamante Godina, 22, of Rochelle, for possession of a controlled substance (crack/cocaine) class four felony, driving while license suspended, an active Ogle County warrant and an active DeKalb County warrant. Godina was additionally cited for an equipment violation. Godina was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held pending a court appearance before a judge.

On Jan. 24, deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Illinois Route 26. After an investigation it was learned that a semi being driven by 66-year-old Guillermo Jovel of Bradley was westbound on Illinois Route 64 when he failed to stop at the stop sign at Illinois Route 26. Jovel drove through the intersection and struck the embankment at that location. Jovel was uninjured in the accident and refused any medical attention. Jovel was issued a citation for disregarding a traffic control sign.

On Jan. 25 at approximately 8:34 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of East Blackhawk Drive and Peru Street for no registration light and improper display of registration. Upon further investigation deputies arrested Tahj Gulley, 23, of Madison, Wisconsin, for unlawful use of a firearm and no valid license. Gulley was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 26 at approximately 6:09 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 106. After brief investigation, deputies arrested Koryun Travis, 36, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended and an active Rockford PD warrant. Travis was also issued a citation for an equipment violation. Travis was subsequently transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

*All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.*

# LOCAL NEWS

## Falk named November Student of the Month at Polo High

### Senior plans to pursue degree in welding

**POLO** — Polo Community High School senior Thomas Falk was recently named the November Student of the Month at the school and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for his efforts.

Falk is the son of Bridgette & Tom Falk. He participates in the school's game club and volunteers at concessions. After high school, he wants to either become a welder or work as an artist. The Polo senior answered a list of questions upon winning student of the month.

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

-Personally I think it just takes doing the best you can, if you're struggling to be afraid to ask for help, not everything clicks and that's more than fine.

What do you do in your free time?

-I like to listen to music and draw occasionally, That or I'll take a walk, helps me get some much-needed fresh air.

What is your life's philosophy?

-Be the best person I can be, even when it seems things aren't going right.

What class do you find really engaging and why?

-Art class, I always enjoyed creating by hand like origamis and paintings. I was able to let my creativity just flow in that class.

What are your career and post-graduation plans?

-Once I graduate, I plan on going to community college, probably Sauk Valley, where I hope I'll get a degree



in welding. That and also a degree in art if I ever get to that point.

What are your two favorite extra-curricular, volunteer or community activities you participate in?

-In the past I always liked joining FFA and Drama Club, I always just enjoyed being a helping hand in either, in drama I would always help with backstage work, and for FFA I'd help with the green house and the petting zoo.

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

-The moment I loved the most at high school was homecoming, it was always nice to talk to people you know, have a little fun, and listen to some music, and dressing up was fun too. What is your hope for the future?

-I hope that I become successful with whatever career I plan to pursue in the future.



### Polo Lions Club holds Christmas party

On Tuesday, Jan. 17, the Polo Lions Club had their Christmas party at the Barnacopia. The party started off with a dessert auction that raised over \$1,600 for the Rockford Lions Club Charity Foundation for a Lions Park handicapped fishing pier at Rock Cut State Park. Nicole Fruit, the district governor, inducted Larry Loomis into the Lions Club. He is standing with his sponsor, Tom Suits. Larry was Tom's sponsor in 1977 when Tom joined the Lions Club. The party was catered by Celebrations Catering (Mindy Ditzler) and Toby Colcord Aguilar. The meal and desserts were excellent.

### Iowa fall 2022 dean's list honorees announced

**IOWA CITY, Iowa** — More than 7,500 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa were named to the dean's list for the 2022 fall semester. Dean's list status was earned by only 2,427 first year undergraduates during the 2022 fall semester at Iowa, only 1,768 second year students, only 1,503 third year students, and only 1,845 fourth year students.

They include: Elle Baker of Byron (major: biomedical sciences; first year), Breccan Berns of Chana (major: pre-business; second year), Grace Carr

of Leaf River (major: speech and hearing science; fourth year), Sean Flanagan of Lindenwood (major: psychology; third year), Josey Fox of Mt. Morris (major: sociology; third year), Chloe Klein of Oregon (major: radiation sciences; fourth year), Hope Mickey of Stillman Valley (major: biomedical engineering; first year), Ashley Rhodes of Chana (major: biomedical engineering; third year), Bailey Thede of Baileyville (major: accounting; second year) and Jillian Wrede of Byron (major: health studies; fourth year).

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Feb. 7

Serenity Hospice & Home's Young Widows Group will meet at The Serenity Home, 1658 S. Illinois Route 2, Oregon, from 6-7 p.m. This group is for ages 55 and under. To register please call 815-732-4111 by noon.

### Feb. 9

Serenity Hospice & Home's Lunch Group will meet at The Butterfly Restaurant, 1165 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle at 11:30 p.m. This group is for any bereaved in the area.

To register please call 815-732-4111 by 10 a.m.

### Feb. 10

Serenity Hospice & Home's C.A.F.E. will meet at The Serenity Home, 1658 S Illinois Route 2, Oregon, from 9-10 a.m. This group is for all bereaved in the area. To register please call 815-

732-4111 by 4 p.m. on Feb. 9.

### Feb 10

From 6-9 p.m. the Polo Senior Center will host a Valentine's Dance and party. 3D sound DJ will be here and we will be serving hot hors d'oeuvres. Price \$10 per person. \$8 for members. Please let us know if you are coming. 815-946-3818.

### Feb. 13

All ages are welcome at a Tea for You at the Mt. Morris Senior Center! The tea will take place on Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. We will enjoy a tea including delicious food, hot and cold tea, prizes, and an R-rated comedy show by Ashley McKinney. Ashley is an up-and-coming local comedian who has done shows in the area and at the Monroe Theatre Guild in Monroe, Wisconsin. She enjoys telling stories about her life and making people

laugh. This evening is only \$15 each. To purchase tickets, simply call the Mt. Morris Senior Center at 815-734-6335 or stop by Mt. Morris Village Hall at 105 W. Lincoln St., Mt. Morris.

### March 17

Celebrate St Patrick's Day at the Polo Senior Center with homecooked corn beef and cabbage. Available carryout from 11 a.m. until gone. Cost \$15 per meal for non-members, \$10 for members. This is a fundraiser for Polo Area Senior Services. If you would like to dine in and enjoy the St Patrick's Day program please call to sign up. Our program starts at 11 a.m. and features live traditional Irish music with Louise Price and friends. Food will be served after the music around 11:45 a.m. Corn beef and cabbage pre orders can be placed at the senior center and must be paid for at the time of ordering.

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# VIEWPOINT

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

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

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## MOMENTS IN TIME

\* On Feb. 19, 1473, Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Poland to a prosperous merchant family. Originally designed for a career in church law, he is considered the father of modern astronomy and was the first European scientist to propose that Earth and other planets revolve around the sun.

\* On Feb. 16, 1894, gunslinger John Wesley Hardin was pardoned after spending 15 years in a Texas prison for murder. Reputed to have fatally shot one man merely for snoring, Hardin likely killed more than 40 people, and while he became an attorney after his release, the following year he took a bullet in the back himself in a revenge shooting.

\* On Feb. 18, 1937, severe dust storms hit five western states, resulting in a dozen deaths within a few days. Citizens were advised to plug their window sills and door jams, and hang wet sheets over their doors and windows. They could taste dirt and dust in their food, and the clouds of it were so thick that they blocked the sun.

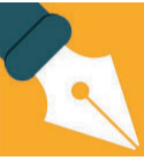
\* On Feb. 15, 1953, 17-year-old Tenley Albright, of Boston, became the first American female to win the world figure skating championship at an outdoor rink in Davos, Switzerland, with all seven judges giving her a first-place vote. Three years later, at the Winter Olympics, she also became America's first female skating gold medalist.

\* On Feb. 14, 1962, Jacqueline Kennedy led a virtual tour of the White House's state rooms, which she had recently refurbished. Wearing a red wool dress and pearls, she described the mansion's antiques, furnishings and historic portraits to a wide TV audience at home, earning both critical praise and an honorary Emmy.

## Forreston Lions Club thanks community

**Dear editor,**  
The Forreston Lions Club would like to thank Solutions Bank and Koeller Hardware for sponsoring the Christmas Angel trees. The members of the community were very generous in picking up angels and returning them with gifts. We would also like to thank Forreston Mutual Insurance Co. for purchasing the fruit for the Christmas boxes. Thanks to Dale De-

Wall, Lawrence Knolwes and the Forreston Fire Department for their donations. Canned goods were also collected at the Forreston Grade School and money was collected in a donation jar at Koeller Hardware. It is wonderful to see the community come together for this project. A total of 58 food boxes were delivered. Thanks again.  
**Lion Randy Ludwig and  
Lion Larry Dikkers**



## Gun legislation is unconstitutional

**Dear editor,**  
In responding to some of the recent letters about Gov. Pritzker's illegal and unconstitutional gun grab, I would offer this:  
I am writing to thank Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle for his, as well as 90+ others of Illinois' 103 counties, standing up as a constitutional sheriff of these United States of America for our Second Amendment right. It seems like many liberals of today (such as Governor J.B. Pritzker) were asleep in high school American history class when they should have been learning what it means to be a constitutional sheriff in this country as well as the importance of the Second Amendment to keep America the land of the free and home of the brave. Perhaps Thomas Jefferson said it best when he said, "The beauty of the Second Amendment is it will not be needed until they try to take it."  
I can speak for myself as well as many other Ogle County residents

when I say it would give me a great deal of pride and satisfaction to stand shoulder to shoulder with Sheriff VanVickle along with other like-minded patriots at our county line to stop any gun grabbers from their entrance. Another good quote of these days comes to us anonymously in internet memes and on t-shirts, "This is the government our founding fathers warned us about."  
And for the Ogle County Life which has a reputation for printing far more letters from the left than from the right, I would offer yet another old anonymous quote that also serves as a truism to assure this goes into print, "Our First Amendment rights depend on the Second Amendment."  
We can look at history no further than both socialist Venezuela and Nazi Germany to see that after the citizens are unarmed, the news becomes nothing more than propaganda.  
**Mark Schwendau  
Byron**



# 2023 legislative priorities

**W**E are full-fledged into the new legislative year with all of the elected legislators now seated. So the work begins now as we plod through the mountains of bills and issues that those in power can dream up. My dream – repeal about half of the laws, rules and regulations we already have. Again, that's my dream; I'm sure some lawmakers would call it their nightmare.



Ron Kern

The Illinois Farm Bureau has established the following as the 2023 state legislative priorities:  
Estate Tax – To keep family farms together, increase the Illinois Estate and Generation Skipping Transfer Tax Act exemption level to an amount equivalent to the federal estate tax and credit level of \$12.06 million per individual. In Illinois that level is \$4 million, while the federal level is \$12 million. In terms of farmland 300 acres in Illinois would trigger the tax.  
Energy Generation Sales Tax Exemption – Allow electric power generation equipment used for production agriculture to qualify as farm equipment and machinery for the state sales tax exemption. In doing so it would incentivize farmers to modernize and upgrade creating new energy efficiencies.  
Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy – Maintain the IDOA/ Illinois NRCS funding arrangement for permanency of 40 conser-

vation planners supporting the NLRs and Conservation Reserve Program. Continue efforts to reduce nutrient losses to Illinois waters by relying on voluntary, incentive-based NLRs and conservation programs and partnerships. With NLRs goals established in 2017 with a deadline date of 2025, these programs and funding resources are needed to help farmers to meet the NLRs goals.  
Private Property Protection – Advocate for balancing the protection of private property rights with the appropriate development of projects impacting farmland, especially as demand for renewable energy and carbon capture projects increase. This includes requiring comprehensive agricultural drainage plans where surface or subsurface drainage infrastructure for farmland will be negatively impacted and requiring projects to enter into and comply with Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreements overseen by the IDOA. While most if not all renewable energy projects will be constructed on farmland it is vitally important to protect the private property rights of every individual and mitigate any potential impacts.  
Ethanol – Extend the Sales Tax Incentive for E-85 until Dec. 31, 2035. The current E-85 Sales Tax Incentive expires Dec. 31, 2023. The biofuel industry adds value to commodities grown in Illinois and a robust biofuel industry helps make farming profitable while

reducing greenhouse gas emissions.  
Create a Sales Tax Incentive of 20 percent for E-15 blended ethanol/gasoline fuel.  
Agricultural Funding – Work to maintain adequate state funding for key Illinois Department of Agriculture programs like meat/poultry/egg inspectors, environmental programs, warehouse oversight and veterinarian programs. This includes advocating for a viable and independent Illinois Department of Agriculture. Agriculture is still Illinois' largest industry and an economic driver. Investing in agriculture allows the state to prosper and grow new business adding to the tax base.  
LMFA – Maintain a balanced process for siting livestock farms through the Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA) that protects both the environment and farmers' ability to raise livestock. The LMFA provides consistent statewide standards that ensure livestock farms will be sited based on scientific, objective criteria, and that rules are applied uniformly across Illinois.  
So if you are wondering what I'll be working on this year, besides home repair, there's the list. "You do not examine legislation in the light of the benefits it will convey if properly administered, but in the light of the wrongs it would do and the harms it would cause if improperly administered." -Lyndon B. Johnson  
*Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.*

## What cars and planets have in common

**M**ECHANICS have a saying. "Pay me now or pay me later," when it comes to following — or not following — the maintenance manuals that come with our cars. We can save some money in the short run by ignoring that advice, but in the long run, we'll pay more.  
The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, has produced something like a maintenance manual for the planet. Thousands of scientists from around the world contributed to its latest report, which came out last year. Their recommendations, like those in auto maintenance manuals, are based on research, but critics question their methods and conclusions.  
Climate scientists collect information from the past and present and feed it into powerful computers. The result is a model, a picture of what can happen under different conditions. Scientists use models to make predictions about the climate, like auto makers do about cars, regarding what will happen if we fail to take care of the planet.  
The IPCC's most recent report, which came out last year, laid out five possible futures, depending on how well we do at limiting the amount of carbon and methane in the atmosphere. They

run from the unpleasant to the disastrous. The most likely scenario lies between those two extremes.  
Climate scientists tell us that, regardless of which of the possible futures we choose, we'll have to adapt to changes in our weather. UCAR, a climate research partnership of colleges and universities, informs us that the current warming is "unprecedented in over 2,000 years of records," and that we're already dealing with some of its effects. The IPCC reports that we're not on track, at the present rate of progress, to limit warming to the least-bad of its five possible future outcomes. Each added level of warming will, it says, "increase the likelihood of severe and irreversible impacts."  
Some people are skeptical of these predictions. You'd think, when reading the opinion pages of the Wall Street Journal, for example, that climate scientists are divided as to whether or not we have much to worry about. Nothing could be farther from the truth.  
Climate scientists are virtually unanimous in their agreement that the climate is warming faster than ever before in recorded history, and that human activity is the cause. Surveys of

climate scientists have shown agreement levels between 90 and 100 percent, with typical results in the upper 90s. The four authors of "Consensus Revealed," a book published by the Institute of Physics, reported 98.7 percent agreement in their survey, rising to 100 percent among scientists with the most expertise.  
Other critics question the accuracy of climate models, which, after all, try to predict things that haven't happened yet. Scientists partially overcome this problem by running their models from the present backwards to see how well they match. They then correct their equations as needed, so that they do indeed reflect what happens in reality.  
A research team contributed impressive additional evidence for the accuracy of climate models in the Dec. 4, 2019 issue of Geophysical Research Letters. The team compared predictions from as far back as the 1970s to what has happened since, and found that 14 out of 17 of them came true, meaning that they were "statistically indistinguishable from what actually occurred."  
The big question mark doesn't reside in climate science's models, but instead in our response to



Lowell Harp

its warnings and recommendations. Two surveys by the Pew Research Center are revealing. A November 2019 report disclosed that most Americans felt that the government wasn't doing enough to protect the climate and the environment. Nevertheless, a survey of voters during the 2022 election placed climate change far down the list of voter concerns. Only 38 percent said that it was "very important," compared to 79 percent for the top issue, which was the economy.  
It's tempting to disregard maintenance when there are so many other demands on our time and money. The car's still running OK. Grass is still growing in our yards and the birds are singing. Maybe we should wait and see if something breaks, and then fix it if we have to.  
"Don't listen to those experts. They'll tell you anything," said a used car salesman to my dad many years ago.  
"Pay me now or pay me later," says the mechanic. The issue, whether it's cars or climate, is pretty much the same.  
*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>.*

## 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.



# LOCAL NEWS

## Stillman Bank promotes Hughes to president and CEO

**ROCKFORD** — On behalf of the Stillman BancCorp N.A. Board of Directors, Chairman Martin C. Larson is pleased to announce that Thomas R. Hughes has been promoted to president and chief executive officer. In his new position, Tom will be responsible for the overall strategic direction of the bank.



Tom earned his degree in agribusiness from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and his MBA from Lewis University. He is also a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking in Madison, Wisconsin. Tom joined the bank in 1995 and has over 35 years of banking experience.

Tom has always been very active in the local

communities. He has served as a board member for the Ogle County Habitat for Humanity, Stillman Valley Economic Development Committee, Ogle County Fair Association and the Oregon Chamber of Commerce. He has also served as chairperson for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and was a member

of the capital campaign committee for Rock River Center, Inc.

"Congratulations to Tom on this well-deserved promotion," Larson said. "Over the last 28 years, his leadership skills and passion for banking have been obvious to all of us. We are very proud of Tom and all of his accomplishments and look forward to seeing his leadership take us to the next level."

Tom currently resides in Stillman Valley with his wife Kathleen. They have three daughters and two granddaughters.

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

## Leaf River High School alumni event is March 4

**LEAF RIVER** — The 48th Annual Leaf River Alumni Event will be held on March 4 at the River Valley Complex (former Leaf River School).

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. A sandwich supper will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Volleyball games start at 5 p.m. The program to recognize the class of 1973 will begin at 6:30 p.m. The basketball game will begin at

7 p.m. The alumni band will also be performing so bring your instrument if you are interested in playing.

\$5 donation for game and supper (\$2 for basketball and band players).

If you are a graduate of the class of 1973, and will be attending or, if you are willing to help with the event, please contact Linda Bomeman at 815-938-2129 or [lbomeman76@gmail.com](mailto:lbomeman76@gmail.com).

## Byron Park District to offer lifeguard training class

**BYRON** — The Byron Park District will be offering one lifeguard training class this spring. The American Red Cross Lifeguard Training course teaches lifeguard candidates the skills and knowledge needed to prevent and respond to aquatic emergencies.

The course is a blended learning course, combining online learning with in-person skills sessions. Participants will receive the link for the online learning website by the first class date. Upon successful completion of written and skill tests, participants will receive a Lifeguarding with CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and First Aid certifications valid for two years.

The class is located at the Byron High School swimming pool and park district conference room. Instruction is provided by

Carrie Stralow and open to participants ages 15 and older by March 19. The last day to register is Feb. 20. For more information visit [www.byronparks.org](http://www.byronparks.org)

Prerequisites include: Swim 300 yards continuously, using front crawl, breaststroke or a combination of both. Swimming on the back or side is not allowed; Tread water for two minutes using only the legs; Swim 20 yards using front crawl or breast stroke, surface dive to a depth of 7-10 feet, retrieve a 10-pound object, return to the surface, and swim 20 yards on your back to the starting point, place object on deck and get out of the pool within one minute and 40 seconds. When returning to the starting point, one must hold the 10-pound object with both hands and must keep his/her face above the water.

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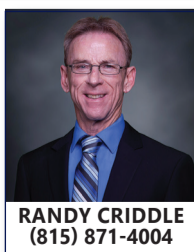
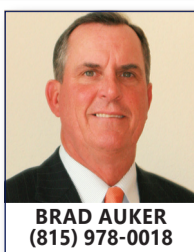
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# LOCAL NEWS

## Stillman Bank donates \$15,000 with Purchase with a Purpose campaign

**STILLMAN VALLEY** – Stillman Bank recently ended their Purchase with a Purpose debit card campaign in which a \$1 donation was made to local charities with every Stillman Bank debit card transaction up to \$15,000!

Six local, non-profit organizations from the Rock River Valley received \$2,500 from this promotion: Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County, Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity, Focus House, Rock River Valley Pantry,

Veterans Drop-In Center and Village of Progress. For more information about this campaign or Stillman Bank's products and services, visit [www.stillmanbank.com](http://www.stillmanbank.com).



Stillman Bank Vice President Retail Banking Kathy Yocum (left) and Stillman Bank Retail Officer Manager Ryan Spradlin (right) present the \$2,500 donation check to Jeni Hardin, executive director - Foundation for Focus House and Brenda Mason - Focus House director.



Stillman Bank Vice President & Habitat for Humanity Board Member Bryan Markham (center) presents the \$2,500 check to the Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County Board of Directors: Don Roberts, Vanessa White-Broome (outgoing executive director), Mike Wilder (treasurer), Bruce Gerardy, Gail Tuttle president, Dave Starke (secretary), and Sheri Anspaugh (incoming executive director).

Stillman Bank Executive Vice President & COO David Mecklenburg (second from left) presents the \$2,500 check to Veterans Drop-In Center Executive Director Eric Willard (right) and other Veterans Drop-In Center ambassadors.



Stillman Bank Senior Vice President Pat Donahue (left) and Stillman Bank Retail Banking Representative Jodi Peters (right) present the \$2,500 check to Village of Progress Executive Director Brion Brooks.

## Join Us In Celebrating 38 Years and Become an Honorary Member of the Ogle County Life

Dear Reader,

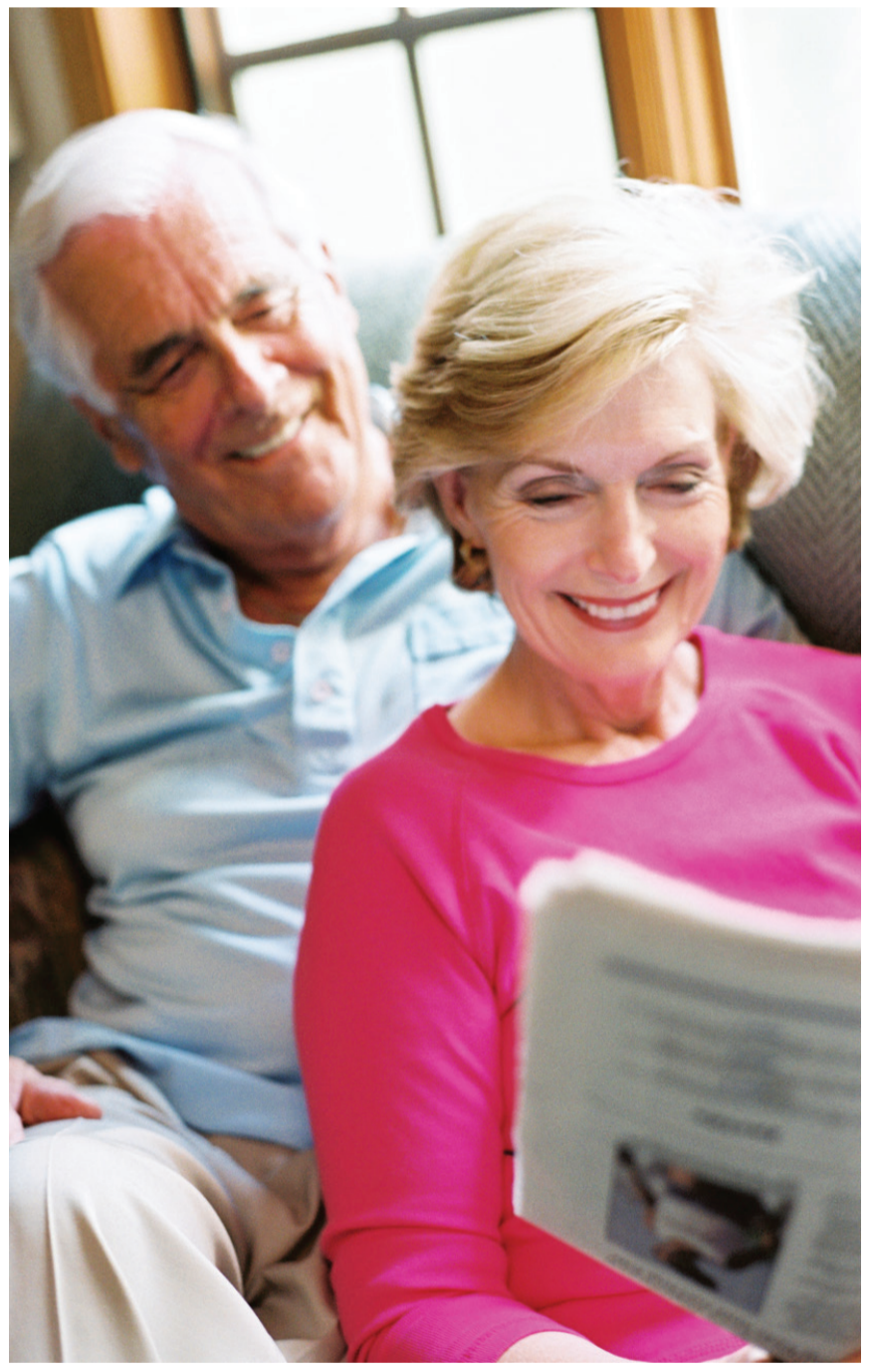
We are very proud to announce that for 38 years we have provided you with the Ogle County Life newspaper **FREE** of charge. Based on responses from many of you we are confident you enjoy our publication and look forward to its arrival each week.

The Life is Ogle County's most widely read weekly newspaper for many reasons. Some of you read our paper for local news, public meetings, social events and church happenings, while others enjoy our articles and views on area current events. A great number of you rely on us for grocery ads, real estate, financial and health information, as well as display and insert advertising from many businesses around the area. Our classified ad section is a popular source of valuable information for many.

Whether it's information about area high schools, news about local senior citizens or church happenings, we have been providing it week after week, **FREE** of charge to more than 10,000 households in Ogle County for 38 Years! Think about the volume of local news and advertising we provide compared to those expensive area subscription papers. We do our best to give you a comprehensive newspaper that appeals to all of our readers, and when you consider that our product is **FREE**--we believe we do a pretty good job.

We expect to be able to continue offering this service to you for years to come, but your help makes it easier! Today you can become an Honorary Staff member of the Ogle County Life! Just drop off or mail in your voluntary payment in the yellow envelope inserted in today's paper or just use your own envelope. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and we look forward to continue serving our readers each week.

Thank you,  
Mike Feltes, General Manager



## Join our staff by February 28th and you can help out our local senior citizens too!

This year if you elect to become a 2023 Honorary Life Staff Member by making a small voluntary payment by February 28th. A contribution of 10% will be forwarded in your name to area senior centers throughout Ogle County for provision of services to senior citizens.

**p.s.**

In an effort to prevent any undue confusion and concerns, it should be clear that no one is obligated to make a voluntary payment. Regardless of whether you elect to become an Honorary Staff member or not, your decision has no effect on receiving your Ogle County Life paper each week, nor will it affect in any way the services provided by the area senior centers in Ogle County.





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# Oregon girls bowlers rolling towards regional play

‘Our goal is to always get better and have fun doing it’

BY GEORGE HOWE  
CORRESPONDENT

**OREGON** — It seems to be human nature that we strive for perfection with most things that we set out to do. Often times it takes hours, maybe years of practice and repetition to smooth out the rough edges.

Take bowling for example. It’s a sweet precise science of entry angles of the pocket, arm swing, and placement of the ball. Even then, according to Oregon Boys and Girls Head Coach Al Nordman, it still isn’t enough.

“What other sport or activity can you do where everything is absolutely perfect and still not get the ultimate outcome of a strike?” he said. “It becomes a fun, lifelong passion.”

For the past 20 years, bowling has been Nordman’s life. After changing careers, he got the opportunity to purchase the Town and Country Lanes in Mt. Morris back in 2000, then Plum Hollow bowling alley in Dixon in 2004. He’s been working with elementary to high school kids to help them achieve their goals. Nordman established the Illinois



Oregon girls bowlers from left to right: Trinity Hultquist, Kendra Ehrler, Ava Wight, Mackenzie Alford and Kylie Krug. Back row: Head Coach Al Nordman. (Photo by George Howe)

Elementary School Association Bowling Tournament 11 years ago. He schedules all of the matches, drives the team bus, and is able to get by with limited rest.

“Fortunately, I only need about 4-5 hours of sleep a night,” he said with a laugh.

See BOWL page 2



Polo senior Poper scores 1,000th career point

In a 62-55 win over Forreston at home on Feb. 1, Polo varsity girls basketball senior Lindee Poper scored her 1,000 career point. She is only the fifth girls basketball player in the school’s history to attain the milestone. (Courtesy photo)

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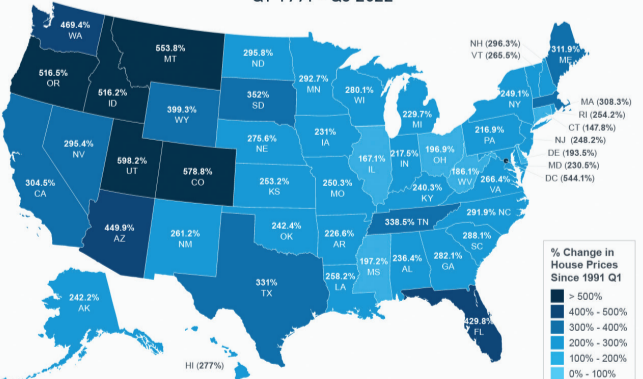
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# SPORTS

## BOWL: Ladies polishing off their bowling balls in preparation for Feb. 4 regional

From page 1

His dedication and instruction is apparent and has paid off. Most recently, he guided the Oregon boys team to only the second IHSA Regional title in school history. Now, the "Lady Hawks" are polishing up their bowling balls in preparation for the regional Feb. 4 at the Four Seasons lanes in Freeport. If the five-person squad can get through, where only four teams qualify, sectional play will be held in Carpentersville at Liberty Lanes on Feb. 11.

A recent dual match victory against Belvidere North back on Jan. 31 with pin totals of 2,872-2,662 brought their season record to 11-3. Senior Ava Wight rolled an impressive 608 series, and has been the top team scorer in every match during her career. If she qualifies for state this time around, she will become the first ever three-time state qualifier, boys or girls. Nordman had high praise for his star bowler.

"Ava is the best female athlete that has come through this program," Nordman said. "What makes her special is her execution and the ability to repeat it time after time. It's been a joy to coach her."

Wight expressed gratitude for years of instruction

and support from her coach. "I started back in seventh grade with him," Wight said. "He's had a huge influence on my career. He's taught me just about everything that I know and has been a big part of my success."

The four-year starter and two-time state qualifier (would have qualified two years ago but the season was cancelled due to COVID-19) is confident both in her team and individual opportunities in her last competition.

"My goals are to lead my team to a regional title and beyond," Wight said. "Personally, I want to qualify for state and finish higher than I did last year (20th). It's been such an enjoyable four-year involvement with my teammates and coaches."

Wight's supporting cast includes seniors Mackenzie Alford and Kendra Ehrler, junior Kylie Krug and sophomore Trinity Hultquist. Freshman Ahren Howey is the sixth member when matches are split into three on adjoining lanes. This group of seniors will end their careers with a 45-9 dual match record. Nordman stated that his team is always willing to be coached.


"As a coach, we have two jobs, get them fundamen-

tally ready and anxious for competition," Nordman said. "Muscle memory is in the basics, and the stuff in the middle just happens."

I experienced this first hand. At a recent practice, I observed Nordman like a mother hen going from one lane to the next providing hands-on instruction and loads of encouragement.

At one time, up until two years ago, the Lady Hawks were part of the Big Northern, where they won the regional eight years in a row. The conference lost all but Oregon and Dakota and now bowls against Dixon, Erie Prophetstown and Mendota. The IHSA makes seeding decisions based on geographical location and not the enrollment size of a school. Although cautiously optimistic, Nordman knows that the regional will be challenging.

"Two of the top-four teams in the state, Harlem and Rockton Hononegah, will be there, which have bigger school enrollments than we do," he said. "The girls have made big leaps in the last three weeks and are peaking at the right time. Our objective has been to make it to sectionals. Our goal is to always get better and have fun doing it. Regardless of the outcome, I'm very proud of this team."




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# SPORTS NEWS

## Wall-to-wall wrestling

IT'S wall-to-wall wrestling today. With the 1A regional moved from Polo to Eastland because of a larger than normal crowd, it's possible that attendance at this particular site will surpass anything in 2A or 3A. Overall, the regional may be the toughest it's been, with several state-ranked teams in No. 4 Oregon, No. 5 Le-Win/Stockton, No. 6 Dakota, No. 8 Dixon and No. 9 Stillman Valley.

However, there is not that one dominant team, such as Dakota and Le-Win, who have a combined seven state titles from 2013-2020. Only one team will advance from the regional to contend for a dual-meet state title and it is as wide open as it's ever been.

Things only get tougher the following weekend at Oregon's Blackhawk Center for the individual sectional, where No. 2. Yorkville Christian, No. 3 Riverdale and No. 7 Woodstock Marian join the fray.

For those not familiar with how the post season works in wrestling, here's the dope: The regional is an individual tournament and the top scoring team moves onto to a dual meet format for sectional and state competition. That is separate than the individual sectional and state meets, thus giving making boys wrestling the only IHSA sport with two different state tournaments.

Up until 1984, it was straight individual all the way through the state meet. Personally, I prefer that format to the dual meet system.

Those could be "fightin'" words here in Oregon, where the Hawks put themselves on the map statewide in late 90s into the early 2000s with a stellar performance in the duals. Likewise, with Stillman Valley winning four straight trophies from 2008-11.

But, with nearly 80 state medalists (22 champs), Stillman would have also contended for championships if the finals were still individ-

ual. Byron is no slouch either with 60 all-staters, including 15 champs.

No doubt, small-school wrestling in Ogle County has a wonderful heritage and don't forget Polo either. They've been an Elite Eight dual team (2006) and have three individual state champs, one more than Oregon and Rochelle, who both have two. In Rochelle's defense, they have to compete up a class,

If Oregon can get healthy in time for the regionals, they have a chance to make state for the first time since 2008. A key to winning a regional is scoring points via pins and major decisions and Oregon needs to step up its game on that.

With coaches juggling lineups, wrestlers cancelling one another out and weight classes less or more loaded, it's fascinating trying to predict which team will come out on top of a regional or sectional dual. I

remember former Byron coach Bob Baker using the term "permutations" to describe it because of so many possible variations a coach must consider in mapping out strategy.

Getting back to the individual tourney, the sectional middle-weight classes are absolutely loaded. Bear in mind, these rankings are as of Jan. 21 and can change by the post season.

For example, Jack Seacrist of SV, who was state runner-up at 152 last year, has five other seniors in his sectional weight class ranked in the top 10, including a couple ahead of him. And, that's just a sectional.

At 132, where Polo's Wyatt Doty is ranked No. 2 in state, the No. 1, 3 and 4 are also at the same sectional. Seth Stevens of Oregon, who advanced downstate last year, has six ranked wrestlers at 145, including fellow senior Aiden Livingston of SV. At

138, there are also six in top 10.

Gabe Eckerd of Oregon, No. 10 at 170, has the 1-3-4 wrestlers to contend with. Four from each weight group go downstate, though I miss the old days of only the top three moving on. With everything on the line, the third-place sectional match was often better than the championship match.

You hate to see seniors miss out on making state, but the further up you go in weight classes, the more of them you see. Lower weights definitely are advantageous to be in because of so many freshmen and sophomores.

Last Saturday at Oregon, 34 teams from the Chicago area to the Quad-cities braved the snowy weather to compete at a fresh-soph boys and varsity girls wrestling tournament. As someone who has been attending wrestling meets since 1965, seeing the girls for the first time was a bit of a shock and I say that in a good way.

All those decades of watching boys wrestling and never giving a thought to girls, it was refreshing to see the opposite sex finally involved.

Unladylike? Not anymore than all the pushing and shoving done at girls basketball games. And besides, what does it mean to be ladylike today?

Nationally, the number of girls wrestling went from 35,000 in 2022 to 52,000 this year.

Out of curiosity, I asked my daughter who played rugby in college, if she would have tried wrestling 25 years ago when in high school. She said probably not, as it seems more painful than fun.

Yes, it's hard work and pain to be a wrestler, but there appeared to be a joy among the girls having the same opportunity as the boys. Go girls go!

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



Andy Colbert

### AREA SPORTS

#### Oregon girls hoops defeats Hinckley-Big Rock

The Oregon varsity girls basketball team defeated Hinckley-Big Rock 59-46 on Jan. 25 at home to bring its record to 10-15. The Hawks were led in scoring by Hadley Lutz (28 points), Mariah Drake (11 points) and Katelyn Bowers (10 points). The junior varsity game saw the Hawks fall 26-25.

#### Stillman Valley girls hoops defeats Oregon

On Jan. 27 on the road, the Stillman Valley girls basketball team defeated Oregon 75-36. The Cardinals were led in scoring by Madison McCammond (15 points) and Mya Janssen (14 points). The Hawks were led in scoring by Mariah Drake (15 points) and Hadley Lutz (nine points).

#### Oregon girls hoops defeats Dakota

On Jan. 28, the Oregon varsity girls basketball team defeated Dakota 51-27. The Hawks were led in scoring by Hadley Lutz (15 points), Ella Dannhorn (10 points) and Teagan Champley (seven points).

#### Stillman Valley boys hoops defeats Rochelle

On Jan. 26 at home, the Stillman Valley varsity boys basketball team defeated Rochelle 62-57. The Cardinals were led in scoring by Owen Dunseth (27 points), Alex Rahn (13 points) and Logan McKee (six points).

#### Stillman Valley girls hoops defeats AFC

On Jan. 28 at home, the Stillman Valley varsity girls basketball team defeated Ashton-Franklin Center 58-37. The Cardinals were led in scoring by Brooke Jordal (18 points) and Mya Janssen (17 points).

#### Oregon girls bowling wins in Rockford

The Oregon girls bowling team traveled to The Cherry Bowl in Rockford on Jan. 31 to bowl against the NIC-10's Belvidere North and came away with a victory 2,872-2,662 to raise its season record to 11-3. Oregon won the first two games by 41 and 49 pins before pulling away in the final game with a 120-pin advantage. The Lady Hawks were led by Ava Wight with a 608 series (216,180,212). Wight was followed by Kendra Erhler with a 477 series, Mackenzie Alford's 470 series, Ahren Howey's 467 series (season high), Trinity Hultquist's 437 series and Kylie Krug's 413 series.

#### Oregon boys hoops falls to Sandwich

On Jan. 26 at home, the Oregon varsity boys basketball team fell to Sandwich 55-44. Oregon won the junior varsity game 59-32. The Hawks were led in scoring by Noah Johnson (14 points) and Jameson Caposey (nine points).

#### Oregon girls bowling competes in Dixon

The Oregon girls bowling team competed in the Dixon Girls Invitational Saturday, Jan. 28 at Plum Hollow Family Center, Dixon. In a 20-team field which included two of the top-10 teams in the state (Lockport & Hononegah) and two perennial state qualifying teams (Sycamore & Freeport) the Lady Hawks finished in fifth place with a tournament season high of 5,084. Oregon was led by sixth-place individual finisher senior Ava Wight with an 1,183 six-game series (169, 191,225,191,186,221). Wight was followed closely by Kendra Erhler with an 1,123 series good enough for a 12th-place overall finish and a personal-best tournament score which included three 200+ games. Also bowling was Trinity Hultquist with a 993 series, a personal best, as was the 221 game rolled in game four. Mackenzie Alford rolled a 920 series and Kylie Krug bowled a 865 series. The girls will finish the regular season with a make-up match on Tuesday against Belvidere North at The Cherry Bowl, a Thursday match in Mendota and begin the IHSA State series in the very tough Freeport Regional on Saturday.

#### Forreston girls hoops defeats Oregon

On Jan. 31, the Forreston varsity girls basketball team defeated Oregon 47-21 on the road. The Cardinals were led in scoring by Jenna Greenfield (12 points) and Brooke Boettner (11 points). The Hawks were led in scoring by Hadley Lutz and Mariah Drake, who scored six points each.

#### Stillman Valley boys hoops defeats North Boone

On Jan. 31 at home, the Stillman Valley varsity boys basketball team defeated North Boone 53-44. The Cardinals were led in scoring by Owen Dunseth (24 points) and Alex Rahn (16 points).

#### SCORES Varsity girls basketball

Jan. 25: Stillman Valley 58, North Boone 18  
Feb. 1: Rockford Lutheran 48, Stillman Valley 46

## January 2023 From The Heart Calendar Winners

- Jan. 1 - Beth Mock, Rochelle, \$1,000
- Jan. 2 - Michele M. Horvath, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 3 - Autumn Hernandez, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 4 - Zekelman Employee, \$25
- Jan. 5 - Darlene Reynolds, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 6 - Patricia Burkholder, Loves Park, \$25
- Jan. 7 - Lori Kersten, Dixon, \$25
- Jan. 8 - Oliva White, Rochelle, \$50
- Jan. 9 - Holly Kubale, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 10 - ALM Fine Cabinetry, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 11 - Anita Bowers, Byron, \$25
- Jan. 12 - Melissa Villalobos, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 13 - Cheri Divine, Frisco, CO, \$25
- Jan. 14 - Zekelman Employee, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 15 - Kyle Kissack, Rochelle, \$50
- Jan. 16 - Doris Kay McIlvoy, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 17 - Calvin M. Jacobs, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 18 - Autumn Hernandez, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 19 - The Kitchen Table, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 20 - Sean Tracy, Byron, \$25
- Jan. 21 - Tracy Pointer, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 22 - Daniel W. Keller, Oregon, \$50
- Jan. 23 - Ryan E. Baylor, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 24 - Kathryn Tyner, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 25 - RACF, \$25
- Jan. 26 - Jacqueline Nass, Naperville, \$25
- Jan. 27 - Andrea Svela, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 28 - Anne Aubry, Whitefish Bay, Wis., \$25
- Jan. 29 - From the Heart auction, \$50
- Jan. 30 - Alexander Herrera, Dixon, \$25
- Jan. 31 - Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, Rochelle, \$25

Checks to winners will be mailed out at the end of each month.

## KCEPC's Complete Joy event is Feb. 18

**BYRON**—Area women of all ages and backgrounds are invited to attend a half-day retreat on Feb. 18 entitled "Complete Joy" sponsored by Kishwaukee Community EPC.

The event will be held at the Byron Museum, 110 N. Union St., Byron, and will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with check-in beginning at 8:30 a.m. The main speaker at the event will be Carol Rohan, a seminary student at Denver Seminary.

Rohan is currently engaged in a variety of ministry roles, one of which is serving on the leadership board of a community-wide women's Bible study in her community of Amarillo, Texas. Carol has a bachelor of science degree in biology and has previously worked as a research assistant and a high school chemistry and physics teacher.

The retreat will be based upon John 15:11 and will include presentations and small group discussions. Registration is \$20 which includes lunch. Further information and registration for the event can be found at [www.kishchurch.org](http://www.kishchurch.org), emailing [office@kishonline.org](mailto:office@kishonline.org) or calling 815-965-1940.

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 • Pets Groomed at Your Home  
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 • No More Day-Long Waits for Pets  
 • Cut of Your Choice  
 (depends on coat condition)  
 • Specialty/Flea Baths Available  
 • Bath/Hand Blow-Drying/Toe Nails Clipped  
**Contact person: 815-440-4779 Pam Wright**

**Storage Sheds**  
  
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 We Specialize in Portable/Quality Built Storage Sheds  
 • Stock & Custom Design  
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 Serving Ogle County Since 1996  
 "Your Trees Deserve a Certified Arborist!"  
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 Fully Licensed and Insured  
**Tyler Smith**  
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 tyler@hightoptreeservice.com  
 hightoptreeservice.com  
 5509 E. Woodburn Rd.  
 Byron, IL 61010

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**Gabriel Mack**  
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 CALL 815-732-2156**



# LOCAL NEWS

## BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

### New Online Catalog

We are excited to share that our catalog is getting a new look and some new features! Try our NEW catalog today at [bertoletmemoriamlibrary.org](http://bertoletmemoriamlibrary.org)! The original catalog will still be active for a while longer, but take a moment today to check out the new site. Log in with your same library card number and password. Be sure to opt in to keep your reading history under My Profile!

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Family Movie**  
Monday, February 20th, 2:00 PM

### Story Time

Thursdays, 10:00 AM. Story Time returns on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. Miss Jana will have stories and crafts for toddlers-kindergarten age kids. We look forward to seeing you then!

### LEGO® Club

1st Monday of the month, 5:00 PM Create with us on the 1st Monday of each month. We will have the LEGO® bricks waiting for you!

### Big Kids, Big Art

Tuesday, February 21st, 4:30 PM Big Kids, Big Art is back! Last time, the participants learned about Shape and tried their hand at watercolor painting. 1st through 6th graders are invited to learn the next element

of art Miss Jana will introduce.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### Craft Kits for Adults

Stop by the circulation desk and pick up the February take and make craft. All the materials are provided to make a Valentine's day suncatcher.

#### Create-a-Card

Will Return in March 2023!

#### On The Horizon

Mark your calendars for March 20th at 5:00 PM. Microsoft Excel Fundamentals has been rescheduled! Registration will open soon!

#### Plastic Recycling

We ask that you make sure plastic is clean with no debris in the donation. Also please remove any ziploc-type seals and paper/sticker labels. Thank you for your cooperation.

#### NEW RELEASES:

##### Adult Books

All The Broken Places by John Boyne  
Twisty Tortoise Tussles by Ann Charles  
Observer by Robert Lanza  
Two Nights In Lisbon by Chris Pavone

##### Picture Books

You Make My Heart Soar by Maggie Fischer (Boardbook)  
A Valentine For Frankenstein by Leslie Kimmelman

## OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Book Clubs

The 2WBC Book Club meets February 8, at 12:30 pm to discuss Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, February 15, at 1:00 pm to discuss the The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams. Books on Tap meets Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 pm to discuss The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, February 19 at 5 pm (grab a book to find out what) at Courthouse Tavern. New- Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club meets at the Library on Tuesday, February 28 at 6 pm to discuss Bone Shard Daughter by Andrea Stewart.

### Winter Blues Bundle

January 10th through February 10th. Register for a winter blues bundle beginning January 2nd. Not sure what to read, do, or need something to keep you busy during these cold winter months? Winter Blues Bundle! Each bundle will have a hand-picked book, magazine, DVD, and some fun activities. Complete the registration form online at [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com) or stop in the library to complete one.

### Virtual Author Visit Watch Party

Saturday, February 11, 3-4 pm.

Love the graphic novel series Real Friends? Join us for a virtual author visit with writer, Shannon Hale, and illustrator, LeUyen Pham! They will talk about their books, answer your questions, and share an engaging activity. Registration begins now and can be done by going online or calling 815-732-2724. For more info, call the Library.

### Preschool Story Time

18 months- 5 years. Join us at the Library for stories and craft on Mondays at 10 am. Registration is required. Go online or call to register.

### YOGA - New Day

Wednesday's at 9:30 am Functional Yin-Yasa - This class is a hybrid of yang (active yoga) with yin (passive yoga). We will use fundamental yoga postures combined with functional movements to build strength and warmth followed by passive, long-held poses to help with flexibility and mobility of the joints and soft tissues. A yoga mat and blocks will be useful props for this class! All levels welcome." Oregon Library Patrons only. Registration required, this class fills quickly. Please call (815) 732-2724 or visit [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com).

## Weekly Brain Busters

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 Appear
- 5 Commotion
- 8 Online auction site
- 12 Actress Fisher
- 13 Part of DJIA
- 14 Dell
- 15 Youthful countenance
- 17 Laundry appliance
- 18 Soft leather
- 19 Columns of light
- 21 Pro votes
- 24 Numerical prefix
- 25 July's stone
- 28 It ain't worth a nickel
- 30 Prattle
- 33 "Life — cabaret ..."
- 34 Stuns, as a perp
- 35 "Bali —"
- 36 Chum
- 37 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
- 38 Wild guess
- 39 Run after K
- 41 For fear that
- 43 "No cheating!"
- 46 Eucalyptus eater
- 50 Thames town
- 51 Temporary mental fatigue
- 54 Dazzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12				13			14					
15				16			17					
18						19	20					
			21		22	23		24				
25	26	27			28		29		30	31	32	
33				34					35			
36					37				38			
		39	40			41		42				
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50						51	52	53				
54						55				56		
57						58				59		

- 8 Perrier rival
- 9 Brawl that's broken up by aouncer
- 10 Oodles
- 11 Desires
- 16 Tina of "30 Rock"
- 20 Colorations
- 22 Wax-coated cheese
- 23 Twine fiber
- 25 Wardrobe malfunction
- 26 "Suits" network
- 27 Jim Bouton book
- 29 Simple
- 31 Small battery
- 32 Clothing protector
- 34 Writer Morrison
- 38 Gems
- 40 Food from heaven
- 42 Enjoy Aspen
- 43 Optimum
- 44 Jazzy James
- 45 Baseball stats
- 47 Roundish 'do
- 48 Lake bird
- 49 Awestruck
- 52 Nipper's co.
- 53 Goal

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### MAGIC MAZE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: **Device to Blow Air Into a Fire**

- Anvil
- Brawny
- Chestnut-tree
- Forge
- Hands
- Iron bands
- Muscles
- Sinewy
- Sledge
- Smithy
- Sparks
- Sweat
- Village
- Week in
- Week out

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

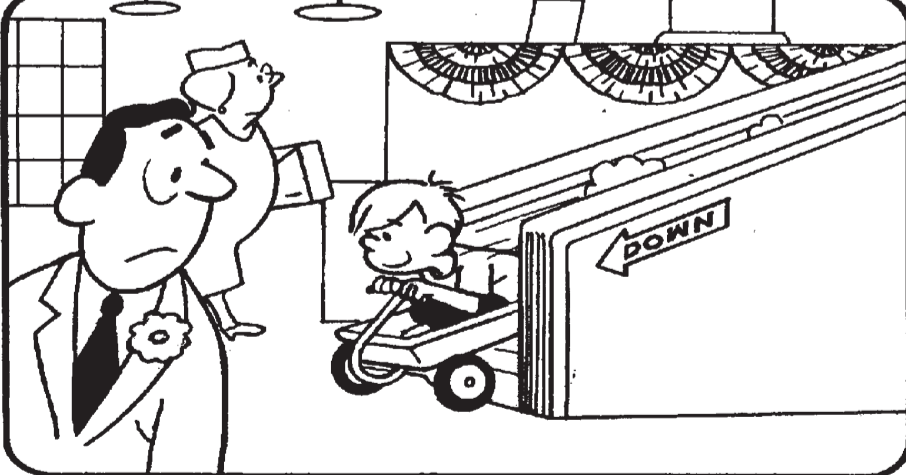
### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

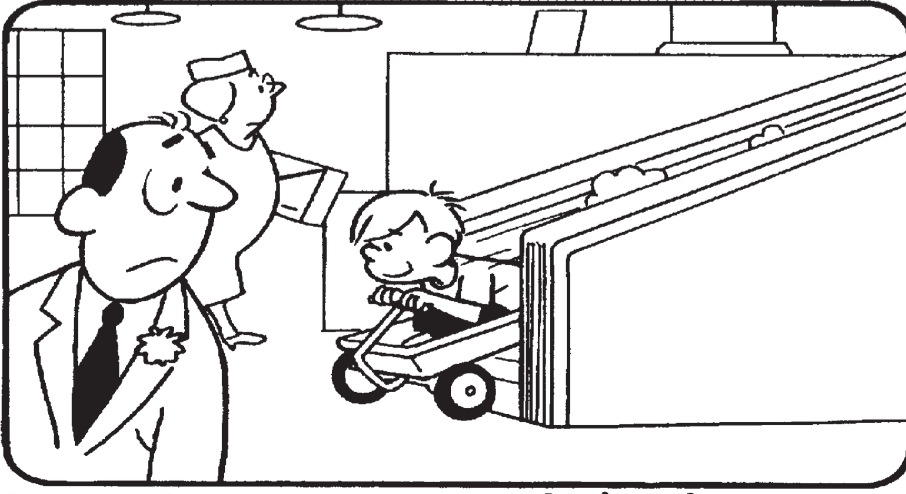
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Flower is smaller. 3. Package is moved. 4. Bunting is missing. 5. Handle is different. 6. Sign is missing.

King Crossword  
Answers  
Solution time: 24 mins.

LONGFELLOW'S  
"THE VILLAGE  
BLACKSMITH"

Weekly SUDOKU  
Answer



# 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

Sealed bids will be received for the following sections by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, Illinois, until 2:00 P.M. February 10, 2023 for:

- 1. 23-XX000-00-GM Furnish and Spread 2023 Township MFT Aggregate
- 2. 23-XX000-00-GM Furnish and Apply 2023 Township MFT Calcium Chloride
- 3. 23-XX000-00-GM Furnish and deliver 2023 Township MFT Pipe Supply
- 4. 2023 County Pipe
- 5. 2023 County Aggregate

Proposals are available at the Ogle County Highway Department, 1989 South IL Rt 2, Oregon, IL between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday. The Road and Bridge Committee reserves the right to accept or reject and or all bids.  
No. 0124  
(Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, 2023)

#### STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, OGLE COUNTY AMMENDED PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT)

Case No. 23 MR 11  
Request of Ella Marie Garncarz to appear in court March 15, 2023, Room 205, Ogle County Courthouse, 106 S. 5th Street, Oregon, IL, at 9 a.m. in room 304.  
Proposed name change of and adult Ella Marie Garncarz to Samuel Aleksander Garncarz.  
Requested by Ella Marie Garncarz on January 25, 2023  
No. 0126  
(Jan. 30, Feb. 6 and 13, 2023)

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Village of Mt. Morris, Illinois, will receive sealed bids for a 2012 White Dodge Ram Truck with 125,949 miles, until 11:00 o'clock A. M. on the 17th day of February 2023, at Village Hall, located at 105 West Lincoln Street, Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Vehicle may be viewed at Village Hall, 105 W Lincoln Street, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. There is no warranty expressed or implied. Said equipment is being sold as is, with a starting bid of \$3,000.00. The Village of Mt. Morris, Illinois reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding process. Bids may be held by the Village of Mt. Morris, Illinois for a period not to exceed NINETY (90) days from the date of the opening of bids for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of bidders, prior to awarding the contract.  
By order of Village of Mt. Morris, Illinois  
By Brooke Duffy, Village Clerk  
January 25, 2023  
No. 0127  
(Jan. 30, Feb. 6 and 13, 2023)

#### NOTICE TO ALL BIDDERS - TILLABLE FARMLAND FOR LEASE

The Byron Fire Protection District is accepting Sealed Cash Bids for the lease of approximately 37 tillable acres located on the East side of the intersection at Tower and Water Road, commonly known as the Emery Property, parcel id #05-19-326-004. Lease will run from March 1, 2023 thru February 28, 2024. Sealed cash bid on dol-

lars per acre are due by Thursday, February 23rd, 2023 no later than 3:00 pm. Sealed bids will be opened at the Byron Fire Protection District Board Meeting on the 28th of February at approximately 6:15 pm. Sealed bids will be accepted at Byron Fire District Headquarters located at 123 N. Franklin Street. Persons interested in viewing the property, please contact the Fire District at 815-234-4911.  
No. 0201  
(Feb. 6 and 13, 2023)

#### STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, OGLE COUNTY

Request for Name Change, Adult, with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Ogle County, Illinois, Kimberly A. Stahl  
Case No. 2023MR10  
Request of Tristan Christopher Wilbur to appear in court March 15, 2023, Room 304, Ogle County Courthouse, 106 S. 5th Street, Oregon, IL, at 9 a.m.  
Proposed name change of Tristan Christopher Wilbur to Tristan Volkov  
Requested by Tristan Christopher Wilbur on January 30, 2023.  
No. 0202  
(Feb. 6, 13 and 20, 2023)

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Byron Park District, Ogle County, Johnson Park Civil and Site Improvements  
Sealed proposals for the project described below will be received at the office of Byron Park District, 500 N. Colfax Street, Byron, IL 61010 until 3:00 PM on 02/17/23.  
Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of Byron Park District, 500 N. Colfax Street, Byron, IL 61010 at 3:00 PM on 02/17/23.  
Plans and proposal forms will be available in the office of

The 2 apparent as read low bidders must file within 24 hours after the letting an "Affidavit of Availability" (Form BC 57) in triplicate, showing all uncompleted contracts awarded to them and all low bids pending award for Federal, State, County, Municipal and private work. One original shall be filed with the Awarding Authority and two originals with the IDOT District Office.  
The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive technicalities and to reject any or all proposals as provided in BLRS Special Provision for Bidding Requirements and Conditions for Contract Proposals.  
The following BLR Forms shall be returned by the bidder to the Awarding Authority:  
Local Public Agency Formal Contract Proposal (BLR 12200)  
Schedule of Prices (BLR 12201)  
Proposal Bid Bond (BLR 12230) (if applicable)  
Apprenticeship or Training Program Certification (BLR 12325) (do not use for project with Federal funds.)  
Affidavit of Illinois Business Office (BLR 12326) (do not use for project with Federal funds)  
The quantities appearing in the bid schedule are approximate and are prepared for the comparison of bids. Payment to the Contractor will be made only for the actual quantities of work performed and accepted or materials furnished according to the contract.  
The scheduled quantities of work to be done and materials to be furnished may be increased, decreased or omitted as hereinafter provided.  
Submission of a bid shall be conclusive assurance and warranty the bidder has examined the plans and understands all requirements for the performance of work. The bidder will be re-

sponsible for all errors in the proposal resulting from failure or neglect to conduct an in depth examination. The Awarding Authority will, in no case, be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses or changes in anticipated profits resulting from such failure or neglect of the bidder.  
The bidder shall take no advantage of any error or omission in the proposal and advertised contract. If a special envelope is supplied by the Awarding Authority, each proposal should be submitted in that envelope furnished by the Awarding Authority and the blank spaces on the envelope shall be filled in correctly to clearly indicate its contents. When an envelope other than the special one furnished by the Awarding Authority is used, it shall be marked to clearly indicate its contents. When sent by mail, the sealed proposal shall be addressed to the Awarding Authority at the address and in care of the official in whose office the bids are to be received. All proposals shall be filed prior to the time and at the place specified in the Notice to Bidders. Proposals received after the time specified will be returned to the bidder unopened.  
Permission will be given to a bidder to withdraw a proposal if the bidder makes the request in writing or in person before the time for opening proposals.  
Completed 02/01/23  
No. 0203  
(Feb. 6, 2023)

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Byron Park District, Ogle County, Johnson Park Electrical Improvements, Sealed proposals for the project described below will be received at the office of Byron Park District, 500 N. Colfax Street, Byron, IL 61010 until 3:00 PM on 02/17/23.  
Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of Byron Park District, 500 N. Colfax Street, Byron, IL 61010 at 3:00 PM on 02/17/23.  
Plans and proposal forms will be available in the office of

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

materials to be furnished may be increased, decreased or omitted as hereinafter provided.  
Submission of a bid shall be conclusive assurance and warranty the bidder has examined the plans and understands all requirements for the performance of work. The bidder will be responsible for all errors in the proposal resulting from failure or neglect to conduct an in depth examination. The Awarding Authority will, in no case, be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses or changes in anticipated profits resulting from such failure or neglect of the bidder.  
The bidder shall take no advantage of any error or omission in the proposal and advertised contract. If a special envelope is supplied by the Awarding Authority, each proposal should be submitted in that envelope furnished by the Awarding Authority and the blank spaces on the envelope shall be filled in correctly to clearly indicate its contents. When an envelope other than the special one furnished by the Awarding Authority is used, it shall be marked to clearly indicate its contents. When sent by mail, the sealed proposal shall be addressed to the Awarding Authority at the address and in care of the official in whose office the bids are to be received. All proposals shall be filed prior to the time and at the place specified in the Notice to Bidders. Proposals received after the time specified will be returned to the bidder unopened.  
Permission will be given to a bidder to withdraw a proposal if the bidder makes the request in writing or in person before the time for opening proposals.  
No. 0204  
(Feb. 6, 2023)

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:  
Part of Section 6, Township 23 North, Range 8 East of the 4th P.M. AND Part of Section 1, Township 23 North, Range 7 East of the 4th Principal Meridian; Ogle County, Illinois, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point on the North line of said Section 6, where the center line of the North and South Road (known as Freepport Road), just East of the West line of said Section 6, intersects the center line of the East and West Road (known as the Canada Settlement Road); thence South 160 feet; thence West 264.5 feet; thence North 160 feet to the center of said East and West Road; thence East 264.5 feet to the point of beginning.  
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 15007 West Canada Road, Polo, Illinois 61064 and which said Mortgage was made by: Michael Z. Collins and Melissa G. Collins, Mortgages, to Community State Bank of Rock Falls, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Whiteside County, Illinois, as Document No. 200913587; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending. NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court: Clerk of the Circuit Court Ogle County Courts Building 106 S. 5th Street Oregon, Illinois 61061

On or before March 7, 2023, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.  
Dated Feb. 2, 2023  
Kimberly A Stahl  
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Ogle County, Illinois  
Courtney E. Kennedy  
{6322625}  
Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Considine, LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
114 E. Everett Street, Suite 300  
Dixon, IL 61021  
(815) 288-4949  
(815) 288-3068 (FAX)  
kennedy@egbclaw.com  
NOTE: This law firm is deemed to be a debt collector.  
No. 0207  
(Feb. 6, 13 and 20, 2023)

**H.O.P.E**

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

All Calls Are Confidential.

Support, Advocacy, Referral Services, Shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children.

**HOPE of Ogle County**

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

**TEXT AND WHATEVER JUST DON'T TEXT AND**

**STOPTEXTSTOPWRECKS.ORG**

**AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY**

**Lenny Bryson**  
Sales Of All Kinds  
815-946-4120

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Hacksauction.com

**A&T Auction Services, LLC**  
Travis Cunningham  
(815) 297-4595  
Located in Forreton, IL

**OGLE COUNTY, IL FARMLAND AUCTION**

March 1, 2023 at 10:30 am  
Sale to be held at the Polo Area Senior Center, 101 E. Mason St., Polo, IL 61064  
SELLING AS 1 PARCEL - OPEN TENANCY FOR 2023  
164 ACRES +/- platted acres  
TOTAL 164 ACRES +/- OF FARMLAND ONLY  
Sections 25 & 26 of Pine Creek Township, Ogle County, IL  
For complete listing of sale bill, maps, tax info, and terms & conditions, etc. visit www.lennybrysonauctioneer.com

Owner, DEN Trust #10-13  
Attorney, Doug Floski 815-234-5454  
Lenny Bryson, Auctioneer  
PO Box 38, Polo, IL 61064  
(815) 946-4120

**ADVERTISE WITH US**

# 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

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

"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."

### 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.

### SPLIT firewood for sale.

Contact 779-251-0254. (02-13-23)

### 309 PETS AND SUPPLIES

Free Kittens to good homes. Call 815-503-1881. (02-15-23)

### 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.

### 505 BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

Office Spaces for Rent. 1054 Lincoln Hwy., Rochelle. Call 630-544-9673

### 509 HOUSES FOR RENT

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath home on 2 acres in Rural Steward. \$1,400.00. Call 815-298-9300. (02/12/23)

### 203 HELP WANTED

Byron CUSD #226 has openings for **Bus Drivers** SIGN-ON BONUS Available Contact Barb Rundle at 815-234-5491 For more information 10112021

**Heavy Highway Contractor**, located in Ogle County, looking for **TRUCK MECHANIC**, skilled in up-keep, maintenance and repair of semi-tractor/trailers and off-road equipment. We are a union shop, starting salary \$42.00 plus benefits. Email resume to info@martincoinc.net

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

### 401 BUSINESS PROPERTY

**Pest control business for sale** Small company with **80% commercial accounts**. Northern Illinois area, the business is located in Whiteside County. **Asking \$120,00.00** There is a 2020 Toyota Tacoma truck that can be added to this sale. Sale includes customer list, chemicals and equipment. Interested party must be a certified technician. **Contact Susan Melton at 815-499-7430**



### 501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

### 511 STORAGE UNITS

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

**K&P SELF STORAGE** 1563 Kysor Drive, Byron (next to D&W Garage) **815-247-8518** OUTSIDE STORAGE NOW AVAILABLE Storage Unit Sizes: 5' x 10' 10' x 10' 10' x 15' 10' x 20' 10' x 30'

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### 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

**NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION** NEW, USED SCRATCH & DENT • Refrigerators • Freezers • Washers/Dryers • Stoves We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty. 6331 11th Street, Rockford **815-874-2257** 11222020

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# LOCAL NEWS

## FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Book Signing

Saturday, February 11th, 9:00 am – Noon. Local author, Vicki (Schroeder) Petta will be here to autograph copies of her recently released children's book, "The Magnificent Miracle for the Unicorn". Please stop in to chat with Vicki and purchase your signed copy of her imaginative story.

### Toddler/Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:00 am. Storytime is back 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.

### 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.

### 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. We cannot accept hard plastic, such as water bottles, milk cartons, etc., for this program. Thank you!

## POLO LIBRARY NEWS

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

#### "Tot Time" Tuesdays

Every Tuesday at 10 a.m., Ages 0 to 5 yrs, come join Ms. Melanie for a story read, various hands-on play, with a mix of music and art fun for the little ones.

#### "Tween Time, Game Time"

Thursday, February 9th from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.. For 4th thru 8th grades, we will be playing heart bingo and win prizes.

#### "Maker Monday"

Monday, February 13th from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. - come into our downstairs kitchen area to make your own heart shaped pizza.

#### Ongoing program

#### "Reading Buddies" Seniors to Smalls

Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m., moved to Polo Library, buddying up to enjoy reading time together. If interested, please reach out to Melanie, days and times can be flexible for meeting and reading. For more information or to register call 815-946-2713, call or text 815-677-3586, email melanie@pololibrary.org, go

to the Polo Library website or Facebook page to look for the Google form link.

### ADULT MONTHLY PROGRAMS

#### Book Club Monthly Meets

2nd Friday, February 10th, 1:00 p.m. at the Polo Senior Center - discussing "All Creatures Great and Small" by James Herriott. 3rd Wednesday, February 15th,

#### NEW TIME 10 A.M.- Book to Movie Club

Will be watching & discussing "King Solomon's Mines" by H. Rider Haggard at the library. 4th Monday, February 27th at 1:30 p.m. at the library, book discussion of "The Gordian Knot by Bernhard Schlink.

#### Craft Night

3rd Thursdays, February 16th, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Weathered & Warren, Tiffany Warren will be here for some "fabric fun", bring in a fabric item of your choice and work with the critcuts and other means to transfer and personalize.

#### Yoga with Becka

4th Wednesdays, February 22nd at 6pm to 7pm

- Yoga with Becka Reese from "On the Move" Fitness Center. Call 815-946-2713 or email library@pololibrary.org to register.

### Genealogy Assistance

Stop by the first Wednesday 5-7 p.m. or third Saturday 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and let Donna help with your project. Polo Library is now a FamilySearch Affiliate Library that allows access and research to more digital records while at the library.

### Online Catalog

If we don't have what you're looking for at Polo Library, visit our online catalog to search other libraries and have it delivered right to Polo Library for pick up! Visit pololibrary.org and click on "Books/Media" and "Your Account" to access the online catalog.

### Special Procedures

Masks are optional for staff and visitors to the library. If you require an access service to fully participate in a program or have any questions about accessibility, please contact Marie Monaco at 815-946-2713.

## Spring Art Show at the Byron Museum opened Feb. 4

**BYRON** — Byron Museum of History is hosting its Spring Art Show, featuring select pieces entered by members of the Eagles Nest Art Group. The show opened Feb. 4.

The Eagle's Nest Art Group welcomes all forms of art. Whether you are an experienced artist or a beginner or just a person who is interested in art, you will fit in to this low-key, friendly group.

A variety of media are represented, 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. If you would like a list of programs and/or a membership form, 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. through March to see the exhibit. 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

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Over 120 Ogle county 4-H'ers honored for outstanding achievement

**OREGON** — One hundred twenty-seven Ogle County 4-Hers were honored for their achievements during the 2022 4-H year at club programs this fall. The 4-H Experience Award recognizes 4-Hers for their work in project learning, participation, community service and leadership. Members can earn three levels: Bronze 4-H Clover Award, Silver 4-H Clover Award and Gold 4-H Clover Award. All awards will be distributed at the member's 4-H Club awards banquet.

### ILLINOIS Extension



**Bronze 4-H Clover Award winners:** These 4-H'ers completed at least one experience in each of the four dimensions. These include project learning, participation, community service, and leadership: Immanuel Arellano, Blackhawk Crossing; Trinity Beren, Grand Detour Greens; Adrien Booker, By-Y-Badgers; Alex Booker, By-Y-Badgers; Madison Bross, Byron Emerald Eagles; Courtney Bushman, Pine Creek Valley; Ali Danekas, Pine Creek Valley; Alex Grygiel, Blackhawk Crossing; Cian Grygiel, Blackhawk Crossing; Brooke Hammond, Grand Detour Greens; Josie Hammond, Grand Detour Greens; Cora Herring, Ogle County Clovers; A.J. Hinrichs, Blackhawk Crossing; Annaliese Koziol, Ogle County Clovers; Edward Koziol, Ogle County Clovers; Leo Koziol, Ogle County Clovers; Nicolette Koziol, Ogle County Clovers; Haven Marks, Summerhill Huskies; Savannah Marks, Summerhill Huskies; Parker Morss, Leaf River Soaring Eagles; Benjamin Nadig, Ogle County Clovers; Caleb Nadig, Ogle County Clovers; Elijah Nadig, Ogle County Clovers; Joseph Nadig, Ogle County Clovers; Dylan Reimer, Blackhawk Crossing; Hazel Reimer, Blackhawk Crossing; Jaxson ReVelle, Blackhawk Crossing; Katelyn Rockwood, Pine Creek Valley; Laura Rockwood, Pine Creek Valley; Owen Smardo, Ogle County Clovers; Alivia Thies, Blackhawk Crossing; Elliot Thies, Blackhawk Crossing; Jaxson Thies, Blackhawk Crossing; Kailee Thies, Blackhawk Crossing; Briannah West, Blackhawk Crossing; Zakkary West, Blackhawk Crossing; Madilynn Woods, Blackhawk Crossing; Adelaide Zimmerman, Blackhawk

Crossing; Orion Zimmerman, Blackhawk Crossing; Phoenix Zimmerman, Blackhawk Crossing and Raiden Zimmerman, Blackhawk Crossing.

**Silver 4-H Clover Award winners:** These 4-H'ers completed at least two experiences in each of the four dimensions. These include project learning, participation, community service and leadership. Also, at least two of those experiences were at the county, regional, state or national level: Ella Beran, Grand Detour Greens; Grace Costello, Ogle Jolly; Harmony Coy, Blackhawk Crossing; Alayna Doane, Mighty Clovers; Kamryn Feltz, Mighty Clovers; Trinity Feltz, Mighty Clovers; Jacob Goldstick, Byron Emerald Eagles; Lucas Goldstick, Byron Emerald Eagles; Melinda Goldstick, Byron Emerald Eagles; Rosalyn Goldstick, Byron Emerald Eagles; Zachary Goldstick, Byron Emerald Eagles; Bella Hammond, Grand Detour Greens; Jenna Heller, Grand Detour Greens; Trent Heller, Grand Detour Greens; Jacob Hickman, By-Y-Badgers; Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles; Mallory King, Mighty Clovers; Aubrey Kusnierz, Mighty Clovers; Madeline Kusnierz, Mighty Clovers; Kaden Lingbeck, Leaf River Soaring Eagles; Eli Lotz, Blackhawk Crossing; Lucia Miller, Leaf River Soaring Eagles; Ruth Nadig, Ogle County Clovers; Josie Pals, Leaf River Soaring Eagles; Lily Smith, Blackhawk Crossing; Joshua Snow, Blackhawk Crossing; Kathryn Snow, Blackhawk Crossing; Makayla Williams, Ogle Jolly; Tristin Williams, Ogle Jolly and Emma Wissinger, Ogle Jolly.

**Gold 4-H Clover Award winners:** These 4-Hers completed at least four experiences in each of the four dimensions. These include project learning, participation, community service and leadership. Also, at least two of those experiences were at the state or national level: Kaitlyn Adams, Ogle Jolly; Lauren Carlson, By-Y-Badgers; Nicholas Cassens, By-Y-Badgers; Carson Conderman, By-Y-Badgers; Maggie Eden, Mighty Clovers; Colton Gehrke, By-Y-Badgers; Andrew Hickman, By-Y-Badgers; Natalie Johnson,

Leaf River Soaring Eagles; Allissa Martin, Carefree; Clare Montavon, Mighty Clovers; Kaeden Motszko, Leaf River Soaring Eagles; Alyse Rogers, Ogle Jolly; Braden Rogers, Ogle Jolly; Madisyn Ruthe, Mighty Clovers; Lydia Sherburne, Leaf River Soaring Eagles; David Wehler, Leaf River Soaring Eagles; Alexander Williams, Leaf River Soaring Eagles and Lacie Williams, Leaf River Soaring Eagles.

**Cloverbuds** are 4-Hers between the ages of 5 and 7. The following Cloverbud members will also be recognized by their clubs: Nolan Adams, Ogle Jolly; Beckett Alderks, Carefree; Chloe Alexander, Summerhill Huskies; Lilian Anderson, Blackhawk Crossing; Laura Benton, Carefree; Paisley Benton, Carefree; Pypers Bruns, Carefree; Delaney Byers, Summerhill Huskies; Hayden Capes, Hub Hickory Nuts; Owen Collins, Ogle Jolly; Joslyn Countryman, Summerhill Huskies; Declan Franks, By-Y-Badgers; Luke Gehrke, By-Y-Badgers; Ashley Harbaugh, Carefree; Emily Harbaugh, Carefree; Remington Harvey, Summerhill Huskies; Anna Herring, Ogle County Clovers; Julia Herring, Ogle County Clovers; Lauren Hickman, By-Y-Badgers; Kenzie Hongsermeier, Leaf River Busy Beavers; Zeke Janoski, Ogle Jolly; Reese Johnson, Ogle Jolly; Kaylee King, Mighty Clovers; Hunter Kremske, Blackhawk Crossing; Emmitt McAuliffe, Leaf River Busy Beavers; Dawson Mickley, Hub Hickory Nuts; Phinehas Nadig, Ogle County Clovers; Josanna ReVelle, Blackhawk Crossing; Thomas Reynolds, Leaf River Busy Beavers; Noah Richardson, Ogle County Clovers; Ellie Schier, Carefree; Alana Smith, Summerhill Huskies; Cole Somers, Hub Hickory Nuts; Emersyn Thies, Blackhawk Crossing; Henry Van Bogaert IV, Blackhawk Crossing; Michael Vaughn, Hub Hickory Nuts; Drake Woods, Blackhawk Crossing and Remington Zabran, Pine Creek Valley.

4-H is an informal youth education program conducted by University of Illinois Extension. U of I Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in 4-H, contact the Ogle County Extension staff at 815-732-2191.

## ABATE holding annual swap meet

**DIXON** — Twin Rivers chapter of ABATE is having their 15th annual motorcycle swap meet on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dixon Elks Lodge at 1279 Franklin Grove Road, Dixon.

Admission is \$5 and free for 12 and under. Early birds are \$7.

Vendors will be selling all makes and models of new and used parts, leathers and biker clothes, motorcycle photos and more. A new Harley Heritage Softail raffle bike will be on display and raffle tickets will be available.

Breakfast, lunch and refreshments will be available all day.

Vendor space is available for \$25. To be a vendor or for more information call John at 815-440-6018

Proceeds from the event are used for education and the signs you may have seen that say "START SEEING MOTORCYCLES."



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## Annual Early Bird Service Specials

Now until February 28, 2023, we are offering free pick-up/delivery on all mowers for spring services within 15 miles of our store. Please call today, and schedule your mower for the early bird service and beat the spring rush.

### SPRING SERVICE INCLUDES:

Labor for normal tune-up, lubrication, deck leveling, installation of necessary spring service parts, sharpening of blades. All parts are an additional fee.

**FREE PICK-UP AND DELIVERY\*** (within 15 miles of our store)

\*Free pick-up and delivery is only for mowers having the spring service performed!

### PARTS ARE ADDITIONAL

Estimate fee of \$40 will be charged if equipment is NOT repaired.

Estimates will be given on any repairs in which parts are estimated to exceed \$50.00 on lawnmowers and \$100.00 on tractors and zero-turns.

Major engine repair is not considered to be a normal tune-up. Estimates will be given.

**PICK-UP & DELIVERY must be at OUR convenience.**

**Call today to schedule your pre-season tune up special today!**