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Ogle County LIFE

ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



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KNOW IT TODAY



Eagle's Nest Art Group holds opening reception

Eagle's Nest Art Group recently held an opening reception for its art show that runs until April 1. **3A**

WEATHER

MONDAY HIGH LOW 38 30	TUESDAY HIGH LOW 39 24
WEDNESDAY HIGH LOW 37 26	THURSDAY HIGH LOW 32 12
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OBITUARIES

- Wendell Anderson
- James Battisi
- Victor Heather
- Michelle Triplett

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INSERTS

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

Polo's Duncan serves as VP for Illinois Farm Bureau

'I've always believed farmers are small in numbers, but vital in importance'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

POLO — Since 2017, Polo farmer Brian Duncan has served as vice president of the Illinois Farm Bureau. Duncan and his wife, Kelly, raise corn, soybeans, wheat, pigs and cattle.

The Duncans have been involved in farm bureau work locally and statewide since the 1980s and have served on various committees. Duncan was Ogle County Farm Bureau president for 13 years.

"I represent the state, but I always represent my own farm and the farmers close to me in Ogle County," Duncan said. "They remain very important to me. The issues Ogle County farmers face are very similar to the rest of the state. I have the chance to do a lot of advocacy and do quite a bit of work with the media. It's given me the privilege to be a

spokesman."

The IFB's main office is in Bloomington and Duncan spends about a week there per month during board meetings. He also serves as vice president of Country Financial, which has board meetings occur at the same time.

Duncan's IFB work involves overseeing the policy development process for the organization. He spends "a lot of time" traveling around the state and meeting with county farm bureaus and talking about issues and policy. He's also chairman of the IFB governance committee, which involves working with human resources departments of both the IFB and Country Financial.

"I'm very fortunate to have a great team at the farm of family and employees that can keep the farm running really well while I'm gone," Duncan said. "I've got a partner



Illinois Farm Bureau Vice President and Ogle County resident Brian Duncan reviews policy resolutions during a past delegate session. (Photo by Catrina Rawson)

in the hog business, Keith Poole, who does a lot of heavy lifting there when I'm gone. A lot of the logistical work for the farm I can do remotely. The work for IFB really is a full-time job. I'm on the road or busy with farm bureau work probably 150 days a year. It really is rewarding and a job that needs to be done."

See DUNCAN page 2

LSSI Prevention Services empowering Ogle County youth

Programs have served roughly 745 students within Ogle County

OREGON — The hard work and dedication from the prevention specialists within Ogle County at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is definitely showing results. Project LEAD (Leaders Encouraging Abstinence from Drugs) and Youth WORKS (Wellness, Opportunities and Resources for Key Services) are having such an empowering year thus far—having come from the midst of the pandemic, to the unknowing transition back into face-to-face connections with students and community members, to the middle of this year when the programs have already served roughly 745 students within Ogle County.

The motivation and focus for the prevention team has been the results from the 2022 Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) The team spent time last summer reviewing those results, and researching the perceptions Ogle County students have on drugs and violence. Students participate in the survey anonymously. Anonymity helps shape the direction LSSI's prevention specialists consider to better serve students according to the results. For example, 49 percent of 10th graders felt so sad or hopeless every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing usual activities. For 10th graders, nine percent reported using e-cigarettes or other vaping devices on 20 or more occasions.

See YOUTH page 2

Oregon Park District recognized by IPRA

OREGON — The Oregon Park District was one of four park districts in Illinois to be recognized on Jan. 27 as an Exceptional Workplace by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association at the IPRA annual business meeting.

The Exceptional Workplace award is administered by IPRA to recognize agencies that show a commitment to the well-being of their employees. Agencies undergo a voluntary evaluation process to demonstrate they have met guidelines to provide employees with the opportunity for a well-balanced life from the inside out. The Exceptional Workplace criteria includes staff wellness programs, continuing education, team building, community involvement, risk management, profes-



The Oregon Park District was one of four park districts in Illinois to be recognized on Jan. 27 as an Exceptional Workplace by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association at the IPRA annual business meeting. (Courtesy photo)

sionalism and much more.

"The Oregon Park District is proud to receive the Exceptional Workplace Award," Oregon Park District Executive Director

Erin Folk said. "Oregon is a great place to live, work and play for our patrons and the same applies to our employees. We are fortunate to be able to

provide an acceptable work-life balance for all employees."

Oregon Park District staff Erin Folk, Dan Griffin, Tina Ketter, Andy

Egyed, Brent Suter, Nick Karper, Lesley Sheffield, Caleb Jenks and Kelley Huston were in attendance to accept the award on behalf of the district.

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LOCAL NEWS

DUNCAN: Important for farmers to work together

From page 1

Duncan believes members of the agriculture industry need to speak with a unified voice and he believes IFB is “very effective” at making life better for members on their farms.

“I’ve always believed farmers are small in numbers, but vital in importance to the country and the world,” Duncan said. “Our voices can sometimes be muted because we’re small in numbers. It’s important to work together and more effective to speak in one voice. IFB is an extremely credible organization and we’re a nonpartisan organization.

We research our issues and are respected by both sides of the aisle for how we advocate.”

According to Duncan, the most important issues facing farmers in Ogle County and the state include: private property rights, the regulatory environment, farm profitability, international trade and the future of renewable fuels.

In recent years, farmers have seen rising input costs, inflation and supply chain issues as many other industries have. Those issues are interconnected and a number of factors play into them, Duncan said.

“There’s no easy an-

swer,” Duncan said. “And unfortunately farmers are price takers. We can’t pass costs along. The dialogue continues about how we make sure the supply chain functions and that involves everything from labor availability and immigration reform to availability of natural resources and petroleum-based resources to keep farms running at a profitable level. We have dialogue with fertilizer companies and manufacturers. They’re facing increased global demand and the war in Ukraine certainly has driven some of these things. And we’re continuing to see a growing population and growing demand for food. That



Illinois Farm Bureau Vice President and Polo resident Brian Duncan was one of Ogle County’s that saw a “very fortunate” 2022 due to good weather conditions. Shown here is farmer working on 2022’s harvest north of Rochelle. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

also increases the demand for inputs. There’s just a lot of moving parts on those issues.”

Duncan will be involved with the writing of a new farm bill this year and spent much of last year on background work in preparation for it. The election year of 2022 brought the opportunity for Duncan and others at IFB to build

relationships and work with new representatives at the state and federal levels.

Back at his own farm and in Ogle County, Duncan said 2022 was a “very fortunate” year.

“We finally caught some very timely rain,” Duncan said. “We’d had two years with short rainfall in 2020 and 2021 and it was nice to see the rain fall at the right time this year and we grew very good crops. For livestock, I’m also an independent hog farmer, and that market was good. 2022 was a good year on the farm. Finally, it’s amazing what a little rain at the right time can do.”

Duncan believes his IFB work has helped him

in his farm work since he first became engaged with the organization. It’s aided him with leadership training, exposure to different ways of thinking and new ideas along with business training.

“It allows me to see how large companies go about their business,” Duncan said. “It’s helped me to have a fresh look and given me a fresh perspective for our family farm as we plan for the future. It’s helped with my personal development. And we’ve made great relationships. That’s really where it becomes invaluable. The friendships we have across the state and the people we’ve met, that’s really made our lives so much richer in so many ways.”

The Byron Forest Preserve Presents:
Winter Lecture Series: “Our Natural State”
 Each Lecture Begins at 1:00 PM
 Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 N. River Rd., Byron



Feb 26: Dr. Sara Pearson, “One Health: Animals, Environment, and People”
 This lecture will focus on how agriculture and animals interact with the local environment and public health. Dr. Pearson is a professor and veterinarian from University of Illinois-Champaign, where she teaches public health courses and oversees the veterinarian care of the UIC farms.

Mar 5: Aaron Wilson, “Weather Changes in Northern Illinois”
 Discuss local weather change in the northern Illinois region with WIFR’s own meteorologist. Aaron started broadcasting at WIFR-TV while enrolled in his senior year at Rockford College. He graduated with a degree in Education and has a current teacher’s certificate for the State of Illinois. Aaron is also a graduate of Jefferson High School and has his Associate of Arts degree from Rock Valley College. He is seen broadcasting on location two to three times a week promoting local businesses and showing off the proud accomplishments of the region.

815-234-8535 | www.byronforestpreserve.com

YOUTH: Programs needed

From page 1

The youth survey results clearly indicate programs like Youth WORKS and Project LEAD of Ogle County are needed. Both prevention programs are part of LSSI and are grant-funded through the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS). Youth WORKS is designed to reduce delinquency and violence among youth. Project LEAD is geared toward reducing substance use and lowering the perception of drugs and alcohol misuse with youth, both within Ogle County.

Prevention Specialists Shannon Tompkins and Alexandra Ocampo, have been maintaining a strong rapport with the students at Oregon Elementary, Oregon Junior Senior High School, Meridian Junior High School and Aplington Middle School serving all seventh and eighth graders at each school. All sixth graders at Oregon Elementary and Aplington Middle School were added to the program. For that grade level, the program teaches “Too Good for Drugs” an evidence-based curriculum focusing on social and emotional teaching on substance use prevention. The curriculum uses fun and interactive lessons that build the self-confidence young people need to make healthy choices and achieve lifelong success.

Working along with Tompkins and Ocampo, Prevention Specialist Rose Gleiter focuses on fourth and fifth graders. Gleiter hit the ground running after LSSI received notice right before the school year started that it was awarded a grant by DHS to expand Youth Prevention Education (YPE) into the elementary level.

“It’s been wonderful to serve fourth and fifth graders at Centennial Elementary in Polo,” Gleiter said. “It motivates me and is helping prepare me to teach the Youth Prevention Education to more elementary level students in the near future.”

Danielle Horst, Youth WORKS prevention specialist for Ogle County, taught the “Too Good for Violence” curriculum at Aplington Middle School, which focuses on adolescent dating violence, abuse, crime and bullying. It teaches youth social/emotional skills and better decision making. Another primary focus this year has been on the Youth Advisory Committee at Oregon Junior Senior High School where a new committee junior high students was added. The “Hidden in Plain Sight” exhibit was requested and presented at Oregon, Forrester, and Chana/OCEC throughout the semester.

LSSI’s Prevention Specialists believe all youth could really benefit from this program and learn lifelong skills to become the best versions of themselves. To contact prevention staff to schedule an informational meeting, review program details or ask further questions, please email PreventionServices@lssi.org



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The Family of John Ebens would like to thank the Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home for their excellent care and thoughtfulness during our time of loss.

A Special thank you to Pastor Dave Rogula and Pastor Joshua Brown.

We want to thank everyone who came to say goodbye to John. A grateful thank you to the ladies of the Chana Church for preparing lunch for the family and friends after the service.

Thank you for all the beautiful cards, flowers and remembrance to Chana Church and Serenity Hospice and Home.

Vi
 Melody
 Joe, Julie, Jill and Jacob
 John Todd, Nick, Cody and Travis

LOCAL NEWS

Davis Junction Museum open on Wednesdays

DAVIS JUNCTION — We are happy to announce that the winter break is over and the Davis Junction Museum will be open on Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. till noon. The third Wednesday of the month is always our monthly meeting. This month our meeting is on Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, so you're welcome to come. On Sunday, Feb. 19, the museum will be open from 1-4 p.m. This month we will be cleaning and reorganizing. Volunteers are welcome as we could use young strong help. This year we are planning

to continue our engraved brick memorial. It will be expanded to the postal wagon. If you would like a brick with the name of someone you would like to memorialize please contact the museum via email at denarjones@yahoo.com or call 815-994-0803.

The museum has given me the opportunity to offer the community something to be proud of. Bernice Duhigg was so inspirational in showing me the importance of retaining our history and bond between neighbors and families. As our community grows and new families decide to

make Davis Junction their hometown, we need to make new friends and encourage them to be a part of our history. From their first day in our community we can expand our values of what is to come for our children. Please as a new resident feel free to suggest and help us in our journey. You bring new ideas and memories that we would like to share. All ages are welcome to participate. It is the younger folks that brings laughter and life to our community. We look forward to this new year. Volunteers, ideas, and visitors are always welcome.

Oregon Depot Museum program set for Feb. 25

OREGON — The Feb. 25 "Those Were the Days" program at the Oregon Depot Museum will be presented by two well-known JoDaviss County residents, Bob Buman and Terry Miller. Buman will be offering information about Ulysses Grant, a resident of Galena who became the General of the Union Army and later the 18th president of the United States.

Bob was also one of the last lead mine workers in the Galena territory prior to the closing of the mines around

1980. The mines in this region produced nearly 85 percent of the U.S. supply of lead and other ores. The mines operated from around 1820 until around 1980. The Native Americans mined these products even back to the 1700s.

Terry Miller, the site superintendent of the Galena Historical Sites, will be there with Bob to offer comments and to answer questions.

Please join us at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Oregon Depot Museum.

PAG scholarships available until March 15

OREGON — Scholarship applications for Performing Arts Guild are now available at the Oregon High School guidance office or can be downloaded from the website at: www.performingartsguild.com.

These scholarships

are limited to individuals living in Mt. Morris and Oregon or attending the Oregon School District #220.

Applications are open to anyone interested in studying the arts. This includes, but is not limited to: performing,

directing, teaching drama, music, visual arts, technical crafts, set design, etc.

Scholarship application deadline is March 15. Scholarships will be awarded in May during the OHS Honors Night Assembly.

Byron Forest Preserve announces winter lecture series

BYRON — The Byron Forest Preserve is pleased to announce the 2023 Winter Lecture Series: "Our Natural State." Special guest speakers from around the Midwest will be presenting on their subjects with a focus on climate change in our northern Illinois region. All presentations are free to the public and are from 1-2 p.m. at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 N. River Road, Byron.

Feb. 26: Dr. Sara Pearson, "One Health: Animals, Environment and People" This lecture will focus on how agriculture and animals interact with the local environment and public health. Dr. Pearson

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The Eagle's Nest Art Group held their opening reception Saturday afternoon Feb. 4 at the Byron Museum of History. From left to right: Jackie DeWall - Forrester, Marsha Behrens - Oregon, Bob Logsdon - Grand Detour, Dianne Haugen - Forrester, Mary Howe - Oregon, Lucinda Winterfield - Lost Lake and Veronica & Mike Mathews - Oregon. (Photos by George Howe)

Eagle's Nest Art Group holds opening reception for art show

BYRON — The Eagle's Nest Art Group held their opening reception Saturday afternoon Feb. 4 at the Byron Museum of History. A crowd of enthusiastic art lovers enjoyed over 40 works in mediums of watercolor, oil, pastel and acrylic paintings, as well as photography, 3-D art and pottery.

Local artists from the surrounding counties were on hand to greet visitors

and answer questions. The show is open to the public and free of charge and will run until April 1.

The museum located at 110 N. Union St. is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information about the ENAG, call (815) 732-7783 or visit Facebook at Eagle's Nest Art Group, Oregon.



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Oregon Rotary scholar speaks at meeting
At the most recent Oregon Rotary meeting held on Jan. 18, Issac Brooks, the 2022 scholarship recipient and the son of Rotarian Brion Brooks, spoke of his pursuit of medical studies at Beloit College.

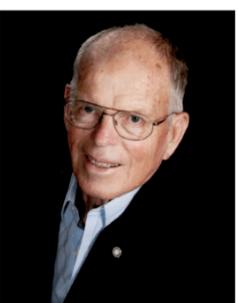
LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Wendell Anderson

BYRON — Wendell Anderson, 87, passed away and went to his eternal home Saturday, February 11, 2023, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He leaves behind his wife of more than 60 years, Sharon Anderson; daughter Kimberly (Brad) Anderson, Lindenhurst, Ill., and sons, Gregory (Anne Marie) Anderson, South Elgin, Ill., and Bruce (Anita) Anderson, Shorewood, Minn.; 12 grandchildren, Chelsey (David) McNeil, Wheat



Ridge, Colo., Sean (Maira) Anderson, of Gurnee, Ill., Kristin (David) Mangin, Columbia, Md.; Erick Anderson, Mount Prospect, Ill., Peter (Emily) Anderson, Lindenhurst, Ill., Scott (Abby) Anderson, Kenosha, Wis., and Luke Anderson, Lindenhurst, Ill.; Emma Rae (Michael) Beusse, Hampshire, Ill., Noah Anderson, Chicago, Ill., and Tess Anderson, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Joshua Anderson, Milwaukee, Wis., and Christina Anderson, Shorewood, Minn. In total, Wendell and Sharon have 10 great grandchildren. He also leaves behind two sisters, Marge (Jerry) Hansen, Wallace, Mich., and Lori (David) Schultz, Byron, Ill., and his younger brother, Ken (Cheri) Anderson, Lindstrom, Minn.

Wendell was born the son of Melvin and Hazel Anderson, but his father passed away when Wendell was just 8 years old so his uncle, Alvin Dahlstrom, played an important role in his life growing up on a dairy farm. Upon graduation from high school in the 1950s, Wendell worked for a few farm implement dealers near his home where he learned mechanical skills before taking a job with a construction company in Mt. Prospect, Ill., as an operating engineer running road construction equipment.

In the summer of 1955, Wendell and Sharon were introduced by mutual friends and went on their first date at a church camp. "It was magic," said Wendell and Sharon as they reflected on their first date. A few years later, Wendell joined Rockford Blacktop Company, as an operating engineer, job superintendent and member of the local union. Wendell and Sharon married shortly after this and moved into an apartment in Rockford. In the late 60s, following Wendell's love of the country and farming, he and Sharon purchased a small farm, leaving behind their friends, family and a newly built house. A few years later, he left his job to prioritize milking a small herd of Holstein dairy cows and raising corn and alfalfa. They started with just 13 cows and over the next 25 years they expanded from a small, three-cow milking parlor to a new state-of-the-art tie stall barn with a herd of more than 65 registered Holsteins. Life on a family farm presented Wendell and Sharon, and their three children, with many blessings but also stress, which always strengthened their faith and trust in their Lord, Jesus Christ.

In the early 90s, amid falling milk prices and seeing that none of their

children were interested in taking over the farm, Wendell and Sharon made the difficult decision to stop the dairy operations and held an auction. Wendell eventually returned to his job operating construction equipment for another decade also continued farming crops on the farm. Years later Wendell officially retired, which allowed he and Sharon to spend more time with their children and growing grandchildren, and for Wendell to continue restoring Allis Chalmers tractor, Model A's and helping other Model A and ACCA members with their cars. You could always find Wendell and his kids and grandchildren participating in parades with one of his restored beauties, and he and Sharon traveled across the U.S. with close friends from the Rockford A's Model A Club, spending several months each winter in Texas with dear friends they established at Pioneer RV Beach Resort on Port Aransas Island.

In addition to farming and his family and hobbies, Wendell also served for more than 10 years on the Byron School District School Board, his last several terms as President. Wendell co-founded the By-Y-Badgers 4-H club and he and Sharon were active in shaping the lives of many young people who were members over the years.

Wendell will be missed for his incredibly strong handshakes, hard work ethic and integrity, hugs that you disappeared into, wealth of knowledge and expertise, humility to ask for help, quiet eagerness to help others, his love and affection for Sharon and his family, and his dry sense of humor. When asked several years ago if there was any physical side effect to adding gluten back to his diet (Wendell was diagnosed with Celiac disease earlier in his life), he paused and said wryly, "Yes, I smile more." When Wendell was first diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, one of his grandchildren said, "Grandpa is the strongest man I know, and now he's showing us a different kind of strength."

Sharon and her children would like to say a huge thank you to Byron Fire Department for their assistance, as well as Wendell's many caregivers (Kim Boyden, Janet Meeker, Juelane Porter and Tina Champlain) and the team at Serenity Hospice for their care and guidance as his Parkinson's Disease progressed.

A visitation was held at Cornerstone Family Church, 205 N. Peru Street, Byron, Illinois, from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 18, with a celebration of life service immediately following at 11 a.m. A light lunch was served at the church following the funeral services.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Wendell and Sharon's home church, Cornerstone Family Church, where they worshipped and served for more than 35 years, Serenity Hospice at 1658 S. Illinois Route 2, Oregon, Ill., 61061 or Rockford Rescue Mission at 715 W State St, Rockford, Ill., 61102.

James (Jim) Robert Battisti

DIXON — James (Jim) Robert Battisti, born Dec. 3, 1944, died Feb. 13 at Swedish American Hospital following a long illness. Jim was born to Joseph and Annabelle (Wilson) Battisti in Pennsylvania.

Jim served in the U.S. Army as a food inspector in Panama. He worked as a meat cutter for 39 years for the UFCW. Jim enjoyed playing golf and reading.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Dunbar Battisti and daughter Susan (Greg) Borgmann; grandchildren Emily Borgmann

and Dylan Hensley; step-grandchildren Sarah Hensley and Michael Hensley; and eight step great-grandchildren; one brother, Richard Battisti of Wichita, Kansas; and six nieces.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Joan Lynn Battisti Hensley, his parents, and sisters Loretta Battisti Schlick and Joann Battisti of Dixon.

A memorial will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 1 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 421 Peoria Ave. in Dixon.



Victor F. 'Jake' Heather

MT. MORRIS — Victor F. "Jake" Heather of Oregon; siblings, Tasha (Buddy) Jenkins of Oregon; Michael (Bethany) Ramsey of Everett, Washington, and Sharon (Kyle) Ruter of Mt. Morris; his Mammo Joanne Young; three nieces, Reianah, Aubrey and Sadie Mae; nephew Liam who is his "Towmator"; and numerous cousins and uncles.

Jake previously worked at the White Pines Ranch where he enjoyed attending to the horses. He loved playing the game Fortnite with his brother Michael. Jake loved to go fishing.

He was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Clyde Young and Judy Jaeger, along with his dog Reno.

He is survived by his mother Melissa Alaniz of Mt. Morris; father Victor

of Oregon; siblings, Tasha (Buddy) Jenkins of Oregon; Michael (Bethany) Ramsey of Everett, Washington, and Sharon (Kyle) Ruter of Mt. Morris; his Mammo Joanne Young; three nieces, Reianah, Aubrey and Sadie Mae; nephew Liam who is his "Towmator"; and numerous cousins and uncles.

A visitation will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th St. in Oregon. A memorial fund is established in Victor Heather's name and may be directed to his family.

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



Michelle 'Shelly' Tubbs Triplett

BYRON — Michelle "Shelly" Tubbs Triplett, 50, passed away suddenly on Feb. 11. She was born in Rochelle on Jan. 26, 1973 and is the daughter of Billy Joe and Susan (Parmentier) Tubbs. She grew up in the Byron area and is a Byron High School Alumni.

She married Todd Triplett on July 1, 2016 and together they owned and operated Trippie's Bar & Grill in Oregon.

The most important thing in Shelly's life were her children. She consistently put them first and was a proud Army mom and Byron football mom. She was always involved with the football team, helped run the military moms organization and helped manage her son's barbershop.

You did not have to be her biological children for her to love and support you with all of her heart. She was the most unselfish person that many would ever meet. She was never worried about herself but was instead concerned with how she could put others first and make them smile.

Shelly was an animal lover; especially dogs and always wanted to make sure that animals were rescued, loved and given a good home.

Music was her life. She loved live music and going to concerts making sure to take her family with her whenever she could. You could find her listening to all kinds of music but her favorite band was Blue October. She was an integral part of the live music at Byronfest and putting together the big rock concert at Byron Speedway.

Shelly loved spending mornings on the pontoon boat with her husband and dogs; drinking coffee and enjoying the moment. If she wasn't on the river you may find her driving her golf cart with her little dog, Lenny, by her side or enjoying a ride on the Harley.

Shelly liked to stay active and would take her children rollerblading when they were growing up. If she had down time you could find her watching true crime on ID Network or playing Candy Crush.

She is survived and missed by her husband, Todd Triplett of Byron; children, Camryn (Adam) Gallardo of Germany, Savanna Harper of Byron, Caden Triplett of Georgia, Drew Harper (Grace Voiles) of Byron, and Courtney (Sam) Snider of Byron

mother, Susan Tubbs of Byron; grandparents, Paul and Maxine Parmentier of Rockford; sister, Mandy (Court) Imel of Byron, grandchildren, Parker and Payten Snider; niece, Hope Imel; and dogs, Mocha, Ruby, Curly, Mikey, Jay, and Maizie.

She is preceded in death by her father, Billy Joe and brother Michael Tubbs.

Visitation was held from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17 at the Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home in Byron concluding with a celebration of her well-lived life beginning at 7 p.m. Because Shelly would not want anything sad, the family requests that you wear different shades of blue or white to the services.

Memorials are established in her name. To leave an online condolence visit www.farrellhollandgale.com



Report policy

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

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

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Whiskey raffle for the Byron Museum

BYRON — Byron's County Market store 217 is selling raffle tickets to benefit the Byron Museum of History. Enter to win a bottle of Calumet 16-year-old Bourbon \$169.99 retail value. Donated by County Market, 100 percent of proceeds going to the museum.

Raffle tickets are available by request at the County Market Liquor service desk beginning Feb. 11 through March 31. Cash-only donations of \$5 each or \$20 for five chances

to win. Drawing will be held on April 1 at 2 p.m., need not be present to win. Thank you for your support and good luck!

Byron Museum of History is currently hosting its Spring Art Show, featuring work by members of the Eagles Nest Art Group. The Eagle's Nest Art Group welcomes all forms of art including oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastels, photography, fiber art and several other forms of art. The group welcomes all

who are art-minded to participate in its full schedule of programs, classes, and art show opportunities. To learn more call (815) 732-7783. Find us on Facebook at Eagle's Nest Art Group, Oregon, Illinois.

Visit the Byron Museum Wednesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission and group tours are free. Call the museum at 815.234.5031, or send an e-mail to info@byronmuseum.org to schedule a group tour.

LOCAL NEWS

Anna Parson 5K is March 12 in Stillman Valley

STILLMAN VALLEY — Looking for a reason to run/jog/walk in March? Join the Meridian Junior High Student Council and Anna's Angels on March 12 for a 5K benefit in Stillman Valley for one of their local families struggling with cancer.

Anna Parson was diagnosed in the summer of 2022 with a rare breast cancer called Triple Positive, HER2 Positive, Invasive and Non-Invasive Ductal Carcinoma. Anna's cancer is treatable, but requires aggressive chemotherapy treatment, a double mastectomy, reconstructive surgery, and long-term hormonal treatment.

Anna is a self-employed business owner. She is an amazing wife, mother, daughter and friend, and is a blessing to all who know her.

Registration

Register at Eventbrite.com - search Anna Parson. Registration deadline is Feb 24. Race starts at 10 a.m. - cost is \$30 (includes race registration, t-shirt and swag bag).

We are also hosting a benefit at the Stockyard Burger Bar at 908 W. Riverside in Rockford from noon to 5:30 p.m. after the 5K with dozens of raffle baskets and 50/50.

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."

Mobile food pantry is Feb. 26 in Mt. Morris

MT. MORRIS — Loaves & Fish Food Pantry alongside Northern Illinois Food Bank is hosting a Mobile Food Pantry on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 10-11:30 a.m. The truck will be located at Mt. Morris Moose Family Center, 101 Moose Drive, Mt. Morris. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required.

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



Oregon Rotary Club tours FN Smith

The Oregon Rotary Club was treated to a tour of the FN Smith Corporation located on Second Street in Oregon on Jan. 18. Rotarians Dave & Patty Head both work at Smith and talked about the precision machinist apprenticeship program. In business for over 30 years, Smith engineers and manufactures technology in plastics, food industry, agriculture and National Labs.

OGLE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2023 Tree Sales Program

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
 Phone Main _____ Phone Second _____

ALL SALES ARE LIMITED TO STOCK AVAILABLE. FINAL ORDER DEADLINE- APRIL 1, 2023. After April 1st, call for availability. TREE ORDERS MUST BE PICKED UP AT THE OGLE CO. FAIRGROUNDS ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, APRIL 13th & 14th, 2023.

Office use only

Order # 23- _____

Receipt # _____

Check # _____

Amount _____

Paid _____

We need your full mailing address and phone numbers to reach you if a problem arises and to mail you a pick up reminder in the Spring.

Item description	Age & Size	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE	4 yr. transplant, 12-18"	25 trees for \$ 40.00		
COLO. BLUE SPRUCE SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, 18-30"	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
WHITE SPRUCE	4 yr. transplant, 18-22"	25 trees for \$ 53.00		
WHITE SPRUCE SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, 24"+	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
NORWAY SPRUCE	4 yr. transplant, 18-22"	25 trees for \$ 53.00		
NORWAY SPRUCE SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, 24"+	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
SERBIAN SPRUCE	3 yr. transplant, 10-18"	10 trees for \$ 35.00		
WHITE PINE SMALLER	3 yr. seedling, 14"+	25 trees for \$ 25.00		
WHITE PINE	4 yr. transplant, 12-18"	25 trees for \$ 53.00		
WHITE PINE SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, 16-18"	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
DOUGLAS FIR SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, 24"+	10 trees for \$ 35.00		
CANAAN FIR	3 yr. transplant, 8-14"	10 trees for \$ 30.00		
AMERICAN ARBORVITE, <i>White Cedar</i>	4 yr. transplant, 15-24"	10 trees for \$ 40.00		
BLACK RASPBERRY, <i>Bristol</i>	#1 canes	3 canes for \$16.00		
RED RASPBERRY, <i>Latham</i>	#1 canes	3 canes for \$16.00		
REDOSIER DOGWOOD	1 yr. seedling, 2-3'	25 shrubs for \$ 35.00		
BUTTERFLY BUSH	1 yr. seedling, 2-3'	1 pack (3 plants) \$15.00		
HIBISCUS, <i>Swamp Rose Mallow</i>	2 yr. seedling,	1 pack (5 plants) \$15.00		
BLAZING STAR, <i>Liatris</i>	Select bulbs	1 pack (5 bulbs) \$10.00		
RED BUD	1 yr. seedling, 2-3'	\$ 5.00 each		
LILAC, <i>Common, Purple</i>	2 yr. seedling, 2-3'	\$ 6.00 each		
HYBRID POPULAR, <i>Imperial Carolina</i>	1 yr. seedling, 3-4'	10 for \$30.00 or \$ 5.00 each		
WHITE PAPER BIRCH	2 yr. seedling, 2-3'	\$ 7.00 each		
RIVER BIRCH PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 7.00 each		
Am. LINDEN (Basswood) PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
SUGAR MAPLE PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
RED MAPLE PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
PIN OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
RED (NORTHERN) OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
SWAMP WHITE OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
WHITE OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
SYCAMORE PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
BLACK WALNUT	2 yr. seedling, 2-3'	25 trees for \$ 40.00		
CHINKAPIN OAK	1-2 yr. seedling, 18-24"	25 trees for \$ 45.00		
RED OAK	1-2 yr. seedling, 2-3'	25 trees for \$ 40.00		
SWAMP WHITE OAK	1-2 yr. seedling, 18-24"	25 trees for \$ 45.00		
WHITE OAK	1-2 yr. seedling 12-18"	25 trees for \$ 40.00		
BAT HOUSE or BLUEBIRD HOUSE	Locally made, IDNR plans	Bat @ \$30 or Blue Bird @ \$35		
FERTILIZER PACKET	Formulated, Time Released	25 packets for \$ 18.00		
PLANTING GEL Root Dip	4 oz. dry packet, makes 5	1 packet for \$ 10.00		
TREE PROTECTOR	4 inch x 4ft poly tube	\$ 5.00 each		
MARKING FLAGS	36" wire w/ 4"x5" flag	50 flags for \$ 9.00/100 flags for		
One Free Lilac Shrub for Orders Before March 1, 2023			ONE	FREE
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 OREGON IL 61061-9060**

LOCAL NEWS

Oregon Rotary donates to OES library

Rotary District 6420 enlisted local Rotary Clubs to participate in the district-wide service project "Nothing Reads Like a Book." The goal is to donate one book per Rotarian to a library of the club's choice. Oregon Rotary Club is proud to announce they have met this goal and donated 33 new books to the Oregon Elementary School Library. Rotary Club President Erin Folk worked with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tom Mahoney and OES Principal Kelli Virgil to identify the books needed at OES. The 33 books donated represent each Rotarian in the Oregon Club. "Rotary's goal is to strengthen communities and support basic education and literacy needs. Oregon Rotary is pleased to continue our efforts through support in OCUSD schools," Folk said.



Oregon/Mt. Morris Kiwanis has returned with upcoming events and fundraisers

OREGON—The Oregon/Mt. Morris Kiwanis Club is back up and running and looking for new members to serve the mission of Kiwanis. Kiwanis is a service club whose members are dedicated to improving the lives of children. Oregon/Mt. Morris Kiwanis meetings are the first and second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Cork & Tap located at 305 W. Washington St. in Oregon. February is membership month, and current members will be inviting friends to meetings so the community can get a feel for who Oregon/Mt. Morris Kiwanis is and what they do. The local Kiwanis K-Kids, which is made up of elementary school children, have been busy making Valentines to distribute to local nursing homes. The Oregon/Mt. Morris Kiwanis will be fundraising for future initiatives by selling fresh cut tulips during the month of March to deliver around Easter. Each bundle will be \$12 for 10 cut stems of tulips. To submit your order please contact any Oregon/Mt. Morris Kiwanis member, or call Merlin's Greenhouse & Flowers and Otherside Boutique at (815) 732-2969.

LOCAL GUIDE

Fish Fry

Friday 5pm-9:30pm

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MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25
APRIL 1, 8
5:00-7:00 PM

Fish Dinner
ADULT (11YRS+) \$12
SR. CITIZEN (65+) \$11
CHILDREN (4-10YRS) \$7
Includes 2-3 pieces of baked or fried cod and everything on the menu excluding pizza

Pizza Dinner
ADULT (11YRS+) \$10
SR. CITIZEN (65+) \$9
CHILDREN (4-10YRS) \$5
Includes 2 slices of pizza (1 slice for Children's Dinner) and everything on the menu excluding fish

FAMILY RATE - \$40
IMMEDIATE FAMILY - DINE IN ONLY
UNDER 3 - FREE

BEER & WINE AVAILABLE - 50/50 RAFFLE - HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE - CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE

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MENU
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Macaroni & Cheese
French Fries
Potatoes w/Parsley
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Dessert
Drinks

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LOCAL NEWS



Oregon Lions Club members receive awards

Oregon Lions Club Member Chris Martin was recently recognized with the 55-year Lion Award (above). Lion Joanna Cermak also received the Key Award (below). Several organizations, causes and individuals have recently received charitable donations from the Oregon Lions Club including: VFW Christmas food baskets, VFW general fund, Lifeline Food Pantry, The Center for Sight and Hearing in Rockford, Leader Dog for the Blind Training Facility, two Oregon High School scholarships, various Donations to the Village of Progress, AOP sponsor, Rock River Center, HOPE in Rochelle, Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, Pegasus Special Riders, low vision screenings, glasses and hearing aids for those in need, the Oregon Library Summer Reading Program and Serenity Home and Hospice.



OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jan. 31

At 6:39 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance call at the Casey's General Store in Oregon, 901 W. Washington St., resulting in Joseph M. Coster, 36, Oregon, being issued a city citation for disorderly conduct.

Feb. 1

At 3:34 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Steven J. Martinez, 46, Oregon, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Martinez was transported to the Ogle County Jail. This violation occurred in the 200 block of South 4th Street.

Feb. 2

At 8:01 a.m., Oregon Police issued Abigail E. Campbell, 20, Machesney Park, a citation for speeding, 44 miles per hour in a 30-miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 500 block of North 4th Street.

Feb. 3

At 10:45 a.m., the Oregon SRO officer issued a city citation to one male juvenile, 16, Mt. Morris, for violating Ordinance 6-84, possession of tobacco products and alternative nicotine products. This violation occurred at the Oregon High School, 210 S. 10th St.

At 10:51 a.m., Oregon Police issued Ramon Alvarado, Jr., 41, Franklin Grove, a citation for driving while license revoked. This violation occurred in the 100 block of East Washington Street.

Feb. 4

At 7:09 a.m., Oregon Police issued Tanya L. Gierut, 36, Rockford, a citation for speeding, 48 miles per hour in a 30-miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 4:48 p.m., Oregon Police issued Anaya J. Hitchcock, 17, Oregon, a citation for operation of a vehicle when registration is suspended. This violation occurred near the Clay and South 10th Street intersection.

At 8:22 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jennifer Wagner, 43, of Elgin a citation for speeding, 46 miles per hour in a 30-miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

Feb. 5

At 12:05 p.m., Oregon Police issued Kandice I. Schindel, 32, of Tampico a citation for operation of a vehicle with a suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

At 3:18 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Alyssa N. Ghibellini, 29, Oregon, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant for failure to appear. Ghibellini was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

At 5:04 p.m., Oregon Police issued Timothy J. Weitzel, 51, of Roscoe a citation for speeding, 45 miles per hour in a 30-miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 5:54 p.m., Oregon Police issued Galileo Santizo-Lopez, 46, of Moline citations for operation of a vehicle with

a suspended registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

At 6:33 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Gildardo Salcedo, 31, of Rockton for driving while license revoked. Salcedo was transported to the Ogle County Jail. This violation occurred in the 400 block of North 4th Street.

At 10:21 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jonathon D. Stewart, 34, Leaf River, a citation for speeding, 42 miles per hour in a 30-miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

18 parking citations and eight verbal warnings issued during the week of Jan. 30 through Feb. 5.

Feb. 7

At 12:38 p.m., Oregon Police issued Carie K. Joens, 32, Forreton, a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. This violation occurred near the intersection of West Washington and Illinois Streets.

At 3:42 p.m., Oregon Police responded to the 300 block of West Washington Street involving a 2013 Chevrolet driven by Amanda M. Mackey, 24, Oregon, and a 2014 Chevrolet driven by Carter R. Fruin, 21, Oregon. No citations were issued.

Feb. 8

At 9:11 p.m., Oregon Police issued Scott A. Jepsen, 66, Dixon, citations for operation of a vehicle while registration is suspended for noninsurance and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

At 9:36 p.m., Oregon Police issued Abigail M. Myers, 17, Oregon, a citation for speeding, 47 miles per hour in a 30-miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 10:17 p.m., Oregon Police issued Tabatha J. Heide, 25, Sterling, a citation for speeding, 53 miles per hour in a 30-miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

Feb. 10

At 11:40 p.m., Oregon Police issued Louis L. Smith, 30, of Poplar Grove, a citation for speeding, 40 miles per hour in a 30-miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Gale Street.

Feb. 11

At 7:55 a.m., Oregon Police arrested David H. Gonzalez, 22, of Westmont, Illinois for no commercial driver's license (CDL) and disobeying a traffic control device. These violations occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

At 6:26 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance call in the 800 block of Franklin Street resulting in the arrest of Cody L. Moser, 24, Oregon, for aggravated domestic battery and criminal damage to property more than \$500. Moser was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Polo Farm Toy Show is March 4

POLO — The 38th Annual Farm Toy Show will take place at Polo High School at 100 Union Ave., Polo on Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Polo Lions Club.

There will be approximately 75-100 dealer tables and a 50-50 drawing (contact Ryan Shetler, 815-499-0176). The event is handicap accessible and the cafeteria will be open with food and drink sold by the Polo FFA.

Adult admission is \$3 and children under 12

get in free.

For dealer information, call Irene Short at 815-946-3730.

Pancakes & Sausage Supper returns to Paynes Point

PAYNES POINT — After a two year hiatus, Emmanuel Lutheran Church's famous Pancakes & Sausage Supper returns this March. As before, this will be in the evening of the first Saturday in March. That's March 4 from 4:30-7 p.m. Kids under five eat for free. Children 5-11 years old cost \$5 and everyone else costs \$10, and it's all

you can eat. Proceeds from this supper benefit local organizations in Ogle County.

There will be a bake sale at the same time. All donations there will go to the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research.

These might just be the best Pancakes & Sausage in the state. So come on out, see some familiar faces, and get your fill, all while supporting local.

Again, that's March 4, 4:30-7 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church (764 N. Stillman Road, Oregon). See you there!

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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. 27, 1693, England's first women's magazine, *The Ladies Mercury*, debuted. With a print run of just four weeks, each single-sheet, double-sided issue consisted of an advice column addressing "all the most nice and curious questions concerning love, marriage, behavior, dress and humor of the female sex, whether virgins, wives or widows."

* On March 5, 1774, John Hancock delivered the fourth annual Massacre Day speech, commemorating the Boston Massacre in which British soldiers killed five men in a crowd on King Street. Hancock's oration and denunciation of the presence of British troops in Boston increased his standing as a leading patriot.

* On March 1, 1869, U.S. postage stamps featuring scenes were issued for the first time. The pictorials included a post horse and rider, a locomotive, a shield, an eagle and a ship, and the Adriatic Sea. Prior to that time, the stamps had only depicted portraits of dead statesmen.

* On March 4, 1960, actress-comedienne Lucille Ball filed for divorce from Cuban-American singer and bandleader Desi Arnaz, citing his drinking and infidelity, after 14 years of marriage. The couple most memorably earned a place in American hearts as Ricky and Lucy Ricardo on their 1950s TV sitcom "I Love Lucy."

* On March 2, 1962, Philadelphia Warriors center Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points, the most ever by an NBA player in a single game, in a match with the New York Knicks in Hershey, Pennsylvania, with a final winning score for the Warriors of 169-147. Six decades later, Chamberlain's record still remains unbroken.

* On March 3, 1991, motorist Rodney King's severe beating at the hands of Los Angeles police officers was captured on an amateur video taken by bystander George Holliday from a nearby balcony, which later led to riots when the officers were acquitted. King had been stopped and arrested for driving while intoxicated on the interstate.

* On Feb. 28, 2013, scientists electrically connected the brains of two rats with electrodes reaching into the motor cortex, the region of the brain that processes movement. The animals were then able to share and act on each other's sensory information and were trained to press a lever when a light went on above it.

Simplifying the gun debate

Dear editor,
My goal in this letter is to simplify the gun legislation debate. First, I am not a gun owner but the second amendment is very clear. You can take any weapon or loaded firearm — from a butcher knife to an assault rifle — and they won't cause any damage until a human being takes hold of it. These are inanimate objects so they can't function by themselves; therefore, the human being must be the culprit.

The notion that banning "high-powered" weapons will stop mass shootings is shortsighted at best. When someone is bent on committing acts of murder, they will use whatever means they want to, like running a car into a crowded parade, stabbing people with a knife, etc. The legislators feel that

banning these assault weapons will keep mass shootings from happening, but don't care if one or two people are killed with a handgun? Which is not to say that a handgun can't be used to kill dozens of people.

In addition, the large number of sheriffs in this state declaring they will not enforce this new legislation is about keeping the lawmakers in check, not picking and choosing certain laws. I applaud every one of them for that.

Regarding lawmakers, people need to understand that both political parties have had several opportunities to deal with this problem, but refuse to because if their respective laws don't work, they don't want their name attached to it.

Mike Ballard
Byron

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.

A cautionary tale of journalism

HOODWINKED, fooled, deceived, misled, bamboozled.

Those are just a few words to describe what a teenager allegedly did to a community journalist with 40 years of experience.

In the small town of Eldridge, Iowa, just north of the Quad-Cities, lives a young woman named Madison Russo. Scott Campbell, the longtime editor of the North Scott Press heard that the 19-year-old received a \$500 grant from a local group that helped people with pancreatic cancer.

Campbell decided to write a feature story.

"I just texted her cold and I said, 'Hey, Maddie, this is Scott Campbell. I heard about your diagnosis. Would you be interested in telling your story?'" And she sent me a text back within two minutes: "You betcha. No problem at all." So, we set up an interview for the next morning. ... She had set up a GoFundMe page. I saw a couple social media postings that she'd posted."

She claimed to have Stage II pancreatic cancer and acute lymphoblastic leukemia, Campbell said.

"She said she had gone through 15 rounds of chemo and 90 rounds of radiation," Campbell said. "I asked for some pictures and she texted some photos. In none of 'em did she look sick at all. I didn't have any reason to doubt her. I thought maybe they were older pictures. She just told me she'd been through hell. And then right at the end of the conversation she dropped this bombshell: 'By the way, I just found out today that I've got a football size tumor in my lower back.' And I said, 'Oh, crap. That's crazy.'"

Crazy. Yeah, that's one word for it.

But despite her year of "hell"

she said she was able to finish her first year of college at St. Ambrose University and maintain a 4.0 grade point average, land a plum internship at Deere & Co., continue to play golf -- and run six miles a day.



Scott Reeder

My mother died of breast cancer, my brother succumbed to liver cancer and my father beat the odds and survived Stage III esophageal cancer. None of them were going for runs -- and none of them ever had tumors the size of footballs.

And the photos I have of their withered forms are so painful to look at, some family members have asked that I never share them -- the memories they conjure are just too painful.

But in the photo Russo sent the North Scott Press she looks pretty as a prom queen. Her skin has a healthy glow, and she has a full head of hair.

Campbell said he chatted with Russo over the phone -- but never met with her in person. No news happens in the newsroom. You have to leave your desk and talk to people. Please note, I said "people" as in the plural of person.

Campbell's story quoted one person: Russo. He said he reached out to her mother, but she never got back to him. He didn't try to interview the physicians that Russo said were treating her. He also didn't seek out her professors or co-workers.

When I was in journalism school, turning in a one-source story constituted a failing grade. As an editor, I angered reporters when I refused to publish stories with a single source. But Campbell was the newspaper's editor. Who was there to tell him "no?" Well, there was his wife.

"I came home and told my wife about it. She was kinda skeptical. She goes, 'Really? I'm really connected in the commu-

nity and I haven't heard about this cancer story -- that she (said) she'd been through for the last eight months.'"

But Campbell proceeded to publish a tear-jerker and donations poured in. Russo raised \$37,300 from 439 donors on GoFundMe and went to Chicago for a pancreatic-cancer gala.

A couple months later, folks with medical experience started calling the newspaper -- and the police. They said the story didn't add up.

Russo's medical records, obtained by subpoena, show that none of the medical facilities in the Quad-City region have diagnosed Russo with any kind of tumor or cancer.

She was arrested on theft charges Jan. 11 while in class at St. Ambrose. And police said they seized her 2023 Kia Sportage, a paper bag with medical supplies, bank records, an IV pole with a feeding pump filled with cotton balls, two boxes of dressing, a wig, cash and pills for nausea in the name of a relative.

The community was angry. Donors were hurt. And a newspaper looked bad.

The NSP is one of the best community newspapers I've encountered. None the less, the role it played in this matter is an embarrassment -- not just to the newspaper but to journalists everywhere.

Some folks find it off-putting when reporters are suspicious and seek verification. Too bad; that's our job.

How could a journalist have avoided this predicament? Here are a few thoughts: interview the subject in-person, be skeptical, ask tough questions, seek documentation of the person's claims, talk to more than one source -- and listen to your spouse.

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

Winter is a period of downtime, but farmers aren't staying idle

AS snow blankets our frozen fields, winter is a time of reflection for farmers. What worked well, what could we do better and what challenges will the upcoming spring bring? Those are questions we ask ourselves as we ring in the new year and begin planning for the next planting season.

At Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), winter is a time for farmers across the state to come together to see old friends, make connections and learn new strategies to build and strengthen our food systems.

American consumers today are increasingly concerned with what to put on their family's table. They want to know where their food is grown and who's producing it. Whether it's choosing organic or locally sourced fruits, vegetables, meats or other food products, consumers want to feel connected to their food producers and confident in their choices.

It's a unique opportunity for farmers -- big and small -- to tell our story.

That's why IFB collaborated with the Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA) and the Illinois Farmers Market Association (IFMA) to create the largest, most inclusive local food event in Illinois. From food to flowers, the Everything Local Conference connected local growers, farmers, farmers market associates and business owners to build alliances and partnerships.

Illinois' agriculture production goes far beyond corn and soybeans. Farmers across the state produce a wide range of specialty crops, a diverse variety of fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and floriculture. Illinois ranks first in the nation for pumpkin and horseradish production, and among the top 10 in asparagus, cauliflower, fresh-cut herbs, green beans, lima beans, mustard greens and snap peas.

Illinois also ranks third in the nation for the number of farmers markets, where consumers can purchase farm-fresh, affordable, convenient and healthy products.

The Everything Local Conference brought together such producers to learn new ways to strengthen and build the local food supply chain. It was also a time for celebration for all the hard work our farmers put in day in and day out.

The ISGA honored Amelia and Michael Howard, of Cook County, and Tom Schwartz, of Randolph County, with the 2022 ISGA Award of Excellence.

The Howards -- long recognized as "urban farmers" before "urban farming" was popularized -- have led the way for growers in their community. Their work has ushered in more than 25 years of agricultural education and created a safe haven for children in the Fuller Park community of Chicago through farming experiences that connect them with nature, agriculture and the world around them.

Schwartz is another strong leader among specialty crop producers. His extensive knowledge of horticulture and marketing has amplified the industry while teaching how horticulture can serve communities. ISGA was honored to recognize Schwartz for being a bright light for many specialty crop families, as well as a major supporter within the industry.

Many other specialty crop producers were recognized throughout the conference. Two fan favorite competitions also returned: the Illinois State horticulture Society's 33rd Illinois and National Sweet Cider Contests and the 20th National Hard Cider Contest.

This year, Joe Ringhausen of Joe Ringhausen Orchards in Fieldon took home the gold as the No. 1 overall rated cider. His cider blends Jonathan, Golden Delicious, Red Delicious and Fuji apples for a winning combination. Wiles Family Orchard of Fairchild placed first in the Hard Cider contest as repeat champions. Their hard cider blends Gold Rush, Golden Delicious and Fuji apples.

Who doesn't love a cup of cold, refreshing cider after a hard day's work? Illinois is lucky to have such wonderful orchards.

Building and strengthening the local food supply chain wasn't the only goal this winter. In late January, about 500 young and beginning farmers attended IFB's annual Young Leader Conference to tackle challenges facing the next generation of farmers.

IFB's Young Leader Chair, Sadie Asher, of Henry County, outlined her priorities for the coming year. With more IFB members over the age of 90 than under 35, Asher called on her fellow young leaders to strengthen the organization's membership and recruit younger voices.

Our young farmers' talent was also displayed during the 2023 American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) annual meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Evan Hultine, a Bureau County farmer, received third place in the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award competition. Kaylee Heap, of Kendall County, ranked fourth in the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture competition; and Ryan Reever of Ogle County was honored to represent Illinois in the AFBF Young Leader Discussion Meet.

Winter is a period of downtime. That is a true statement for many farmers, but we're not staying idle. Illinois farmers continue to develop new best practices for their businesses, and celebrate those who are making our industry stronger, better and more efficient for future generations.

Richard Guebert Jr. is president of the Illinois Farm Bureau. This op-ed was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

LOCAL NEWS

Ogle County man sentenced to 14 years in federal prison

Byron man transported child pornography

ROCKFORD — A Byron man was sentenced Feb. 15 to 14 years in federal prison for transportation of child pornography.

Oscar Flores-Vazquez, 51, pleaded guilty earlier this year to one count of knowingly transporting child pornography. U.S. District Judge John Robert Blakey imposed the sentence. Flores-Vazquez was also ordered to pay \$8,750 in restitution to certain victims.

The sentence was announced by John R. Lausch, Jr., United States attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and Robert W. “Wes” Wheeler, Jr., special agent-in-charge of the Chicago Field Office of the FBI. The government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica S. Maveus.

Flores-Vazquez admitted in a plea agreement that he used a peer-to-peer application on his computer to knowingly allow others, including an undercover law enforcement agent, to access files on his computer that Flores-Vazquez knew contained child pornography. In June 2018, Flores-Vazquez knowingly transported child pornography, including a file depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Flores-Vazquez further admitted in the plea agreement that he possessed a laptop that contained more than 600 images of child pornography.

Polo police cites Sandwich woman

POLO — On Feb. 9 at 9:45 p.m. Dorothy R. Morrissey, 36, of Sandwich, was cited by Polo Police for speeding 43 miles per hour in a 30-miles per hour speed zone. Morrissey was released on an I-Bond.

BYRON POLICE DEPARTMENT

BYRON—On Jan. 23, Melissa A. Gallentine, 44, of Sterling was issued a citation for operating a motor vehicle while registration is suspended.

On Jan. 24, Taylor E. Doane, 25, of Davis Junction was issued a citation for operating a motor vehicle while registration is suspended.

On Jan. 24, Tarteanna A. Jarrett, 27, of Rockford was issued a citation for speeding.

On Jan. 26, Mark R. Rowe, 37, of Byron was arrested for disorderly conduct. Rowe was transported to Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond. Rowe was also issued a civil citation for possession of cannabis; not more than 10 grams.

On Feb. 1, Monica J. Plymale, 48, of Rockford was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 2, Maurice E. Lybeck, 68, of Dixon was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 3, Abraham S. Moller, 59, of Chicago was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 4, Adam J Peterson, 23, of Rochelle was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 4, Donna L. Fullington, 50, of Rock Falls was issued a citation for disobeying a stop sign. Fullington was arrested and transported to Ogle County Jail due to an active warrant for failure to appear.

On Feb. 6, Steven M. James, 40, of Rockford was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 6, Ryan C. Harkness, 18, of Mt. Morris was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 6, Caitlin J. Trainor, 38, of Oregon was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 7, Sarah Burnett, 37, of Rockford was issued a citation for driving while license suspended.

On Feb. 7, Jacob E. Brown, 41, of Moline was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 7, John R. Bartlett, 61, of Byron was issued a citation for improper lane usage.

On Feb. 7, Thomas J. Buzinski, 31, of Byron was issued a citation for no valid insurance.

On Feb. 8, Daniel P. Collins, 36, of Byron was issued a citation for driving under the influence of alcohol. Collins was arrested and transported to Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

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

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On Feb. 7 at approximately 9:22 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of South Franklin Street in Byron. After investigation, Devon Richardson, 25, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Richardson was additionally cited for expired registration, suspended registration and improper display of registration. Richardson was released on scene with a return court date.

On Feb. 7 at approximately 7:13 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop within the 19,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After an investigation, deputies placed Samantha M. Moseley, 29, of Rockford, under arrest for an active failure to appear Ogle County warrant. Moseley was taken into custody without incident and additionally charged with possession of cannabis/driver. Moseley was cited for improper passing and speeding. Moseley was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 7 at 8:01 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 12,000 block of East Illinois Route 64 for an equipment violation. After an investigation, Morgan Peterson, 35, of Holcomb was arrested for no valid driver's license. Peterson was also cited for no registration light. Peterson was released on a signature I-Bond with a return court date.

On Feb. 8 at approximately 10:33 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 108. While speaking with the driver, identified as Michael

R. Moore, 36, of Rockford, he began to flee northbound on Interstate 39 at speeds in excess of 21 miles per hour while in a 70-miles per hour speed zone in an attempt to evade arrest. Moore lost control of his vehicle near mile marker 113, at which time he entered the grass median located west of the roadway and came to rest. Moore was subsequently placed under arrest for aggravated fleeing to elude a peace officer, aggravated driving while license revoked, reckless driving, resisting/obstructing a peace officer and improper container of cannabis/driver. Moore was issued additional citations for fleeing/attempting to elude a peace officer, driving while license revoked, illegal window tint, expired registration, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and speeding. Moore was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held pending a court appearance before a judge.

On Feb. 9 at approximately 2:18 a.m. deputies responded to a property damage accident that had occurred near the intersection of Illinois Route 2 and Ashelford Drive. Prior to deputies' arrival, a Byron Police officer had located the driver walking in the area. After investigation, deputies placed Timmy Horner, 57, of Garden Prairie, Illinois, under arrest for driving while under the influence of alcohol. Horner was additionally issued citations for operating an uninsured vehicle, improper lane usage and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Horner was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

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1804 W. Fairview Road, Freeport

\$164,900 dickersonnieman.com/202207417

HOME SWEET HOME! 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath home. Updated eat-in kitchen (2013). Hardwood floors throughout (refinished 2004). Both baths have been updated with a jetted tub/shower in 2006. Craft Room downstairs. Family Room with beautiful fireplace, patio doors lead out to the screened in porch. Park like backyard! Beautiful mature pond. This property is a TRUE MUST SEE!

KAYLA HESLOP
 (815) 222-9771

402 E. Brayton Road, Mount Morris

\$135,000 dickersonnieman.com/202206586

SPACIOUS 2 STORY! 3 bedroom, 1 bath home. Large rooms, 3 season porch, wood floors, oversized 4 car garage - 40x27 with 3 overhead doors. Some replacement windows. Property sold "AS IS".

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LOCAL NEWS



Ogle Jolly 4-H group goes bowling
On Jan. 22 the Ogle Jolly 4-H group joined together to bowl. There was one Cloverbud bowler, seven junior bowlers and one senior bowler. Rob Thurow, Lucas Thurow, Joey Thurow, Alyse Rogers, Piper Johnson, Reese Johnson, Kate Costello, Lily Mulvaney and Max Thurow.



Polo Lions Club hosts bowling fundraiser
The Polo Lions Club sponsored a team to bowl at the Polo School Foundation Bowling Day Fundraiser held at Plum Hollow Family Center on Saturday, Jan. 21. The team consisted of Lion member Tim Rockwood, Mark Zeigler, Justin Grobe and Ray Marschang. Mark Zeigler had the high score of 210 for the team. It was a successful day for the school foundation.

Village of Progress Foundation offering two scholarships

OGLE COUNTY — The Village of Progress Foundation will offer two scholarships in 2023. The first scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is made possible through a joint effort between The Larry Young & Friends Charities and The Village of Progress Foundation. Larry Young & Friends Charities partner with The Village of Progress Foundation every year to help make our annual golf outing a success. Larry Young also serves on the foundation's board of directors. The second scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is made possible through the generosity of the Cacciatore Family. The Cacciatores have been

long time supporters of the Village. Wanda served on the Village of Progress Board of Directors for 10 years beginning in 1988. She has served on the foundation's board for almost 30 years. The scholarship honors her husband, Pete, who was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Village. Pete passed away in the fall of 2014, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to the Village and its mission. To be eligible for either scholarship, the student must:
Be a resident of Ogle County and be either a high school senior who is disabled or is planning

on attending college and majoring in an area related to the disabled, or a full-time undergraduate college student who is disabled or is majoring in an area related to the disabled. Applications must be received by March 15, 2023, be completed on the foundation application form, and include at least two written references. The financial status of the applicant is not a consideration. Those wishing an application are encouraged to call the Village of Progress at 815-732-2126 or go to our website at www.villageofprogress.org and download a high school or college application.

Thank You

Ogle County Life Honorary Staff Members Make Contributions and Share Views

"Thank you for your continued coverage of the Ogle County news."
Don & Linda Orsted

"Thank you for publishing the Life paper. We enjoy it."
Carol

"Thanks, I really look forward every week to get the Life. I really enjoy reading it."
Marion Kalnins

"Love the Ogle County Life."
Marla Dennis

"Thank you for the Ogle Co. Life. I enjoy getting it."
Michelle B.

"Keep up the good work."
Emory Harmon

"I truly appreciate having the Life delivered to my mailbox each and every week. Thanks for putting together an awesome newspaper."
Bob & Bobbi Cupp

10 % of all contributions made by February 28 is going to area senior centers as a donation to help provide services for our county's senior citizens. Thank you to all of our Honorary Staff Members for your comments and support. We couldn't do it without you!"
Sincerely, Mike Feltes, General Manager



Stillman Valley's Alderks named Illinois Athletic Director of the Year

'I was instantly humbled in knowing all the great people I work with'

STILLMAN VALLEY — Heather Alderks, Stillman Valley High School athletic and activities director, has received word that she was nominated and has won Athletic Director of the Year by the Illinois Athletic Director Association.



District," Alderks said. "These types of awards are given to an individual but behind that individual is a great support network in making every extra-curricular program and event possible for our students. From our Athletic/Activities Department Assistant Paula Broski to the great coaches who serve our students year in and year out, to the building and grounds staff, and custodial staff who

work countless hours to make events happen, the people behind the scenes of the work being done is what has allowed me to be recognized and I am very grateful for them. I am honored to receive this award knowing I work with great people every day."

Background

Alderks started teaching physical education at Meridian Junior High in 2003. She was recognized as "Those Who Excel" in the teaching category in 2016. She has also been coaching since 2003 and was the varsity girls



basketball head coach when the team went to

state and placed third in 2012. She also received the IBCA Coach of the Year the same year. She became athletic director at SVHS in 2017 and has developed and implemented several new programs.

MCUSD #223 Superintendent Dr. P.J. Caposey commented, "I am incredibly proud

of Heather. She is a fantastic leader and represents the very best of what Meridian 223 aspires to be. To be recognized at the state level validates her long hours and time away from her loved ones in order to create great experiences for our student athletes and community."



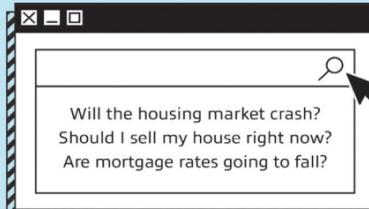
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U.S. Foreclosure Activity Still Below Pre-Pandemic Levels



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404 Barbara Street, Mt. Morris
\$187,500 Call Mark

Looking for a GREAT LOCATION to raise the kids? Come look at this SPACIOUS 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home near Dillehay Park in Mt. Morris! Partially finished lower level has possibility of an additional 2 bedrooms, office space or rec room areas! Kitchen was newly updated in the last 2 years. New flooring in a few rooms and a 2,000.00 flooring allowance for the rest. Newer appliances will stay including washer & dryer! Master bedroom has big walk-in closet & full master bath. Nice mudroom between garage & house offers convenience of 1st floor laundry! Beautiful covered front porch was redone in past 2 years. Gas forced air furnace and central air. Home Warranty is being offered.



000 E Ashelford Drive, Byron
\$59,900 Call Carla

Imagine how you would want your dream house to be when you are nestled near the Rock River with 110' of river frontage. Do you prefer arec room, larger bedrooms, spacious kitchen or loads of windows to take in the scenic views? It's up to you. This property is located in the Byron school district and has city water and county taxes. Sale is subject to developer's approval of blueprint.



304 W. Miller Road, Sterling
\$254,900 Call JD

SO MUCH NEW... Move right in and be worry free. The heavy lifting has already been done for you. This brick ranch just moments from downtown, restaurants, and schools features 3 bedrooms & 3 full bathrooms, 2 car attached with additional 3 car detached garage, partially finished basement, designated office space, two fireplaces, and more! Recent updates include brand new roof (2022), all new hardwood flooring & paint throughout, kitchen counters & backsplash, light fixtures, remodeled bathrooms, landscaping, and so much more. Everything is ready to go, it's just missing you! Make it yours today.



410 S. 7th Street, Oregon
\$275,000 Call Rebecca

HISTORIC BEAUTY! Here is your chance to own home built in 1870 on a large corner lot bursting with old world charm and modern convenience. Gleaming hardwood floors run throughout this home including front and rear parlors along with a built in bookcase and original woodwork. Eat in kitchen was tastefully updated with maple cabinets, quartz counter and stainless steel appliance featuring Subzero fridge/freezer and DeLong commercial range. Sunroom on the main floor boasts a new gas fireplace making this an incredibly cozy room no matter what season it is. Main floor has over 2,000 square feet of finished space including a stunning front entry with vintage wall paper, formal dining room, main floor laundry room and 2 parlor rooms. Many of these rooms are divided with original pocket doors. Spacious upstairs has two staircases and offers 4 bedrooms and 3 full bathrooms, 2 of which are en suite. The lower level is partially finished offering a family room, full bathroom and bonus rooms. Outside you will love spending the warmer months on your charming covered porch or by your in ground pool with hot tub! Homes like this do not come on the market every day, call for your showing!



000 Silver Ridge Drive, Oregon
\$29,900 Call Becky

Are you dreaming of living on a golf course? Here's your chance to build your dream home on the 18th hole of the beautiful Silver Ridge Golf Course located just minutes from downtown historic Oregon, IL. Community water and septic required, Oregon school district. Agent owned.



703 N. Walnut Street, Byron
FOR LEASE Call Carla

New Listing in Byron! This commercial and light industrial building has many opportunities with it being offered for lease! The building (120x40) offered for lease for \$1,000 per month.



1107 E. Route 64, Oregon
\$495,000 Call Rebecca

OVER 9,000 SQUARE FEET OF COMMERCIAL SPACE ON A 1.36 ACRE LOT! Prime real estate location located on Route 64 just east of beautiful, downtown Oregon. Currently used as a retail space, this property has fresh neutral paint and epoxy coated flooring throughout. The main floor is open and has a great deal of square footage along with a his and hers bathroom. There is a finished loft area that previously served as office space. Partial basement with a half bathroom and egress windows. There is a large parking lot with plenty of parking spaces along with additional land for expansion of the building or parking area. Currently well & septic with city water/sewer at the lot line. Bring your ideas as the possibilities are endless with this building and location!



508 N. 6th Street, Oregon
\$240,000 Call Lori

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



Rebecca Hazzard 815-985-6239 | Carla Benesh 815-985-6239 | Mark True 815-631-1699 | Lori Peterson 815-973-2180 | JD Gieson 815-677-1873 | Boone Lockard 815-970-3506 | Carrie Rowland 815-677-9656 | Jenny Kirchner 815-440-2145 | Josie Kuss 815-994-1079



Taylor Miller 815-751-8943 | Merri Cruz 815-988-7947 | Casey Cline 217-840-8855 | Jamie Pendergrass 815-243-4310 | Ashley Patterson 815-291-6308 | Erin Spence 815-262-5555 | Stephanie Wendt 815-985-2053 | Jenn Goley 630-732-6858 | Becky Adams 815-509-5837 | Kierra Moore 815-238-3902

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FFA WEEK

The history of National FFA Week

"Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment of man."

George Washington

National
FFA
WEEK
FEBRUARY 18-25, 2023

FFA members will observe the 76th anniversary of National FFA Week from February 18 to 25, 2023. During this time the National FFA Organization and its members will celebrate what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day. But before FFA members start the celebrations, it is important to understand the importance and history of National FFA Week.

Every year, FFA members, state officers, ag advisors, alumni, and the organization's supporters celebrate National FFA Week the Saturday to Saturday that encompasses George Washington's birthday — February 22. George Washington is a role model for those in the National FFA Organization. Although he was not personally involved in FFA, he was remembered as a great farmer. In addition, many of the founding members of FFA used the founding fathers as examples of character, culture and tradition.

However, before National FFA Week was ever celebrated officially, there was an FFA Day. According to research from The Friday Footnote, the idea of having a National FFA Day originated from an FFA convention delegate during the sixth national FFA convention in 1933 (the 95th national convention will be celebrated in 2022). In the beginning years of the celebrations, the actual date of FFA Day changed from year to year. However, in 1938 it was established that FFA Day would be celebrated on the Tuesday of the National FFA Convention.

After a decade of celebrating FFA Day during national convention, the decision was made to honor the organization for a full week. In July of 1947, the FFA Board of Trustees decided to create National FFA Week — instead of highlighting only one single day.

In 1948, the first National FFA Week was celebrated by chapters across the country. Since then, the organization has grown exponentially. For example, in 1948 there were a total of 260,300 FFA members. However, that number has grown to 735,000 student members in 8,817 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, the organization is supported by more than 8 million alumni members.

The purpose of National FFA Week is to share the message of the agriculture industry from its future leaders. National FFA Week gives FFA members an opportunity to educate the public about agriculture and show their local impact and story. During the week, chapters conduct a variety of activities to help others in their school and community learn about FFA and agricultural education.

So while FFA members are celebrating National FFA Week this year and the joy it brings them, let us not forget our roots. The history of National FFA Week can be traced back over 76 years ago and the journey to get here today shall not be forgotten.

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The FFA Creed

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SPORTS NEWS

Strong showing by Ogle County wrestlers at Oregon 1A sectional

Stillman, Byron Polo sending a total of 7 wrestlers to state

BY ANDY COLBERT
CORRESPONDENT

OREGON – In strong showing by Ogle County wrestlers at the Oregon 1A sectional, it will be Stillman Valley sending three individuals downstate and Byron and Polo two each.

Leading the way was 145-pound champion Aiden Livingston of Stillman Valley, who held on for a 4-3 win over Brody Rudkin of Richmond-Burton. In another nail biter, the 28-6 Cardinal senior managed a 6-5 decision in the semifinals over Charlie Fitzgerald of Woodstock Marian.

Though he made state in 2022, strangely as a 160-pounder compared to 145 this year, Livingston came into the sectional

as a regional third-place finisher. A key for him was mat maturity and wrestling smart.

“He performed well, better than at the regional,” SV coach Jamie McCarty said.

Livingston took a 4-1 lead, but had to withstand a furious comeback by Fitzgerald in the final period, including escaping from a near takedown. Fitzgerald also hurt himself with a one-point unsportsmanlike penalty.

“I’m not looking for big moves or tech falls,” said Livingston, who won his other two matches by 8-2 and 7-3. “You don’t have to be flashy. I’m okay with one-point wins.”

In the 182-pound title match, 47-1 Griffin Luke of Le-Win/Stockton had

a major decision over Andrew Forcier (38-7) of Stillman. In a very close semifinal match without much activity, it was Forcier edging Kyle Jones (38-8) of Byron in overtime.

With the score tied 1-1, Forcier got a takedown with seconds left to win. It will be a second straight trip downstate for him.

“Neither of them opened up,” McCarty said. “They both looked nervous, but I liked the way Andrew came on strong.”

The other Cardinal qualifier was Jack Seacrist, who advanced through the wrestle backs after losing in the quarterfinals. The returning state medalist beat Grant Stender of Oregon 5-0 and had two pins to reach the third-place

match, where he would meet Jase Gunder, who beat him the quarters.

It was a bit of revenge for Seacrist with a 3-2 win, while Gunder had won 8-3 the night before.

“With all the competition, this sectional is a meat grinder,” McCarty said.

Newcomer Josiah Perez made a splash for himself with a second place at 106 pounds for Polo. The 32-4 freshman from Forreton lost 9-4 to Dean Wainwright (45-1) from Riverdale.

Perez assured himself of spot downstate with a 6-4 win the semifinals. Joining him at Assembly Hall, site of the state tournament will be teammate Wyatt Doty.

Doty (40-4) had to do it the hard way, winning

four times in the wrestle backs to claim third. In the “blood round” (matches to get into the third-place bout, which assures a wrestler a spot downstate), Doty faced highly-regarded Noah Dial of Yorkville Christian.

In a close finish between the two state-ranked seniors, it was Doty coming out on top, 6-5.

After his loss to Forcier, Jones had a fall in the blood round and then lost in the third-place match, 12-6, still advancing a fourth-place finisher. Sophomore teammate Jared Claunch (31-14) also took fourth.

Claunch almost didn’t get that far. In the wrestle backs, he fell behind 6-2 and was nearly pinned, before rebounding for a second-period fall over

Phillip Dochterman of Orion.

Seniors Lane Halverson (37-10) and Gabe Eckerd (35-9) made the blood round for Oregon but lost to Dakota wrestlers. Two other seniors, Seth Stevens (29-9) and Grant Stender (42-10), lost a round earlier in the wrestle backs. Halverson and Stevens, who has been bothered by injuries, were returning state qualifiers.

“Those four will be hard to replace. They’re good in the classroom and good leaders,” Oregon coach Justin Lahman said.

Yorkville Christian led everyone with six state qualifiers, followed by Riverdale, Dakota and Le-Win/Stockton with five each.



Stillman chess team goes to state

STILLMAN VALLEY — The Stillman Valley Chess team participated in the IHSA State Chess Tournament in Peoria on Friday, Feb. 10 and Saturday, Feb. 11. The two-day tournament consists of four rounds on Friday and three rounds on Saturday each team plays seven rounds.

Stillman Valley competed against: Round one Joliet Central, winning 44-24; Round two Lane Tech Of Chicago, losing 5.5-62.5; Round three Waukegan, winning 43.5-24.5; Round four Maple Park Kaneland, losing 28-40; Round five Chicago Brooks, winning 56.5-11.5; Round six Frankfort Lincoln Park East, winning 38-30 and Round seven Sterling, losing 24.5-43.5.

Stillman ended up with four wins and three losses, placing 39th out of 129 teams

This also placed Stillman in a number one ranking, according to ICCA (Illinois Chess Coaches Association) for schools of an enrollment of 700 or lower.

Participating For Stillman Valley: KJ Chavers - two wins three draws, team points 42; Naithan Seivert-Carter - five draws, team points 27.5; Parker Gensler - three wins two draws, team points 40; Josh Reisinger - five wins, team points 45; Connor O’Sullivan - four wins one draw, team points 36; Ara Michigan - two wins one draw, team points 17.5; Trevor Miller - two wins, team points 12; Landon Paff - four wins, team points 20; Levi Coppennoll and Paul Baker.

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Good enough for God?

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The nurse adjusts the hospital bed for the elderly patient, tenderly tucks in the blankets, places a cup of water at his side, double checks the medications, and smiling, wishes him a good night.

What are both the pilot and the nurse striving for? Excellence. Perfection. Making a difference. A job well done.

Be it a daily job or favorite hobby, most everyone pours their energy, passion, and time into something. We find this fulfilling; it gives us purpose.

We as Christians profess to love God. We say the Bible is the guide to our life. We dedicate our lives to Him.

However, we must stop periodically and ask ourselves some questions: How much passion and love do we pour into our relationship with God? Is He the focus of our life? Is living for God the desire that consumes our life? How good is good enough for God? Does it matter?

Yes! It matters very much. Consider a few of Jesus' words:
“...thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.” (Luke 10:27)

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:15,16)

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)
The Bible is clear. God wants our all, or nothing. He does not accept a heart that professes to love Him but refuses to obey Him! Saying what we believe with our mouth is one thing; but practical, daily obedience of the Bible is the actual indicator of what we believe. Picking and choosing what to obey, and when to obey earns us the rejection of God. (see Revelation 22:19)

A Christian is to be a “little Christ”. Is our life worthy of such a title? What would God say? How much will you give Him?

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SPORTS NEWS

A busy weekend for Ogle County sports

TOO much to write about and too little space. Let's start with girls bowling and the outstanding performance the last two weeks by Ava Wight of Oregon. Coming off a regional title, Wight lit up the lanes at the sectional with 1,312 score to make a return trip to state, placing sixth overall.



Andy Colbert

Try sitting in bleachers from 4-7:30 p.m. on Friday and then coming back for close to 10 hours on Saturday. I realize not everyone is there for the full duration, but many are there for the majority of it. Another factor is cost. There are three separate sessions and admission is \$8. For a mom and dad to see their son, that's almost \$50 and more if other family members come.

At least there isn't a charge for parking like you see as collegiate and professional sporting events.

There is also gas money needed for back-to-back round trips from far-flung places like Stockton, Woodstock, Yorkville, Richmond-Burton, etc.

Midway through Saturday, a break is taken and fans are forced to leave for an hour or so, even though they may not have any place to go. I'm not sure what the food situation is around town in regard to labor shortages, but it may be a challenge for the hundreds of fans to find anything in a timely manner.

Observing the concession stand at the Blackhawk Center, the mothers of the Oregon wrestlers looked to have it well organized. Concession stands, which can be financial bonanzas, often are an underutilized asset of a host school, no matter what the sport is.

Recently, I was at a varsity boys basketball game and no concessions were even available. Athletic directors have told me it has gotten harder to find volunteer help.

Under the guidance of Athletic Director Mike Lawton and coach Justin Lahman, the sectional went exceedingly well, with plenty of helpers manning the mats. Then you have the behind-the-scenes work of Athletic

Secretary Tracey Harvey keeping officials and coaches fed with her highly-regarded hospitality room.

The whole thing is a chore and with the IHSA pocketing 80 percent of the gate, it's not exactly a huge moneymaker. But, the IHSA does pay some of the expenses and one of these days I need to do a deeper dig on how it all works.

In talking to a local football coach, he said hosting a playoff game has the potential to be a money-loser because of the IHSA policy.

Speaking of football, I queried wrestling coach Myron Keppy of Riverdale (337 enrollment) as to why the school dropped football this past fall. It didn't make sense in that good wrestling programs like Riverdale usually have good football too, such as Dakota, Le-Win, Stillman, etc.

He said there wasn't interest in it and only one of his wrestlers plays it. In fact, Riverdale was considering going 8-man, but that could have jeopardized their Three Rivers Conference membership.

Instead, Riverdale will attempt a return to 11-man varsity football this year.

Keppy is retiring after 35 years at Riverdale, as is Tod McCullough of Erie-Phoneticstown, who was honored as the grand marshal of the sectional. Both men have contributed so much to the sport and will be missed.

Though Oregon missed out on having a state qualifier on its home site, it was refreshing to see 26 different schools have at least one qualifier, a statement to the both the competitive balance and overall quality.

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



Forreston recognized as one of the top 60 academic football teams in the nation

'We are so proud of our student-athletes on and off the field'

FORRESTON—The 2022 Forreston High School football team was recently named one of the top academic football teams in the nation.

The National Football Federation and College Hall of Fame created a prestigious academic award called the Hatchell Cup which goes to the nation's top academic football team. The state of Illinois and the Illinois Football Coaches Association entered into this year's competition allowing for the first nomination of this type for FHS. The requirements for this award include:

Minimum cumulative team GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Team GPA of the official varsity team roster will be based on the longest official documented grading period during the current football season and verified by school academic contact. Official varsity team roster solidified and verified by Nov. 1. Superior academic application and performance. Successful football season.

The 2022 FHS football team has a long summary of academic achievements to include a team cumulative GPA of 3.125/4.0 scale and several national merit awards and recognition. Johnny Kobler, Alex Milnes and Brock Smith were awarded Illinois State Scholars, placing them in the top 10 percent of all Illinois students. In addition, the team has six National Honor Society members and five Servant Leaders. Of the 32 players on the team roster, 27 are on FHS honor roll, 12 are enrolled in AP courses, 24 in honor classes, and 23 have enrolled in dual credit college courses. Three players were named Academic All State to include Kobler, Kyler Ganz and Micah Nelson.

In addition to athletic success, the 2022 FHS football team athletic highlights include an overall 8-5 record, semifinal playoff run, and Forreston football has made 12 consecutive appearances in the playoff series. Johnny Kobler was named First Team All State and Casey Devries received Honorable Mention.

"Academic and athletic success go

hand-in-hand," NFF Chairman Archie Manning said. "We are proud to recognize these 60 outstanding high school football teams as the top academic performers in their states. These schools, coaches, players and their families should all be incredibly pleased with their accomplishments. We hope by inspiring teams to compete in the classroom with the same competitive spirit that it takes to win on the field, we will better prepare high school football players for success later in life."

"Being a responsible student-athlete is something we consistently prioritize in our football program. These types of standards have allowed our players, who are immensely bright individuals, to set a great example in our classrooms, hallways, and athletic atmospheres. While success is found on the field, it's more importantly earned off the field as our student-athletes' work ethic and grit are continuously on display. I am so proud of our team for this recognition of excellence," Head Football Coach Keynon Janicke said.

Assistant Principal/Activities Director/Coach Kyle Zick echoed that statement, "We are so proud of our student-athletes on and off the field. They have much to celebrate this year."

There are 60 teams selected in the nation to make it to the final round for consideration of the Hatchell Cup. From Illinois, five teams were selected representing five different divisions (1A: Forreston, 3A: Robinson, 4A: Geneseo, 7A: Yorkville and 8A: Lincolnshire Adlai E. Stevenson). Forreston is now recognized as one of the top 60 academic football teams in the nation.

FHS Principal Travis Heinz said, "The role of athletics will always be complementary to the role of academics at FHS. I am very proud of this being exemplified by Coach Janicke and our football team. Congratulations to our team, coaches and their families on this well-deserved recognition."

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SPORTS NEWS

AREA SPORTS

Oregon boys hoops falls to North Boone

On Feb. 9 at home, the Oregon varsity boys basketball team fell to North Boone 51-31. The Hawks were led in scoring by Jordan Croegaert (10 points) and Jameson Caposey (nine points).

Stillman Valley girls hoops defeats Sterling Newman

On Feb. 9, the Stillman Valley varsity girls basketball team defeated Sterling Newman 54-29. The Cardinals were led in scoring by Brooke Jordal (15 points), Mya Janssen (13 points) and Taylor Davidson (10 points).

Oregon's Wight advances to state bowling finals

Oregon senior Ava Wight competed in the IHSA Sectional bowling tournament at Liberty Lanes in Carpentersville Feb. 11 and successfully advanced to the state finals. Wight bowled games

of 223, 275, 265, 215, 155, 179 for a 1,312 six-game series, good enough to be the fourth-highest individual qualifier not on an advancing team (five advanced). Competing in what was the highest scoring sectional in the state, Wight set a new Oregon girls three-game series record of 763 in the morning session, breaking her own record from last season of 729 and is now Oregon's only three-time IHSA State Finals bowling qualifier, boys or girls. Next weekend will mark the 16th time in the Oregon bowling program's 20 year history it has been represented at the state finals.

Oregon girls hoops falls to Rockford Christian

On Feb. 11 on the road, the Oregon varsity girls basketball team fell 72-56 to Rockford Christian. The Hawks were led in scoring by Hadley Lutz (25 points) and Mariah Drake (11

Oregon boys hoops falls to Morrison

On Feb. 14 at home, the Oregon varsity boys basketball team fell to Morrison 72-61. The Hawks were led in scoring by Noah Johnson (17 points), Jameson Caposey (13 points) and Evan James (12 points).

Oregon boys hoops falls to Dixon

On Feb. 15 at home, the Oregon varsity boys basketball team fell to Dixon 75-47. The Hawks were led in scoring by Jordan Croegaert (11 points), Noah Johnson (eight points) and Evan James (eight points).

SCORES Varsity girls basketball

Feb. 14: Stillman Valley 58, Riverdale 30 (SV advances to regional final)

Varsity boys basketball

Feb. 10: Byron 51, Stillman Valley 38
Feb. 14: Stillman Valley 66, Genoa-Kingston 41

Five OHS fall athletic teams qualify for IHSA academic award

OREGON — The Oregon High School Athletic Department is pleased to announce that five of its' fall 2023 athletic teams qualified for the IHSA Team Academic Achievement Award.

The five teams from fall of 2023 are: Girls cross country, boys golf, girls golf, boys soccer and girls volleyball.

The Illinois High School Association's IHSA Team Academic Achievement

Award is designed to reward teamwork not only in competition, but in the classroom as well. This award recognizes those teams that maintain a team grade point average of 3.0 or higher throughout their respective season.

Oregon High School is proud of these student athletes, and their teachers, coaches, and families who support them.

Lifeline food pantry releases hours of service

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

Hours are Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to noon for food and clothing, Thursday from 1:30-4:30 p.m. for

clothing only, Friday 1:30-4:30 p.m. for food and clothing and Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for clothing only.

"We are very grateful for everyone who contributes to Lifeline," a press release said. "We couldn't fulfill our mission without

the help of many individuals, churches, businesses and our volunteers. Thank you."

Lifeline is currently in need of Jell-O, juice, hamburger helper and spaghetti sauce if community members are interested in donating.

www.oglecountylife.com

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

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

BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

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

UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON

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

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

CHANA

CHANA UNITED METHODIST

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

DAVIS JUNCTION

DAVIS JUNCTION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

FORRESTON

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LEAF RIVER

ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

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

LINDENWOOD

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS

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

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

KINGS

ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

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

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

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

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

2997 N. German Church Rd., 815-732-6313
• Rev. Josiah Youngquist
www.EBENEZERREFORMED.com • Sunday school 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

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

OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

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

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

ST. MARY CHURCH

Rectory/Office: 211 North Franklin Ave., Polo, IL 61064
PHONE: 815-946-2535 • Rev. Joseph P. Nail

Masses: Sun 10:30am, Tuesday Mass 8 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: First Sunday of each month after 10:30 mass
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
www.stmarypolo.org

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

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

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY (CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH)

Pastor Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns | Associate Pastor David Bogner
207 W Roosevelt Road (Rte 72), Stillman Valley.
815-645-2526 | www.theredbrickchurch.org
Sunday: Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am. Sunday School at 9:00 am.
Wednesday: AWANA (Sept - April) from 6:00 to 7:15 pm.
Men, women, youth Bible Studies throughout the year.
See website for all activities or contact the church office.

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

12473 Montague Road, Winnebago, IL 61088
Located West of Tower Road on Montague Rd.
Sundays: Sunday School at 9:15 am and Worship Service at 10:30 am.
Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Friday 9am-2pm.
Phone: 815-335-2609. Email: middlecreekchurch@gmail.com



LOCAL NEWS

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Curbside Delivery

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

Storm Chasers

Tuesday, Mar. 7. 6 – 7:00 pm. Nick from Illinois Storm Chasers will be here to present an educational and fascinating program. He will cover severe weather, storm chasing, local climatology, past tornadic events, as well as photos, videos and a Q&A. This program is open to teens and adults. Please call 815-234-5107 or visit Byron.evanced.info/signup to register.

Get Your Green On

Monday, Mar. 13. 6 – 7:00 pm. St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner. After a brief history on the holiday, Beth will demonstrate how to make a shamrock necklace, so you won't be caught without a bit of green to wear on St. Patty's Day. Call 815-234-5107 or visit Byron.evanced.info/signup to register.

Egypt Travelogue – Repeat Performance

Monday, Mar. 20. 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Back in September, 2022, Mark shared his Egypt Travelogue at the Byron Library. We have had several requests for Mark to return and repeat his Egypt Travelogue program. Learn a little history and see photos of some incredible monuments while hearing about Mark's travels through the country. Pyramids, temples, tombs, obelisks, the Sphinx and the Nile: you'll see it all! Call 815-234-5107 or visit Byron.evanced.info/signup to register.

Introduction to Mushroom Identification

Thursday, Mar. 30. 6 – 7:00 pm. Come learn the basics of mushroom identification with Hunter Le Duc. In addition to becoming more familiar with the major mushroom groups from a morphological standpoint you will also learn the basic characteristics of fungi including cap and stipe features, how to use a key, make a spore print and more! Visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.

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

OREGON PARK DISTRICT WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Grow Lettuce in Your Living Room

Special guest speaker Victor Zaderej of HappyLeaf LLC brings us a special presentation outlining how herbs and vegetables can be grown year-round with special grow-lights and a passive hydroponics system that can fit inside any living room. Participants will plant their own herb container and learn all about the science that makes HappyLeaf LLC's grow-lights work so well. Presentation will take place at Nash Recreation Center on Monday March 6th, with 4:00 and 6:00 sessions. Registration fee is \$5R/\$6NR and the deadline to register is February 27th.

Spring Lettuce Wraps

Lynn Kauffman of Lynn's kitchen shares a perfect springtime recipe, Asian lettuce wraps with a tasty peanut sauce. Class will take place on Wednesday March 22nd. from 6:00-7:30PM in the Cork N Tap Milliners Room. Participants will need to bring some dishes and utensils from home and will leave with a dish of lettuce wraps ready to enjoy now or later, and a recipe card to enjoy again and again. Registration fee is \$38/45NR, and the deadline to register is March 15th. Participants will be emailed a full list of supplies to bring from home after registration closes.

Spring Soccer

Spring soccer will be returning to Park West with practices starting the week of March 20th. Practices will be held during the week and games are scheduled for Saturdays beginning April 1st in Oregon and surrounding towns. All players are required to provide their own practice balls, which can be purchased for an additional fee. Are you unsure of which age level to sign up for? Reference our age chart below.
 U6- Born in 2017 & 2018- \$50/\$63NR
 U7- Born in 2016- \$50/\$63NR
 U9- Born in 2014 & 2015- \$65/\$80NR
 U11- Born in 2012 & 2013- \$65/\$80NR
 U13- Born in 2010 & 2011- \$70/\$85NR
 U15- Born in 2008 & 2009- \$70/\$85NR
 (No H.S. Players allowed).

If you are interested in coaching, please contact Lesley at lesley@oregonpark.org. Deadline for participation is March 1st.

Nash Lock-in for Fifth and Sixth Graders

Hey fifth and Sixth graders! Come hang out at Nash on March 10 after it closes to the public. There will be swimming, gym time, movies, inflatables, games and more. Arrival is between 8-8:30 and the event lasts until 10 pm. No one will be permitted to leave before 9:45 pm without parent permission. Cost is \$4 for residents and \$5 for nonresidents. You may register prior to the event or simply show up on March 10.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15					16			17			
18		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				

ACROSS

1 Sailing vessel
 6 Clear the deck?
 9 Kitten's cry
 12 A Marx brother
 13 Low digit
 14 "Xanadu" band
 15 Baby hooter
 16 Florida city
 18 Handsome guy
 20 Convent dwellers
 21 Brooch
 23 Tool set
 24 March honor-ee, for short
 25 Fed. food inspector
 27 Grinding tooth
 29 "At once!"
 31 Attention-getting call
 35 Senior member
 37 Lingerie fabric
 38 Houston player
 41 Sports drink suffix
 43 TV spots
 44 Foolproof
 45 Go places
 47 Florida city
 49 Revise
 52 Tokyo, once

DOWN

53 "Humbug!"
 54 Keaton of "Annie Hall"
 55 Lair
 56 Bikini top
 57 Old anesthetic

7 Burden
 8 Zing
 9 Convened
 10 Justice Kagan
 11 In the — way (very much)
 17 Preambles
 19 Spock portrayer
 21 Young seal
 22 Leb. neighbor
 24 — Paulo
 26 President Jackson
 28 Carter of "Wonder Woman"
 30 Overly
 32 Florida city
 33 Vintage
 34 Approves
 36 Sultry singer
 38 Kitt
 39 Queried
 39 Soft leather
 40 Check the fit of
 42 Dodge
 45 Russian ruler
 46 Send forth
 48 Flow out
 50 Away from SSW
 51 Aachen article

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MAGIC MAZE ● — CENTER

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: WORLD — CENTER

- | | | | |
|---------|---------------|---------|----------|
| Burn | Conference | Lincoln | Research |
| Calling | Data | Medical | Storm |
| City | Day care | Nerve | Urban |
| Civic | Entertainment | Profit | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

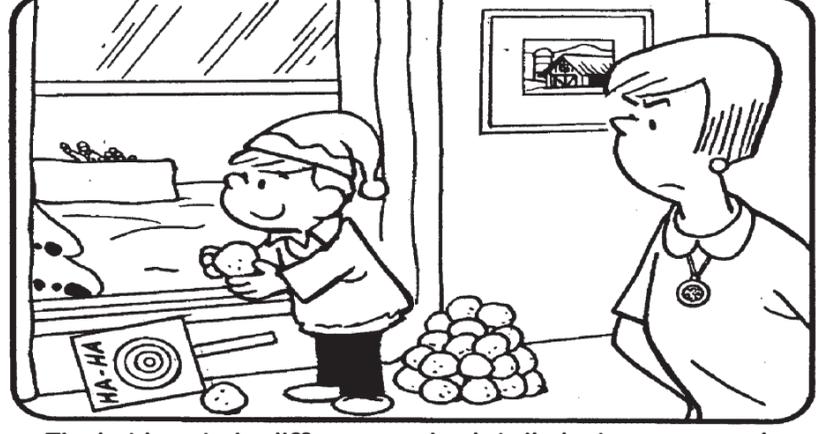
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

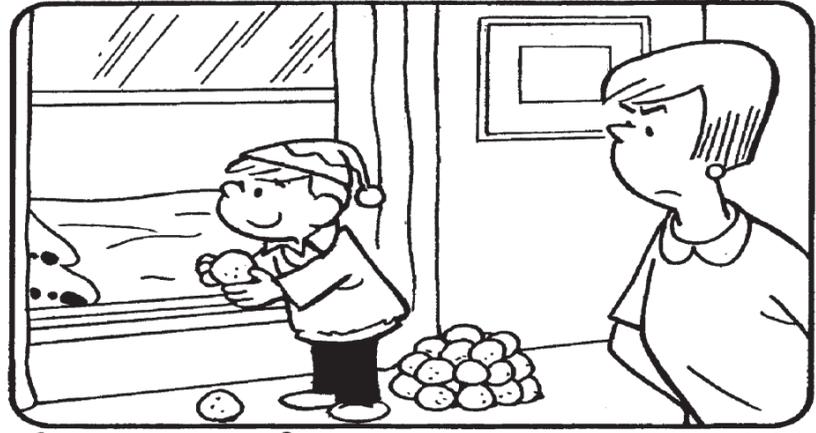
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Snow fort is missing. 2. Sign is missing. 3. Cap differs. 4. Snowball stack is smaller. 5. Picture is missing. 6. Pendant is missing.

King Crossword
 Answers
 Solution time: 26 mins.

Weekly SUDOKU
 Answer

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

Classified **FREE!** Marketplace

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

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)

PUBLIC NOTICE

K & P Self Storage 1563 Kysor Dr. Byron, IL 61010 Pursuant to the Landlord's Lien Provision, in paragraph #11 in the rental agreement between KCH Enterprises DBA K & P Self Storage, Landlord, and Jessica Greer - unit #70. These items will be held in possession for ten (10) days, at which time they will be disposed of unless tenant pays the landlord in full, in accordance with the Self Storage Facilities Act. Outstanding balance must be paid in full by 2/28/23. No. 0217 (Feb. 20 and 27, 2023)

NOTICE

The Byron Township will be accepting bids for mowing the Byron Cemetery located at the Northwest corner of Mineral & 5th Street in Byron Illinois, consisting of 11.5 acres more or less for the 2023 mowing season.

For Specifications and bid packets please contact Byron Cemetery Sexton, Josiah Henson at 815-988-9177.

Bids are due at the Byron Township Office, 507 N. Colfax Street, Byron IL 61010 by 6:30 PM on March 9, 2023. Bids may be mailed to "Byron Township - Mowing Bid 2023", 507 N Colfax Street, Byron IL 61010 or email to supervisor@byrontownship.com with "Byron Township - Mowing Bid 2023" in the subject line.

Bids will be read March 9, 2023 at 6:45p.m. in the Byron Township Office. Byron Township reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. Barbara Rundle Byron Township Clerk No. 0218 (Feb. 20, 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. 2023MR12 Request of Nicole Marie Jakubiak to appear in court April 19, 2023, Room 304, Ogle County Courthouse, 106 S. 5th Street, Oregon, IL, at 9 a.m.

Proposed name change of Nicole Marie Jakubiak to Nicole Jakubiak Winterz Requested by Nicole Marie Jakubiak on February 14, 2023. No. 0219 (Feb. 20, 27 and March 6, 2023)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Oregon, Illinois, will receive SEALED bids for a City Hall Building Renovations contract until 11:00 o'clock A.M. on the 9th day of March 2023 at the City Hall, located at 115 North 3rd Street, Oregon, Illinois 61061 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The proposed Project for which the City is soliciting bids consists of

remodeling an existing building.

Copies of the Contract Documents, including Project Manual and the Construction Drawings, shall be obtained electronically in PDF format from the Willett, Hofmann & Associates, Inc. website at www.willetthofmann.com. Contractors shall click on "Bid Login" on the homepage of the website and follow the instructions. The eBidDoc# (project number) is 8403103 for this project. The Project Manual, Construction Drawings and Bid Documents PDFs can be downloaded from the website by depositing twenty-two dollars (\$22.00) by credit card. Said deposit is NONREFUNDABLE.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth by the Illinois Department of Labor must be paid on this project and that the contractor must insure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

The City of Oregon is an equal opportunity employer. The City of Oregon does not discriminate based on handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The City of Oregon reserves the right to reject any non-responsive bid and/or non-responsive bid.

Bids may be held by the City of Oregon 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 CITY OF OREGON, ILLINOIS

By: Charlene Ruthe, City Clerk DATE: February 16, 2023 No. 0220 (Feb. 20, 2023)

EVERY MORNING MY HUMAN SHAVES OFF HIS FACE FUR, HE'S FUNNY LIKE THAT.

-TUCK adopted 05-04-11

A PERSON IS THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO A SHELTER PET

adopt
theshelterpetproject.org

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Now Available
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A&T Auction Services, LLC
Travis Cunningham
(815) 297-4595
Located in Forreston, 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

ONLINE ONLY AUCTIONS

Large American Coin Collections Auction
BIDDING OPENS: Thurs., Feb. 23rd @ 8 A.M.
PREVIEW: Thurs., Feb. 23rd - 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Hack's Auction Antique Center II
440 W. Third St., Pecatonica, IL 61063

Featuring a Huge Penny Collection, Antique & Commemorative Silver Coins, Large Proof & Mint Set Collection, State Quarters, Presidential Dollars, Large Nickel Collection, Foreign Coins, Floor Safes & Much More!

hacksauction.hibid.com
Kay Hundertmark
Estate Auction
9111 E. Edwardsville Rd., German Valley, IL 61039
AUCTION PREVIEW: Sat., Feb. 25th - 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.
BIDDING OPENS: Sat., Feb. 25th @ 8 A.M.
Featuring a 1999 Fairmont Happy House Manufactured Home w/ 2 Bedrooms & 2-Baths.
2007 Chrysler PT Automobile w/ Only 55,000 Miles! Household Furnishings & Collectibles; Oak Furniture; Betty Boop & Elvis Collection; Costume Jewelry; Large & Small Appliances; Kitchen Aid Artisan Stand Mixer; China & Glassware; Household Furniture; Toys; Tackle; Much More!

Hack's Auction & Realty Service
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Pecatonica, IL 815-239-1436
www.hacksauction.com | I.A.F.L. #44000128

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

BUREAU COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}

80 TAXABLE ACRES • 1 TRACT

The James E. Crisman farm is located approximately 4 miles southwest of Buda, Illinois or 18 miles southwest of Princeton, Illinois. The property is further described as being located in Section 17, T15N•R7E, Macon Township, Bureau County, Illinois.

The land represents highly productive, well maintained, Class A soil and a small wooded area suitable for recreational purposes.

JAMES E. CRISMAN ESTATE
SCOTT CRISMAN - EXECUTOR

Attorney: Michael L. English | Russell, English, Scoma & Beneke, P.C.
Ten Park Ave. West, Princeton, IL 61356 | (815) 875-4555
Auction Manager: Dale Jones (309) 299-6400

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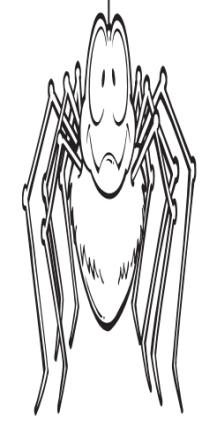
12 alternatives to lashing out at your kid.

The next time everyday pressures build up to the point where you feel like lashing out --STOP! And try any of these simple alternatives.

You'll feel better... and so will your child.

1. Take a deep breath. And another. Then remember you are the adult...
2. Close your eyes and imagine you're hearing what your child is about to hear.
3. Press your lips together and count to 10. Or better yet, to 20.
4. Put your child in a time-out chair. (Remember the rule: one time-out minute for each year of age.)
5. Put yourself in a time-out chair. Think about why you are angry: is it your child, or is your child simply a convenient target for your anger?
6. Phone a friend.
7. If some can watch the child, go outside and take a walk.
8. Take a hot bath or splash cold water on your face.
9. Hug a pillow.
10. Turn on some music. Maybe even sing along.
11. Pick up a pencil and write down as many helpful words as you can think of. Save the list.
12. Write for prevention information: National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, Box 2866L, Chicago, IL 60690.

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. (02-20-23)

4 FOOT by 8 FOOT fluorescent light fixtures with bulbs. \$5 each in Mendota. Call 630-803-7146. (03-05-23)

315 WANTED TO BUY

Wanted to Buy Older Comic Books. 815-481-4922. (03-15-23)

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

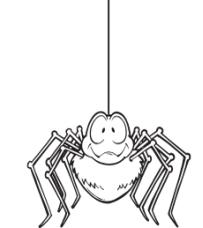
ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. 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.

511 STORAGE UNITS

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

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

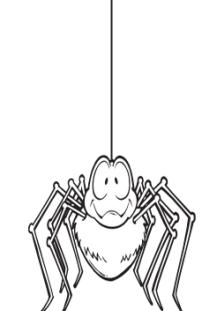
ADVERTISE WITH US



203 HELP WANTED

BYRON CUSD #226 OPENING
KITCHEN WORKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
3 hours per day
Please apply online at www.byron226.org
'About Us' Tab
Employment Opportunities Section

ADVERTISE WITH US



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

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED
CUSTODIAL SUBSTITUTES KITCHEN WORKERS
BYRON SCHOOL DIST. #226
Flexible Hours!
Please contact Amy Adkins at 815-234-5491 x4002 for more information.

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



Byron High School Vacancy Head Volleyball Coach
2023-2024 School Year
Please apply online at www.byron226.org
'About Us' Tab
Employment Opportunities Section

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



501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

NORTH PRAIRIE APARTMENTS
Managed by CMS Management, LLC
320 Lover's Lane • Oregon, IL
815-732-2068
1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments
Laundry Facility on Site
Subsidy may be available to qualified applicants.
"This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider."

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



109 CEMETERIES AND LOTS

For Sale Burial Plot in Sunset Memorial Gardens
880 N Alpine Rd., Rockford, IL (Garden of Last Supper)
\$4,480.00 (no personal checks)
Fees include the following:
Endowment Care, Quit Claim Fee and State of Illinois deed fee.
Call 815-645-5008

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

Not sure why business is slow?
OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND...
is not just a saying in business.
Advertise today and let your business be in sight and in the minds of your customers.

Apt. for rent in Byron
3-Bedroom with Garage
No Pets, \$825/month and \$925 Deposit
412 W. 2nd St.
(815) 904-4014
02132023

NORTH PRAIRIE APARTMENTS
Managed by CMS Management, LLC
1015 Carrie Avenue • Rochelle, IL
815-562-6451
1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments
Laundry Facility on Site
Subsidy may be available to qualified applicants.
"This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider."



Reach Nearly 12,000 households in Ogle County with an ad in the Ogle County Life Newspaper!

We Get Results!
Call for an ad representative at 732-2156

ADVERTISER
Please Check Your Ads
This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an Action Classified ad or for a typographical error(s) in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first 2 days' insertions. So please check your advertisement each time it appears and notify our classified department promptly in case of error.
Phone 562-4171

Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent through the Marketplace

LOCAL NEWS

ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

February Holiday Schedule

Rock River Center closed on Monday, February 20, in recognition of President's Day. No transportation or activities will be scheduled on that day. Please plan accordingly.

February Activities with Mary & Becky

Please join Mary Welty and Becky Anderson from Oregon Living & Rehab for the following:
 Tuesday, February 21. Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Activity: Chair Yoga. Registration: By Feb 20 requested Please call Rock River Center, 815-732-3252 if you plan on attending.

Breast Cancer Awareness Is Year Round

Join us at Rock River Center on Wed., February 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., for a discussion on Breast Cancer Awareness.

Our speaker is Joy Miller, Radiology Manager at Rochelle Community Hospital, with 22 years in Radiology. Joy will discuss Breast Cancer Awareness, mammography, and field any questions from the audience.

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

The Dixieland Six Band Comes to Rock River Center

We are pleased local band The Dixieland Six will perform on Thursday, February 23, 2023 in celebration of Mardi Gras. The group consists of Sid Anderson (Leaf River), Mike Flick (Leaf River), Ron Kroeger (Byron), Larry & Ellen Miller (Oregon), and Carol Reckmeyer (Mt. Morris).

Details: Where: Rock River Center, 810 S. 10th St, Oregon. When: Thursday, February 23, 2023. Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Snacks will be provided. Reservation Information: Requested deadline: Tuesday, February 21, 2023. For information or to make reservations call the Center at 815-732-3252.

LIHEAP

Colder weather is just around the corner and we all will be experiencing higher utility bills as we need to turn on the heat in our homes. There are two programs that help those with low-income pay for their heating utility bills.

The LIHEAP program continues to accept applications for assistance with paying heating bills. Tri County Opportunities Council is the agency that processes those applications and they will be available at two locations in Ogle County, Oregon and Rochelle, by appointment only.

The Oregon office is located inside the Rock River Center, 810 S 10th Street.

Appointments are available on weekdays from 9am – 3pm. Call 815-732-2907 for an appointment in Oregon. The Rochelle Tri County office is located at 306 N 6th Street.

Appointments are available Monday thru Friday, beginning at 9am. Call 815-562-6938 for an appointment in Rochelle. Please have copies made of all of your documentation before your appointment.

You can call their Rock Falls office for more details at 800-323-5434. In order to qualify, your household must meet the following income guidelines, no more than 200 percent of the poverty level. For a 1-person household the 30-day income limit is \$2,265; 2-person household \$3,052; 3-person household \$3,838, etc.

NICOR GAS "SHARING" PROGRAM

NICOR GAS sharing program is available to assist those NICOR customers whose income is above 201 percent of poverty level and less than 300 percent of the poverty level.

You can apply for the NICOR GAS Sharing program at the Rock River Center. For more information or to make an appointment call 800-541-5479 or 815-732-3252.

Support groups

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

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

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

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

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

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 bertoletmemoriallibrary.org!

YOUTH PROGRAMS: Morning Movie for Toddler-K Kids

Monday, February 20th, 10:30 AM Kids 2 years-Kindergarten are invited to join the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse gang as they visit Mickey and Donald's farm. We will watch this fun episode while enjoying popcorn and drinks and then do a craft.

Family Movie

Monday, February 20th, 2:00 PM Poppy and Branch discover that there are six different troll tribes scattered over six different lands, each devoted to a different kind of music. When rockers Queen Barb and King Thrash set out to destroy the other music, Poppy and Branch embark on a daring mission to unite the trolls and save the diverse melodies from becoming extinct.

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.

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!

ADULT PROGRAMS Book of the Month

Stop by the circulation desk and pick up a copy of *As Bright As Heaven* by Susan Meissner. Follow the story of the Bright's, a family that moved to Philadelphia during World War I. A well-researched historical novel of prohibition, death, the Spanish Flu, and hope.

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

Saturday, March 18th, 9:30 AM Jessie returns on March 18th for card making. Stop in to make a Spring card to brighten the day of that special friend.



Leafguard
Get it today. Protected for life.

QUALITY TESTED - GOOD-HOUSEKEEPING Seal of Approval for 16 straight years.

Say goodbye to gutter cleaning for good

No clogging, No cleaning
No leaking, No water damage
No ladder accidents

Call now for your free estimate!
Financing available 815-673-7499

20% off total purchase*
Does not include cost of material. Offer expires 02/28/2023



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

SPECIAL OFFER

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

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

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

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



Receive a \$50 Visa Gift Card with your free in-home estimate

*All participants who attend an estimated 60-90-minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Offer not available in the states of CA, IN, PA and MI. Expires 2/28/23. Receive a \$50 Visa Gift Card with your free in-home estimate

• Guaranteed no to dog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free.



safestep®
www.YourSafeStep.com

815-515-4749

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EASE OF USE CERTIFIED
MADE IN TENNESSEE
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