



Winter 2023
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Bridal Guide

Rochelle News-Leader
Sunday, January 22, 2023 - Section 3
Ogle County Life
Monday, January 23, 2023 - Section C

OGLE COUNTY LIFE

ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



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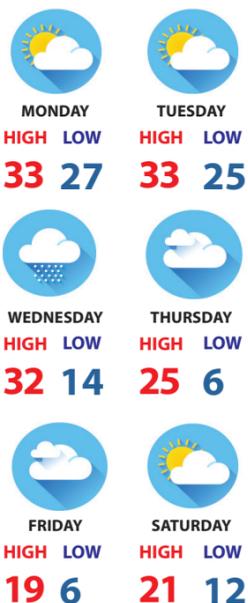
KNOW IT TODAY



FHS names state scholars

Forreton High School recently announced five students were named Illinois State Scholars. **2A**

WEATHER



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County board: Bond abatement for new jail approved Resolution opposing state gun bill approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — At its monthly meeting Monday, the Ogle County Board unanimously approved an ordinance abating taxes to pay for the recently-constructed new Ogle County Jail.

The ordinance abated taxes levied for the year 2022 to pay debt service on \$9,705,000 general obligation bonds (alternate revenue source), series 2018; \$4,760,000 general obligation bonds (alternate revenue source), series 2019 and \$6,523,000 general obligation bonds (alternate revenue source), series 2020.

The jail was completed in late 2020 and inmates moved to it in February 2021.

The 42,000 square-foot, 154-bed facility consists of multiple housing blocks utilizing direct

supervision methods for both males and females in custody. Areas in the building include public waiting and visitation, video visitation, facility administration, holding and intake, medical, kitchen, laundry, inmate property storage and a vehicular "sally port" for bringing in and moving inmates safely.

The project came in \$800,000 under budget with no delays. The previous Ogle County Jail was demolished in recent months.

HB 5471

The board unanimously passed a resolution opposing House Bill 5471, a recently passed and signed state legislation that bans the sale and manufacture of assault weapons in Illinois.

Current owners of high-power assault weapons, .50 caliber rifles and ammunition, and

large-capacity magazines will be allowed to keep them, but will be required to register them with the Illinois State Police prior to Jan. 1, 2024 or face a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in prison and the degree of charges could increase based on number of unregistered weapons.

On Jan. 11, Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle and approximately 80 other sheriffs in the state issued statements saying they'll refuse to enforce a provision of the bill that requires current owners to register their weapons.

"I, among many others, believe that HB 5471 is a clear violation of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution," VanVickle's statement said. "Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for Ogle County, proclaim that neither myself or my office will



Ogle County Board Chairman John Finfrock presented a plaque to former Board Member Bruce McKinney (Rochelle), whose time on the board ended recently. McKinney was a board member for 10 years and served on the zoning committee. Prior to that, he was on the County Zoning Board of Appeals for over 15 years.

be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the state, nor will we be arresting or housing individuals that have been charged solely with non-compliance of this act."

Board Member Thomas K. Smith thanked the sheriff for speaking out

during Monday's meeting.

"I stand to thank Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle for coming out publicly and telling the legislature where to put it and protecting my second amendment rights," Smith said. "Thank you."

See BOARD page 2

Sheriff speaks out against new state gun legislation

'We're not going to go out and look to make law-abiding citizens into criminals'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — On Jan. 11, Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle and approximately 80 other sheriffs in the state issued statements saying they'll refuse to enforce a provision of House Bill 5471, a recently-signed state law that bans the sale and manufacture of assault weapons in Illinois.

Current owners of high-power assault weapons, .50 caliber rifles and ammunition, and large-capacity magazines will be allowed to keep them, but will be required to register them with the Illinois State Police prior to Jan. 1, 2024 or face a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in prison



and the degree of charges could increase based on number of unregistered weapons.

"I, among many others, believe that HB 5471 is a clear violation of the

Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution," VanVickle's statement said. "Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for Ogle County,

proclaim that neither myself or my office will be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the state, nor will we be arresting or housing individuals that have been charged solely with non-compliance of this act."

VanVickle spoke with the Rochelle News-Leader and Ogle County Life on Jan. 13 about his statement and HB 5471. He said his main issue with the legislation is how it relates to the second amendment and it being a "far-reaching restriction on firearm ownership."

The sheriff said 95 percent of sheriffs in the state issued statements against the legislation. While ISP has been and will be the agency

tasked with gun-related enforcement, VanVickle said his office will not be participating in matters associated with the act.

"We're not going to go out and look to make law-abiding citizens into criminals," VanVickle said. "That's not what we're charged to do in our profession. If there's people out there that are going to look for law-abiding citizens and charge them with these crimes under state statute, we're not required to house them in the county jail, so that's something we're not going to do either until there's a court order that places them in our custody. That's the main point of our statement."

See SPEAK page 2

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LOCAL NEWS



At its monthly meeting Monday, the Ogle County Board unanimously approved an ordinance abating taxes to pay for the recently-constructed new Ogle County Jail. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

BOARD: Resurfacing work approved, McKinney honored

From page 1

CEJA

The board also unanimously passed a resolution opposing House Bill 4412, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. "This is basically about whether the state would take over doing our zoning for us for solar panels and wind power," Board Chairman John Finfrock said. "We have basically nothing to say about it at this point and it hasn't been signed yet. But I think we should still take a stance that they're taking away from our citizens and our authority to do our job."

Lowell Park Road

The board unanimously passed two measures to allow for resurfacing of Lowell Park Road from the Lee County line to Pines Road. The first was a joint funding agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for the use of \$784,000 in federal funds on the project. The remainder of the project's cost will be covered by \$196,000 in Ogle County funds out of its federal aid matching fund, which was the second measure the board approved.

Hiring freeze

The board unanimously passed a

resolution extending its hiring freeze on county employment for five years that became effective as of its passing Monday.

McKinney

Finfrock presented a plaque to former Board Member Bruce McKinney (Rochelle), whose time on the board ended recently. McKinney was a board member for 10 years and served on the zoning committee. Prior to that, he was on the County Zoning Board of Appeals for over 15 years.

"We will miss you being on the board," Finfrock said. "He always came to the meetings ready and we appreciated that. I want to present you with this plaque for your years of dedication to the county and the people in it."

Board Member Susie Corbitt also spoke during the presentation. She worked with McKinney, a former Rochelle city clerk, for about 25 years in that profession.

"He was very involved with the Northwest Illinois Municipal Clerks Association and worked his way up on the board there," Corbitt said. "I want Bruce to know that I so personally appreciate everything that you gave to your profession."



Forreston High School announces Illinois State Scholars

FORRESTON – Forreston High School Principal Travis Heinz is pleased to announce that five students have been recognized as 2023 Illinois State Scholars.

Forreston High School is honored to recognize the following students as Illinois State Scholars from the 2023 graduating class: Brooke Boettner daughter of Nathan and Amanda Boettner, Owen Greenfield son of Jeff and Erin Greenfield, Johnathen Kobler son of Jason and Debbie Kobler, Alexander Milnes son of Jeremy and Allison Milnes, and Brock Smith son of Brent and Sheri Smith.

This prestigious award is given annually by the Illinois Student Assistance Commis-

sion (ISAC) which is recognizing 16,770 high school students from 690 high schools as this year's State Scholars. Illinois State Scholars possess strong academic potential and are chosen based on a combination of exemplary ACT or SAT test scores and six semester class rank.

"To be recognized in the top 10 percent of graduating seniors in the State of Illinois is a tribute to the students' work ethic, desire to succeed, their teachers, and the support they receive at home. The nice thing about each of these students is that they are not only successful in the classroom. Many of these students are leaders outside the classroom in the many extra-curricular activities

SPEAK: Participating in enforcement will not be priority of sheriff's office

From page 1

VanVickle said he believes there will be a lawsuit or multiple lawsuits against the legislation, but they won't be led by county sheriff's or state's attorneys, which recently occurred in the case of the state's SAFE-T criminal justice reform act.

Ahead of being passed and signed, HB 5471 had no input from sheriffs in the state, VanVickle said. He believes the enforcement of the new act will be "a lot of work" for ISP, but said

there will likely be "10s of millions of dollars" in tax money dedicated to the work it will entail for ISP.

Participating in enforcement of the new legislation will not be a priority for the Ogle County Sheriff's Office, VanVickle said.

"Officers and deputies have always had discretion in law enforcement," VanVickle said. "It's no different than if they write a speeding ticket, warning or if they even stop anybody for a traffic violation. It's their decision. All that we're saying is it's not a priority of the sheriff's office to go out and do any type of compliance checks for law-abiding citizens who legally possessed firearms last week who don't now. That's just something that's not a priority for us, nor do we have the manpower to do it. It's a clear violation of the constitution and it will certainly be challenged in court. We'll get direction from that. But it's not something that we'll actively go out and pursue."

Ogle County is home to three brick and mortar gun shops, VanVickle said, which are governed by the ISP and state and federal licensing bodies. They will be inspected by ISP for compliance with the new legislation.

A Facebook post by the sheriff's office with the statement regarding HB

5471 received over 1,200 shares, 1,200 likes and 1,000 comments.

"We've had very few negative responses to what we put out," VanVickle said. "I've heard the same from other sheriffs about how well-received it's been. We've had some people that don't agree with it and I completely understand that. And if they want to go out and register their firearms, they're more than welcome to do that. The vast majority of people who have made comments or called or sent emails have been appreciative of our stance."

VanVickle said backlash from the state over enforcement is not a concern for him, and he chose to put out the statement as "an indication of support for citizens of the county."

"If you look at Chicago where this has come from, they have some of the strictest gun laws and requirements and have for some time and there are multiple shootings there each weekend," VanVickle said. "It's different here. We put that statement out to support our citizens, not so much to say we're not going to enforce this. To tell them they're still able to own and possess firearms in Ogle County and that the sheriff's office is doing everything in our power for them to do just that."



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LOCAL NEWS

Stillman Bank names 2022 holiday giveaway winners

STILLMAN VALLEY – Stillman Bank held its annual holiday giveaway drawing on Dec. 23. The bank had a total of six winners throughout its six locations. The winners received either a beef quarter or pork half.

The winners of the beef quarters were: Dave Bakener (Oregon), Kay Beardin (Rochelle) and Jill Carr (Leaf River).

The winners of the pork halves were: Dennis Steckbauer (Byron), Angela Lowery (Rockton) and Jerry Coats (Belvidere).

The annual holiday giveaway is one of the many ways the bank gives back to the local communities it serves. For more information on the 2022 holiday giveaway or to find out more about Stillman Bank's products and services, please contact or visit www.stillmanbank.com.

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

The bank has approximately \$612 million in assets and operates full-service banking offices in Byron, Oregon, Rochelle, Rockford, Roscoe/Rockton and Stillman Valley.



Beef quarter winner Dave Bakener of Oregon.



Pork half winner Dennis Steckbauer of Byron.



Beef quarter winner Jill Carr of Leaf River.



Beef quarter winner Kay Beardin.

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Driver cited for speeding

Jan. 4

At midnight, Oregon Police issued Anna R. Shiltz, 22, of Bettendorf, Iowa, a citation for speeding, 54 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 1:09 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jessica L. Murphy, 33, Oregon, a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 1:40 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Chelsie N. Boyer, 32, Oregon, for an outstanding Walworth County, Wisconsin warrant for failure to appear on a possession of cocaine charge. Boyer was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

Jan. 5

At 4:17 p.m., Oregon Police issued Brett A. Barnes, 39, Oregon, a citation for operating an uninsured vehicle. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 2nd Street.

Jan. 6

At 6:35 p.m., Oregon Police issued Ashton M. Henkel, 17, Byron, a citation for speeding, 42 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 8:30 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Brian K. Bartlett, 61, Franklin Grove, on an outstanding Lee County warrant for failure to appear. Bartlett was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

At 10:50 p.m., Oregon Police issued Collin M. Jones, 20, Rockford, a citation for speeding, 50 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

Jan. 7

At 5:03 a.m., Oregon Police issued Manuel S. Munga, 46, of Denver, Colorado a citation for speeding, 48 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 12:17 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Mitchell J. Manka, 21, Mt. Morris, for driving while license suspended. Manka was transported to the Ogle County Jail. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 3rd Street.

At 5:55 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 500 block of Jefferson Street involving a 2015 Toyota driven by Linda L. Black, 76, Mt. Morris, that struck a parked 2020 Chevrolet belonging to Merna R. Lang, 76, Oregon. No citations were issued.

Jan. 8

At 8:41 a.m., Oregon Police issued Shawn T. Warczak, 19, Dixon, a citation for no front license plate. This violation occurred in the 100 block of West Washington Street.

At 11:48 a.m., Oregon Police issued Rodney J. Green, 42, of Omaha, Nebraska, a citation for speeding, 54 m.p.h. in a 35-m.p.h. zone. This violation occurred in the 1,300 block of Pines Road.

At 12:50 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a traffic crash at the intersection of 4th and Washington Streets involving a 2012 Toyota driven by Kim M. Risley, 70, Rockford, who struck the 2009 Ford driven by Eric P. Weber, 52, Oregon, causing the Ford to strike the Ogle County Brewery building on the northwest corner of the intersection. Risley was issued a citation for disobeying a traffic control device.

Two parking citations and six verbal warnings issued during the week of Jan. 2 through Jan. 8.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Jan. 9

At 12:45 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jeana N. Boeck, 41, Polo, a citation for no valid driver's license. This violation occurred in the 1,300 block of Koontz Place.

At 1:13 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jeremy L. Hitchcock, 39, Oregon, citations for operating a vehicle when registration is suspended for no insurance and operation of an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 100 block of North River Road.

Jan. 10

At 5:36 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Cesar Rodriguez-Moncada, 40, Freeport, for no valid driver's license. Rodriguez-Moncada was transported to the Ogle County Jail. This violation occurred in the 400 block of West Washington Street.

Jan. 11

At 11:40 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Katlyn I. M. Diers, 19, of Janesville, Wisconsin, for improper container as a driver. Diers was transported to the Ogle County Jail. This violation occurred in the 500 block of North 4th Street.

Jan. 12

At 3:41 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance call in the 200 block of North 7th Street resulting in the arrest of Jarid A. Hammil, 51, Oregon for disorderly conduct. Hammil was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

At 7:54 a.m., Oregon Police issued Zachary A. L. Goodwin, 29, Oregon, a citation for operation of a vehicle when registration is suspended for no insurance. This violation occurred in the 400 block of South 10th Street.

At 6:08 p.m., Oregon Police issued Luis A. Esparza, 41, Rockford, citations for speeding 43 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 700 block of South 4th Street.

At 6:22 p.m., Oregon Police issued Victori P. Fenske, 37, Rochelle, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 300 block of Madison Street.

At 8:20 p.m., Oregon Police issued Britany E. White, 28, Loves Park, a citation for speeding, 48 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Chad P. Boebel

LEAF RIVER—Chad P. Boebel, 41, passed away on Jan. 14 in his home. He was born on July 1, 1981 in Rockford the son of Daniel and Tammy (Perkins) Boebel. He attended Leaf River and Forreton schools.



Chad loved to mow the lawn and spend time in the garage watching wrestling and sports and listening to his favorite country music. He could often be found dancing to the tunes with a smile on his face. He enjoyed good food and good company.

He was someone with a big heart for others and always saw the good in them. He never met a soul that he didn't consider a friend and would often spend time at the end of the driveway waving at passersby.

Chad loved his family and would

call them frequently; always leaving a voicemail if they couldn't answer. But, the real light of his life was his daughter.

He is survived and dearly missed by his parents, Dan and Tammy Boebel of Leaf River; brothers, Adam Boebel of Rockford, Jacob Boebel of Rockford, and Dan (Marissa) Boebel of Leaf River; daughter Chantel and her sister, Starr; and niece, Genevieve as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19 at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home in Byron. A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

Memorials are established for the Ronald McDonald House.

To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

Reuben 'Pete' Lee Capes

ROCHELLE — Reuben "Pete" Lee Capes, 87, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 18 at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon. Pete was born on June 20, 1935 to Lorenzo G. and Leona "Mabel" (Shelton) Capes in Rochelle. On April 9, 1955, he married Lillie Mae Wilson in Rochelle. After high school, he served with the United States Army in 1958. Pete enjoyed hunting, family get togethers and playing games with family and friends.



Pete is survived by his two daughters: Rhonda (Pete) O'Rorke of Amboy and Christina Warner of Rochelle; six siblings: Leon Capes of Oregon, Lorenzo Capes of Rockford, Duane Capes of Rochelle, Norma Atkinson of Ashton, Leona Tapp of Lindenwood and Judy Zarr of Bethalto, Illinois; five

grandchildren: Brandi (Pat) McBride, Peter O'Rorke, Amanda O'Rorke, Katie (Michael) O'Rorke and Jeffrey (Jessica) Warner and seven great grandchildren: Liam, Kieran, Esam, William, Leylani, Lauryn and Olivia.

In addition to his parents, Pete was preceded in death by his wife, Lillie on Feb. 8, 2018; four brothers: Orville Lawrence, Ray and Emmett Capes and sister, Laura Swick.

Private family services. Burial is at Trinity Memory Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Pete's memory to Serenity Hospice and Home and Tails Humane Society. Go to serenityhospiceandhome.org or tailshumane-society.org to donate.

Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

David Elmer Johnson

BYRON — David Elmer Johnson, 85, of Byron, died Sunday, Jan. 15 at Javon Bea Hospital-Riverside in Rockford. He was born Dec. 1, 1937 in Rockford, the son of Tage Elmer and Jeannette Birdsall (Cumming) Johnson. He graduated from Byron High School in 1955. Dave married Carolyn Ann Jones on Sept. 5, 1959 at Middle Creek Presbyterian Church near Winnebago.



Dave worked on the property grounds maintenance for the Byron Community School District #226. He was a member of Middle Creek Presbyterian Church near Winnebago and the Byron Lions Club. He enjoyed playing euchre daily with some of his closest friends and going on annual fishing trips to Canada. He most enjoyed attending his children and grandchildren's sporting events and activities. David's quick wit will be missed by all.

Dave is survived by his wife 63 years, Carolyn Johnson of Byron; sons, Jeff

(Deb) Johnson of Byron, Tim (Lynn) Johnson of Hailey, Idaho; grandchildren, Bryan (Sarah) Johnson, Brett (Angie)

Johnson, Brock (Amanda) Johnson, Bryce Johnson; great-grandchildren, Ella Johnson, Ava Johnson, Cole Johnson, Perry Johnson, Willa Johnson, Gentry Johnson, Kellen Johnson, Spencer Johnson; brother, Alfred "Bud" (Cheryl) Johnson of Prescott, Arizona; several nephews and nieces.

Funeral service at noon with a visitation starting at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 21 at Middle Creek Presbyterian Church, 12473 Montague Road, Winnebago with Pastor Philip A. Thompson officiating.

Interment at Middle Creek Cemetery near Winnebago. In lieu of flowers a memorial will be established for Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon.

Arrangements by Genandt Funeral Home, 602 N. Elida St., Winnebago. For an online obituary and tributes go to www.genandtfuneralhome.com.

Debra June Sass

LEAF RIVER—Debra passed away on Wednesday the 28th of December 2022 after a light length of illness.

Deb was born on May 31, 1954 to Alvin and Barbara Klapp. She graduated from Leaf River High School in 1973. She loved the outdoors from farming to camping and everything in between. She also taught line dancing, which she absolutely loved.

She is survived by her father Alvin, his wife, Diana, three brothers, Tom (Diane) Klapp, Kevin (Karen)

Klapp, Terry Klapp and multiple nieces and nephews.

Deb was also fortunate enough to actively participate in the raising of Kathy Tabor along with her two children Christina and Cody, which brought her great joy.

Deb was preceded in death by her mother Barbara Klapp and her husband Richard Sass.

There will be a celebration of life on Jan. 28 at the Bertlot building, 103 W. Second St., Leaf River, IL, 61047 at 1 p.m.



Art Show hosted by Byron Museum of History

BYRON — The Byron Museum of History will host an art exhibit of work by members of the Eagle's Nest Art Group. The show will begin with an opening reception on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 1-3 p.m. Several artists will be on hand to welcome visitors.

The exhibit will remain on display through Saturday, April 1. The museum, located at 110 N. Union Street in Byron, is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The museum's exhibits and the two-month long art show are open to the public free of charge.

This year's Eagle's Nest Art Group show features oil, watercolor, and acrylic paintings as well as photography and 3-D art. It will be an extensive show of the work of local artists from Oregon, Byron, Rockford, Rock Falls, Dixon, Forreton, Mt. Morris, Ashton and Polo.

ENAG, founded in 1957, has a full



The show will begin with an opening reception on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 1-3 p.m. Several artists will be on hand to welcome visitors. (Courtesy photo)

schedule of art events, workshops and shows and will have materials available at the museum for all who are interested in learning more about this community of artists and its activities. The group welcomes artists of any level of experience. There are Thursday sessions at the ENAG studio in Conover Square and summer outdoor painting sessions offered to all members. For more information about ENAG, call (815) 732-7783 or visit Facebook at Eagle's Nest Art Group, Oregon, Illinois.

The permanent collections of the Byron Museum of History as well as the historic Read House, which is a listed Underground Railroad site on the National Park Service's Network of Freedom, are open to the public throughout the year. The museum is dedicated to preserving the rich history of the Byron area through exhibits, programs, and artifact preservation.

To learn more about the museum and its events, call (815) 234-5031 or visit their website www.byron-museum.org.

Polo student council to host Valentine's blood drive

POLO — Have a heart this Valentine's day and join Polo High School student council in rolling up our sleeves to help increase available blood supplies for local use. The drive is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 14, from 7:30 a.m. to noon in the Polo High School gym.

Scheduling an appointment is easy. Go to redcrossblood.org or call the school at 946-3314, and of course, walk-ins are always

welcome. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. It is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this life-saving care starts with one person making a generous donation. Donation rates have dropped during the winter months making your commitment to donate even more im-

portant. In addition to providing life-saving blood products for our area health care facilities, your donation helps to fund Red Cross scholarship awards for PCHS students.

Have a heart! Do your part to help patients in need of life saving blood products.

Can't make it Feb. 14? Mark your calendar for Friday, April 28, PCHS' final blood drive of the school year.

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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Lifeline served 77 families in December

OREGON — Lifeline Food & Self-Help Project is located at Conover Square (the old piano factory) at 201 N. 3rd St. Suite 3 in Oregon, 815-732-7891.

Lifeline hours are Tuesday 1:30-4 p.m. for food and clothing, Thursday 1-4 p.m. for clothing only, Friday 1:30-4:30 p.m. for food and clothing and Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for clothing only.

For the month of December 2022, Lifeline served 77 families including

124 adults and 55 children making a total of 179 individuals for the month.

Lifeline wishes to thank everyone who has donated food and gifts and the organization appreciates everything it receives.

Lifeline is in need of cake mixes and frosting mixes, Hamburger Helper, instant potatoes, Jell-O, canned fruits and marshmallows. Your donations help very much. Food trucks on Feb. 4, Feb. 18 and March 18.

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

Minnesota man arrested for driving while license revoked

OREGON — On Jan. 13 at 9:18 p.m. deputies, with assistance from the Oregon Police Department, conducted a traffic stop at North Illinois Route 2 and Margaret Fuller Road. After a brief investigation, Duane Johnson Meadows, 29, of St. Paul, Minnesota, was arrested for driving while license revoked. Johnson Meadows was also issued a citation for speeding. Johnson Meadows was subsequently transported to Ogle County Jail, where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 13 at 10:48 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Illinois Route 2 at Pines Road for an equipment violation. After an investigation, James Lard, 30, of Rockford, was arrested for driving on a suspended driver's license. Lard was also cited for no registration light. Lard was released on a signature I-Bond with a return court date.

On Jan. 13 at approximately 6:59 a.m. deputies responded to the 2,800 block of South Illinois Route 2 in regards to the report of a hit and run property damage accident. After a brief investigation, James Catalano Jr., 70, of Grand Detour, was located and arrested for leaving the scene of an accident. Catalano was also cited for no insurance and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Catalano was transported to the Ogle County Jail and was later released on a recognizance bond. Catalano is due to appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

On Jan. 13 at approximately 12:04 p.m. deputies, along with Lynn-Scott-Rock EMS and Rochelle EMS, responded to the 18,000 block of East Illinois

Route 64 for the report of a two-vehicle accident. During an initial investigation, deputies discovered an eastbound Ford Escape, driven by Michael S. Tobeck, 47, of Fulton, had crossed the centerline entering the westbound lane of traffic. Tobeck's vehicle struck a westbound Freightliner semi-truck, operated by Tyler L. Benson, 18, of Genoa. Lynn-Scott-Rock EMS transported Tobeck to Javon Bea hospital on Riverside. Tobeck had non-life-threatening injuries that required medical attention. Rochelle EMS transported Benson to Rochelle Community Hospital for minor injuries. This accident remains under investigation.

On Jan. 14 at approximately 7:55 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 10,000 block of West Pines Road. After an investigation, Eric J. Deery, 42, of Amboy, was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked without a BAIID when required. Deery was also cited for speeding. Deery was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held, awaiting an appearance before a judge.

On Jan. 16 at 11:06 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at West Illinois Route 72 and North Adeline Road. As a result, Robert J. Phinnessee, 47, of Rockford was arrested for driving on a revoked license. Phinnessee was also issued a citation for illegal window tint. Phinnessee was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released to jail staff.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



Pictured left to right: Oregon High School Teacher of the Year Ms. Radostits and Rotary President Erin Folk.

Radostits visits Oregon Rotary Club

OREGON — The Oregon Rotary club was pleased to have Oregon High School 2022 Illinois Teacher of the Year Kim Radostits present at its Jan. 4 meeting. Ms. Radostits provided an informative and enlightening presentation of her journey in becoming a teacher. And her current responsibilities as Teacher of the Year. The Rotary club

said it's proud of the work Radostits does not only in her Spanish class, but in taking the extra time to help students who are struggling be successful in the "Hawks Take Flight" program.

The Oregon Rotary Club meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Blackhawk Steak Pit at 11:45 a.m.

Local students make Bradley University's 2022 fall dean's list

PEORIA — More than 1800 students were named to Bradley's Fall 2022 Dean's List. To be eligible for the Dean's List,

a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

They include Shelby

Dean of Forreston (majoring in advertising & public relations) and Kaylee Benton of Oregon (majoring in international business).

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DEPOT MUSEUM PRESENTING "THOSE WERE THE DAYS"

OREGON — The Oregon Depot Museum will be presenting their "Those Were the Days" program on Jan. 28, at 10 a.m. at the Oregon Depot.

The program will be presented by former Mayor of Dixon, IL, Jim Dixon and Tom Wadsworth a communications specialist.

The presentation will about the founding of Oge and Lee counties and the Dixon Stagecoach Company.

This looks to be an outstanding event.

Call Roger Cain 815-757-9715 of Chris Martin at 815-742-8471

OREGON UMC OFFERS FREE MEALS

OREGON — The Oregon United Methodist Church is continuing to offer meals every Wednesday evening during the school year. The meals are free, but donations are appreciated.

Drive thru meals are available from 5-5:30 p.m. at 400 S. Fourth St. in Oregon. Sit-down meals are available from

5:30-6 p.m. Reservations are requested on the church's Facebook page or by calling the church office at 815-732-2994.

Upcoming menus: Jan. 25: Meatball subs and tater tots. Feb. 1: Ham and au gratin potatoes. Feb. 8: Hot dog and ice cream sundae bars. Feb. 15: Chicken parmesan casserole.

Please join us for a meal. Thank you.

COUNTRY CROSSROADS QUILT GUILD TO MEET

FORRESTON — Country Crossroads Quilt Guild has kicked off the new year with fun evenings of games, with prizes of course, designed to get to know your fellow quilters hidden talents and secrets. We welcome all guests to join in this fun evening.

Guild meetings are held at the Forreston Grove Church, 7246 Freeport Road; Forreston, on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. with ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. Visitors are very much welcome; for visitors there is a fee of \$5 at the door. For more information call Program Committee Chairs Dawn Vehmeier 815-291-4592 or Ann Tully 815-238-2218, or Guild President Shelly Holverson 815-297-2381.

MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT TO HOST KINDERGARTEN KICKOFF

STILLMAN VALLEY — Families living within the Meridian CUSD #223 school district who have children who will be five by Sept. 1, 2023 are invited to register for Kindergarten Kickoff for the 2023-2024 school year at Highland Elementary School. This night is designed to help provide a smooth transition into school for our future students and their parents. Students will participate in a series of group and individual activities, and parents will have the opportunity to attend informational sessions regarding the school and preparing their children for success.

The event will be held on two nights in March at Highland Elementary School, 410 S. Hickory St. Stillman Valley.

Families with last names beginning with letters A through L will attend Wednesday, March 22 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and families with last names beginning with letters M through Z will attend Thursday, March 23 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Please contact the Highland school office at 815-645-2230 to RSVP by March 10.

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VIEWPOINT

"Congress shall make no law. . .

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

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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Jan. 30, 1661, Oliver Cromwell was ritually executed. That is, his corpse was. The former Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England was posthumously convicted of high treason and his remains hanged and beheaded, two years after his actual demise.

* On Feb. 4, 1789, George Washington was unanimously elected as the first president of the United States. His campaign cost nothing, as he did no public campaigning, since he didn't really want to take office. He was also the only U.S. president to be inaugurated in two cities (New York and Philadelphia).

* On Feb. 5, 1931, Maxine Dunlap became the first woman to be issued a glider pilot license. Two years earlier, her 50-second, 980-foot flight beat the previous record of 17 seconds that had been established by Amelia Earhart.

* On Feb. 2, 1937, it was reported that the White House roof was leaking, a matter of special concern since additional rain and snow was expected. The matter of repairs was complicated by the fact that Congress was still engaged in a debate over whether to spend the necessary \$400 to effect them.

* On Feb. 1, 1953, winds from some of the strongest storms on record battered the east coast of Britain from Yorkshire to Kent, resulting in up to 150 fatalities, while thousands were forced to abandon their homes due to flooding. Passengers on the Princess Victoria ferry, from Scotland to Ireland, were also forced to flee the ship in the Irish Sea due to high waves.

* On Jan. 31, 2000, family practitioner Dr. Harold Shipman, who apparently never read or didn't believe in the Hippocratic Oath, was jailed for murdering 15 of his patients. He was also suspected of killing more than 100 others, but did not confess to them. Shipman remains Britain's most prolific convicted serial killer.

* On Feb. 3, 2009, Harry Potter creator J.K. Rowling was made a knight of the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian award. Rowling's great-grandfather was French, and she was given the honorary title by President Nicolas Sarkozy at a ceremony in Paris, where she apologized for giving Potter's archnemesis a French name, as well as the quality of her French accent.

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A new year and broadband

TURNING the page and onto a new year. I could gaze into my crystal ball to see what 2023 holds, but that usually leads to speculation and unfortunately I'm a realist. Seems to eliminate problems that way.

Rural residents are encouraged to verify the accuracy of the FCC's new National Broadband Map.

The Federal Communications Commission released the National Broadband Map in November. The new map displays specific location-level information regarding broadband services availability.

This is a huge step from where we used to be where broadband data availability was based off of census block level data. American Farm Bureau was a strong proponent of the Broadband DATA Act, which essentially led the way to this new, more granular map so that folks can see where and who is getting broadband service.

People in rural areas can verify the accuracy of the map. The public is able to view the map at broadbandmap.fcc.gov, search for their address and can see if their information about fixed and mobile services that was submitted by internet providers is actually accurate. It's pretty simple,

you just take a look at the map on the website, type in your address and you can see what was reported as far as from providers.



Ron Kern

Rural residents are encouraged to check the accuracy of the map, as the map will determine federal funding opportunities.

Benefits

Ogle County is in the process of applying for grants to expand broadband in the county. Let's look at the benefits this creates for our agricultural community.

Farming, being rural in nature, means most farmers are typical of the rural residents who stand to benefit from improved access to high-speed internet. Growing reliance on digital/electronic transfer of data makes access to high-speed internet a necessity. More and more units of local government, businesses (including farming), education and health care providers are communicating and conducting business electronically. Farmers that are unserved or underserved with broadband are facing significant efficiency challenges when considering the benefits it offers, including:

Access to web-based only label information for the application of ag inputs.

Electronic domestic and international purchasing and

marketing options.

Ability to electronically apply for and file business-related permits.

Access to government farm programs and applications through online distribution.

Receive up-to-date market and weather information.

Purchasing and ordering of farm supplies through online services.

Access to electronic systems for monitoring livestock and crops.

Access to reliable high-speed internet provides for thriving rural communities necessary for farm families and other rural residents.

Aids in attracting and retaining businesses.

Increases learning opportunities including adult education and job skill training.

Access to government services.

Increases both access to, and quality of, health care and education.

Equips first responders with necessary information.

There's no shortage of folks out there who want better broadband service. Hopefully as the county marches on in this effort we will see the benefits.

"Good resolutions are simply checks men draw on a bank where they have no account." -Oscar Wilde.

Kinda sounds like crypto.
Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.

Bipartisanship or chaos

INSTEAD of a coronation we ended up with an election.

How is that a bad thing in a democracy? It took 15 rollcall votes to elect Kevin McCarthy speaker of the House. The political chattering class is calling it a national "embarrassment" and labeled each prolonged vote a "humiliation" for McCarthy.

Well, maybe.

By its nature, democracy is supposed to be messy. It's often about building coalitions and holding them.

In democracies such as France, Italy, Germany and Israel, multiple rollcalls and succession fights are routine. The U.S. is really the outlier in that regard.

Do I identify with that small group of Republicans who held out? Nope. But they effectively used what votes they had to maximize their power. That's how politics works.

When I covered the Illinois General Assembly, I saw this strategy time and time again. Then-House Speaker Mike Madigan would negotiate a budget with the governor and the other legislative leaders and a faction of his caucus would threaten to withhold their coalition's votes – unless they received funding for a particular program or support on a desired initiative.

Other lawmakers would complain about the entire legislature being "held hostage" but inevitably compromise was reached and lawmakers would head home happy. They were engaging in smart politics – using their solidarity to magnify their power.

The same thing was happening with the Freedom Caucus in Washington. With Republicans holding a razor thin majority, they were able to gain an out-sized voice in policymaking.

Here is what U.S. Rep. Mary Miller, R-Oakland, said the Freedom Caucus gained: The pow-

er to block an omnibus spending bill from the Senate. The power to eliminate waste by making direct budget cuts to the federal bureaucracy and spending caps to cut spending. A balanced federal budget over the next 10 years. A committee to investigate the "weaponization of the federal government," including the Department of Justice. A Southern border security plan.



Scott Reeder

The end of COVID mandates and funding for them. Requiring 72 hours to read a bill before the vote. The power for one member to call a vote for a new speaker.

Some of the concessions made to the caucus may prove to be positive such as a 72-hour waiting period before bills can be voted on within the House. Such a measure may improve transparency and debate.

Other concessions will likely prove problematic. For example, allowing just one disgruntled member of Congress to call for a new vote for speaker has the potential to throw the entire chamber into a state of perpetual chaos.

Then again, such disruptive efforts could easily be thwarted if Republicans and Democrats join to knock them down. That's a big "if," but the Freedom Caucus' gains have the potential to cause more mainstream Republicans and Democrats to work together.

One need only look back in Illinois history to see how that could work. In 1975, state Rep. Bill Redmond was elected speaker of the Illinois House – after 93 rollcalls.

Democrats held the majority but were divided. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Gov. Dan Walker were at loggerheads over who to support.

Much as the Republicans in Congress fought it out this month, Democrats in that era of bell-bottom jeans and disco music were unable

to reach consensus.

My friend Mike Lawrence, a statehouse reporter at the time, said it came down to a contest between Democrats Clyde Choate, from Anna, and Redmond, from Bensonville. Republicans viewed the matter as a Democratic squabble and steered clear.

But after 93 votes and no winner, a freshman Republican named Lee Daniels stepped forward and voted for Redmond.

"When Daniels said, 'I vote Redmond,' the place went up for grabs and my recollection is that the rollcall stopped. I believe the House recessed. ... I ran out on the floor right for Daniel's desk and there were Republicans all around Daniel's, just giving him the devil and telling him he was all through in the Republican Party."

Daniels, of course, eventually became leader of the GOP caucus and later served a term as speaker of the house in the 1990s.

As I watched Republicans in Washington this month struggle within a divided caucus to elect a speaker, I kept waiting for a similar act from one of the 212 Democrats. It would have just taken one to step forward and vote to break the impasse.

It would have been an act of bipartisan statesmanship. But it didn't happen. But it is not too late. The far-right Freedom Caucus will try to bring McCarthy and the chamber to their knees.

Either members of both parties will reach across the aisle and work in a bipartisan manner or we inherit chaos.

The question for members of Congress is: "Do you love your party more than your nation?"

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

Thanks for birthday wishes

Dear editor,

Please accept my heartfelt thank you to all that took the time to send me a card on my 90th birthday. They were all so beautiful and deeply appreciated.

What a wonderful surprise it was!

Cordially,

Lois Dietrich and Family



LIFE letters' policy

Concise letters are most likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of management. All letters must be signed or they will not be considered for publication.

During election times, no letters written by the candidates endorsing themselves will be considered for publication.

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

Criticism of individuals or organizations that is not broached tactfully will jeopardize the publication of a letter. Letters will be published in the order that they are received, unless there is a time factor involved, space permitting.

LOCAL NEWS

Faivre named September Student of the Month

Polo senior plans to study pharmacy in college

POLO — Anna Faivre was recently named September Student of the Month at Polo Community High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts.

Faivre is the daughter of Andy and Amanda Faivre. She participates in golf, Student Council, FFA, FCCLA, Spanish Club, Varsity Club and has done drama club and scholastic bowl in the past.

After high school, Faivre plans to attend either Butler University or Drake University to study pharmacy. The Polo senior answered a list of questions upon winning student of the month.

If you could create any new class at your school, what would it be? -Polo offers a great variety of classes, so it's hard for me to think of one. If anything, I think having more AP or Dual Credit classes would be nice. I've also always wanted to learn American Sign Language, so I think having a class on that would be a lot of fun.

What does it take to be a successful high school student? -Being involved in the community and school, dedicating time for homework and studying, and working hard on everything you do.

What do you do in your free time? -I like to keep myself busy and don't normally have a lot of free time, but when I do I like to spend time with my friends and family, go biking and binge watch shows with my mom and dog.

What class do you find really engaging and why? -While I'm not in the class anymore, Physics has been the most engaging class for me by far. Even though the subject isn't the easiest, the teacher, Gina Cole, made it a fun learning experience and offered help whenever it was needed. The students in the class also helped contribute to the experience.

Throughout the year we participated in fun projects like bridge building and creating our own Rube Goldberg machine. It is definitely a class I would recommend taking.

What are your career and



Anna Faivre was recently named September Student of the Month at Polo High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts. (Courtesy photo)

post-graduation plans? -After high school I'm planning on attending either Butler University or Drake University to study pharmacy and maybe business. While I'm at college, I hope to be able to be involved with some kind of study abroad program because I would really enjoy having the opportunity to see a lot more of the world. What are your two favorite extracurricular, volunteer or community activities you participate in? -My two fa-

vorite activities I participate in would have to be golf and FFA. I've had the privilege to golf with my best friend for the past few years and I've enjoyed every minute of it. Golf taught me a lot about integrity and honesty, as well as patience and coping with frustration. While there were a lot of times golfing was not very easy, mentally or physically, I still am grateful for the experience it gave me and the lessons it taught me. FFA has given

me various opportunities that have helped prepare me for my future after high school. Through FFA, I've been able to develop my skills in leadership and communication, meet many new people, increase the bonds I have with my friends involved in FFA, and also helped me realize a new hobby I'm very passionate about, which is beekeeping!

Please share a moment, group event or activity at school that was meaningful or memorable. -A memorable moment at school for me was hearing Mr. Jones's famous chicken story. While I don't remember all the details of it, he spent three years telling us how when we were about to graduate eighth grade, he'd share it with us. The story itself was very funny and unexpected, so it is a memory that has always stuck with me.

What is your hope for the future? -I hope to have a job I really enjoy, whatever that may be, live in an interesting area that I probably won't get bored of, and be able to travel all around the world.

Mobile food pantry in Mt. Morris Jan. 26

MT. MORRIS — Loaves & Fish Food Pantry alongside Northern Illinois Food Bank is hosting a Mobile Food Pantry on Thursday, Jan. 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 3:30-6:00 p.m. and second and fourth Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m. Anyone experiencing food insecurity is eligible to receive food. You do not need to have a referral, and no proof of income is required. If you have any questions, call 815-613-8776 and leave a message.

Brown named to president's list at University of the Cumberlands

WILLIAMSBURG, KY. — In recognition of academic performance, the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs at University of the Cumberlands has announced the students named to the president's list for the fall 2022 semester.

They include Victoria Brown of German Valley. To be eligible for the president's list, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (a full course load), maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 4.0, receive an "A" grade in UC Engage, and be in good academic standing. (Note: All students who are named to the president's list automatically make the dean's list, since the dean's list requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5; however, Cumberlands only lists students on either the dean's list or the president's list, to avoid overlap.)

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Every year, the big manufacturers of furnaces & air conditioners guess how many to build to meet the demand. Of course, they're never exactly right. So, they always have some inventory that they must hold over until the next summer season. I went to one of these companies and contracted for the purchase of sixteen Deluxe furnaces and air conditioners in the four most popular sizes used in Kane County. And, because of the quantity and time of year, I was able to buy them at drastically reduced prices.

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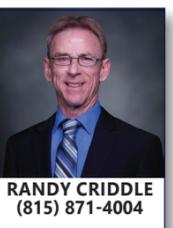
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BEAUTIFUL BYRON SUBDIVISION! Large lots, city water & sewer. No Impact fees. Building packages open to all builders. Builder assistance available. Developer approval required. Remaining lots are either full or partial exposure.

CHRIS SNYDER
(815) 494-7857



LOCAL NEWS

OJSHS partners with HCC to offer new college readiness program

OREGON – The Oregon School District is partnering with Highland Community College to provide a weekly college readiness program, Upward Bound.

The Upward Bound program is available for up to 40 students, grades 9-11. The program equips students with the knowledge and tools to enter and succeed in higher education. Services offered include academic advising, FAFSA assistance, SAT/ACT prep, academic advising, mentoring, career planning, scholarship assistance and more.

“We are excited to offer this new program to eligible students to help them succeed with not only their academics, but also at life. As they prepare for a variety of career paths and opportunities after high school, Upward Bound can help support their college readiness,” Shannon Cremeens, dean of students and director of college and career readiness at Oregon Junior/Senior High School, said.

The Upward Bound Program is a federal TRIO program dedicated to the preparation for, admission to, and successful completion of a college degree for eligible high school students. The program is designed to identify and provide academic support and preparation services for students who are low-income, first-generation, or at-risk in academics.

“I’ve witnessed Upward Bound change the lives of first-generation students by equipping them with the tools needed to become college completers,” Anthony Sago, director of TRIO services at Highland Community College, said.

Freise, Raine named to Cedarville dean’s honor list

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — Rachel Freise and Heidie Raine, both of Byron, were named to the fall 2022 dean’s honor list at Cedarville University. Students receive this achievement for obtaining a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Locals named to Clarke dean’s list

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Clarke University recently announced that Jennifer L. Dehahn of Byron and Zoie A. Sellers of Polo were among 191 students that earned a spot on the dean’s list for the fall 2022 semester. The list recognizes full-time Clarke students who have earned a 3.65 grade-point average or above, on a 4.0 scale, with a minimum of 12 graded hours.

HCC hosts Ag Expo for local high school students

FREEMONT — In December, Highland Community College Agriculture welcomed 35 businesses and nearly 200 high school and Highland students to its first Northwest Illinois Agriculture Industry Expo.

Students from 16 area high schools began the day with an open house — learning about crop science, animal science, agricultural education and technology curriculum offered within the Agriculture Department. Following the open house, high school students had the opportunity to network with the local agribusiness scene.

“I was truly moved to be part of such a strong statement as to the career opportunities students have. As industry professionals, we are building from the legacy of HCC’s founders, like Del Scheider,” said Pennie Groezinger, Vice Chair of Highland’s Board of Trustees and Vice President of Human Resources & Communications at Pearl City Elevator. “The vision held 60 years ago is planted in the progressive values and spirit of today’s Highland Agriculture Program, and the career opportunities that agribusinesses bring to this region legitimize the status of ag as a local job leader.”

The day concluded with high school students taking a campus tour, while Highland students had a chance to further discuss jobs and



HCC Agriculture student Josh Erickson explains to open house participants how students use drones to collect imagery that can be made into maps to scout the test plots during the growing season.

internships with attending businesses.

“The expo was a great way to connect with both high school and college students to explain what such businesses as Compeer Financial have to offer — from college scholarships and internship opportunities to the type of graduates we are looking for to hire as full-time employees,” said Kurt Zuck, Vice President of Core Markets at Compeer Financial. “It was also a great way for me to connect with 34 other local businesses with a focus in agriculture.”

The goal of the NWIL Agriculture Industry Expo was for students and businesses alike to be able to see the importance of agriculture and agriculture education in Northwest Illinois.

“Connecting our curriculum at Highland with local employment

opportunities allows students to see the purpose behind the concepts they learn in class,” said Monica Pierce, Highland Agriculture Instructor. “This connection also increases the likelihood that our students will pursue employment locally and plant their future here in Northwest Illinois. This is a huge win for our rural communities.”

The following businesses made the inaugural 2022 expo possible: A.C. McCartney, Adkins Energy, Advanced Crop Care, Bayer, Birchen Farms, Birds Eye, Carroll Service Company, Casper’s Calf Ranch, Citizens State Bank, Compeer Financial, Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association, Custom Catering and BBQ, Farm & Fleet, FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative, Freeport Park

District, Furst-McNess, Gavilon Grain, Golden Harvest, Grade Solutions, Hazzard Free Farm Grains, Helena Agri Enterprises, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Farm Bureau, Mark Seed & Feed, Musser Crop Services, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Pearl City Elevator, Prairies State Tractor, Preferred Meats, R&H Seed Solutions, Select Sires Mid-America, Solutions Bank, Spectrum, State Bank, Stephenson Service Company, USDA Farm Service Agency and Vita Plus.

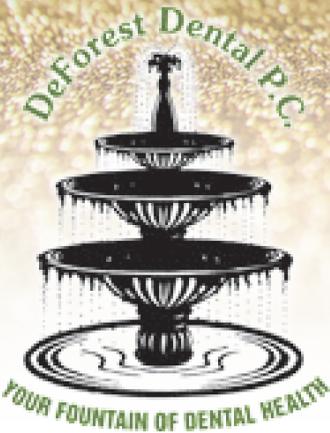
High school attendees were welcomed from: Dolan Education Center, Eastland, Forreston, Freeport, Galena, Lena-Winslow, Milledgeville, Orangeville, Oregon, Pearl City, River Ridge, Stillman Valley, Stockton, Warren, West Carroll and Winnebago.



Start your New Year’s resolution by scheduling an appointment in 2023 with a wellness check up!

Our team at Deforest Dental is excited to announce our newest team member...the iTero Element 5D scanner! Your health is our top priority, and this tool will aid us in providing you a comprehensive dental health scan.

No more goopy impressions either! Request your complimentary dental health scan the next time you’re in the office.



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mfeltes@oglecountylife.com

01252021

Oregon boys bowling wins second regional in school history

DIXON — In the culmination of a crazy week which saw Oregon set its two highest match series of the season, its lowest score at Harvard and after losing two starters to injury, the Hawks boys bowling team won only the second IHSA Regional in school history Jan. 14 at Plum Hollow Family Center, Dixon. Oregon finished with a six-game total of 5,830, 48 pins ahead of Freeport. Individually all five bowlers finished in the top 25 led by Regional Medalist Roberto Hernandez with a 1,247 series (196,244,185,201,222,199). Hernandez becomes only the fifth IHSA Boys Regional medalist in program history. Also finishing in the top 10 was Bryan Immel with a 1231 series while recording the second highest game of the tournament with a 258 in the second game. Next was Brandon Rowe's 1133 series (18th place), Matthew Stahl's 1118 series (22nd place) and Styler Long's 1101 series (25th place). The team now advanced to the Rockford Guilford sectional next Saturday at Don Carter Lanes, Rockford.



RE/MAX

of Rock Valley



PRICE DROP!



6549 Schreiner Rd., Chadwick \$265,000 Call Carla Benesh
Get Away From It All! Is captured in the exquisite charm of this delightful farmette in Chadwick! This adorable farmette offers so many opportunities! Beautifully updated throughout! 2 bedrooms on the main floor with 2 bedrooms up plus 2 bonus rooms in the upper level, Great room with open style kitchen and living room. Loads of counter space and cabinets! Many newer features throughout! The machine shop 100x80 offers loads of storage! Plus the 2 car garage conveniently located just steps away from the back porch. Generator and new well sitting on nearly 5 acres, this country charm offers you privacy with it being located down a 3/4 mile road to this great find!

KEY TERMS TO KNOW WHEN BUYING A HOME

- Appraisal**
A report highlighting the estimated value of the property completed by a qualified third party. Lenders rely on appraisals to validate a home's value and ensure they're not lending more than the home is worth.
- Closing Costs**
The fees required to complete the real estate transaction. Paid at closing. Ask your lender for a complete list of closing cost items, including points, taxes, title insurance, and more.
- Credit Score**
A number ranging from 300-850 that's based on an analysis of your credit history. This helps lenders determine the likelihood you'll repay future debts.
- Down Payment**
Down payments are typically 3.5-20% of the purchase price of the home. Some 0% down programs are also available. Ask your lender for more information about what you may qualify for.
- Mortgage Rate**
The interest rate you pay to borrow money when buying a home. As mortgage rates fluctuate, consult a lender so you know how it can impact your monthly mortgage payment.
- Pre-Approval Letter**
A letter from a lender that shows what they're willing to lend you for your home loan. This, plus an understanding of your savings, can help you decide on your target price range.
- Inspection Contingency**
A provision in a contract requiring an inspection to be completed. This essential step gives you information on the home's condition and potential repairs.
- Affordability**
A measure of whether someone earns enough to qualify for a loan on a typical home based on the most recent price, income, and mortgage rate data. When home prices and mortgage rates are higher, it can impact affordability.
- Equity**
The value of your home above the total amount of liens against your home. Many homeowners are realizing they have more equity than they thought and they're using it to move.

Sources: FTC, First American, NAR

KEEPING CURRENT MATTERS

2023 HOUSING MARKET FORECAST

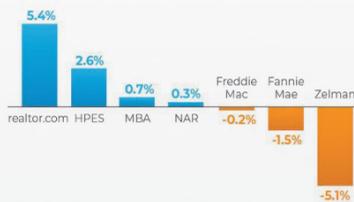
What does 2023 hold for the housing market? Here's what experts have to say about what lies ahead.

Home Price Appreciation Will Vary

Some experts call for slight appreciation and some call for slight depreciation on a national level.

In short, home price appreciation will vary by local market. It's all about supply and demand. But, the average is neutral price appreciation for the country.

Latest Forecasts from Each Entity



Mortgage Rates Will Respond to Inflation

Where mortgage rates will go from here largely depends on what happens with inflation in the year ahead.

... mortgage rates could pull back meaningfully next year if inflation pressures ease.
Greg McBride, Chief Financial Analyst, Bankrate

Home Sales Will Moderate

Home sales are projected to be lower than 2022 due to higher mortgage rates that have moderated buyer demand.

2023 Total Home Sales Forecasts In Millions



Sources: realtor.com, HPES, NAR, MBA, Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, Zelman, Bankrate

KEEPING CURRENT MATTERS



PRICE DROP!

2446 N. River Rd., Oregon \$459,900 Call JD Gieson

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



407 Mississippi, Dixon \$3,000 Call Lori Peterson

What a place to build the home of your dreams. Wildlife abounds around this beautiful development. It all centers around a lake. This lot is on the corner of St. Francis and Mississippi Dr.



606 S. 10th St., Oregon \$149,000 Call Rebecca Hazzard

SO MUCH TO OFFER! This 3 bedroom home is located close to schools and Park West and is ready for you to call home! Siding, windows, gutters and gutter guards were all updated in 2021 and a steel roof was installed in 2014. Main floor has kitchen with eat in area and living room along with 3 bedrooms and bathroom. Lower level has a large family room, bonus room that could be a 4th bedroom or office and spacious laundry and storage area. An added bonus, there is a rough in for a bathroom in the basement. The garage is extra deep with a bonus storage/shop area. Call today to set up your showing!



000 Woods Dr., Oregon \$27,000 Call Rebecca Hazzard

STONEGATE RIDGE SUBDIVISION! Here is your chance to build your dream home in Stonegate Ridge! Lots ranging from .30 to .77 acres. Many lots offer the possibility for an exposed basement. Wooded lots are also available. City utilities & the only residential area in Oregon with iFiber highspeed internet available. The subdivision allows pools, fences & is not builder restricted. Building packages are also available. City of Oregon offers reduced impact fees. Agent related.



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SPORTS

AREA SPORTS

Stillman Valley girls hoops defeats Rockford Christian

On Jan. 10, the Stillman Valley varsity girls basketball team defeated Rockford Christian 49-36. The Cardinals were led in scoring by Mya Janssen (17 points), Taylor Davidson (11 points) and Brooke Jordal (eight points). The home win brought Stillman Valley's record to 18-3 overall (3-1 BNC play).

Oregon bowling teams host Dakota

The Oregon boys and girls bowling hosted Dakota at Town & Country Lanes in Mt. Morris Jan. 10 on senior night. The boys team raised its season record to 15-2 and clinched a second consecutive Northern Illinois Bowling Conference (NIBC) Championship with a season high 3,453-3,387 victory, by taking four of five NIBC conference standings points. The Hawks were led by Brandon Rowe with a personal season high 667 series (264,223,180) followed by Gavvin Surmo's 605 series, Styler Long's 584 series, Matthew Stahl's 581 series, Roberto Hernandez's 547 series and Bryan Immel's 469 series. The JV boys raised their season record to 13-0 with a 2,740-1,038 victory. The JV was led by Codey Dunbar with a 561 series.

The Oregon girls defeated Dakota 2,792-2,183, moving to 7-3 on the season, while recording their season-high series. Oregon was led by Ava Wight with a 604 series (230,178,196) followed by Trinity Hultquist's 515 series, Kendra Ehrler's 490 series, Mackenzie Alford's 464 series, Kylie Krug's 395 series and Ahren Howey's 324 series. After the match Oregon honored nine senior bowlers (six boys – Brandon Rowe, Bryan Immel, Styler Long (Klapp), Roberto Hernandez, Hunter Buchanon, Noah Hopkins and three girls – Ava Wight, Mackenzie Alford, Kendra Ehrler) and their parents.

Polo girls hoops defeats Ashton-Franklin Center

On Jan. 10, the Polo varsity girls basketball team defeated Ashton-Franklin Center 48-39. The Marcos were led in scoring by Lindee Poper (18 points), Camrynn Jones (nine points) and Sydnei Rahn (eight points).

Oregon bowling travels to Harvard

The Oregon boys and girls bowling teams traveled to J's Lanes, Harvard to bowl Harvard Jan. 11. The boys team dropped a 2,972-3,017 decision to move to 15-3 on the season. The Hawks were led by Roberto Hernandez's 611 series (231,175,205) followed by Brandon Rowe's 494 series, Bryan Immel's 477 series, Styler Long's 467 series, Gavvin Surmo's 466 series and Matthew Stahl's 457 series. The JV boys raised their season record to 14-0 with a 2,546-2,049 victory. The JV was led by Aiden Currier with a 504 series.

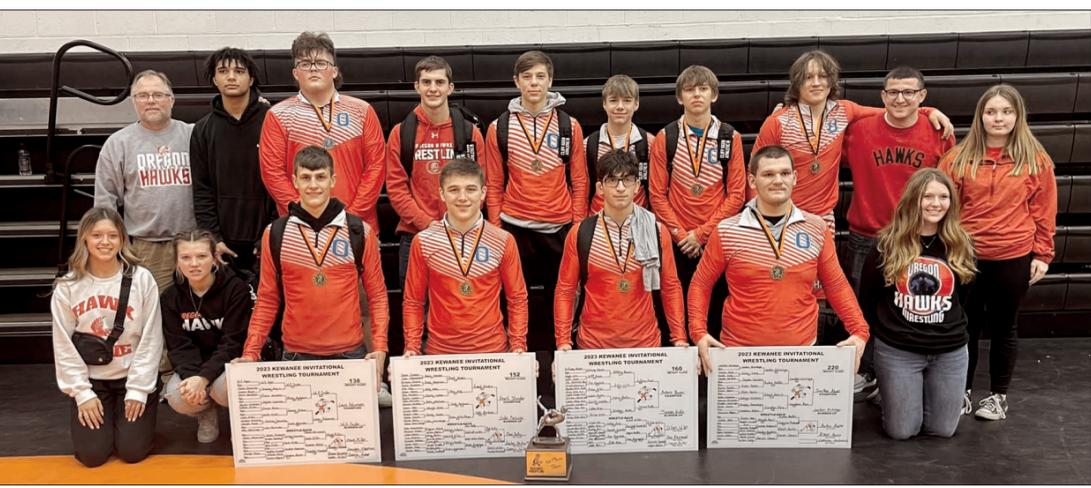
The Oregon girls defeated Harvard 2,549-2,259 moving to 8-3 on the season. Oregon was led by Ava Wight with a 562 series (169,201,192) followed by Trinity Hultquist's 475 series, Mackenzie Alford's 473 series, Kendra Ehrler's 462 series, Kylie Krug's 296 series and Ahren Howey's 281 series.

Oregon boys bowling ends regular season victorious

The Oregon boys bowling team ended the regular

season in spectacular fashion at all levels Jan. 12 at Town & Country Lanes in Mt. Morris against Maple Park Kaneland. The boys varsity ended the season with a 16-3 record by defeating Kaneland 3,638-2,794, nearly 200 pins higher than Tuesday's previous season high series. The Hawks were once again well rounded and led by Brandon Rowe with a 651 series (187,207,257). He was followed closely by Matthew Stahl's 643 series, Roberto Hernandez's 625 series, Gavvin Surmo's 614 series, Bryan Immel's 599 series and Styler Long's 506 series. The JV boys finished the season at 15-0 with a 3,210-2,062 victory and a new season-high score. The JV was led by RJ Keene with a personal high 641 series and Aiden Currier with a 576 series. In addition, the JV 2 was led by Sebastian Alford with a 600 series followed by Wyatt Dunbar with a 566 series, also setting a season high score of 3,019. Lastly, the JV 3 was led by Ivan Hernandez with a 465 series.

See page 3



Oregon Hawks wrestling wins back-to-back tournaments

The Oregon Hawks wrestling team was champion of back-to-back tournaments with a recent title at at Kewanee with only 10 wrestlers. Champions were Lane Halverson, Grant Stender, Anthony Bauer and Jonathon Alaniz. Runner-ups were Jackson Messenger and Evan Flaharty. Third place finishers were Preston LaBay, Landyn Windham and Quentin Berry. Ethan Mowry had a fourth place finish.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

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

BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

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

UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON

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

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

CHANA

CHANA UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Josh Brown, 606 Main Street, Chana, IL 61015. Church office 815-732-7683. (E-mail address: chanauumc@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 Teves
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 UNITED METHODIST 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.efcm.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 BROTHERS

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: mimcob@frontier.com

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

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

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

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

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

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

OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

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

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 Highway 64, West (Hwy 64 W & Mongon Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon • 732-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George
Website: saintbrides.org • E-mail: saintbride.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

Rector/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.
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See website for all activities or contact the church office.

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SPORTS NEWS

Byron impresses against Galena

Finally made it to a basketball game and came away impressed with how the Byron girls took apart previously unbeaten Galena, the No. 1 team in 1A. Byron beat the visitors in all phases, especially with their defense.

On offense, the Tigers move the ball quite well and blend together as a unit, with no prima donnas. They have a good mix of senior leadership with Ava Kultgren and Ella Grundstrom, along with young kids like freshman Macy Gohering who had 14 points.

On Tuesday, Byron travels to Dixon for what may be for the conference title. One commonality between the two teams is having to face powerhouse Lincoln at the Dixon Holiday Tournament in December.

Lincoln is the only undefeated team in 3A and no one has come within 19 points of them. At Dixon, they won their four games 81-21, 71-29, 72-28 and 49-16.

There is definitely a major difference between 2A and 3A basketball for both the boys and girls. Byron has to like their chances of getting out of the 2A sectional, especially if they play like they did against Galena.

With the NUIC being down this year, Galena is also the odds-on favorite to make it to the super-sectional. Playing Byron was beneficial for the Pirates.

As one of the smallest schools in the state in a one-class system, Oregon bowling has made a name for itself with its boys and girls programs. That tradi-

tion was on display again, this time at the Dixon regional, where the Hawks bested Freeport, Sterling and Geneseo.

All four will head to Don Carter Lanes for the sectional to match up with some of the better teams in Illinois and also the best team in the country in Loves Park Harlem.

How good is Harlem?

Earlier this year at the Guilford Invite, the Huskies broke the national record for a single game series with a 1,336, an average of 267 per bowler. They also have a state record for a six-game series of 7,045 and Charlie Hunt tied a national record of 867 for a three-game series.

Those are astounding performances and Harlem will be the favorite to win state. Under the tutelage of Alan Nordman, one of the best in the business, Oregon has qualified for the state before as a team, but this will be a tall task with so many good teams at the sectional.

Did you know that girls bowling has been sanctioned by the IHSA much longer than the boys? The girls had their first tournament in 1973 and the boys not until 2003.

When I was in high school I remember what may have been the biggest controversy in the history of the IHSA bowling. Since boys bowling wasn't offered, Dixon entered a team in the state tournament with four boys and one girl.

To the irritation of probably everyone in Illinois outside of Dixon, that squad won the 1975 state title. Under much public pressure, the IHSA created a

by-law that prohibited boys from bowling on a girls team.

As I reflect back on the 1970s, my favorite decade, another gender issue was in a sport I was involved in – pole vaulting. Due to chauvinistic attitudes, girls weren't allowed to pole vault because it was considered too strenuous of an activity.

I recall being asked by a girl why she couldn't do it and I told her the theory was that a girls insides probably couldn't handle all the physical stress that vaulting required. Yes, that was quite lame, but what else would you expect from a 17-year-old pretending to be an expert on anatomy and physiology.

It took a lawsuit for the IHSA to add the event decades later. Coincidentally, Amanda Moll from Washington became the first high school girl to pole vault 15 feet, as she made that height this past weekend.

As the Virginia Slims slogan said, "You've Come A Long Way Baby." And as my wife once told me, "Males can be such idiots." Can't argue that.

Sad to learn that 67-year-old Doug Oleson of Rochelle passed away last week. Chances are you read something Doug wrote, as he was involved with local newspapers for many years.

As a trained professional in journalism, Doug took the time to encourage me, a lowly part-time reporter. The man was a true gentleman and his kind heart will be missed.

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



Andy Colbert

From page 2

Oregon girls hoops falls to Byron

On Jan. 12 at home, the Byron varsity girls basketball team defeated Oregon 60-28. The Tigers were led in scoring by Macy Groharing (24 points) and Ava Kultgren (19 points). The Hawks were led in scoring by Mariah Drake (10 points) and Liz Mois (six points).

Oregon girls bowling travels to Sterling

The Oregon girls bowling team traveled to Sterling to participate in the Sterling MLK Invite Jan. 16. Oregon finished in third place, 22 pins behind runner-up Geneseo and was led by individual runner-up Ava Wight with a 1,220 series (176,211,174,232,218,209). She was followed by sixth place finisher Mackenzie Alford's 1,060 series, Kendra Erhler's 923 series, Trinity Hultquist's 899 series, Kylie Krug's 508 series (four games) and Ahren Howey's 216 series (two games).

Oregon girls bowling wins in Fulton

The Oregon girls traveled to Fulton to bowl Erie-Prophetstown Jan. 17 and came away with a victory 2,773-2,203 moving to 9-3 on the season. Oregon was led by Ava Wight with a 576 series (200,202,174) followed by Mackenzie Alford's 521 series, Kendra Erhler's 507 series, Trinity Hultquist's 503 series, Kylie Krug's 353 series and Ahren Howey's 313 series.

Oregon girls hoops falls to Winnebago

On Jan. 17, the Oregon varsity girls basketball team fell to Winnebago 50-19. Hadley Lutz led the Hawks in scoring with nine points.

SCORES

Varsity girls basketball

Jan. 11: Kaneland 67, Stillman Valley 40
Jan. 13: Winnebago 55, Stillman Valley 43

Boys varsity basketball

Jan. 14: Stillman Valley 71, Oregon 40 (South Beloit MLK tournament)
Jan. 14: Stillman Valley 38, South Beloit 36 (South Beloit MLK tournament)
Jan. 16: Stillman Valley 52, Harvard 26 (South Beloit MLK tournament)
Jan. 16: Stillman Valley 48, Harvest Christian 41 (SVHS wins South Beloit MLK tournament)

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Rochelle 562-3801

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Byron girls basketball defeats Galena

Tigers take on top-ranked 1A Pirates

BY ANDY COLBERT
CORRESPONDENT

BYRON — In a marquee match-up in the finale of the Byron girls MLK tournament, it was 22-0 and No. 1-ranked (1A) Galena against Byron, 19-2 and No. 6 in 2A. The billing didn't quite live up to expectations, as the Tigers' unrelenting defensive pressure led to a decisive 59-42 victory.

"To win big games, it's all about defense," Byron coach Eric Yerly said.

To Galena's credit, they kept it close in the first half, trailing 20-15. Then it was Ava Kultgren exploding for 13 points in the third quarter to push her team to a 44-28 third-quarter lead.

Fellow senior Ella Grundstrom closed out the period with a 3-pointer as the buzzer, effectively demoralizing the visitors.

"Ava is a humble kid and Ella is selfless out there," Yerly said. "Those two do things without being flashy and as seniors, give us leadership."

Galena sophomore Gracie Furlong, the top scorer from last year's state runner-up team, nearly matched Kultgren, putting in 11 points of the 13 third-quarter points for the Pirates. "We knew that Gracie was going to

take over for them," Yerly said.

Furlong, along with juniors Taylor Burcham and Addie Hefel are returning starters and the trio combined for all but four of the 42 points.

"I'm glad we came here," Galena coach Jamie Watson said. "It's a good reality check."

The Pirates, normally a good ball-handling team, had 10 turnovers in the second half. With Byron players coming out of them it was difficult to get open shots off. "They exploited our offense with their defense," Watson said.

In the fourth quarter, the team traded points and any time Galena would make a mini run, the Tigers would have the answer. After one empty trip and two straight turnovers, Karsyn Bielskis hit 3-of-4 free throws and Kultgren two quick baskets to put the game away midway through the fourth quarter.

Kultgren led everyone with 25 points. Followed by freshman Macy Gohering with 14, Bielskis nine and Grundstrom seven.

For Byron, the Galena game was the first in its toughest week of the regular season, with BNC powers Stillman Valley, Lutheran and Dixon up next.

"We'll be tested with those three teams," Yerly said.

"To win big games, it's all about defense."

Eric Yerly

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LOCAL NEWS

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Cable Options & Reducing Robocalls

Monday, Jan. 23. 6–7:00 pm. PLEASE NOTE—the date of this program has changed. Are you looking to reduce your cable costs? Tired of all those robocalls? This program is for you as a representative from CUB (Citizens Utility Board) shares the different choices in the TV market, ways to cut your cable costs, streaming services available to consumers, how to avoid common robocall scams, call-blocking services and what they mean for your pocket and new federal legislation passed helping to reduce robocalls. You can either participate through Zoom at home or come to the library and watch there. Please indicate if you are watching from home or at the library. Please call 815-234-5107 or visit Byron.evanced.info/signup to register.

Wheel of Fortune!

Friday, Jan. 27. 1–2:00 pm. Time to get out and spin the wheel. Join Beth as she leads everyone in an entertaining game of Wheel of Fortune. Sip on a hot chocolate and see if you can solve the puzzles. Prizes for the winner(s)!!! Please call 815-234-5107 or visit Byron.evanced.info/signup to register.

Valentine Cards for Generations at Neighbors

Saturday, Feb. 4. 1–3:00 pm. Random Acts of Kindness Week is February 12-18. Let's share some love and kindness

with the residents at Generation at Neighbors. Come anytime between 1:00pm and 3:00pm to create simple Valentine cards. Beth will have lots of Valentine card making supplies on hand. Please call 815-234-5107 or visit Byron.evanced.info/signup to register.

Mindfulness Monday – Inspirational Quotes Booklet

Monday, Feb. 13. 6–7:00 pm. Come for another relaxing evening. After some calming meditation time, we will create an inspirational quotes booklet to inspire you. Please email Beth your favorite quotes, sayings, or scripture passages. She will type them and have them available to insert into your inspirational quotes booklet. Visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.

DIY Gift Tags

Thursday, Feb. 23. 6–7:00 pm. Ever get tired of just plain name tags for gifts? Come join Christine as she shows you how to create your very own homemade gift tags for any special occasion. All supplies will be provided. Please visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.

Swedish Death Cleaning

Friday, Feb. 24. 1–2:00 pm. What is Swedish Death Cleaning? Come learn! Do you need to be on death's door to complete it? Absolutely not! Quoting Leonard Cohen of The New Yorker, "Putting your house in order, if you can do it, is one of the most comforting activities, and the benefits of it are incalculable." Beth will share her Swedish Death Cleaning experience and why she recommends it for everyone! Visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.

Visit the [Byron Library Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/ByronLibrary) to keep up to date on library news and virtual programs! Be sure to also check out the [Byron Library](https://www.facebook.com/ByronLibrary) and [Byron Library Teen](https://www.facebook.com/ByronLibraryTeen) Instagram pages!

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Story Time!

Bring your little ones by for a great story time! We will be reading books all about PENGUINS and then children will be making a craft this Wednesday, 1/25. Story time is every Wednesday @11:15, bring your little ones to enjoy stories and a craft at the Mount Morris Library!

Adult Book Club

The January book is "Have You Seen Luis Valez?" by Cathrine Ryan Hyde. Everyone is welcome to join this book club group! Copies of the book are available at the library. This group will meet in-person on Monday, January 30th at the library.

Cookbook Club!

Join us as we explore The Cookbook Club! Wonderful recipes combined with friendship creates something both beautiful and delicious! Stop by to choose your recipe from this month's book, "Eat at Home Tonight" by Tiffany King, then bring the dish to pass at our next meeting! Join us on Tuesday, February 7th @6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!

Ink with a Friend: Card Making at the Library

Join us in February to make some lovely home-made cards to send to family and friends. We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. Liz has already been working with the Oregon Public Library and her classes are quite the success! We want to offer her lovely workshops to our Mount Morris patrons also. She will be here on Thursday, February 9th from 5-7! You will get all the materials to make two beautiful cards to take home. Stop by to see the samples, fees are by donation. Registration is limited so call the library or stop by to save your spot before February 3rd.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

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12			13					14		
15			16					17		
			18			19		20		
21	22	23				24				
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45	46					47				
48			49		50			51	52	53
54			55					56		
57			58					59		

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1 Energy
4 Amtrak express
9 Sushi fish
12 Praise in verse
13 VIP on Air Force One
14 Tennis feat
15 Museum piece
17 Train lines (Abbr.)
18 Sprite
19 Holler
21 Word game with dice
24 Horseshoe site
25 Brit. record label
26 Not 'neath
28 Bolivian city
31 Wilson's predecessor
33 Observe
35 Castle
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38 Music booster
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47 Kanga's kid
48 Use a shovel
49 Land in the Irish Sea

DOWN

1 Pledge
2 Wedding words
3 Mal de —
4 Moon mission
5 Brewed beverages
6 JFK info
7 "The Addams Family" butler
8 Houston team
9 Picnic veggie
10 Beige
11 For fear that
16 Small barrel
20 Thy
21 Alpha follower
22 Muscat's land
23 Eloquent person's talent
27 Actor Stephen
29 Memory method
30 Stretches (out)
32 Marathoner's stat
34 Catherine, notably
37 Municipalities
39 "Nuts!"
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L K I N I G O C I N R E N C B
E T I H W T Z L A I X A D W U
S G R **S T R A W B E R R Y** P O
M L J N E X A L F Y L I G E D
B A Y D X W U T P D S B Q P O

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: REDDISH-BROWN HAIR

Black	Dark	Gray	Sandy
Bleached	Dyeing	Light	Strawberry
Blond	Flaxen	Platinum	White
Brown	Ginger	Red	

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

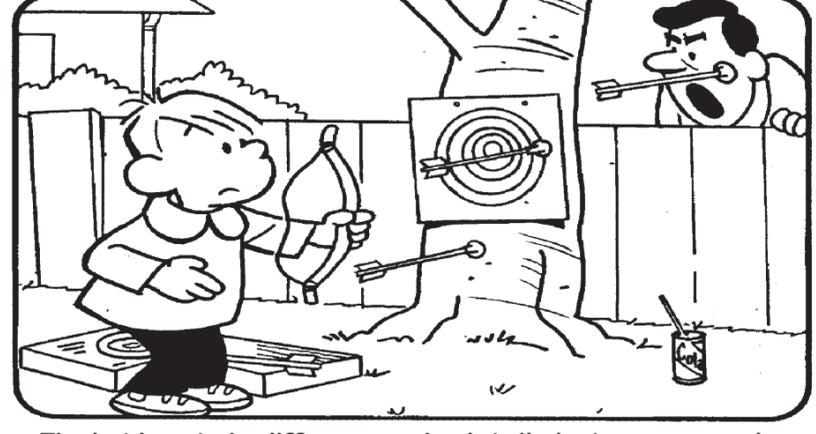
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

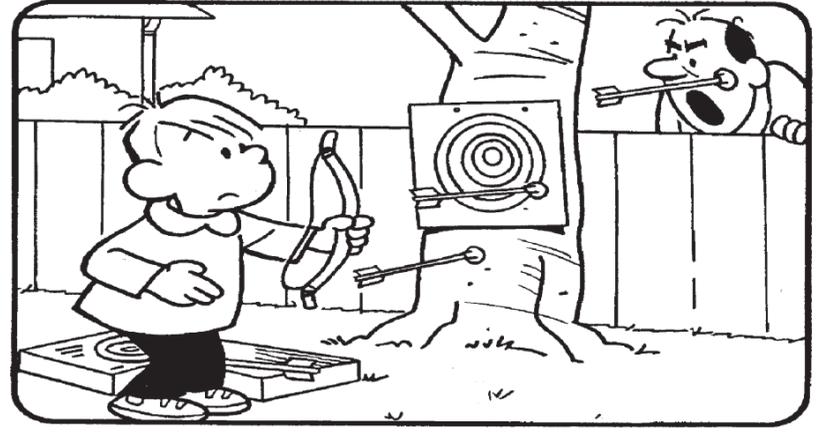
- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fence board is moved. 2. Collar is different. 3. Bow string is different. 4. Arrow is moved. 5. Hair is different. 6. Can is missing.

WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH HAIR COLOR

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

Winter Reading Challenge

Our answer to the question, “Après Ski?” Read! “Après ski” is 1950s French lingo describing all of the fun social activities that follow a day of shredding it on the slopes: libations, snacks...stories. After a day of work, what could be more celebratory than a night of reading? Join us on Beanstack or if you're a traditionalist, via pen & paper method. Registration opens in Beanstack starting Monday, December 5. Pen & Paper participants may register in person starting Friday, December 30. Adults only. The challenge runs January 1-February 28. Pick up a program flier for all the details.

Cricut Lab: My First Project

Beginners will create their first Cricut project by learning how to upload and create a design; how to alter a design and how to create layers. BYO Cricut machine (Explore Air or Maker) and cord; device with the Cricut app installed; cutting mat and blade. Thursday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Leslie Goddard Presents: Food Fads of the 40s, 50s & 60s.

Remember Jell-O salads and cheese sprayed out of a can? Take a nostalgic look back at the food innovations and marketing approaches that transformed how we eat. Using classic cookbooks, mass-market advertisements and family magazines, we'll explore how society and technology shaped American food from the 40s through the 60s. Monday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Adult Book Club

Pick up a book, then join us for a lively discussion of Bill Roorbach's epic new love story, “Lucky Turtle.” Copies of the reading available on loan. Email Joanna at jkluver@mail.meridian223.org to register for a link to the program. Monday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. Adults only.

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book Clubs

New- Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club meets Tuesday, January 24 at 6 pm at the Library to discuss A River Enchanted by Rebecca Ross. Books on Tap meets Thursday, January 26 at 6 pm to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. The 2WBC Book Club meets February 8, at 12:30 pm to discuss Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, February 12 at 5 pm (grab a book to find out where). The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, February 15, at 1:00 pm to discuss the The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams..

Winter Blues Bundle

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

Virtual Author Visit Watch Party

Saturday, February 11, 3-4pm. Love the graphic novel series Real Friends? Join us for a virtual author visit with writer, Shannon Hale, and illustrator, LeUyen Pham! They will talk about their books, answer your questions, and share an engaging activity. Registration begins now and can be done by going online or calling 815-732-2724. For more info, call the Library.

Preschool Story Time

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

YOGA

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

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Art

Ages 12-17 - Wednesday, January 25, at 6 pm. Are art classes about to become a thing of the past? From selfies to concept art, AI Art Generation apps are changing how we see art - and how we see computers. But what exactly is AI Art - what can it do and what exactly are its limitations? And what are the implications of AI Art, both now and in the future? Adult Services librarian Richard Pulfer will explore these topics and more. Participants will also have an opportunity to play around with AI art generators for themselves to better understand the new technology. Registration required.

Prairie 101: Create Your Own Prairie

Saturday, February 4, 10:30 am
Prairie used to cover millions of acres in Illinois, but where did it all go and how do we get it back? Whether it's your backyard or back forty, the resources to create native habitat are out there, but the key is knowing where to look. Locally, we have many groups that advocate for the restoration and recovery of prairie, offering helpful insights, and providing examples of what's possible with a little bit of knowledge and dirt under our fingernails. Come learn the basics of prairie, as well as where to gain the experience, skills, and confidence to start a project of your own. Austin Webb, Assistant Superintendent of Restoration/Maintenance at Byron Forest Preserve and President of Middle Rock Conservation Partners will share his experience and expertise in prairie restoration. Registration is required, so go online at www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or call 815-732-2724 to sign up.

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, February 7th at 1:00pm and 6:30pm (Choose your time slot) Painted Wine Glasses.

This is NOT a Take and Make. All supplies are provided. This is an adult class. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com. Registration deadline February 3rd.

Last Minute Valentines

Thursday, February 9 at 3:30 pm (ages 8 & up) . Can't find that special valentine? Let's create something you made yourself! A one-of-a-kind card and/or a no-sew mini- heart pillow. Registration deadline is February 3. Space is limited, so go online or call the library to register.

Murder Mystery Date Night Box

Pick up on Valentine's Day. Looking for something unique to do on Valentine's Day with your significant other or bestie? Register for our Murder Mystery Date Night Box. The box will contain a murder mystery to solve,



Young library patrons enjoyed the day off from school with a Fun Day Monday program at Julia Hull District Library (Stillman Valley). Using science and a variety of craft supplies, participants built snowmen made from homemade snow.

Tween Scene: The Chocolate Games

Think you've got game? Dust off your speed and agility for the ultimate challenge. Compete in a variety of ridiculous games for power, glory, and of course, chocolate! Tuesday, February 7, at 6 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Teens: Live-Action Clue

Teens are invited to attend Mr. Boddy's party at the library. He's also welcoming other guests of a... colorful variety. In case our host is late, we have a plan for getting answers. Friday, February 10 at 3:00 p.m. Ages 13-18. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Crooners in Concert

Start spreading the news! Master impressionist Dave Ehlert, brings the music and comedy of the Rat Pack to the library. Enjoy the smooth sounds of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and friends. Live! Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Young Critics Book Club

Join us for a book discussion and hands-on craft/activity all about the book “Unbound: The Life and Art of Judith Scott” by Melissa Sweet. Stop by the library to register for this in-person program and pick up your copy of the reading. Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. Ages 7-9.

an adult craft and a special surprise. Register is open from February 1st to February 8th. Boxes can be picked up on Tuesday, February 14th. Register online at <http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com> or call (815) 732-2724.

Lego Club

2nd grade & up - Wednesday, February 22 at 2:30 pm (early school dismissal). The club is designed to provide an enjoyable activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence. Registration required. Go online to our website or call, 815-732-2724, to register.

James Herriot: The Simple Life of the World's Most Famous Veterinarian

Thursday, February 23rd at 6:00pm. Join Anglophile and former UK resident Claire Evans as she recounts the life and times of Alf Wight, an unassuming country veterinarian who practiced for 50 years in one of England's most beautiful places, the Yorkshire Dales. He rose to international fame later in life under the pen name James Herriot as he recounted the heartwarming animal stories and colorful characters of a bygone era, inspiring a film and multiple television series. Of the latest TV adaptation of “All Creatures Great and Small,” shown on PBS' Masterpiece, The Guardian said, “Switching it on was the television equivalent of taking your brain out and dunking it into a bucket of warm tea (Yorkshire, obviously).” Bask in the visual beauty of Claire's recent Yorkshire Dales visit and learn the surprising story of the vet whose books still entertain millions. Registration required, www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or call (815) 732-2724.

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, February 27th at 6:30pm. Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and are thinking about them. Creating these cards makes it even more special. Come join us for Ink with a Friend. You will be provided a pre-cut kit along with personal instruction on how to create the wonderful cards while learning a variety of card making techniques. All designs include beautiful colored cardstock, gorgeous designer series paper, detailed stamped images, die cut pieces, matching ink, ribbon, and embellishments. This month, Liz has designed two (2) cards for you to make. All cards come with matching envelopes. Whether you're a new card maker or a seasoned pro, our kits are suited to every skill level. Don't wait! Sign up today to reserve your spot. Registration required (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Puzzle Library

The library has a free puzzle library. Take a puzzle, leave a puzzle. This is open to anyone in the community.

OPLD Dial-A-Story

Need a quick story? Call 815-732-2724, follow the prompts and presto...a story! Children's stories are changed monthly. Current story- What Do You Do With An Idea? by Kobi Yamada

Oregon Public Library StoryWalk®

At Oregon Park West. StoryWalk® was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT in 2007, and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library. Current story is Owl Moon by Jane Yolen.

Oregon Writers Group

Second Tuesday each month at 10:00 am. The OWG is a gathering of writers or writer-wannabes who meet to support each other and further their own writing. The purpose of the group is to help and encourage you in your writing. If you need brainstorming ideas, we can help suggest ideas or aid with the creative process.

Passport Services

The Oregon Public Library offers Passport Application Processing. Patrons seeking Passport Services should call the Library prior to their visit to ensure that an official processor is available at that time and for a checklist of items, you will need for the appointment.

New Releases

The Spare Man by Mary Robinette Kowal SF KOW
Isn't It Bromantic? by Lyssa Kay Adams ROM ADA
Loathe to Love You by Ali Hazelwood ROM HAZ
Don Rickles: The Merchant of Venom by Michael Seth Starr BIO RIC
The Song of the Cell by Siddhartha Mukherjee 571.63 MUK
Wings of War by David Fairbank White 940.54 WHI
Killing the Legends by Bill O'Reilly 306.4809 ORE
The White Mosque by Sofia Samatar 915.804 SAM
Novelist as a Vocation by Haruki Murakami 895.63 MUR
The Old Farmer's Almanac 2023 by Robert B. Thomas 031 OLD 2023
A Book of Days by Patti Smith 782.4216 SMI

FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Toddler/Pre-school Storytime

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

Community Room

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

Plastic Recycling

We are collecting film-type plastic for recycling. This includes plastic bags, zipper type baggies (with the zip portion removed), cereal/snack bags, bubble wrap, and other soft plastic. Please make sure bags are free from debris and remove all paper/sticker labels. We cannot accept hard plastic, such as water bottles, milk cartons, etc., for this program. Thank you!

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

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

2023 NOTICE OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

To All Owners And Occupiers Of Lands Lying Within The Boundaries Of The Ogle County Soil And Water Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that an Election will be held on the 7th day of February 2023 at 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the USDA Service Center, 213 W. Pines Road, Oregon, IL. Three (2) Directors will be elected to serve the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.

All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise.

Only such persons, firms or corporations are eligible to vote. Marcia Heuer, Chairperson Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District DATE: 8th day of December, 2022. No. 0103 (Jan. 9 and Jan. 23, 2023)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

KEITH BECKINGHAM, Plaintiff, V. KERRYBECKINGHAM, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. 2023FC1

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of the following Judge's Order of Lien regarding the following described premises: Part of the Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of the Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section 35, in Township 24 North, Range 9 East of the 4th P.M., bounded and described as follows: Beginning on the West line of said Section at a point 719 1/8 feet South of the Northwest corner of said Section, running thence East 28 ¼ rods, thence South 56.58 feet, thence West 28 ¼ rods, and North 56.58 feet to the Point of Beginning; situated in the Township of Mount Morris, County of Ogle and State of Illinois. PIN: 08-35-103-005 Common address or location of subject premises: 1823 South McKendrie Street, Mount Morris, Ogle County, Illinois. An identification of the Judge's Order of Lien sought to be foreclosed is as follows: (A) Nature of instrument: Judge's Order of Lien (B) Date of Lien: August 25, 2009 (C) Names of Obligor: Kerry Beckingham (D) Name of Claimant: Keith Beckingham (E) Date and place of recording: August 26, 2009, Ogle County, Illinois (F) Identification of recording: Ogle County Recorder, Document No. 200999909990 The undersigned further certifies pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1218: (a) The name and address of the person making said claim and asserting said Lien is Keith Beckingham, 314 E. Center Street, Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054. (b) Said Plaintiff claims a lien upon said real estate. (c) The nature of said claim is the lien and foreclosure action described

above. (d) The names of the persons against whom said claim is asserted are set forth above. (e) The legal description of said real estate appears above. (f) The name and address of the person executing this Notice appear below. (g) The name and address of the person who prepared this Notice appear below.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court: Clerk of the Circuit Court Ogle County Courthouse 106 S. 5th Street Oregon, IL 61061 on or before March 16, 2023, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

Clerk of the Circuit Court Ogle County, Illinois Courtney E. Kennedy (6322625) Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Considine, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 114 E. Everett Street, Suite 300 Dixon, IL 61021 (815) 288-4949 (815) 288-3068 (FAX) kennedy@egbclaw.com No. 0110 (Jan. 16, 23 and 30, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE Ogle County Housing Authority has developed paperwork related to its Annual Agency Plan process and Five-year Capital Fund Program budgets for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 in compliance with current HUD regulations. They are available for review at the Authority's Office located at 1001 Pines Road, Suite A, Oregon, IL. The office is open Monday through Friday between 8:00AM and 4:30PM. A public hearing will be held on March 8, 2023 at 12:00 PM. No. 0117 (Jan. 23, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE AMENDMENT OF TITLE 2, CHAPTER V - WATER RATES - GENERAL, SECTION: 2-6-1 OF THE DISTRICT'S ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE TO DEFINE WATER SERVICE CHARGES IN THE LOST LAKE UTILITY DISTRICT OF OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS ORDINANCE NO. 01-2023 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the Lost Lake Utility District of Ogle County, Illinois as follows: 1. That TITLE 2, CHAPTER V, WATER RATES GENERAL: SECTION 2-6-1 WATER SERVICE CHARGES be amended by striking paragraphs (A) and (E) and inserting in their place the following: ***** (A) Basic User Charge per month: \$40.80 ***** (E) A Water Availability Charge of \$12.34 per month shall be required of the owner of each undeveloped property: a residential user whose home/residence extends beyond one lot shall not pay a water availability charge on a lot that has any portion of the house or existing driveway encroaching on an adjacent lot and/or a lot that has a septic field and any part of a septic system located on it. (this does not include fences, sheds, or any temporary buildings, or detached building except for the primary garage) *****

2. This Ordinance shall be in full force from and after its passage and approval as provided by law. Passed by the Board of Trustees of the Lost Lake Utility District of Ogle County, Illinois and approved by the Chairman of said District this 21st day of March, 2023. No. 0120 (Jan. 23, 2023)

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."

BE YOUR OWN BOSS! Health & Wellness Industry. No experience necessary. Flexible Hours. Start Your Future Today! Call Now! Rick 630-965-1470. (01-25-23)

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.

Passed by the Board of Trustees of the Lost Lake Utility District of Ogle County, Illinois and approved by the Chairman of said District this 21st day of March, 2023. No. 0119 (Jan. 23, 2023)

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

Furman's Lawn Care and Tree Work. Fall clean up, gutters and more. Fully insured. In business since 1999. Rochelle and surrounding areas. Call Jeremy Furman at 815-761-9619. Please leave a message, will return call ASAP.

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.

(E) A Sewer Availability Charge of \$12.34 per month shall be required of the owner of each undeveloped property: a residential user whose home/residence extends beyond one lot shall not pay a sewer availability charge on a lot that has any portion of the house or existing driveway encroaching on an adjacent lot and/or a lot that has a septic field and any part of a septic system located on it. (this does not include fences, sheds, any temporary building, or detached building except for the primary garage) *****

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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 dick-harms@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 dick-harms@hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Brand new, still in box glass top coffee table and 2 end tables. \$150 cash only. 815-761-6576.

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

SPLIT firewood for sale. Contact 779-251-0254. (02-13-23)

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

505 BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

Office Spaces for Rent. 1054 Lincoln Hwy., Rochelle. Call 630-544-9673 (02-01-23)

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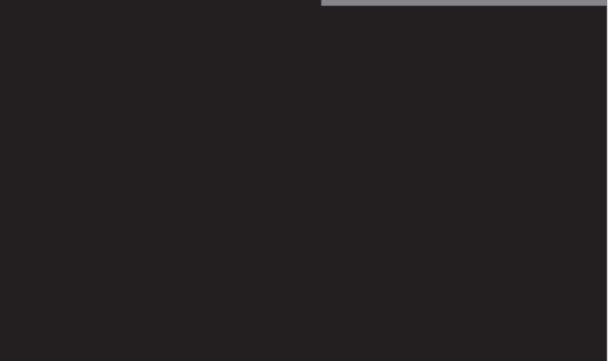
WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dick-harms@hotmail.com

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 dick-harms@hotmail.com

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A&T Auction Services, LLC
Travis Cunningham
(815) 297-4595
Located in Forrester, 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 AUCTION

hacksauction.hibid.com
Antiques, Primitives, Country Store & Art Pottery Two-Part Auction!
BIDDING OPENS: THURS., JAN. 26th @ 8 A.M.
PREVIEW: THURS., JAN. 26th - 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
PART ONE BIDDING CLOSES: SUN., FEB. 5th @ 6 P.M.
PART TWO BIDDING CLOSES: MON., FEB. 6th @ 6 P.M.
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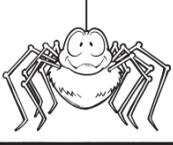


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WINTER SURVIVAL



How to make driving in inclement weather more safe

IMPAIRED visibility can be a safety hazard while driving. Everything from sun glare to hail can affect a driver's ability to see the road and navigate it effectively. Before drivers get behind the wheel, they should make note of their local forecast and make a plan for what to do if rain, snow or other conditions make it challenging to drive.

The International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences indicates that, based on an examination of crash test data conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the "likelihood of a crash increases during periods of low visibility, despite the tendency for less traffic and for lower speeds to prevail during these times."

Drivers can take several steps to improve their visibility when driving in poor weather conditions.

- Inspect and change windshield wiper blades. Wipers are instrumental in clearing precipitation away from the windshield. If they're not functioning properly, wipers cannot do their jobs. Drivers should replace their wipers at the first indication that they are no longer effective. In some conditions, wipers can freeze or stick. Drivers should then pull over and clean the wipers manually.

- Clear obstructions. Always make sure the windshield is clear before driving. This can include removing ice and snow in the winter and cleaning off mud or bug splatter in the spring and summer. Use the front and rear defrost if condensation fogs

up windshields and windows.

- Slow down. Foul weather can reduce drivers' ability to see far into the distance. Drivers should always drive slower in inclement weather in order to improve reaction time.

- Top off fluids. Always keep the windshield washer reservoir full and keep extra fluid in the trunk. In addition, look for a fluid that does not freeze in very cold temperatures.

- Learn how to drive in fog. Each year, more than 38,700 vehicle crashes occur in fog, states the Federal Highway Administration. Travelers Insurance recommends slowing down, staying focused and using regular headlights and

not high beams when driving in fog.

- Go out only if necessary. In snowy or icy conditions, drive only if it's absolutely necessary, as snow and ice can impair visibility and make roads slick, says AAA.

- Avoid driving at dusk and dawn. The human eye can have trouble adjusting to rapidly changing light and darkness conditions, which are common at dusk and dawn. If possible, drivers should make trips during the heart of the day, especially if poor lighting conditions typically make it difficult for them to drive.

Drivers can take steps to improve visibility when inclement weather makes roadways hard to navigate.

Understanding R-Values

INSULATION recommendations are based on certain factors that coordinate with regional climate zones to increase energy efficiency. These factors are known as R-values.

The R in R-value stands for "resistance," and refers to how certain products resist the flow of heat through walls, floors and ceilings. Products should reduce heat escape so heat is kept on the right side of the wall. In summer this means outdoors, in winter it means indoors. R-values relate not only to insulation, but also to walls, windows and other barriers. R-values also coordinate to the type, thickness

and density of the material being used.

The higher the R-value, the more resistant to heat the product is. The U.S. Department of Energy coordinates R-value to climate zones 1 through 7 (1: Tip of Florida; 7: Canadian border). A higher R-value is needed in Zone 7 and a lower R-value is necessary in Zone 1.

Those embarking on home improvement projects that involve choosing between R-values are urged to speak with a professional or to visit the Department of Energy website (www.energy.gov) to determine which R-Value is ideal for their homes.



Insulation recommendations are based on certain factors that coordinate with regional climate zones to increase energy efficiency.

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WINTER SURVIVAL

Signs of winter lawn damage

Mother Nature can be harsh on a lawn, and it's up to homeowners to nurse their lawns back to health after they endure the elements. That's often the case when winter ends and homeowners uncover signs of damage to their lawns.

Homeowners cannot begin to repair winter lawn damage until they learn to identify it, and the following are some telltale signs that winter took a harsh toll on a landscape.

- **Wilted grass:** Many things can cause grass to wilt over the course of winter, so homeowners may have to put on their sleuth's cap to determine why grass that was healthy as recently as late fall is now wilted as the spring bloom begins.

Grass that's adjacent to walkways and driveways might have wilted due to the application of de-icing solutions. Such products can prevent the formation of ice on driveways and walkways. However, when they're tracked onto the grass by people or animals or blown there by winter winds, grass can wilt. A deep watering in spring can flush any lingering resolution from the lawn.

In future winters, homeowners can be as careful as possible when applying de-icing solutions, making a concerted effort



Snow-covered lawns can be pretty, but heavy snowfall can contribute to winter lawn damage.

to avoid spreading any onto the grass and limited applications to areas of the driveway and walkways that are not close to the grass.

- **Brown patches:** The National Association of Landscape Professionals notes that brown patches in a lawn often develop after heavy snowfall. Such patches tend to develop where

large piles of shoveled snow were deposited, so homeowners can inspect alongside driveways and walkways. The NALP advises homeowners to rake away part of the brown patches first. If green tissue is emerging beneath, then the lawn will likely be fine in due time. However, if the area beneath is not green and surrounding areas are

already turning green, homeowners may need to rake up dead tissue before applying topsoil to the affected spots. Once topsoil is spread, some grass seed can be spread and the grass should regain its green glory.

- **Gray or pink grass:** Another indicator of winter lawn damage linked to snow is gray or pink grass. The NALP reports

that this is a byproduct of snow mold caused by lingering snow. Action may be unnecessary, as the NALP notes these circular patterns often go away on their own. If not, raking the affected areas might be enough to get the lawn on the road to recovery. If the issue continues to linger after raking, a topsoil application and subsequent seeding may

be necessary. These are three common signs of winter lawn damage in areas where snowfall is significant during the coldest months of the year. Homeowners concerned about their damaged lawns are urged to contact a local landscape professional to correct any issues that linger into spring.

4 factors to consider to maintain winter safety

MANY changes are to be expected as fall gives way to winter. Temperatures drop for much of the country, and depending on where one lives, snow, wind and ice are to be expected.

As beautiful as snow-covered landscapes can be, winter presents unique hazards, notably slippery roads and surfaces. Chilly temperatures also can put people at risk if they spend prolonged periods outdoors unprotected.

According to the insurance company Car-Insurance, more than 156,000 crashes occur annually due to icy roads. Roughly 17 percent of all vehicle crashes happen in winter conditions. Winter hazards are not exclusive to driving, however. That means winter safety involves a consideration of a host of factors.

1. Changing visibility

While slippery surfaces may contribute to some accidents, visibility can quickly change with winter weather. Blowing snow can contribute to whiteout conditions. In addition, fog can be hazardous to drivers, aviators and mariners and contributes to thousands of travel accidents every year, advises the National Weather Service. It's important to slow down, leave plenty of distance, use your low-beam headlights, and recognize when it may be safest to pull over, such as when visibility is significantly compromised.

2. Snow removal

Shoveling snow or using a snowblower are common wintertime

activities. Yet strenuous levels of activity in cold temperatures could put people at risk of heart attack, particularly if they are not acclimated to physical activity. Always warm up prior to shoveling snow to prepare the body for exercise. Go slowly and take frequent breaks. Avoid twisting and tossing snow over your shoulder, which can contribute to back injuries.

3. Carbon monoxide

poisoning

Winter weather means turning up the heat or doing more indoor cooking. Carbon monoxide is produced through the burning of fuel in various forms, including stoves, engines, gas ranges, portable generators, and grills. The National Safety Council says carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can go undetected as it builds up in enclosed spaces. Never warm up the car

inside of a contained garage. Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors, and have furnaces, water heaters and other fuel-burning appliances checked and serviced by a qualified technician annually. Be sure that carbon monoxide alarms are on every floor of the home, and take it seriously if the alarm goes off.

4. Black ice

Black ice is a common winter foe. Black ice

forms when temperatures rise above freezing during the day, melting any snow on the ground and causing surfaces to become wet. If the temperature drops once more while the ground is wet, a thin, transparent sheet of ice can form. Black ice also may occur if moisture in the air condenses and forms dew or fog, and then the temperature drops below freezing, says the National Weather

Service. Black ice gets its name because it looks black on asphalt roads. However, it also can form on sidewalks and overpasses, or spots shaded by trees or other objects. Slowing down and exercising extreme caution are essential. Winter is a beautiful season. But it can be just as hazardous as it is awe-inspiring. Taking steps to stay safe in unpredictable conditions is a necessity each winter.

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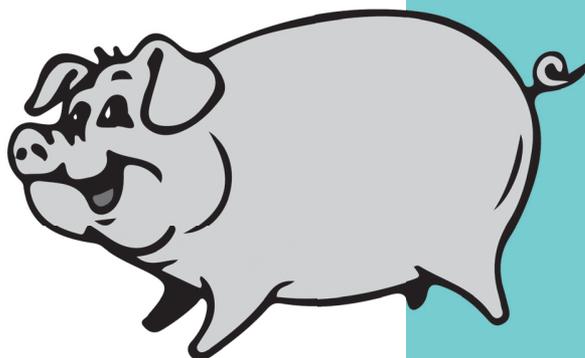


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Savings strategies for weddings

THE question was popped; the engagement ring presented. What's the next step on the road to the wedding? Saving should definitely be on couples' minds.

A wedding is likely the most costly party couples will ever throw. According to The Knot's 2019 Real Weddings Study, the average cost of a wedding in 2019 was \$33,900. There are many different costs associated with weddings. Some are predictable, while others are unexpected.

Investopedia says the vast majority of couples budget too little for their weddings and also end up spending more than they had planned. Various strategies can make it easier to save for a wedding and avoid a post-wedding financial hangover.

Get informed

It's impossible to budget for a wedding and ultimately save without knowledge of what services and items cost in the region where you live. A wedding in New York City will be expensive, while a wedding in Mississippi will cost a lot less, indicates SuperMoney's guide to wedding costs.

Conduct some research and find out what photographers, florists, transportation providers, reception halls, and wedding wardrobe vendors charge for common services. This will paint a vivid picture of what a wedding may cost in your area.

Flesh out the budget

Once you have gath-

Various strategies can make it easier to save for a wedding and avoid a post-wedding financial hangover.



ered estimates, you can then figure out a financial goal. This also is when you can determine where to rein in spending and where you might want to splurge. If having a video memory of the wedding is not a top priority, you can skip videography services. If you have a special flower that you like, you may want to budget more for that bloom even if it isn't in season.

Set up a dedicated savings account

One of the easiest ways to save for big-ticket items like a wedding, home purchase or other financial goals is to use an automatic savings account that may be available through your bank or employer. An automatic savings plan will pull a set amount from a personal checking account into a savings account through auto-draft. The bride and groom can link individual checking accounts to one savings account to contribute jointly.

Avoid overspending

An analysis of your

spending habits will likely reveal areas where you can scale back so you can devote more funds to wedding savings. Do you need a takeout coffee in the morning or can you brew a pot at home? Might you be able to scale back on streaming services? Do you feel comfortable buying less expensive store brand groceries over name brands? Small cost savings can quickly add up.

Add up gifts

Factor in deduction of expenses that other people will commit to covering for wedding expenses, but only if you have concrete confirmation. A parent may host the rehearsal dinner. One's relative may offer to pass down an antique wedding gown to wear. But rather than simply removing these gifts from your savings calculations, keep them as a safety net to put toward unforeseen expenses.

Saving for a wedding can be challenging. But various strategies can help couples plan their dream weddings without breaking the bank.

Music is an important component of wedding celebrations

FEW things set the mood of a wedding more effectively than music. Beautiful songs often are incorporated into wedding ceremonies, and romantic or upbeat songs intermingle to create a festive mix at receptions.

Playlists curated specifically for weddings can be found online to help couples narrow down their options. According to Wedding Forward, a wedding planning guide, wedding planning experts and modern couples agree that wedding playlists should be have a 60/40 split of classics and new wedding songs.

Music is a personal choice, but couples may benefit by considering who will be in attendance at their weddings. In so doing, couples can ensure the music played at their weddings reaches as many people as possible there:

- **Wedding processional song:** The wedding processional is the moment the wedding party walks down the aisle. Music may be a traditional hymn, classical music or a favorite contemporary song.

- **Bridal processional song:** In many traditional wedding ceremonies, the bride walks down the aisle separately, with her father or both parents. She customarily will have a different song from the rest of the wedding party. While “Bridal Chorus/Wedding



Wedding planning experts and modern couples agree that wedding playlists should be have a 60/40 split of classics and new wedding songs.

March” is a traditional choice, some brides may prefer a different tune.

- **Wedding recessional song:** Again, depending on the ceremony location and choices, the recessional may be a classical piece or a hymn. Some couples choose

an upbeat song for their first official promenade as a married couple.

- **Wedding party entrance song:** Couples can ask their music vendor to put together the majority of the songs for their reception, but they may want to choose their own wedding party entrance. This song typically is a fast-paced, upbeat song that gets the crowd pumping and ready for a fun night. Think “Dynamite” by Taio Cruz or “Can’t Stop the Feeling!” by Justin Timberlake.

- **First dance:** The first dance song is another personal choice for the couple. Slow songs traditionally are chosen, but couples who want something a little different have increasingly selected faster songs and paired them with rehearsed choreography. “Thinking Out Loud” by Ed Sheeran has become a popular first dance song.

- **Other songs:** Couples also will select songs to complement dances with their parents, cake cutting, garter toss, and any other special traditions or moments. They also can make requests to include songs of different eras to appeal to guests of all ages.

Music is an important component of wedding celebrations and deserves some extra consideration to ensure everyone has a great time while cutting a rug



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Tips to help master your wedding guest list

WEDDINGS are such momentous occasions that it's no wonder couples want to share their big days with as many people as possible. Though a wedding where all friends, family members and acquaintances are in attendance may be a dream scenario, reality often calls for a more carefully curated guest list.

Data from The Wedding Report indicates that the average cost of a wedding is slightly more than \$20,000, though that figure could be substantially higher, or even lower, depending on where couples tie the knot. Both The Wedding Report and The Knot report that a wedding venue and cater-

ing make up a significant percentage of the overall cost of a wedding, with some figures indicating that these expenses account for around 65 percent of the final price tag. The number of guests couples will host on their wedding day will affect which venue they book and how much food and beverages they'll need to satisfy guests. Couples who hope to stay within budget can consider these tips as they try to build a guest list that won't break the bank.

- **Accept input.** Parents may no longer foot the entire bill for their children's weddings, but couples who are accepting some financial help from parents must also accept Mom's and Dad's input regarding the guest

list. Even if parents' desired guests do not ultimately make the cut, it's best to respect their wishes and consider who they want to invite. Couples who are financing their own weddings without outside help need not feel beholden to invite anyone who does not meet their invitation criteria.

- **Make a preliminary list without regard to budget.** Couples can have fun making preliminary guest lists without considering their budgets. A preliminary list can serve as a solid starting point, and couples may even realize that their list is within budget. Once the preliminary lists have been created, couples can categorize guests (i.e., distant cousins, coworkers, etc.)

and then work together to determine if any categories can be eliminated from the invitation list. For example, couples who may be going over budget with their guest lists can each agree to remove distant cousins from their prospective invitees.

- **Seek advice.** Many couples face difficult decisions regarding their wedding day guest lists, so it can be helpful to speak to a recently married friend or relative to see how they handled paring down their guest lists. Some might have done it by category, while others might have limited guest lists to local friends and family. When taking this approach, couples can speak to friends about how they approached handling



people who were surprised that they were not on the final list of invitees.

- **Throw a less formal party down the road.** A less expensive backyard barbecue within weeks of tying the knot can serve as a less costly alternative to a large wedding reception. Couples who take this approach can keep their wedding day guest lists

to a minimum, but invite everyone they hope to see to a post-wedding day backyard barbecue or pot luck picnic so they can celebrate with everyone they love.

Curating a wedding day guest list is no small task. However, couples can try various approaches to keep a guest list more manageable and less expensive.

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A guide to wedding day floral arrangements

VARIOUS elements come together to complete a wedding day visual. Floral arrangements are one such component that can create a special and awe-inspiring ambiance.

Flowers appeal to at least three of the senses. Their delicate aroma can help a venue smell fresh and inviting. And it's hard to deny the visual appeal of a stunning floral arrangement. There are colors, sizes, textures, and much more that can cater to any theme. In addition, flowers can add a tactile element, even if guests do not go around touching the blooms.

Flowers convey so much during weddings that it's important to make finding a florist a priority, according to the wedding resource The Knot. The following is a guide to understanding floral arrangements that may be included in a wedding.

Bouquets, corsages and boutonnières

The wedding party, bride, groom, and parents of the couple are set apart from others at the wedding ceremony by the special flowers on their attire and in their hands, among other indicators. Boutonnières are a single bud pinned to the left side of a gentleman's jacket. Corsages can be attached to a dress, but are now often worn on the wrist. Bouquets are held in hand. They can be a few flowers gathered together, or more extensive displays. Bouquets may feature bare stems, or stems may be bound and hidden beneath ribbon and fabric.

Some couples also have a small tossing bouquet to use later in the day. Flower petals for a flower girl to drop down the aisle also may be part of the floral plan.

Ceremony flowers

Guests often are first introduced to floral arrangements at the wedding ceremony. Potted or vase-encased flowers may book-end the couple at the altar. Seats or pews may be adorned with flower sprays to draw attention to the aisle, known as aisle markers. These are subtle choices that enhance the ceremony space.

Reception components

Flowers may truly shine during the reception. They're one of the most important components when decorating the space. Flowers serve as centerpieces, so the guest list and the number of tables will dictate how many centerpieces are required. These centerpieces can be elaborate or simply a few loose flowers in vases. Florists can customize the look depending on couples' budgets. Some additional reception flowers can include installations on arches or on anything hanging like a floral backdrop for photo opportunities.

Tips and tricks

Couples should create a list of everywhere they would like to use flowers and present it, along with magazine clippings or planning boards, to show florists what they have in mind when shopping services, according to Hummingbird Wedding Advice. A 2021 survey from The Knot reported that the average cost for wedding flowers was \$2,300. It's important to set a strict budget so florists can present ideas that are in line with what couples can spend. Many expensive looks can be replicated with in-season flowers or less costly alternatives.

Flowers are an important part of the wedding day and should be incorporated into couples' budgets.



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How to find the right wedding reception venue

EVERY decision engaged couples make in regard to their weddings is significant, but some may affect the day more than others. Perhaps no decision will help couples set the tone they hope to establish more than their choice of reception venue.

Reception venues are where couples and their guests will spend the vast majority of their time on the wedding day, which is why choice of venue bears such significance. With that in mind, couples can consider these tips as they look for the perfect place to host their receptions.

- Decide what you want out of a venue. Prospective brides and grooms may have vastly different ideas regarding how they want their weddings to go, and it's imperative that couples discuss their ideal weddings prior to looking for a venue. Do you want to get married in a place of worship? Or do you prefer a venue that can host both the ceremony and reception? Do you want an indoor, outdoor or hybrid ceremony and reception? Define what you both want before looking for a venue and make the necessary concessions if you have different ideas in mind.

- Consider picking a venue before setting a date. It

can be wise to pick a reception venue first and then choose your wedding date based on the availability of the venue. This is especially important for couples who already have an ideal venue in mind, and it also provides some flexibility as couples search for the venue. For example, couples working within a strict budget may not be able to afford a preferred venue during the height of wedding season, but that venue could be less costly during slower times of year. By waiting to pick a date until you've chosen a venue, you're increasing your options.

- Consider your guests. Though couples, particularly those footing the bill on their own, should prioritize their desires when choosing a reception, it's important they also consider their guests before making a final decision. A venue that's accessible and located near transit hubs like airports and train stations will increase the likelihood that more people can attend. In addition, if children will be invited, a venue that includes family restrooms, including at least one with a changing table, can make parents' nights much easier.

- Consider your budget. The Knot 2021 Real Weddings Study found that couples typically spend

around 30 percent of their overall budget on the venue, which makes this decision the biggest one in terms of the financial commitments a couple will have to make. Couples may be tempted to choose an awe-inspiring, costly venue for their reception, but they should consider how devoting so much of their budget to the venue will affect the rest of their big day. The best reception venue might be one that won't eat up too much of your budget.

- Consider the package. Venues vary in terms of their reception packages. Some may offer catering, including beverages, with each of their packages, while food and beverage might not be part of other venues' offerings. If you find a venue you love but it doesn't offer catering services, seek estimates from area caterers to determine how much it will cost to feed and serve your guests. Many couples find it more convenient and less stressful to pick a venue that offers on-site catering, though plenty of others have had no trouble after choosing a venue and separate caterer.

The bulk of a couple's wedding day and night will be spent at the reception, making choice of venue one of the more fun and important decisions they'll have to make.





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Responsibilities of various members of a wedding party

PARTICIPATING in a wedding party is an honor. Couples invite many people to their weddings, and the select few asked to be in the party are typically those individuals with whom the couples shares a strong and special bond.

The role of the wedding party is not merely symbolic. Though it's up to the happy couple to determine how involved they want their wedding party to be, individuals asked to be in the party should know that their acceptance of these roles carries with it a certain level of responsibility.

Maid of Honor

The maid of honor may bear the most responsibility of any wedding party member. Maids of honor typically help with the planning of the wedding, offering advice and opinions on everything from the bride's gown to the bridesmaid dresses and anything else a couple might need help with. If the bride asks, the maid of honor may be asked to organize dress fittings and attend them as well. A maid of honor typically plays an active, and often the lead, role in planning the bachelorette party. Come the day

of the wedding, the maid of honor helps the bride prepare and may organize the bridesmaids to ensure everyone stays on schedule. A maid of honor typically toasts the happy couple during the reception as well.

Best Man

Like the maid of honor, the best man has some extra responsibilities before the wedding and during the festivities. A best man may organize tux fittings, plan the bachelor party, help make arrangements if the groom requests help, and be asked to hold the rings on the day of the ceremony. A best man toast is common during the reception, and some grooms ask their best men to distribute tips to vendors at the end of the night.

Bridesmaids

Bridesmaids often help the maid of honor plan the bachelorette party, and they also help to organize the bridal shower if the bride chooses to have one. Bridesmaids can offer input on wedding planning, particularly if they're already married, though that is not necessarily required. Bridesmaids also can

help relieve stress on the bride by being as agreeable as possible when scheduling dress fittings.

Groomsmen

Groomsmen help to plan the bachelor party and may be asked to provide some support prior to the ceremony. For example, on the day of the wedding, groomsmen may be asked to show guests, particularly elderly friends and family of the couple, to their seats. Like their bridesmaid counterparts, groomsmen can be especially helpful by doing what's asked of them without resistance. Arriving on

time to tuxedo fittings and offering insight when they think it might help are some simple ways groomsmen can pitch in.

Flower Girl/Ring Bearer

Often reserved for children, the roles of flower girls and ring bearers only require some simple participation during the ceremony. Flower girls drop petals as they precede down the aisle ahead of the wedding party, while the ring bearer carries the ring down the aisle. If these roles will be filled by especially young children, couples may choose to have them walk down the aisle together.



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Your wedding timeline guide

Wedding planning involves many movable pieces that ultimately need to come together on the big day. Planning is typically a months-long process, and adhering to certain monthly benchmarks can help couples stay the course.

Brides magazine offers that the perfect engagement period is 12 to 14 months, affording ample time to organize and work with vendors. With that in mind, here's a 12-month timeline for couples getting ready to say "I do."

12 months out

At the start of the planning process, establish your budget, hire a wedding planner (optional), choose the wedding party, pick a date, and start to assemble a cursory guest list. This also is a great time to begin touring venues to get a feel for potential ceremony and reception locales.

11 months out

Now is the time to get a firm handle on the theme and scope of the wedding. Start picking wedding colors and overall design. Also, interview and hire vendors, such as photographers, bands and videographers. These vendors tend to book up quickly as wedding season draws near, so it's never too early to book them.

10 months out

This is a good time to start shop-

ping for a wedding gown because it might take some trial and error to find the perfect dress. You also can start shopping for wedding party attire at this time. Check with formalwear vendors to see how long it will take for the gowns to arrive in the shop for alterations. If you haven't already done so, be sure to book the wedding venue.

8 months out

Reception halls may have their own schedules, but you should think about setting your menu at this time, including deciding if you will host a seated dinner, a buffet or something else.

Eight months out also is a good time to finalize the guest list and send save-the-date cards.

This also is a good time to visit stores to create registry gift lists.

6 months out

Meet with potential florists and other vendors, like transportation companies and hotels, to secure these arrangements. Your place of worship also may require certain classes or preparatory meetings, so be sure to inquire about these.

Meet with a makeup and hair stylist and book a trial. Choose attire for groomsmen and give them a deadline for fittings and orders. If you will not be getting married in a place of worship, hire an officiant

at this time.

4 months out

Grooms traditionally arrange the honeymoon, so this is a fine time to get those travel plans in order. If you need passports, you should secure them as early as possible, and no later than four months prior to the wedding to ensure processing times. Book cake tastings and order the cake if it is not part of the venue food and beverage package. If you haven't already done so, the bride should have an initial gown fitting, and wedding invitations should be ordered at this time.

2 months out

Secure your wedding license and buy wedding party gifts. Address and mail the wedding invitations. Undergo a second gown fitting and work with the seamstress for the final fitting date just before the wedding. Finalize any song selections with the DJ or band.

The final details will occur in the last weeks before the wedding. Buy all the small accessories and items, undergo final fittings and check in with all vendors for final payments and to ensure they are on schedule. Notify the reception hall of the final guest count.

Once the wedding day arrives, couples who have done their best to stay on schedule can relax and have a great time with family and friends.



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