



Yoga class at Rock River Center B1

Ogle County LIFE

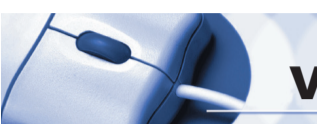
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



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MONDAY
Jan. 16, 2023

FREE



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KNOW IT TODAY



OJSHS state scholars recognized

Oregon Junior Senior High School state scholars were recently recognized at the school. 9A

WEATHER

MONDAY HIGH LOW 44 41	TUESDAY HIGH LOW 44 30
WEDNESDAY HIGH LOW 38 29	THURSDAY HIGH LOW 40 26
FRIDAY HIGH LOW 34 23	SATURDAY HIGH LOW 31 19

OBITUARIES

- Donna Hazlip
- Lisa Holby
- Joseph Lepage
- Emma Scerba
- Shilrey Thompson
- Terry Winter

See page 4A

INSERTS

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



No injuries after vehicle crashes into Ogle County Brewery

OREGON — No injuries were seen Jan. 8 when a vehicle accident ended with a car inside the Ogle County Brewery in Oregon.

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 brewery building on the northwest corner of the

intersection. Risley was issued a citation for disobeying a traffic control device.

The brewery was closed Monday, but reopened Tuesday, Jan. 10 and thanked its building owners and the quick work of Oregon Police and Fire and friends.

“Thankfully everybody is safe and no one sustained any harm,” an OCB Facebook post said. “Thank you all so much for reaching out! We’re very thankful to live in such a wonderful community of people who care.”



Little Hubs Learning Center officially opens, brings daycare back to Rochelle

‘We’re here for the community and all these parents can go back to work and school’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Little Hubs Learning Center at 1010 N. 15th St. opened and saw its first day of operation on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Rochelle had been without a daycare since

2020 when Kishwaukee Family YMCA Child Care Center closed at the same location. The new daycare is owned by Ron and Joni Spartz and their daughter, Kristin Spartz Barlow, runs it as director.

The family and staff members worked for the past four months to open

the facility and had to get it back in working order. Barlow said the work involved anywhere from 5-15 hours a day cleaning, fixing things, visits with DCFS and the state fire marshal and parent tours and signups.

See CENTER page 2

Sheriff: No enforcement planned for recent gun act

‘HB 5471 is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment’

OREGON — Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle sent out a press release Wednesday reacting to the recently-signed House Bill 5471, or the Protect Illinois Communities Act.

On Tuesday, Gov. JB Pritzker signed the bill, banning the sale, distribution and manufacture of high-power assault weapons, .50 caliber rifles and ammunition, and large-capacity magazines while still allowing people who already own such weapons to keep them.

People who currently own such weapons would be required to register them with the Illinois State Police. Those individuals would be required to disclose the make, model and serial number of the specified weapons to obtain a special endorsement on their Firearm Owners Identification, or FOID card. Compliance is planned by Jan. 1, 2024.

“As your duly-elected sheriff, myself and my staff are sworn to protect the citizens of Ogle County,” VanVickle’s press release said. “This oath and responsibility is taken with the utmost seriousness.

When I was sworn into office, I accepted the duty to protect the rights provided to all of us in the Constitution. One of those enumerated rights is the right of the people to keep and bear arms provided under the second amendment. The right to keep and bear arms for defense of life, liberty and property is regarded as an inalienable right by the people.

I, among many others, believe that HB 5471 is a clear violation of the second Amendment to the Constitution. Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for Ogle County,



“I, among many others, believe that HB 5471 is a clear violation of the second Amendment to the Constitution. Therefore... neither myself or my office will be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the state...”

Ogle County Sheriff
Brian VanVickle

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.”

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LOCAL NEWS

CENTER: Daycare facility now open in Rochelle

From page 1

“It was nonstop work for about four months,” Barlow said. “We’d be here sometimes until midnight. The day before we opened we were here until 11 p.m. just making sure everything was ready to go. Knowing that we were finally done with that phase and stress was great. And it’s been great knowing we’re here for the community and all these parents can go back to work and school. That’s the best part. They have a safe place for their children to go and we’re here to provide it.”

After the last daycare center closed, the City of Rochelle took on preliminary work in hopes of helping to bring a daycare back to town. It put out a survey to residents that came back with overwhelming results in favor of a daycare with 72 percent of respondents saying they’re in need of a daycare and 71 percent saying their children would be likely to attend a daycare if it opened in town.

saw talk online about the need for daycare in Rochelle and Barlow brought up the idea of purchasing the building and opening one. She’s worked on opening four other daycares under previous employers. Little Hubs Learning Center is a for-profit organization.

The facility has 24 staff members and Barlow said she was pleasantly surprised at the amount of interest in work at Little Hubs. When open interviews were done in September, 50 applicants were seen. A lot of current staff members worked at the location under previous owners, such as Assistant Director Brittany Furman, who worked at the location for about 23 years.

“It was nice to come back and see all the kids and have the building utilized again,” Furman said. “It’s a nice building and the community definitely needed it. When seeing parents on the first day, I could tell that some were relieved. They expressed that feeling of, ‘Finally, reliable daycare.’ If you go to a home daycare



Little Hubs Learning Center at 1010 N. 15th St. opened and saw its first day of operation on Tuesday, Jan. 3. Rochelle had been without a daycare since 2020 when Kishwaukee Family YMCA Child Care Center closed at the same location. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

or something like that, they might be sick or go on vacation. Here, we don’t close down for things like that. It’s a lot more reliable and the hours are a little bit longer.”

Little Hubs Learning Center currently has seven operating classrooms for different age

groups. Out of the seven, three are completely full with a waiting list.

“We still have openings in our other rooms,” Barlow said. “We have space for 106 children and we have 58 enrolled. We’re at about half capacity in those. Most of them are older kids that we can take. We noticed a big need for small children, especially younger infants and toddlers under two. The amount of care that was needed for them, those rooms filled up day one. We could tell how needed it was because those parents were here immediately trying to get packets to get their children in.”

Barlow said that on the second day of operation, almost every parent she talked to said their children fell

asleep early and had to be woken up the next morning.

“Because they were tired from being here and getting their energy out and having fun and playing and learning,” Barlow said. “It was great to see. The children get more socialization here and meet others and a lot of children that are their age.”

In the future, Barlow said Little Hubs Learning Center hopes to add another school-age classroom. She’d also like to host a camp for school-age kids in the summer. She’s currently working with the Rochelle Elementary School District on getting transportation to the center after school starting next year.

“I’d also like to get

more active in the community and have a place here where kids can get clothing and canned goods and things that they need,” Barlow said. “Not just kids that come here, but anybody who needs anything. I’d like to get something started on that. People bring stuff in and donate it and we’re able to help out people that need it.”

Not only did the community play a part in advocating for a daycare to come back to Rochelle, but it also helped Little Hubs Learning Center in its work to open over recent months.

“The community has been great,” Barlow said. “Anytime I’d post on Facebook looking for something for the facility, they came through. I was short a couple of things, and people would drop something off. I needed a slide one day and somebody was there that day dropping off a slide. Anytime I needed help, the community reached out to help us with getting open. And that’s how I got a lot of my staff, through word of mouth.”

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LOCAL NEWS



2022 Fall PAS: L-R: John Morgan, Carter Conderman, Mateo Garcia, Dylan Lewis, Carter Daws, Jase Sheffey, Sara Johnson, Cole Becker, Dylan Greenfield, Kyley Cardoza, Benjamin Bremmer, Alyssa Miller, Adriana Anderson, Brooke Ewald, Hannah Visel, Anna Johnson, Carissa Minx, Magen Busker and Lakin Getz. Not pictured: Regan Scidmore.

Local Highland Ag students showcase talents at 2022 Illinois PAS Conference

FREEPORT — Several Highland Agriculture students were honored with awards at the 2022 Illinois PAS Conference on Thursday, Oct. 13 at Hancock Stadium on the campus of Illinois State University.

Twenty Highland Community College Agriculture students participated in the one-day event. Students partook in several competitions with other students from across the state. Categories included employment interviews, career planning project presentations, agricultural sales presentations, agricultural teaching demonstrations, and knowledge-based exams and practicums in the areas of soil science, landscape horticulture, and equine science.

Professional Agriculture Students (PAS) Organization is a national student organization that provides opportunities for college agriculture students to experience individual growth, leadership, and career preparation through competition and cooperative activities.

To prepare for the 2022 Illinois PAS Conference, students completed resumes, career planning projects, lesson plans, sales presentations, and study content-related materials. Their results are below.

“I am very proud of all the students that competed at the 2022 Illinois PAS Conference,” Justin Ebert, an agriculture instructor, said. “It is a great way for students to network with other agriculture students and professionals while showing off their talents.”

Local student placements:

Dylan Greenfield (Forreston) — Retail agribusiness career planning project, second place.

Carter Daws (Forreston) — Ag equipment service employment interview, third place.

Brooke Ewald (Byron) — Livestock production employment interview.

Carter Conderman (Byron) — Fertilizer and chemicals employment interview.

Cole Becker (Forreston) — Crop production employment interview.

Highland had two Equine Science teams in the team competitions: Anna Johnson, Ewald, Hannah Visel, Sara Johnson, Kyley Cardoza, and Carissa Minx (Eagle River, Wisconsin). The two teams finished in fourth and fifth place with Minx placing sixth overall in the contest.

The Highland soil science team included Lakin Getz (Savanna), John Morgan (Mount Carroll), and Conderman. The team finished in sixth place. Finally, the Landscape horticulture team was Conderman, Dylan Lewis (Forreston) and Mateo Garcia (Hanover). Conderman finished in fifth place and Lewis was seventh.

Students and teams that finished in first or second place are eligible to compete at the National PAS Conference to be held March 15-18, 2023, at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, Iowa.

DEAN'S LIST

3 locals named to UW Oshkosh fall 2022 dean's list, honor roll

OSHKOSH, Wis. — University of Wisconsin Oshkosh officials have released the names of students who qualified for the dean's list and honor roll in fall 2022 across its three campuses (Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Oshkosh).

The term grade-point average (GPA) requirement for university honor roll is 3.3; the term GPA requirement for dean's list is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0.

To qualify, a student must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. There can be no individual grades below a “C” and no incomplete or non-reported grades at the time the process is run.

Byron: Anika Roush, dean's list. Stillman Valley: Chad Gerig, honor roll, and Nolan Swenson, honor roll.

Byron's Penrod named to fall 2022 dean's list at WIU

MACOMB/MOLINE — A total of 1,103 undergraduate students enrolled at Western Illinois University were named to the fall 2022 dean's list including Nathaniel R. Penrod (senior) of Byron.

To receive this award, an undergraduate student must earn at least a 3.6 grade point average on a scale of 4.0, which equals an A in a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded courses; pass-fail hours are not counted (e.g., student teaching, internships).

Pierce makes dean's list at Maryville College

MARYVILLE, Tenn. — Adrian Pierce of Oregon recently made the dean's list for the 2022 semester at Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee. Pierce is a graduate of Bentonville High School.

Consideration for the dean's list is open to full-time students who have a grade point average of at least 3.6 in all work undertaken, no grade below a “C” and no incompletes for the semester.

A private liberal arts college located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee, Maryville College has educated students for more than 200 years to be giving citizens and gifted leaders and to study everything, so that they are prepared for anything.

Stender named OJSHS December Senior of Distinction

OREGON — Grant Stender was recently named Oregon Junior Senior High School's December Senior of Distinction.

Nate Rogers, OJSHS tech specialist PLTW, sang Stender's praises.

“Grant is an exceptional male role model for everyone in our school. He is kind and patient with everyone, he works hard in school and in extracurricular activities to grow his skills, and he is actively involved in many areas of our community. We often overlook soft-spoken people because they do not attract the same amount of attention a louder, more gregarious personality. Anyone who observes Grant around his peers can see that he is both respected and well-liked as

a leader in his class. Part of being a good leader is making those around you feel safe in who they are and safe knowing they can trust you. Grant recognizes and accepts everyone for who they are and he responds with kindness, respect, and patience in all situations. Grant works hard on his studies to go above and beyond to achieve success in the classroom. For example, although Grant was already getting an A in sociology and it was close to the end of the semester, he did an extra credit assignment that gave him more points. In addition to being an excellent student in my sociology class, Grant's overall grades are exceptional. Not only does Grant do what's necessary to succeed in class, he goes above and beyond to excel

in everything he does. Grant has built himself into an incredible all-state musician who can play multiple instruments. He was an all-conference soccer player in the fall and is already achieving great things in the current wrestling season. Furthermore, Grant had to show great determination, grit, and patience in overcoming a serious back injury that has kept him sidelined for many months as a junior. In serving our community, Grant has traveled around the country to do missions trips and gain service hours. I can only hope that my own young son can watch a Grant Stender in order to learn what it means to be a person who stands for the principles of integrity, compassion, hard work, helpfulness and grit.”



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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Donna Hazlip

FREEPORT — Donna M. Hazlip, 85, of Freeport passed away on Jan. 4 at Pearl Pavilion in Freeport. She was born Oct. 2, 1937 at KSB Hospital in Dixon to Lee and Goldie (Anderson) Feary. Her mother Goldie passed away when Donna was two days old. Donna only weighed two pounds and was in the hospital for several months. Unable to take care of a newborn baby, her father asked his cousin, Elsie Feary Hardesty if she would take Donna. She was raised by Ira and Elsie Hardesty. She attended school in Mt. Morris, graduated from Polo High School and received a bachelor degree in business, worked in the Chicago area for several years and then came back to Ogle County and was a press secretary

for the Ogle County Newspapers until her retirement. She was united with Marion "Gene" Hazlip Oct. 28, 1967 and they celebrated 50 years of marriage before his passing a year later. Survivors include foster sister Eleanor Hardesty Stouffer, Nieces Sharon (Ronald) Baker, Alicia (Charles) Hays, Valerie Collins and Vici Wigger, nephews David Stouffer, Lon Feary, Joe Sieffert and many great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gene, parents Lee and Goldie Feary, foster parents Ira and Elsie (Feary) Hardesty, sister Dorothy Siefert and brother Ronald Feary. As per Donna's wishes, there will be no services. Cremation rites have been accorded.

Terry A. Winter

OREGON — Terry Winter, 72 of Oregon, formerly of Elgin, IL passed away on Friday, Jan. 6 at home with his daughters by his side. He was born on Jan. 22, 1950 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the son of Tom and Harriet Winter. Terry loved fishing, watching the Green Bay Packers as well as the Chicago White Sox. He worked for Illinois Bell (now Ameritech) for 30+ years as an installation/repair technician, retiring and moving to Oregon soon afterwards. Terry is preceded in death by his par-

ents, his sister Laura Williams, brother Dave Winter, nephew Kevin Williams and favorite sister-in-law, Pat Winter. He is survived by his three daughters, Heather Winter of Elgin, Melissa Winter of Oregon and Danielle (Roy) Brooks of Leaf River. He is also survived by his remaining siblings, Jim Kathy, Jeff and Ray along with his two grandsons, Cliff and Nick Brooks. Several nephews and nieces also survive him. Per his wishes, there will be no service. Cremation rights to follow.



Joseph Real Lepage

LEAF RIVER — Joseph Real Lepage, 89, of Leaf River passed away on Jan. 3 at Bethany Rehab Center, DeKalb. Joseph Real Lepage was born in Bonaventure, Quebec Canada to Francois Xavier and Marie Lepage on Sept. 19, 1933. He went to school at Three Rivers Academy in Trois-Rivières, Québec. He married Paulette Marie Annette Roberts on Aug. 23, 1958 in Sainte-Thérèse, Quebec. He was a veteran of the Korean War and served in the Canadian Army. He worked as an electrical power lineman/general foreman for Hydro Quebec for years before moving to Sugar Grove, Illinois where he worked for several other power electric contractors in/and around the Fox Valley area. He was member of Sugar Grove American Legion Post 1271, Sugar Grove. He was a first degree member of Knights of Columbus, Batavia, Illinois. He loved to hunt and fish and being outdoors.

In retirement he worked with many friends in the DeKalb and Ogle Counties working with farm animals, cultivating corn and soybeans and harvesting hay and straw. He is preceded in death by his parents and grand-daughter Shawna Seidelman. Joseph Real Lepage is survived by his wife, Paulette Lepage, children Jocelyn (Elizabeth) Lepage, Sonia (David) Seidelman, Mikaeline (David) Grammer; grandchildren Margo (Eric) Witzel, Brian (Jennifer Cravens) Grammer, Elaine (Matthew) Poppenger, Jeanna (Tony) Valentin, and Kathryn Seidelman; great-grandchildren Shawna Witzel, Scott Witzel, Brian Grammer, Dorothy Grammer, Lorelei Falk, Aubrey Falk, Lucas Poppenger, Kennedy Poppenger, Lorenzo Valentin and Isabelle Valentin. The family of Joseph Real Lepage wishes to extend our sincere thanks to Maynard Stivers, Al Taylor and Serenity Hospice & Home.



Shirley C. Thompson

OREGON — On Monday, Jan. 9, Shirley C. Thompson passed away to the sweet songs of Elvis, at the age of 83. Born on Nov. 10, 1940 in Poughkeepsie, New York to Carrie E. Germond & Maximilian Stopenbeck. She was raised in the Dutchess Co. New York area, attending all the St. Mary's Schools in Fishkill, New York. She later received her associates in psychology & business accounting at Kishwaukee College in Malta in 1979. Going on to work for Eaton Corporation, Carnation, Holiday Inn, Tri-Co and finally retiring from Dollar General Corporation in 2004. On June 14, 1956 she married Donald E. Thompson of Bath, New York. She enjoyed the outdoors, gardening, shopping for antiques and camping. She was a beloved Elvis Presley fan, collecting his music, movies & memorabilia throughout her life, her other passion was the New York Yankees, never missing a game. But, most of all, she enjoyed time with her family & grandchildren, whether it be dinner, a game, performance or just coffee at Hazel's. She was an amazing friend,

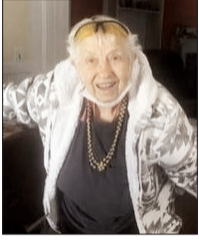
mother, grandmother and great grandmother and truly loved. She is predeceased by her mother, son; George Edward, and husband Donald. She is survived by her four children. Donald Thompson (Janette Needs) of Mendota, Donna Thompson-Cowley, Richard Thompson and Darlene Thompson of Mt. Morris. She has 11 grandchildren; Kim Ellis, Bill Ellis, Dave Needs, Candace Rivera, Christopher Cowley, Carrie Cowley, Jay Bonnette, Christine Lawellen, Brett Russell, Cassandra Thompson & Virginia Macavoyich. She also has 15 great grandchildren and two, great-great grandchildren. She was truly loved and will be missed dearly. A celebration of her life will be held on Monday Jan. 16 in Finch Funeral Home, 405 E. Hitt St., Mt. Morris from 5-7 p.m. with a memorial service starting at 6:30 p.m. with Pastor Craig Arnold officiating. Flowers & donations will be accepted. Following with refreshments & memories, at Hazel's Cafe in Oregon from 7-8 p.m.



Emma S. Scerba

MT. MORRIS — Emma S. Scerba, 100, passed away on Jan. 6 at Serenity Hospice and Home. She was born in Cleveland, Ohio on May 31, 1922 the daughter of Max and Elizabeth (Chovanec) Wittge. She worked in the binary department at Kable News in Mt. Morris for over 20 years. Emma was a longtime active member of the Mt. Morris Moose Club. She liked to travel and be in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. One of her favorite places to visit was the House on the Rock. Emma loved being outside, camping, and going out to eat. In her younger years she loved to roller skate at the Pines Roller Rink.

She is preceded in death by her parents, sons, Terry Scerba and Richard Scerba, daughter, Marilyn Negley, brothers, Leroy Wittge, Mark Wittge, sister, Rosemary Merrill, and ex-husband, William Scerba. She is survived and missed by her daughter, Lauri (Harold) Johnson of Amboy; grandchildren, Jason Negley and Jill Johnson; great-grandchildren, Aurora Burt, MaKayla Burt, Mason Engle and Michael Burt; and daughter-in-law, Lola Scerba. Visitation was held from 4-6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13 at the Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th St., Oregon. A memorial fund is established in her name.



Serenity Hospice men's group begins Jan. 18

OREGON — Men need an outlet to get together and make new friends. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, join Serenity Hospice & Home at the Sunrise III Family Restaurant, 116 N. 4th Street in Oregon. We will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 9 a.m. Call 815-732-4111 by 4 p.m. on Tuesday Jan. 17 to register.

Finkboner named RCH high performer of 2022

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital has named Jennifer Finkboner as its 2022 high performer of the year. Jen was selected among the 12 high performers of the month in 2022. She has been employed at the hospital for three years in its food and nutrition department. Jen was nominated in August 2022: "Over the past several months, the food & nutrition department was hit hard with staff testing positive for COVID-19. During these unfortunate times, Jennifer picked up eight-hour shifts, worked holidays, weekends and continued to perform her daily task without a complaint or frown. Despite being short staffed for long periods of time, the department was able to provide excellent service to our patients and staff, because of Jennifer's ability to delegate and lead. I am very lucky to have an employee with such compassion and commitment. The department has come such a long way and Jennifer's contributions have been vital to our success."

"I would like to nominate Jen Finkboner for the honor of high performer of the month. Jen is a role model and the definition of a servant leader in the dietary department. When there are shifts to cover, Jen doesn't wait for someone else to step up, she just volunteers to cover. Her abilities in the kitchen always produce exceptional results whether it is breakfast, lunch, dinner or a catering order. She helps keep Ross well stocked with food and the necessary supplies to keep the dining room hopping. She is truly one of those people that fills so many different roles within her department. If she sees a need, like the serving line getting backed up, she just jumps in to help. She is efficient and pays attention to even the smallest details. When faced with stressful situations, Jen is calm and focused and helps others to be that way as well. She is a wealth of knowledge and talent and she provides services and products that are second to none. Thank you Jen, for all your efforts in keeping RCH staff, patients and visitors well fed!"



Lisa Diane Holby

DAVIS JUNCTION — Lisa Diane Holby, 60, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 11 at her home in Davis Junction. Arrangements are pending with the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. Visit www.ungerhorner.com.

Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the Oregon Police, Byron Police, Polo Police, Mt. Morris Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

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The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

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LOCAL NEWS

Almasy named October Student of the Month at Polo High School

Polo senior participates in volleyball, Student Council, FCCLA

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

Almasy is the daughter of Michelle Barrett and Gary Almasy. She participates in volleyball, Student Council and FCCLA. She's volunteered with Special Olympics and her church. After high school, she hopes to attend a university and major in psychology.

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

Favorite class: -English comp, or psychology my junior year

If you could create any new class at your school, what would it be? -There is already a psychology class, but maybe a mental health 101 or just more life skills classes so we know what to do when we graduate.

What does it take to be a successful high school student? -Don't wait for the "motivation" to do your homework because nine times out of 10 it never comes. Also just try to enjoy it because as much as you may dread it now, you'll look back and miss it someday.

What do you do in your free time? -Play volleyball, go get food and hang out with my friends.

What would you do if you received \$1 billion all of a sudden? -Well I'd probably go to DePaul University and live in Chicago. Try to save a lot for my future home, pay everything off and then give some away because \$1 billion is a lot of money.

What class do you find really engaging and why? -I think my favorite class that I've ever taken at PCHS had to have been psychology with Mr.



Don Reece last year. It was cool to learn about the brain and why we are the way we are, and his class is also part of the reason I want to major in psychology. As for this year, I would say the things we learn about in environmental health with Mrs. Carrie Grobe is very engaging. In her class we have learned about a variety of different things, including mental health, physical health, nutrition, exercise, etc. I am also looking forward to taking her food and culture class in the upcoming semester.

What are your career and post-graduation plans? -Following graduation I plan to go on a senior trip with my friends, work for the summer, and then go off to college and major in psychology. Right now I am looking at North Central in Naperville, or UIC in Chicago!

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

in? -Volleyball both school and club I've always had a passion for. Through volleyball I have made lifelong friends outside of school and it has made my friendships in school ten times stronger by playing sports together for so many years. Through volleyball I have also learned great leadership skills and sometimes it's not always about being the most successful but being a team player and truly just enjoying the game. As much as I don't do this enough I also really like volunteering. Last spring I got the chance to volunteer at the Special Olympics and it was some of the most fun I've had. It taught me we definitely don't have to do anything super huge or special to make a difference but just showing up and making a commitment is just as important.

Please share a moment, group event or activity at school that was meaningful or memorable. -Beating our rivals and getting to advance one more round of regionals in my senior year of volleyball. Just getting to play one more game of volleyball with my team on our home court was so special.

What is your hope for the future? -In the future I hope to go live in Chicago or wherever life takes me but really just explore the world and the different cultures. I love Polo and I'm so grateful to have grown up here but I'm also very excited to go see what else is out there. As for my career, I hope to first become a school counselor or something along those lines, and then maybe open my own practice. My end goal is to truly just enjoy my job and enjoy what I do. I know realistically no one loves their job every single day, but if I can say that I have a passion for what I do and I want to get up and go to work, that's success to me.

Byron Civic Theatre presents High School Musical Jr.

BYRON — It's the first day after winter break at East High. The jocks, brainiacs, thespians and skater dudes all find their cliques. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. The couple cause an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical.

Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

Show Dates are Feb. 3 & 4 at 7 p.m. at the Byron Middle School Theatre. Tickets are \$10 each and all seating is general admission.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at the Byron Park District Guest Services or online at www.byronparks.org.

2023 Grand Detour Township meetings set

GRAND DETOUR — All 2023 Township meetings will be held at the Grand Detour Town Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. with the exception of the April meeting that

will be held immediately following the annual meeting that is held the second Tuesday in April. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Connie Ross, town clerk, at 815.973.0988.

Meeting dates are as follows: Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8, April 11 (following annual township meeting), May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13.



OHS celebrates Students of the Quarter

Oregon High School recently celebrated its Students of the Quarter, leadership award recipients and perfect attendance recipients.



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Mary

Hi everyone!! My name is Mary, and I am just about the most perfect and bestest girl you could find! I am incredibly sweet, love cuddles and kisses, but I also love to run and play! I still have my puppy energy. I am housetrained and I enjoy playing with other dogs. I love to take humans by the hand to take me home! I don't have any experience with cats or young kids, but if they can keep up with my puppy energy maybe we could play! Come meet me and play with me soon to see how awesome I truly am.



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Illinois.....800-942-5969
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- Ogle County Circuit Clerk
Civil.....815-732-1130
- Criminal.....815-732-1140
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Oregon.....815-732-2135
- Ogle County Dept. de Probation
Oregon.....815-732-1180
- Rochelle.....815-562-2287
- Ogle County Sheriff Administration
Administration.....815-732-6666
- 24 Hour.....815-732-2136
- Ogle County States Attorney
Oregon.....815-732-1170
- Prairie State Legal Service
Rockford.....815-965-2902
- Toll-free.....800-892-2985
- Seguro Social.....800-772-1213

ASISTENCIA A LA VIVIENDA, ALIMENTACIÓN, ENERGÍA Y TRANSPORTE

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- Lee-Ogle Sistema de Transporte (L.O.T.S.)
Dixon.....888-239-9228
- línea de despensa de comida
.....815-732-7891
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2-4:30)
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Oregon.....815-732-1301
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4th Mon 9-10am)
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Independent Living (NICIL) Sterling
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Byron.....815-234-2722
- Village of Progress (Entrenamiento Adultos)
Oregon.....815-732-2126

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- Localizador de reuniones de Alcohólicos
Anónimos.....815-968-0333
- Servicios Sociales Luteranos de IL
Nachusa.....815-284-7796
- Sterling.....815-626-7333
- Rosecrance en la Harrison
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SERVICIOS PARA PADRES E HIJOS

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- DeKalb.....815-758-8149
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Rockford.....815-965-5069

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El costo de estos servicios se paga en parte con un pequeño impuesto sobre la propiedad establecida por la legislatura de Illinois de Salud Mental Comunitaria de 1968. (405 ILCS 20/)

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para
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Ogle County Departamento de Salud
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Hospital de Rockford Memorial
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OSF St. Anthony's Hospital Rockford
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Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. Oregon
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Rochelle.....815-562-3801
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Rock Falls.....815-626-2230
Behavior Health Center

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Citizens (LULAC) (Liga de Ciudadanos
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SERVICIOS PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

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Alzheimer's Care - Pincrest
Mt. Morris.....815-734-4103
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Rockford.....815-963-8471
DeKalb.....815-963-8471

LOCAL NEWS

Sheriff's Office releases holiday enforcement numbers

OREGON — The Ogle County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Illinois Department of Transportation and law enforcement across the state for the holiday "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" enforcement campaign. From Dec. 16 through Jan. 2, deputies issued 129 citations for various violations to motorists. The citations included offenses including: five arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol, eight arrests for driving with no driver's license (revoked/suspended/ no valid), 65 citations for speeding, 18 citations for registration violations, 10 citations for improper lane usage, seven citations for no insurance, one citation for no seat belt, one citation for illegal transportation of alcohol, one arrest for a misdemeanor cannabis violation and six citations for other traffic offenses.

"We can't stress this enough: Impaired driving is illegal, potentially deadly behavior, and it puts the driver, passengers and all road users at risk," Sheriff Brian VanVickle said. "The 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign helps our law enforcement officers address this problem head on. If you use any impairing substance, do not get behind the wheel of a vehicle."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, in 2020, a total of 11,654 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver. On average, more than 10,000 people were killed each year from 2016 to 2020, with one person killed in an alcohol-related crash every 45 minutes in 2020.

The holiday enforcement campaign is administered by IDOT with federal highway safety funds managed by NHTSA.

MT. MORRIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Driver cited for disobeying stop sign

MT. MORRIS — On Dec. 16 at approximately 3:25 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of East Brayton Road. The driver, Anthony L. Turner, 29, Mt. Morris, was issued a citation for disobeying a stop sign. Turner was given an I-Bond and released on scene.

On Dec. 19 at approximately 9:40 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop. The driver, Matthew S. Steder, 31, Oregon, was arrested for driving while license suspended and was also issued citations for operating an uninsured vehicle and no valid registration. Steder was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond. These violations occurred in the 10 block of East Hitt Street.

On Dec. 20 at approximately 8:20 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of East Illinois Route 64. The driver, Brandon E. Neumiller, 46, Savanna, was issued citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and driving while license is revoked. Neumiller was given an I-Bond and released with a future court date.

On Dec. 23 at approximately 12:15 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to a road rage incident involving a firearm in the 500 block of East Brayton Road. After an investigation, Andrew K. Wilson, 19, Fort Sumner,

New Mexico, was arrested and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and unlawful possession of alcohol by a minor. Wilson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Dec. 23 at approximately 10:30 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to the 100 block of East Lincoln Street for the report of a disturbance. After an investigation, Aaron T. Briggs, 40, Sterling, was arrested and charged with home invasion, criminal trespass to residence and criminal damage to property. Briggs was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held without bond.

On Dec. 25 at approximately 2:10 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 10 block of North Wesley Avenue. The driver, Richard Hillman, 61, Mt. Morris, was issued a citation for driving while license suspended. Hillman was given an I-Bond and released on scene.

On Dec. 28 at approximately 6:30 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Sunset Lane. After an investigation, Carlson W. Jones, 33, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with assault and disorderly conduct. Jones was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on an I-Bond.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

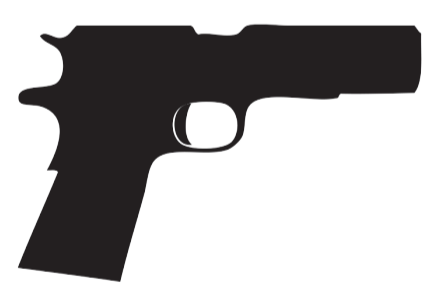
POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Office releases weekly calls for service

POLO — The Polo Police Department saw 22 general calls for service between Dec. 26, 2022 and Jan. 8 2023. Citizen complaints/ assist: eight. Juvenile: One. Disturbance/domestic: One. Fire/medical assist: Five. 911 hang up: two and traffic stops: four.

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LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

County deputies arrest driver following chase

OREGON — On Jan. 3 at approximately 9:28 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 12,000 block of East Flagg Road. After brief investigation, deputies arrested Maria D. Garcia, 47, of Rochelle, for driving while license revoked. Garcia was issued an additional citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Garcia was subsequently transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 4 at approximately 12:19 a.m. deputies attempted to stop a gray Honda Accord traveling westbound on Montague Road from Pecatonica Road at a high rate of speed. Deputies gave chase after the Honda before the Honda pulled over at Montague Road and Spielman Road. After investigation, deputies arrested Zachary A. James, 19, of Byron, for aggravated fleeing to elude. James was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held with no bond, pending an appearance before a Judge. James was additionally cited for speeding 26-34 m.p.h. over the speed limit, disregarding an official traffic control device, reckless driving and an inoperable registration light.

On Jan. 6 at approximately 3:40 p.m. deputies conducted traffic stop in the 14,000 block of East Illinois Route 72. After an investigation, deputies arrested Thomas Worthington II, 37, of Davis Junction on an outstanding warrant and driving while license suspended. Worthington was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 6 at approximately 11:04 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Kandrass Martin, 25, of Rock-

ford under arrest for an active Whiteside County warrant, possession of a controlled substance (crack-cocaine) and improper container of cannabis as a driver. Martin was additionally issued a citation for a defective tail-light. Martin was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On Jan. 7 at approximately 3:30 a.m. deputies with the assistance of the Illinois State Police responded to the intersection of Illinois Route 72 and Limestone Road for the report of a vehicle parked in the intersection. Upon arrival, a male driver later identified as Charlie Zabinski, 20, was found asleep at the wheel. After a brief investigation, Zabinski was taken into custody for driving under the influence of alcohol. Zabinski was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was additionally cited for parking in an intersection.

On Jan. 9, deputies arrested Christopher Canales, 21, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license. Canales was arrested by deputies on Interstate 39 near Illinois Route 64, after being stopped for speeding 116 m.p.h. in a 70-m.p.h. speed zone. Canales was released on a I-bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

On Jan. 9 at approximately 7:50 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of North Freeport Road. After an investigation, Jordan M. Meinert, 31, of Freeport, was arrested for an outstanding Whiteside County warrant and for improper container of cannabis as a driver. Meinert was also cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Meinert was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



OJSHS state scholars recognized

OREGON — Oregon Junior Senior High School Illinois State Scholars were recognized at the Pack the Place Night Jan. 6 in the Blackhawk Center.

Eight seniors were honored for their accomplishments during the evening: Ashley Cadie, Jennica Ciesiel, Alexys Davis, Ryan Fox, Valerie Nyderek, Abigail Rogers, Ethan Schafer and Sophia

Stender.

The State Scholar Program, sponsored through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), recognizes high school seniors for outstanding academic achievement.

ISAC has paved the path to post-secondary education with innovative programs for over 50 years. Illinois State Scholar winners rank in

the top percentile of high school seniors. Selection is based SAT and/or ACT test performance and academic performance in high school.

"OJSHS is proud of our students for their hard work and dedication," a district Facebook post said. "We hope our scholars take pride in their accomplishment and recognize they have a promising future!"



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, Jan. 18: Serenity Hospice & Home's Men's Coffee Group will be held from 9-10 a.m. at the Oregon Sunrise, 116 N. 4th St. This group is for all bereaved men in the community.

Please call 815-732-4111 by 4 p.m. on Jan. 17 to register.

Thursday, Jan. 19: Serenity Hospice & Home's Evening Group will be held from 5-6 p.m. at The Serenity Home, 1658 S. Illinois Route 2, Oregon. This group is for all adult bereaved in the community. Please call 815-732-4111

by noon to register.

Friday, Jan. 20: Serenity Hospice & Home's Diamond Art will be held from 9-11 a.m. at The Serenity Shed. Please call 815-732-4111 by 4 p.m. on Jan 19 to register.

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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. 25, 1533, England's King Henry VIII secretly married Anne Boleyn. The bride was pregnant with the future Queen Elizabeth I, and the ceremony took place shortly before dawn with just a handful of witnesses present. Its stealthy nature was, of course, due to a lack of papal permission.

* On Jan. 29, 1886, Carl Benz applied for a patent for his "vehicle powered by a gas engine." His first model, known as the "Benz Patent Motorwagen," was financed by his wife and business partner Bertha's dowry, had three wheels, and ran on an internal combustion engine similar to modern automobiles.

* On Jan. 23, 1922, a second injection of insulin brought Leonard Thompson, a 14-year-old diabetic, out of his coma at the Toronto General Hospital. An initial dose caused a severe allergic reaction, but after biochemist James Collip worked nearly two weeks to improve and purify the extract, he was rewarded with success and Thompson survived.

* On Jan. 24, 1935, the Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company of Richmond, Virginia, sold the first canned beer, Krueger Cream Ale, to the public. When approached by the American Can Company, Krueger executives were unenthused, but American Can's offer to install the necessary equipment for free helped seal the deal, to a nearly 100% customer approval rating.

* On Jan. 28, 1978, TV viewers were treated to their first sight of the mysterious Mr. Roarke and his sidekick, Tattoo, on a tropical beach with the debut episode of "Fantasy Island." While there were hints that Roarke was immortal or at least centuries old, the real entertainment was in watching guests learn unexpected life lessons or, on occasion, carry out last wishes as they lived their enormously expensive dreams.

* On Jan. 27, 1993, French wrestler Andre the Giant (Andre Rene Roussimoff), who stood nearly seven and a half feet and weighed over 500 pounds, died of a heart attack after his father's funeral. Afflicted with acromegaly, Roussimoff had declined potentially life-prolonging medical treatment for fear it might hamper his career.

* On Jan. 26, 2006, Western Union announced the end of its paper telegram service. The very first telegram had been sent by Samuel Morse, inventor of the Morse Code, to his partner, Alfred Vail, in May 1844. It read simply, "What hath God wrought?"

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Politicians who lie and why it matters

FOLKS are wringing their hands over George Santos. He's a liar. And he got caught. He said he graduated from college. He didn't.

He said he had fancy jobs at Goldman Sachs and Citibank. They say they've never heard of him.

He said he was a successful real estate investor. He doesn't own any property and is deep in debt.

So, what do you call someone like that? Congressman.

Yes, the Republican won a toss-up district in New York. And Democrats are crying foul.

The voters were tricked. Bamboozled. Deceived. Fooled. Sigh.

Former Springfield Mayor Tim Davlin lied about graduating from college. State Sen. Sam McCann lied about being a Marine. Rod Blagojevich lied about, well, just about everything.

I've been covering politicians for 35 years. And I've been lied to for just as long. Some folks want Santos removed from office because of what he said to get there.

With Republicans holding a razor thin majority in the House, don't hold your breath that they will remove one of their own for doing something that happened before he held office. In case you think I'm picking on the GOP, the Democrats aren't any better at policing their own ranks.

When Bill Clinton said, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky," do you remember all of the Democrats in Congress lining up to remove him from office? Me neither.

Presidential biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin once asked Lyndon Johnson why he had so often told people that his grandfather had died at the Alamo, when he knew it was not true.

Johnson, she said, confessed to the fraud, but had a ready explanation. "My grandfather wasn't

killed at the Alamo," she recalled him saying. "He was killed at the Battle of San Jacinto, which Texans know was more important in achieving independence (from Mexico), but other Americans usually haven't heard of. So, I moved him to the Alamo."



Scott Reeder

"That seemed reasonable," Goodwin told a group of reporters years ago, "until I did some further checking and found he hadn't been killed in the Battle of San Jacinto either. He died in bed."

When you find discrepancies in the stories of politicians, look out. Someone who refuses to deal honestly with their private life may well distort the reality while holding public office.

Remember Johnson distorted an ambiguous encounter between a North Vietnamese and U.S. ship in the Gulf of Tonkin into the pretext for war.

I once worked for a liar. Maybe "serial fableist" would be a better term. Almost every conversation I had with him was filled with lies and distortions. He lied about big things and small. And he often ended his conversations with, "Remember, I've got your back."

Whenever he'd say that, I'd roll my eyes, tell him goodbye and hang-up the phone. I'd ask myself why he lied so much, even about things that in no discernable way benefitted him.

When he told me to lie for him, my answer was clear, "No."

Some of the best career advice I ever received came from a public servant named Gene Callahan. He told me, he would always tell prospective employers two things: "I'll never lie for you, and I'll return all of my phone calls by the end of every day."

Some folks might ask what does not lying and returning phone calls have to do with one another? One is about a lie of commission and the other about a lie of omission. Both are bad. He wasn't the type to avoid calls so he wouldn't have to answer tough

questions.

His daughter former U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Moline, is one of the most honorable public servants I've ever covered. He raised her right. (Cheri and I worked together for a decade at the Quad City Times.)

In our cynical age, it's easy to dismiss all politicians as liars. Many are. But not all.

This growing cynicism stems from many things, not the least is the corrupt system that we find ourselves in. Most members of Congress and the Illinois General Assembly face either no or nominal opposition.

When a voter learns that they have been lied to, there is little they can do when they have no alternative on the ballot.

But what about the hotly-contested races like that of George Santos? Well, the best disinfectant is sunlight. And in this case, the media organizations that covered the race let us down.

With the exception of the reporting from one small weekly newspaper in his district, we never were told of Santos' deceptions until after he had been elected. New York is the last U.S. city with three daily newspapers and it's the center of the media universe. And nobody picked up that there was a liar in their midst?

The necessary shoe-leather reporting wasn't done.

Journalism is being the public's eyes and ears. That means going to the courthouse and checking candidate's backgrounds for criminal convictions, calling schools to see if their education claims are true. One of my favorites is checking birthdates. You'd be surprised how many politicians lie about their age.

Unfortunately, less of that is happening. So, what can voters do when they learn that the candidate they voted for lied to them?

There isn't a whole lot you can do about a liar – other than not elect them again.

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

Fairness being added to Illinois' justice system

AFTER years of work and deliberations – and a last-minute hiccup from a court ruling – Illinois is poised at last to implement the Pretrial Fairness Act, ending money bond across our state. This historic step eliminates the practice of jailing people accused of a crime simply because they cannot afford to pay a money bond.

Opponents of ending money bond spent millions during the election campaign on desperate television advertisements aimed at spreading misinformation and stoking fear and confusion about the new law. Despite those millions of ad dollars and widespread media coverage, voters rejected the lies. After the election, legislators expressed further support for the law, resisting calls to repeal or water it down, and instead enacting revisions designed to ensure its effective implementation.

Just days before the law's effective date, a judge in Kankakee County added to the sense of confusion and chaos when he declared the law to be unconstitutional.

While the Kankakee court's ruling is a setback, let's be clear. This latest desperate attempt by recalcitrant system actors to resist this long overdue reform is not going to stop the end of money bond. Attorney General Kwame Raoul is acting swiftly to appeal the ruling to the Illinois Supreme Court,

and well-established legal precedents make it very likely that the court will ultimately overturn the Kankakee court's ruling and uphold the law's constitutionality. And, because the Kankakee ruling impacted only those counties that filed a lawsuit against the Pretrial Fairness Act, the measure is being implemented in a number of counties across Illinois – including most of the state's most populous counties.



Ben Ruddell

In the nearly two years since the Pretrial Fairness Act was passed, some prosecutors have been tireless in their attempts to undermine the new law in the legislature, in the media, and in the courts. These efforts have never been about justice or public safety; they are simply about preserving a system under which people are routinely jailed simply because they cannot afford to pay an arbitrary sum of money – not because their release would endanger others or create any risk that they would flee from prosecution.

Sadly, all the politics around the effort to defeat ending money bond obscures two critical points. First, the failed money bond system always has allowed people accused of crime to be released even if they pose a threat to others. These people just had to have the resources to afford bail. So, when we hear about people accused of a crime being released from pretrial detention, that is not new. It has been part of the system for

decades.

But the campaign against ending money bond has really been about denying justice to people accused of crimes, to treat them as guilty before any court has adjudicated the charge. For generations, thousands of people from Illinois' most marginalized communities have been held pretrial – sometimes for lengthy periods of time – because they did not have the money to buy their freedom. While they languished in a county jail – perhaps being innocent of the charges against them – these individuals lost their jobs, housing, and even the custody of their children. Where is the justice in this system?

Each day that implementation of the Pretrial Fairness Act is delayed continues to perpetuate these harms, undermining the safety and stability of our communities. That is right – this system actually undermines public safety.

When all is said and done, we expect that the law will be vindicated and money bond will be abolished in every county across Illinois, ringing in a new era of fairness in Illinois' criminal court system. While the efforts to debate the law will not abate, we know that a system that is supposedly based on "justice" must treat people in a just fashion. That process is beginning in Illinois.

Ben Ruddell is a staff attorney for ACLU of Illinois in Chicago.

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.

DOLLARS & SENSE



Conventional financial wisdom rooted in retiring around the age of 65 may not apply to individuals who intend to work well past that age.

What to do with your portfolio after 50

A fiftieth birthday is often characterized as a milestone moment. Despite that reputation, upon crossing the half-century threshold, individuals typically don't feel that much different than they did when they were still a fun-loving 49-year-old.

Though there might not be much to distinguish a 49-year-old from a 50-year-old, a fiftieth birthday is a good time reassess certain parts of life, including finances.

Conventional financial wisdom has long suggested reducing risk as retirement age draws closer. But a 2021 survey from American Advisors Group found that 18 percent of respondents indicated their intention to work past the age of 70, while another 12 percent indicated they have no plans to ever stop working full-time.

Conventional financial wisdom rooted in retiring around the age of 65 may not apply to individuals who intend to work well past that age. That means recently minted fiftysomethings could benefit from adopting a new perspective on managing their money after they reach 50.

• Work with a fiduciary. Fiduciaries differ from other financial advisors in a significant way. According to Investopedia, fiduciaries are legally bound to put their client's best interests ahead of their own. Working with a fiduciary can provide peace of mind for individuals who want

to know the person they're trusting to guide their financial decisions is working on their behalf. That peace of mind can be especially valuable for individuals over 50 who don't have as much time to make up for financial losses as younger people. Investopedia notes that some brokerage firms do not want or allow their brokers to be fiduciaries, so investors should make sure they're aware of the legal responsibilities of anyone they trust to manage their money.

• Monitor the progress of your retirement accounts. Tracking the performance of retirement accounts like a 401(k) and IRA takes on more significance after 50, even for individuals who don't see themselves retiring anytime soon. Monitor how particular investments are performing and

reallocate funds if certain ones have not performed well in some time. Most investments will go up and down, but people over 50 can monitor performance more closely than they used to so they get an idea of which ones are working for them and which could be compromising their ability to enjoy financial flexibility in the decades to come.

• Resist the temptation to avoid stocks entirely. A recent study published in the medical journal *The Lancet* found that life expectancy, which has increased dramatically across the globe since 1900, is expected to continue increasing in developed countries in the decades to come. That means people won't only be working longer, but living longer as well. Investors 50 and over

can prepare for that longer life expectancy by utilizing the growth potential of stocks even after they hit the half century mark. Limiting exposure to risk after 50 is still important, but avoiding investment risks entirely could lead to a financial shortfall down the road.

Managing a portfolio after 50 requires careful consideration of various factors. Deft management of an investment portfolio after 50 can ensure investors don't outlive their money.

Five tax prep tips

TAX season isn't something most people look forward to, particularly if they suspect they owe money. However, a few tax prep tips can make the process of filing a return and, if necessary, paying back taxes as pain-free as possible.

1. Call your tax preparer early. If you use an accountant or another tax preparer, be sure to book the appointment as soon as possible because slots fill up quickly. You don't want to wait until the last minute and find there are no remaining appointments.

2. Establish a tax preparation folder. Beginning in January, certain documents will arrive in the mail that will be needed to file your taxes. Documents include earnings statements, banking interest statements and documents indicating investment profits. When items arrive, stash them in your tax folder so you'll have all necessary paperwork at the ready.



3. Avoid tax scams. As tax season draws near, tax scammers target unsuspecting individuals. You may find that you receive calls or texts from those purporting to be with the Internal Revenue Service. However, financial experts say that the IRS or the U.S. Treasury will never call you on the phone; their mode of contact is via the U.S. mail. Another scam is individuals advertising a bigger refund when you use their services. This is not how tax laws work nor is it possible to get a return larger than what is owed. Avoid anyone promising a bigger return, advises Bankrate.

4. Consider increasing health spending account contributions. Lisa Greene-Lewis, a blog editor at TurboTax, says HSAs are triple tax-advantaged, meaning you get an "above-the-line" deduction for contributing, and the growth in these accounts as well as withdrawals are tax-free if used for qualified health expenses. If you need to lower your tax burden, HSAs may be a safe and legal way to do so.

5. Utilize tax software. If you're not using an accountant and have a relatively cut-and-dry financial situation, modern tax software can be an easy and inexpensive way to do your taxes. These sophisticated programs ask a series of detailed questions and the entire process can be completed in relatively little time.

It's almost time to get income taxes in order. Certain tips can make the process go more smoothly.

It's tax time!!!

Jennifer Lungstrom, CPA, EA Silene Walters, CPA, MAS

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DOLLARS & SENSE



With so much to gain from successful investing, novices may benefit from a run-down of common investment terms.

Common investment terms to know

THE importance of investing is undeniable. That value was especially apparent throughout 2022, when inflation took center stage. As the cost of living rises, investors can more capably handle that spike because they've been growing their money through various investment vehicles all along. With so much to gain from successful investing, novices may benefit from a rundown of common investment terms.

- **401(k):** A popular way to save for retirement, a 401(k) is an employer-sponsored retirement plan. Individuals with a 401(k) make pre-tax contributions during each pay period and some employers match these contributions up to a certain percentage. Money in a 401(k) can be withdrawn at any time, but there is a penalty on withdrawals made prior to the account holder reaching 59½ years of age.
- **Bear market:** A bear market is a market in which stock prices sharply decline over a prolonged period of time. Bear markets may be inspired by an array of factors, including rising unemployment.
- **Bonds:** Bonds are a low-risk investment that attract novices who are not yet certain of their risk tolerance. Bonds are loans to governments and even corporations that pay interest to the individuals who invest in them.
- **Bull market:** The opposite of a bear market, a bull market refers to a market in which stock prices are rising.
- **Diversification:** Diversification is a savvy investment strategy in which investors spread out their investments so their portfolio is as diverse as possible. When diversifying, investors may invest in stocks, bonds, IRAs, a 401(k), and other vehicles.

- **Dividend:** A dividend is a payment made to a shareholder in a company.
- **Individual retirement account (IRA):** An IRA is a retirement account individuals open on their own. There are various types of IRAs, and contributions to these accounts are post-tax.
- **Market index:** The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is perhaps the most recognizable market index, though it's not the only one. A market index such as the DJIA tracks the financial market by analyzing data from various companies.
- **Mutual funds:** Mutual funds are a popular way to invest. According to the investment experts at J.P. Morgan Asset Management, with a mutual fund, money is raised by an investment company and is then invested in a portfolio that includes stocks, bonds, options, commodities, or money market securities.
- **Share:** The online financial resource Mint notes that a share is a unit of ownership in a company or in an asset. Shareholders are eligible for benefits, including payouts, when a company makes money.
- **Stock:** Stocks are long-term investments that represent an ownership stake in a company. Most investors invest in common stocks, which are not subject to the same conditions as preferred stocks. Preferred stocks tend to be less volatile than common stocks, though that security also makes them less profitable when the stock performs well.

Knowledge of these basic investment terms can serve as a good foundation for novices who want to begin investing. As investors become more comfortable, they can expand their knowledge even further.

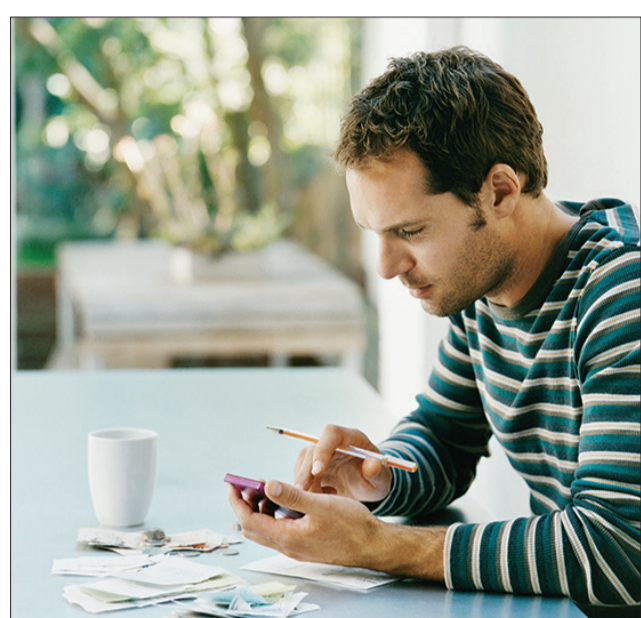
Build a budget that works for you

FINANCIAL trends come and go, and it appears as though one approach to finance that industry professionals have long touted is having a moment. According to Debt.com, 86 percent of the more than 1,000 respondents who participated in the site's annual budgeting survey admitted they budget their spending. That marks a roughly 16 percent increase since 2019.

If budgeting is getting a star turn in individual financial planning, it's well deserved. Budgeting can help people save money and achieve an assortment of financial goals, including paying down debt, financing tuition and planning a dream vacation.

Each person's budget will be different, but that doesn't mean people need to take wholly unique approaches to building a budget. In fact, a conventional approach to budget-building can help people from all walks of life.

• **Determine your net income.** The Bank of America notes that net income, also known as "take-home pay," is the foundation of a budget. In the era of direct deposit, it can be easy for anyone to forget how much money they're taking in each month. Salaried workers can determine their net income pretty quickly and easily, while workers who are paid by the hour and freelancers



A conventional approach to budget-building can help people from all walks of life.

may need to do a little extra work and serve as their own bookkeepers as they try to calculate their net incomes.

• **Monitor your spending.** Spending habits fluctuate, but some patterns will likely develop over time, and identifying these patterns is vital to building a budget. Individuals needn't wait to track their spending. Log into your bank account and see how you spent money each month over the last six months to a year. This can give you an accurate idea of where your money went after it came in. Monthly utility bills may be constants, but those bills tend to fluctuate depending on the season, so a closer examination can yield what the average cost is. Budgets may need to be tweaked during months when utility bills peak.

• **Don't discount the importance of things**

you want. It's important when building a budget that money is left for more than just bills. Things you want to do like dine out, travel or additional expenses like entertainment should be built into your budget so you can still enjoy yourself and your budget is not blown up when opportunities to have fun inevitably arise.

• **Track and tweak.** Progress can be tracked and the budget can be tweaked if you're still having trouble saving or your efforts to save are causing issues. Tracking progress allows you to see what is and isn't working, while tweaking affords room to compromise if the budget is proving too restrictive or not allowing you to meet your goals.

A conventional approach to budgeting can help people achieve their financial goals and feel better about their futures.



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A gentle approach to a centuries-old practice

Pierce leads yoga class at Rock River Center

BY GEORGE HOWE
CORRESPONDENT

OREGON — My wife and I decided a couple of months back to make a conscious effort to eat better, and exercise more often. We signed up for a weekly yoga class at the Rock River Center in Oregon. With our yoga mats tucked under our arms, and water bottles in hand, we didn't exactly know what to expect and if we would walk out after the hour-long class feeling like the tin man from the "Wizard of Oz" in need of some joint lubrication. All of our uncertainties quickly melted away as we introduced ourselves to the class's instructor, Jen Pierce. Pierce grew up in Oregon, has been an instructor for 25 years, and has been teaching at the center for the last five. The first thing that struck me was how slowly and deliberately she spoke to the class of eight students. As we began learning the different poses such as downward dog, table top and puppy pose, with sooth-

ing meditative music in the background, I started imagining that I was in a flowered meadow looking up at a beautiful blue sky. With her calm soothing voice, it's all about the relaxation aspect, breathing, and mindfulness that yoga can provide and the atmosphere that Pierce creates.

Make no mistake, this is quite a workout and you make of it what you want. Working with primarily a little older crowd, Pierce wants her students to get the most out of the class without worrying about perfection. "I have made a conscious effort to follow a program called 'subtle' yoga that focuses on trauma-sensitive poses helping everyone to achieve the neurobiological benefits out of what's being taught," Pierce said. "There is no right or wrong pose. I want it to be soothing and enjoyable."

Pierce's instruction style isn't lost on her students.

"Jen is so excellent with people of different abilities," Sandra Stengel,



Rock River Center Yoga Instructor Jen Pierce (third from left) leads students in a class. (Photo by George Howe)

who's been coming to the class for two years, said. "If for example you can't get on the floor, she will demonstrate using a chair. She is really good at getting the most out of each person's abilities. That's why I continue to come back."

Pierce shared with me that she has been a caregiver most of her life helping people find their way. She earned her master's degree in Austin, Texas, and a doctorate in education at Oklahoma State University. Besides teaching yoga,

Pierce was a certified group fitness instructor for a decade and currently works at a hospital as an activity therapist for stress management at a behavioral health unit for adults.

Sometimes, these classes can be a challenge that Pierce welcomes.

"These people are required to attend the classes as part of their treatment as opposed to folks that sign up for class," Pierce said. "I like the fact that this group of people can sometimes not want to participate and

I try to reach them through interacting using deep breathing, mindfulness and meditation that keeps them in the present. It's a good feeling when after joining in, they find the benefits of what I'm sharing."

Pierce appreciates Oregon and the people that have been involved in her classes, along with the management of the Rock River Center for continually allowing her to provide instruction. The feeling is mutual.

"Jen came highly rec-

ommended and we were able to work out an agreement and schedule," RRC Activities Director Deb Julian said. "We are lucky to have her."

"I definitely still take joy leading classes," Pierce said. "This is such a nice community of people that are interested in lifelong activities that can increase their quality of life. Namaste."

Jamie Nobis, executive director of the RRC, shared how proud they are to provide quality programs and activities for the seniors of the community.

"We are blessed with a very dedicated staff and board of directors," Nobis said. "We partner with several agencies to provide support groups, health and nutrition services, and a variety of educational opportunities to the community."

If you are interested in any of the programs offered at the center, they can be reached at (815) 541-5479. Regular business hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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6067 W. West Grove Road, Mt. Morris
\$183,000 Call Lori

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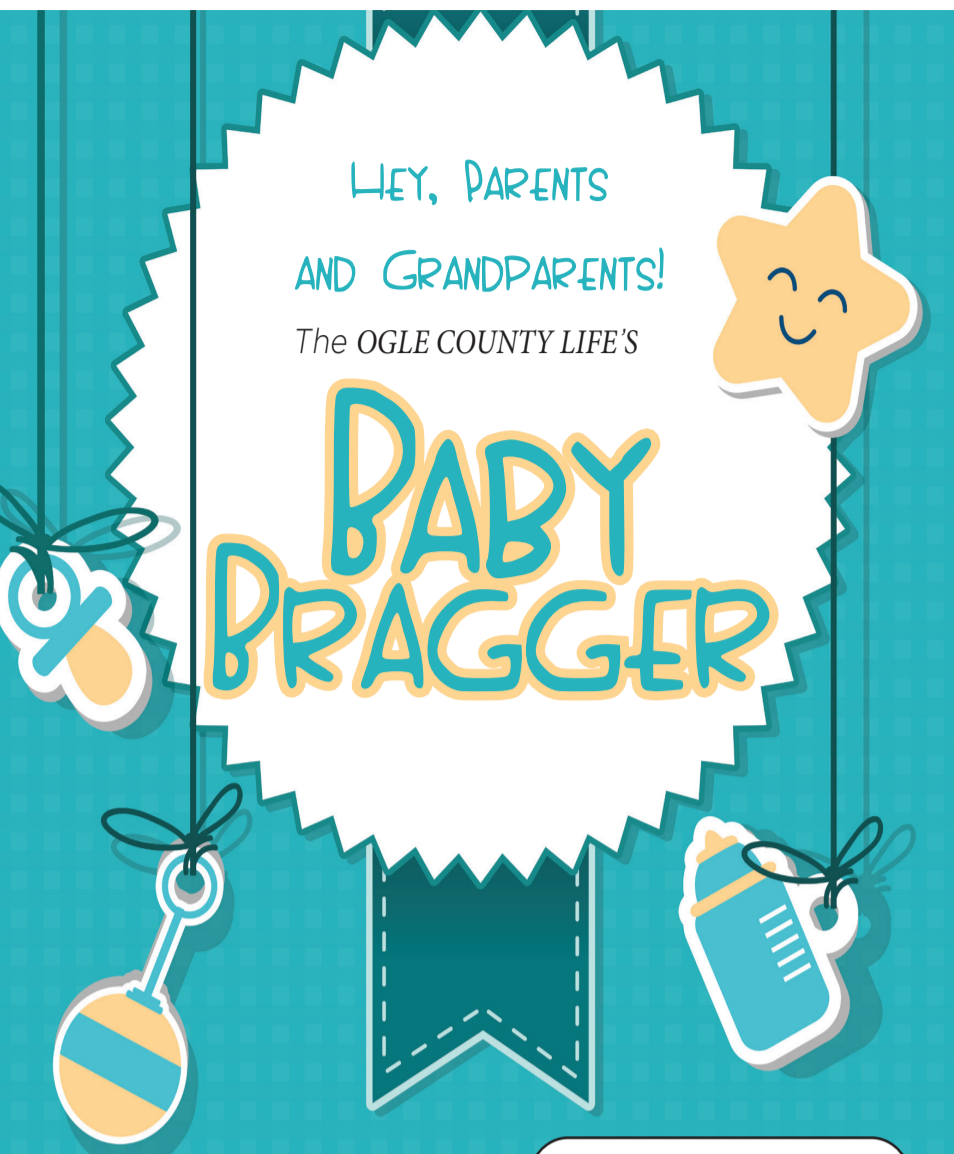


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\$20 prepaid
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Lorelai LaVonne Grayson
January 8



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2022 BABY PRAGGER

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Oregon coaches see Spratt into hall of fame

Only four schools in the state of Illinois have more Illinois Track Cross Country Coaches Association hall of famers than Oregon High School. Recently, Joe Mortimer (1998), Art Carlson (1999) and Doug Engle (2014) saw new inductee Jim Spratt inducted into the hall of fame. From left to right: Mortimer, Carlson, Engle and Spratt. (Photo by Andy Colbert)

Spratt inducted into hall of fame

As someone close to Oregon track and field, it saddens me to see a decline in what was the premier small-school program in all of northern Illinois. However, it was a joy to see coach Jim Spratt inducted into the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.



Andy Colbert

Besides taking part in a coaching clinic hosted by the association last Saturday, my main purpose for being there was to see Coach Spratt honored.

Occasionally, HOFs are nothing more than a longevity award. Not so with the ITCCCA Hall of Fame. It has to be earned and Spratt has done it with seven straight sectional titles leading up to a state championship in 2009. A couple fourth place team finishes and 57 individual state medalists padded his resume.

The numbers of athletes that qualified downstate are too numerous to count. Hawk track and field truly was one of the elite in the entire state, especially in the early 2000s when a steady stream of athleticism poured through the program.

It's been said you can tell a lot about an individual when things aren't going so well. Part of the criteria for ITCCCA enshrinement is character.

Though Oregon is not getting the same

high-caliber athletes as it once did, Spratt's enthusiasm for coaching has not wavered. No matter what a kid's skill level is, he gives them the same attention as he would a Jordan Thomas, the most decorated runner of Spratt's tenure.

As a pole vault coach, I've known Jim since he took over for Art Carlson in 2003. The man has been extremely accommodating in providing anything we needed and always did so with a smile.

He also made the sport fun for the kids and they felt comfortable around him too, as demonstrated by a story he told me about Mike Guzman, Andy Tremble and Jason Appel. Those three had him laughing so hard that he literally had spaghetti coming out of his nose at the annual team meal at Avanti's on the way back from the 2003 state meet.

"That always sticks out because it was my first year and we had just missed out by one place of a team trophy and they called me over to sit with them at their booth," Spratt said. "I was feeling down and those three guys were so hilarious, I couldn't help but feel better."

Spratt's was best known as a sprint and relay coach, as evidenced by the Hawks placing in all four relays downstate on the 2003 team. In the next 10 years, he coached

17 more relays to state medals.

There were also disappointments, such as in 2004 when highly-touted Oregon went into the state meet with the No. 1 seeds in the 1,600 and 3,200 relays, the second seed in the 400 relay and third seed in the 800 relay.

A terrible day in the preliminaries led to the 400 and 800 relay missing the finals and the 1,600 and 3,200 settling for third places. Like a missed final shot in a basketball super-sectional or dropped touchdown pass in the football play-offs, track carries the same emotional burden of coming up short of glory.

Dropped batons, botched exchanges, falls over a hurdle, scratching on a long jump or missing opening height on a pole vault can drive a track coach nuts, as Spratt can attest to. Still, he never lost his cool or blamed his athletes.

He had a rare gift for accepting what befell him and not losing the faith. Ultimately, he was rewarded with that much-coveted 2009 state title.

Jim's been retired from teaching for a couple years and remains willing to head up the boys track program. Being a track coach doesn't have the same pressure as football or basketball does, but it is tough trying to figure out how to coach 18 different events. Hopefully, he'll stick with it and maybe see a rebirth in its stature.

For me, it was honor to sit at banquet table with coach Spratt, Doug Engle, Joe Mortimer and Art Carlson, who came from North Carolina. All are hall of famers, unique to have that many from such a small school.

There are no other schools in Ogle County that even have one coach in the hall of fame.

In fact, only large suburban schools Oak Park, Palatine, Conant and Glenbard West have more. That's a significant statement on the track and field heritage in Oregon.

Maybe instead of besting the current status of Hawk track and field, I should be grateful for such a strong tradition of excellence.

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

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SPORTS NEWS



Oregon bowling's senior night takes place

Senior night for the Oregon boys and girls bowling teams took place on Tuesday night at Town & Country Lanes in Mt. Morris as both teams hosted Dakota. Both Hawk squads picked up victories and seniors posed for a photo with their parents. (Courtesy photo).

Oregon wrestling crowned champions at Polo tournament

The Oregon Hawks varsity wrestling team was recently crowned champion at the Polo tournament. Individual champions included Lane Halverson, Anthony Bauer and Evan Flaharty. Runner-ups were Jackson Messenger, Grant Stender, Gabe Eckerd and Jonathon Alaniz. Third place was Seth Stevens. Fourth place was Quentin Berry and fifth place finishers were Jackson Glendenning and Briggs Sellers.



AREA SPORTS

Oregon bowling travels to Dixon

The Oregon boys and girls bowling teams traveled to Plum Hollow Family Center in Dixon to bowl Dixon on Jan. 5. The boys team raised its season record to 14-2 with a 3,381-3,103 victory, taking all five NIBC conference standings points. The Hawks were led by Roberto Hernandez with a season high 686 series (213,217,256 match-high game) followed by Brady Davis's 574 series, Styler Klapp's 551 series, Brandon Rowe's 547 series, Bryan Immel's 512 series and Gavvin Surmo's 511 series. The JV boys raised their season record to 12-0 with a 3,046-2,110 victory. The JV was led by Matthew Stahl with a 568 series.

The Oregon girls lost a 2,863-2,777 falling to 6-3 on the season. Oregon was led by Ava Wight with a 592 series (173,238,181) followed by Mackenzie Alford's 542 series, Kendra Ehrler's 488 series, Trinity Hultquist's 396 series, Ahren Howey's 387 series and Kylie Krug's 372 series.

Oregon girls hoops defeats Harvard

The Oregon varsity girls basketball team defeated Harvard 61-24 at home on Jan. 5 to raise its record to 9-9. The Hawks were led in scoring by Hadley Lutz (21 points), Ella Dannhorn (10 points) and Mariah Drake (10 points). In the junior varsity game, Oregon defeated Harvard 19-8.

Oregon boys hoops falls to Rockford Christian

On Jan. 6, the Oregon boys varsity basketball team fell to Rockford Christian

90-44. The Hawks were led in scoring by Jordan Croegaert (13 points), Jameson Caposey (12 points) and Cooper Johnson. The loss dropped Oregon to 6-7 on the season (0-2 BNC play). The Oregon JV team won 56-50 and the fresh-soph score was 34-18 in favor of Oregon.

Stillman Valley girls hoops defeats Rock Falls

On Jan. 7, the Stillman Valley varsity girls basketball team defeated Rock Falls

46-28. The Cardinals were led in scoring by Mya Janssen (15 points) and Jenna Shelburne (12 points).

Oregon girls bowling travels to DeKalb

The Oregon girls bowling team traveled to DeKalb to compete in the Sycamore Girls Invitational Jan. 7 at Mardi Gras Lanes. Oregon finished the event in fifth place overall out of 13 teams with 4,693 six-game total. Individually Ava Wight finished in third place with a 1,206 series

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LOCAL NEWS

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

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Association presents "The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's."

Hadi Finerty from The Alzheimer's Association will be at Rock River Center, in Oregon on Mon., Jan. 23, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. to present this free program.

The Alzheimer's Association provides care and support to those affected by Alzheimer's and all other dementia through free, high-quality education programs. Explore their convenient learning opportunities focused on Alzheimer's disease, caregiving, communication and more. A question and answer period will follow.

Please call 815-732-3252 to register for this very informative program. Advance registration requested.

Valentine's Day Dance

Fri., Feb. 10, 2023; 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Music by: Denny Diamond. Let's celebrate Valentine's Day together. Put on your dancin' shoes and dance to the music of Denny Svehla, aka Denny Diamond. Join us for an afternoon of music, refreshments, and fun. Make new memories in our photo booth. Cost: \$5.00 Suggested Donation (payable at the door). Reservation deadline: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 so we can be prepared. For information or to make reservations call the Center at 815-732-3252.

LIHEAP

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

The LIHEAP program continues to accept ap-

plications for assistance with paying heating bills.

Tri County Opportunities Council is the agency that processes those applications and they will be available at two locations in Ogle County, Oregon and Rochelle, by appointment only.

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

Appointments are available on weekdays from 9am – 3pm.

Call 815-732-2907 for an appointment in Oregon. The Rochelle Tri County office is located at 306 N 6th Street.

Appointments are available Monday thru Friday, beginning at 9am.

Call 815-562-6938 for an appointment in Rochelle. Please have copies made of all of your documentation before your appointment.

You can call their Rock Falls office for more details at 800-323-5434.

In order to qualify, your household must meet the following income guidelines, no more than 200% of the poverty level. For a 1-person household the 30-day income limit is \$2,265; 2-person household \$3,052; 3-person household \$3,838, etc.

Nicor program

The Nicor Gas sharing program is available to assist those Nicor customers whose income is above 201% of poverty level and less than 300% of the poverty level.

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

Support groups

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

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

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

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

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

POLO SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Exercise with Ronna is every Tuesday at 9 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. and every

Thursday at 11 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Games area every Thursday at 1 p.m. - Euchre, Mexican Train

On fourth Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. Benefits Access for seniors, Rock River Center staff will be here to answer questions and help with access to benefits especially for seniors.

Line dancing 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 17

Wheel of Fortune Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 11 a.m. Mad Hatter Tea Party, light lunch served 11:30 a.m. Jan. 18 - wear your fancy hat.

PASS Luncheon – Jan. 27 at 11 a.m. (Slide burgers and tots) Speaker - Hoo Haven Wildlife Rehab, featuring a live owl! You don't want to miss it. Suggested donation \$3

Sunday Jan. 29 Breakfast and Bluegrass - Breakfast served at 11:30 a.m., Music starts at noon. Featuring Mountain Grass and Friends (suggested donation \$3).

Brain Wits class Jan. 30 at 11:30 a.m., light lunch served

Valentine's Dance Friday Feb. 10 from 6-9 p.m. - Featuring 3D sound. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Cost \$10 per person

Trips

The senior center in conjunction with American Classic Tours is offering two extended trips in 2023.

Michigan shores - July 31-Aug. 4. Travel around Lake Michigan via motor coach. Includes ferry ride across Lake Michigan, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Castle Farms, Frederik Meijer Gardens, DeGrandchamps Blueberry farm, Saugatuck Dune Buggy Ride and much more, four breakfasts, four lunches and four dinners included.

Black Hills & Badlands – Oct. 5-10. This wonderful includes your round trip airfare from Chicago. Stay at beautiful Custer State Park game lodge, see Key stone, Iron Mountain, Bluebell Canyon, take a jeep Safari to see the buffalo, enjoy a 1880 train ride. Visit the famous Wall drug, Mt. Rushmore, The black Hills, Crazy horse memorial and much more. Please call or stop in for more details.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

205 N. Peru St., Byron 815-234-8737 cornerstonefamilychurch.org
Sr. Pastor: Erik Ness, NextGen/Family Pastor: 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: chanauwc@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 Sunday 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 Tews
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 leafriverbr@gmail.com

LINDENWOOD

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

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

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

KINGS

ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

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

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN

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: mtmcb@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 RiverStoneNeccc.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/RiverStoneChristianChurch

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

ST. MARY CHURCH

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

Masses: Sun 10:30am, Tuesday Mass 8 a.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation: First Sunday of each month after 10:30 mass
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
www.stmarypolo.org

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

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

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

702 E. Dixon Street, Polo, IL 61064 • Tel:815-946-3212
Sunday School for all ages 9am followed by Worship at 10am
Pastor Brian LeBaron
Website: www.faithumcpolo.com • facebook.com/Faithumcpolo

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY (CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH)

Pastor Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns | Associate Pastor David Bogner
207 W Roosevelt Road (Rte 72), Stillman Valley, IL 615-645-2526 | www.theredbrickchurch.org
Sunday: Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am. Sunday School at 9:00 am. Wednesday: AWANA (Sept - April) from 6:00 to 7:15 pm. Men, women, youth Bible Studies throughout the year. See website for all activities or contact the church office.

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

LOCAL NEWS

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Curbside Delivery

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

Did you know?

That the Byron Library can help you research your family history? Stop in to access Ancestry.com Library Edition or Family Search from the library computers, or view our physical local history collection located in the conference room. You can also visit <https://www.byronlibrary.org/services/local-history/> at any time to peruse our digital collection, including an online archive of Byron newspapers and Byron High School yearbooks!

Cable Options & Reducing Robocalls

Monday, Jan. 16. 6 – 7:00 pm. Are you looking to reduce your cable costs? Tired of all those robocalls? This program 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.

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.

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

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Closing

The Mount Morris Library will be closed on Monday, January 16th, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Story Time!

Bring your little ones by for a great story time! We will be reading books and then children will be making a craft this Wednesday, 1/18. 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!

Lego Club!

Our next Lego night is Thursday, January 19th, from 6:00 – 6:45pm. Bring a friend and build some fun with Lego bricks! All children and parents are invited. Children under 8 need to bring a parent with them.

Display Case Showings

Stop in to see our new display for January! It is a wonderful winter display revealing some of Margaret Dannhorn's collection of snow globes. Stop by to enjoy the enchantment of the gorgeous snowy scenes! We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to share their treasures in our display cases. If you are interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

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

DOWN

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

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MAGIC MAZE ● FINGERS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: FARTHEST FROM THE THUMB

Crossed	Knuckle	Point	Thumb
Feel	Little	Print	Touch
Index	Nails	Snap	Twiddle
Knock	Pinch	Tap	

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Earflap is smaller. 2. Rope loop is missing. 3. Flag is missing. 4. Buttons are missing. 5. Tassel is shorter. 6. Sled is shorter.

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Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

FINGERS

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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

NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Estate of:
() Gregory C. Chambers, deceased.
NO. 2022-PR-76

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of GREGORY C. CHAMBERS of Polo, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on December 21, 2022, to JULIE R. STAFFORD of Oregon, Illinois, whose attorney is David A. Smith, of Smith, Birkholz & Morrow, P.C. at 129 South Fourth Street, P.O. Box 10, Oregon, Illinois, 61061-0010.

CLAIMS against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk at the Court of Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 South 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication of this Notice, or within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed.

JULIE R. STAFFORD
Independent Administrator
No. 0101
(Jan. 2, 9 and 16, 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)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals for the project described below will be received at the office of Village Clerk, Village of Davis Junction, 106 North Elm Street, Davis Junction, IL 61020 until 3 pm on Feb. 01, 2023. Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of Village Clerk, Village of Davis Junction, 106 North Elm Street, Davis Junction, IL 61020 at 3 pm on Feb. 01, 2023.

Proposed Improvement: BASE BID: The contract work includes the expansion and reconstruction of an existing fishing pond at the Davis Junction Park in Davis Junction, Illinois. Work includes abandonment/fill of existing dry detention basin in the grading and seeding of three (3) new soccer fields. Improvements include earth excavation, topsoil stripping and placement, restoration and erosion control BMP's.
Alternate BID No. 1: The alternate bid includes installation of clay liner across the bottom of the expanded and reconstructed fish pond.

1. Plans and proposal forms will be available in the office of Fehr Graham, 515 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, IL 61068 for a non-refundable fee of \$100 (overnight delivery not available). Also available electronically at www.fehrgraham.com for a non-refundable fee of \$25.
2. Prequalification If checked, the 2 apparent as read low bidders must file within 24 hours after the letting an "Affidavit of Availability" (Form BC 57) in triplicate, showing all uncompleted contracts awarded to them and all low bids pending award for Federal, State, County, Municipal and private work. One original shall be filed with the Awarding Authority and two originals with the IDOT District Office.
3. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive technicalities and to reject any or all pro-

posals as provided in BLRS Special Provision for Bidding Requirements and Conditions for Contract Proposals.

4. The following BLR Forms shall be returned by the bidder to the Awarding Authority:
a. Local Public Agency Formal Contract Proposal (BLR 12200)
b. Schedule of Prices (BLR 12201)
c. Proposal Bid Bond (BLR 12230) (if applicable)
d. Apprenticeship or Training Program Certification (BLR 12325) (do not use for project with Federal funds.)
e. Affidavit of Illinois Business Office (BLR 12326) (do not use for project with Federal funds)
5. The quantities appearing in the bid schedule are approximate and are prepared for the comparison of bids. Payment to the Contractor will be made only for the actual quantities of work performed and accepted or materials furnished according to the contract. The scheduled quantities of work to be done and materials to be furnished may be increased, decreased or omitted as hereinafter provided.
6. Submission of a bid shall be conclusive assurance and warranty the bidder has examined the plans and understands all requirements for the performance of work. The bidder will be responsible for all errors in the proposal resulting from failure or neglect to conduct an in depth examination. The Awarding Authority will, in no case, be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses or changes in anticipated profits resulting from such failure or neglect of the bidder.
7. The bidder shall take no advantage of any error or omission in the proposal and advertised contract.

8. If a special envelope is supplied by the Awarding Authority, each proposal should be submitted in that envelope furnished by the Awarding Agency and the blank spaces on the envelope shall be filled in correctly to clearly indicate its contents. When an envelope other than the special one furnished by the Awarding Authority is used, it shall be marked to clearly indicate its contents. When sent by mail, the sealed proposal shall be addressed to the Awarding Authority at the address and in care of the official in whose office the bids are to be received. All proposals shall be filed prior to the time and at the place specified in the Notice to Bidders. Proposals received after the time specified will be returned to the bidder unopened.
9. Permission will be given to a bidder to withdraw a proposal if the bidder makes the request in writing or in person before the time for opening proposals. No. 0112
(Jan. 16, 2023)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals for the project described below will be received at the office of City Clerk, City of Byron, 232 W. Second Street, Byron, IL 61010 until 11 am on Jan. 27, 2023.
Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of City Clerk, City of Byron, 232 W. Second Street, Byron, IL 61010 at 11 am on Jan. 27, 2023
Description of Work
North Colfax Street from West Blackhawk Drive to East Water Road, approximately 2.03 miles.
Proposed Improvement: The work consists of improvements on North Colfax Street from West Blackhawk Drive to East Water Road. Improve-

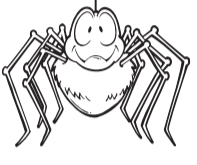
ments include hot-mix asphalt removal / replacement, manhole / valve adjustments, and pavement striping.

1. Plans and proposal forms will be available in the office of Fehr Graham, 515 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, IL 61068 for a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 (overnight delivery not available). Also available electronically at www.fehrgraham.com for a non-refundable fee of \$25.00.
2. Prequalification The 2 apparent as read low bidders must file within 24 hours after the letting an "Affidavit of Availability" (Form BC 57) in triplicate, showing all uncompleted contracts awarded to them and all low bids pending award for Federal, State, County, Municipal and private work. One original shall be filed with the Awarding Authority and two originals with the IDOT District Office.
3. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive technicalities and to reject any or all proposals as provided in BLRS Special Provision for Bidding Requirements and Conditions for Contract Proposals.
4. The following BLR Forms shall be returned by the bidder to the Awarding Authority:
a. Local Public Agency Formal Contract Proposal (BLR 12200)
b. Schedule of Prices (BLR 12201)
c. Proposal Bid Bond (BLR 12230) (if applicable)
d. Apprenticeship or Training Program Certification (BLR 12325) (do not use for project with Federal funds.)
e. Affidavit of Illinois Business Office (BLR 12326) (do not use for project with Federal funds)
5. The quantities appearing in the bid schedule are approximate and are prepared for the comparison of bids. Payment to the Contractor will be made only for the actual quantities of work performed and accepted or materials furnished according to the contract. The scheduled quantities of work to be done and materials to be furnished may be increased, decreased or omitted as hereinafter provided.
6. Submission of a bid shall be conclusive assurance and warranty the bidder has examined the plans and understands all requirements for the performance of work. The bidder will be responsible for all errors in the proposal resulting from failure or neglect to conduct an in depth examination. The Awarding Authority will, in no case, be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses or changes in anticipated profits resulting from such failure or neglect of the bidder.
7. The bidder shall take no advantage of any error or omission in the proposal and advertised contract.

8. If a special envelope is supplied by the Awarding Authority, each proposal should be submitted in that envelope furnished by the Awarding Agency and the blank spaces on the envelope shall be filled in correctly to clearly indicate its contents. When an envelope other than the special one furnished by the Awarding Authority is used, it shall be marked to clearly indicate its contents. When sent by mail, the sealed proposal shall be addressed to the Awarding Authority at the address and in care of the official in whose office the bids are to be received. All proposals shall be filed prior to the time and at the place specified in the Notice to Bidders. Proposals received after the time specified will be returned to the bidder unopened.
9. Permission will be given to a bidder to with-

draw a proposal if the bidder makes the request in writing or in person before the time for opening proposals.
No. 0113
(Jan. 16, 2023)

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2023 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}

197.83 ACRES± • 2 TRACTS

OPEN HOUSE: SAT., JAN. 21 • 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The Erdmann farm is located approximately 12 miles northeast of Dixon, Illinois or 16 miles southwest of Rochelle, Illinois. The property is further described as being located in Section 24, T22N-R10E, Franklin Grove township, Lee County, Illinois. The real estate contains a total of 197.83 acres (subject to survey) and will be sold in 2 tracts. Tract 1 represents productive tillable cropland while Tract 2 represents a beautiful country home improved with multiple buildings and grain storage.

Farmers and country enthusiast, be sure to check out this Lee County, Illinois auction.

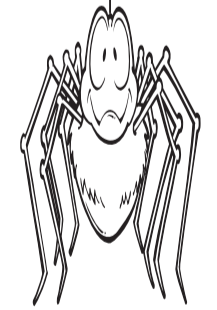
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Bruce Francis Estate: Roxanne Francis, Owner
326 Main St., Milledgeville, IL 61051
Personal Property: LOTS of various antiques; vintage local items - Milledgeville & surrounding areas (plat maps, glass bottles, several antique yardsticks, etc.); household items; decor items; glassware; antique oil lamps; memorabilia (including Disney, Wizard of Oz, Roy Rogers, Marilyn Monroe, John Wayne, and others); lots of collectibles; Stetson hats, vintage records; swords; antique furniture; collectible signs; indian statues, plus much, much more! Something for everyone!

Viewing Hours: Items will be available for optional viewing on Tuesday, January 17th from 4-6pm at the address listed above.

Item Pick-up: Items will be available for pick-up on Saturday, January 28th from 2-4pm unless alternate arrangements are made between buyer and auctioneer.

Terms & Conditions: 10% Buyer's Premium added to all items sold. Items can be purchased with cash, GOOD check, or credit card. There will be a 3.5% fee added to any credit card transaction.

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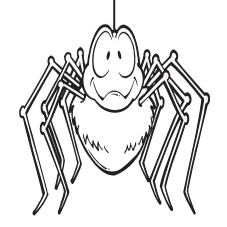
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