



Ogle County LIFE

ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



VOLUME 33, ISSUE 42

MONDAY
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FREE



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KNOW IT TODAY



Due to the Christmas holiday, the Ogle County Life will be put together a day earlier than usual. Please submit any news items by 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20. For the following week, the deadline will remain Wednesday as usual.

WEATHER

MONDAY HIGH LOW 28 14	TUESDAY HIGH LOW 19 4
WEDNESDAY HIGH LOW 13 9	THURSDAY HIGH LOW 11 -2
FRIDAY HIGH LOW 8 -11	SATURDAY HIGH LOW 9 3

OBITUARIES

- Patricia Carey
- Samuel Logan
- Randall Maxwell
- Timothy Stauffer
- Robert "Alex" Stormont

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INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Byron County Market
- Polo Fresh Food
- RP Home & Harvest
- Family Dollar
- Snyder Pharmacy

Oregon Fire rescues woman from river



The Oregon Fire Department rescued a woman from the Rock River in the early hours of Dec. 10, a department press release said. (Courtesy photo)

OREGON — The Oregon Fire Department rescued a woman from the Rock River in the early hours of Dec. 10, a department press release said.

At 5:11 a.m., the Oregon Fire Protection District was dispatched to the 500 block of North 4th Street for a caller advising there was a female in the river behind their house. Oregon Police advised she was in the middle of the west channel.

Due to the low head dam, crews immediately

deployed with swift water suits into the river but due to her being a few hundred feet away from the shore, crews could not get to her while she floated down river.

Oregon boat 5382 was deployed into the river behind the Kiwanis Park with two swift water technicians. Crews were able to make contact with the victim less than 200 feet from the low head dam.

The crew was able to rescue the victim

and brought her to shore. The patient was transported to KSB Hospital and remained in stable condition during transport.

"The patient was successfully saved due a quick 911 call made by a citizen that heard the victim call for help, fantastic work by our dispatch, quick actions by fire and EMS personnel, and the help of the Oregon Police Department and the Ogle County Sheriff's Office," the press release said.

Local Wreaths Across America ceremonies honor veterans, see growth

'The ceremonies and the community support are wonderful to see'

By Jeff Helfrich
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution's local Wreaths Across America efforts started in 2018 with sponsorships of 31 wreaths for the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Fast forward to this year, local efforts this month saw 739 wreaths sponsored across five cemeteries including St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery and Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle, Trinity Memory Gardens in Hillcrest, Woodlawn Cemetery in Creston and Daysville Cemetery in Oregon.

Each December on Wreaths Across America Day, veterans' graves are



Each December on Wreaths Across America Day, veterans' graves are honored with wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 3,400 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad, including at Daysville Cemetery, above. (Courtesy photo)

honored with wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 3,400

additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

Wreaths locally are

sponsored by the DAR along with community members such as veterans groups, private individuals, women's groups, car clubs, businesses and more, DAR Chapter Regent Laurie Perry said.

"It's a community involvement event," Perry said. "We have scouts come to help us lay wreaths. It's important for young people to understand the educational value of the program. We have veterans and other community members place wreaths. The Knights of Columbus come and do their honor guard."

Perry is the chairwoman of WAA at Daysville Cemetery and Linda Corwin-Graber is the chairwoman of WAA at Woodlawn Cemetery. Lydia Roberts is the chairwoman of WAA at

St. Patrick's, Lawnridge and Trinity.

Roberts said the WAA theme is "remember, honor and teach," and one of the DAR's big focuses is to teach the youth about the sacrifices veterans made.

WAA ceremonies were held Dec. 17 and 18 at local cemeteries.

"The ceremonies and the community support are wonderful to see," Roberts said. "It's such a sense of community and everybody's coming together for one single purpose. It's the culmination of all the work. Having so many people there braving the weather is amazing. You can look down the rows and see the wreaths. It's just satisfying to see."

See WREATHS page 2

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LOCAL NEWS

WREATHS: Program held nationwide

From page 1

The WAA process throughout the year includes: Coordinating with cemetery sextants, identifying veterans including ones added in the current year, ordering flags, placing flags on graves for Veterans Day to facilitate WAA Day in December while assisted by scouts, updating sponsorship forms, publicity, collecting sponsorships, preparing for ceremonies by soliciting volunteers and creating the program, receiving the truck load of wreaths, applying branch of service flags to wreaths, delivering wreaths to cemeteries, setting up for ceremonies, holding



Local efforts this month saw 739 wreaths sponsored across five cemeteries including St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery and Lawncreeper Cemetery in Rochelle, Trinity Memory Gardens in Hillcrest, Woodlawn Cemetery in Creston and Daysville Cemetery in Oregon. (Courtesy photo)

ing ceremonies, placing wreaths, collecting remaining unneeded wreaths, traveling to the second cemetery site,

checking that no veteran was missed and finally, cemetery cleanup in March.

"Wreaths Across America has been very enjoyable," Roberts said. "There's a lot of work and a lot that goes into it. But it's worth it.

This project ties together the three main priorities of DAR, which are historical preservation, education and patriotism."

Perry called WAA work a privilege and said the DAR would like to expand into other cemeteries in the area in the future if additional resources can be found. She said she and others involved have found it to be a "beautiful and rewarding way" to serve the community.

Roberts said some of the veterans that wreaths are placed for date back to World War I and the Spanish-American War. Some have no family left to honor them. Perry said those that do have living fam-

ilies are "incredibly special" to communicate with about WAA.

"If they can make it to place the wreath themselves, it's fantastic," Perry said. "We encourage it. If they can't, we'll place it for them. I've been blown away as I've watched the numbers grow. I remember having tears in my eyes when we did Daysville for the first year. Seeing the cars pulling in and there were so many people. We're always uneasy about the work of adding more, but the community answers and I'm always blown away. People from all over the area give up themselves to help with this project."



Local Wreaths Across America ceremonies were held Dec. 17 and 18 at local cemeteries and included local Scout troops. Above, a program was held at St. Patrick Cemetery in Rochelle. (Courtesy photo)

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Woosung Township plans meetings for 2023

POLO—The Woosung Township Board of Trustees has scheduled meetings for 2023 to be held at 10598 W. Edgewood Road, Polo.

March 24, 2023 at 6 p.m.: Regular meeting with supervisor's year-end report.

April 11, 2023 at 6 p.m.: Annual township meeting at Yingling garage.

June 22, 2023 at 6 p.m.: Approve budgets.

Sept. 14, 2023 at 6 p.m.: Regular meeting.

Dec. 14, 2023 at 6 p.m.: Approve levies.

Polo Police Report

POLO — On Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. Julie A. Seyster, 44, Polo, was issued a city citation for accumulation of litter.

On Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. Richard V. Jeter, 52, Polo, was issued a city citation for accumulation of litter.

General calls for service for Nov. 28 through Dec. 11: Citizen complaints/assists 19, ordinance violations 2, disturbance/domestic 3, fire/medical assist 3, alarm/open door 1, 911 hang up 2, traffic stops 5 and county assists 1.

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LOCAL NEWS



Kole and Morgyn Bennett and sons Roman and Kobe enjoy a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Byron Kiwanis Club thanks community for Christmas support

BYRON — The Byron Police Department's Operation Santa has been making Christmas a little brighter for the less fortunate children in the Byron community for the past 34 years. The Kiwanis Club of Byron has partnered with the police department for 14 years, hosting Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus where all toy and monetary donations benefit Operation Santa.

The Kiwanis Club of Byron would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Byron community for their generosity at our Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus, held Dec. 3 at Mary Morgan Elementary School. While the breakfast was free, we did gratefully accept toys or monetary donations to help supplement Operation Santa. Approximately 400 people attended, donating toys and/or making monetary donations that allowed us to purchase age-appropriate gifts for those who otherwise would have gone without on Christmas morning.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the Bucciferro family and McDonalds for their donation of sausage, syrup, and butter for the breakfast. We also thank Family Dollar in Byron for their in-house promotions that provided many toys and batteries to add to our Santa sacks this year.

Operation Santa and Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus continues to succeed thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our community. Through this program, nearly 5,000 children have received gifts at Christmas over the years. We are grateful for your giving hearts and ensuring happy holidays for many families.

Retirement party for Mt. Morris Village Clerk is Dec. 30

MT. MORRIS — Please join us for a retirement open house honoring Paula Diehl. The Village of Mt. Morris is very grateful for the service of Paula Diehl as Mt. Morris village clerk.

With the end of 2022 Paula's time as our village clerk is also coming

to an end. We are celebrating her with an open house at the Mt. Morris Senior Center (9 E. Front St., Mt. Morris, IL 61054) on Friday, Dec. 30 4-6 p.m. Paula loves plants and flowers, so please come in your favorite flowery attire. All are welcome to come and celebrate

Paula's retirement with her and the village board.

If you would like to send Paula a card, please send them to 9 E. Front St., Mt. Morris, IL 61054.

"Retirement is not the end of the road. It is the beginning of the open highway." -Unknown



Swanson to celebrate 90th birthday

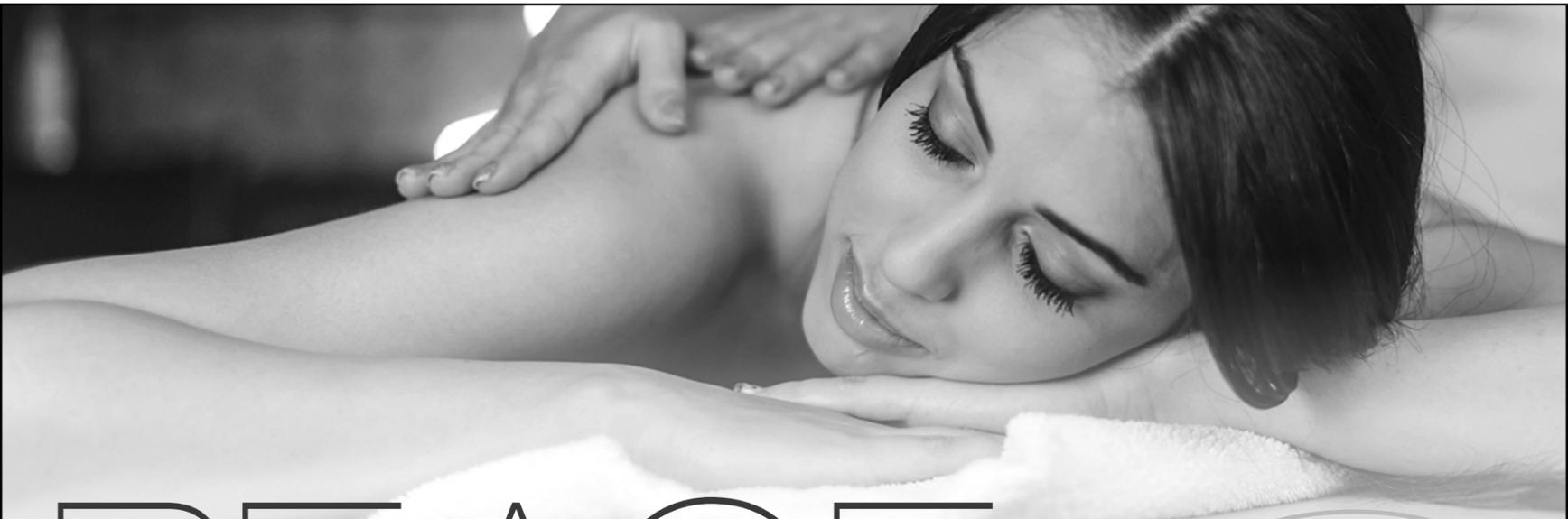
CHANA — John R. Swanson will celebrate his 90th birthday on Dec. 31. A 'New Year's baby' born in 1932 to Swedish emigrants Carl and Ellen Swanson.

Any cards may be sent to 9714 Grant Road, Chana, IL 61015.



Swedberg to celebrate 98th birthday

MT. MORRIS — Doris Swedberg is turning 98 on Dec. 29. She is a retired high school English/drama/speech teacher from Mt. Morris High School. If you would like to participate in a card shower for her, please send them to her at Allure of Pinecrest, 414 S. Wesley Ave., Mt Morris, IL 61054.



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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Patricia A. Carey

BYRON—Patricia A. Carey, 69, died peacefully Dec. 9 in her home after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born Jan. 3, 1953 in Dixon to Thomas and Claudia (Malach) Fruin. She attended Dixon schools and graduated from Dixon High School in 1971.

Patricia married Doug Carey on Sept. 22, 1979 at his parents' home near Byron. They were married for over 46 years. Patricia worked most recently at Classic Look Salon, was previously a waitress at Maxon Manor, Dr. Barrett's Dentistry office in Byron and would clean houses for the elderly.

She enjoyed quilting and was an avid golfer. Patricia ran the Susan B. Komen Rally for the Cure at PrairieView Golf Course for many years. She managed her



home with a real "get it done" attitude. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother Gary Fruin.

Patricia is survived by her husband, Doug; two sons, Chad Worman of Byron and Brian (Jacqueline) Worman of Glendale Heights. Patricia had two grandchildren, Anthony and Samantha Worman. She is also survived by special friends Char, Deb, Sandy, Nancy, Julie and Jeanie.

A memorial visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 21 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 506 W. Merchant St. in Byron. A memorial fund is established in Patricia's name for the Northern Illinois Hospice Association.

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

Samuel 'Sam' J. Logan

OREGON—Samuel "Sam" J. Logan, 69, passed away on Monday, Dec. 12 at Rochelle Hospital.

He was born in Oregon on Feb. 27, 1953 the son of Ira and Dorothy (Beach) Logan. He married Lea Irvin on Nov. 23, 1971 in Polo and they had 51 wonderful years together.

Sam was a jack of all trades who liked to farm and stay busy. He could typically be found tinkering with something or servicing his trucks for Logan Transport; the trucking company he owned and operated. Sam was someone who could be counted on.

The most important thing in his life was his grandchildren. He was incredibly proud of each of his grandkids and loved them unconditionally. He would always make sure to find ways to connect with them whether it was over farming video games or taking them on vacations to Kentucky. He never missed an opportunity to make sure they felt important and loved.



He is preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Elmer and Leonard.

He is survived and missed by his wife, Lea of Oregon; children, Darrell (Michelle) Logan of Mt. Morris, Shannon (James) Coffman of Polo, and Rob Logan of Oregon; siblings, Millie (Wayne) Meador of Chana and Gene Logan of Dixon; step-mother, Wilma Logan of Oregon; grandchildren, Matthew Coffman, Carson Coffman, Dustin (Dezarae) Logan, Brook Logan, Emily Logan and Ricky Logan; step grandchildren, Gary Young, Sara Young and Ashley

Young; great-grandchild, Kopelyn; step great-grandchildren, Avery, Madden, Raelynn, Beau, Stetson, Bryleigh and Peighton; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorials are established in his name.

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

Randall H. Maxwell

LEAF RIVER—Randall H. Maxwell, 69, passed away suddenly while residing in Houston, Texas.

Randy was born Feb. 27, 1953 in Rockford, the son of James (Gibby) Maxwell and Iva Berneice (Bull) Maxwell. Randy was a 1971 graduate of Leaf River High School.

After high school, Randy began working for the local phone company burying cables in many parts of Wisconsin. He spent much of his time in and around DeForest, Poynette, Madison, and upper

Door County. When his work slowed down, Randy took to Rock River Valley Cablevision and then took a leadership job in the carpentry group helping build the Byron Nuclear Plant.

Fate and his love for heavy equipment took him to Houston for some years. The wage gap then prompted Randy to return to northern Illinois where he found his niche in the operator's union with heavy machinery for Schlichting & Son's



Excavating in Rockford. He worked this job in the areas of Rockford, Loves Park and even the Chicago suburbs. He lived in Mt. Morris, which is where he remained until an untimely stroke caused him to retire and eventually move back to Houston.

Survivors include a brother, Ken Maxwell, Forreton; brother, Barry Maxwell, Tennessee; sister, Janet Cunningham (Brian), Leaf River; step-mother, Jean Maxwell, Forreton; granddaughter, Sarah Jane Wolber, Oregon; nephew, Mark (Heather)

Maxwell, Jacksonville, Florida; nephew, Adam Maxwell (Sheri), Ashville, North Carolina; nephew, Seth Maxwell, Rockford; niece, Amanda Milton, Freeport; nephew, Travis (Allison) Cunningham, Forreton; nephew, Jacob Cunningham, Mt. Morris.

Randy was preceded in death by his grandparents and parents.

No local services will be held at this time.

Timothy 'Tim' Leigh Stauffer

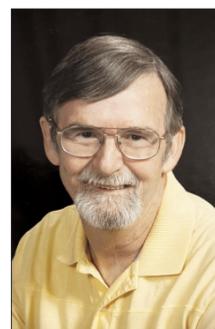
POLO—Timothy "Tim" Leigh Stauffer, 72, of Polo, passed away Thursday, Dec. 8 at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center, Rockford.

He worked as a laborer for the Local 727 Union, for 43 years. Most of Tim's work was spent working outages at nuclear plants, road work, pipeline work, hazardous waste removal and asbestos removal.

Tim was born Dec. 2, 1950, in Amboy, the son of LeRoy and Patricia (Arend) Stauffer. He married Colleen Beard on Jan. 18, 1986, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, in Dixon.

He enjoyed fishing, traveling with his wife Colleen to places like Hawaii and Cancun, and above all; time spent with family and grand-pups (Zoey, Nevaeh and Brutus).

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Colleen Stauffer, of Polo; two



sons, Timothy B. (Peggy) Stauffer, of Rochelle, Jake A. (Tanya Drabek) Stauffer, of Beloit, Wisconsin; one daughter, Kelli M. (Sam) Riggen, of Dixon; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and one sister, Julie B. Johnson of Dixon.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents; two daughters, Kristi L. Stauffer, Kari B. Stauffer and one grandson, Riley Riggen.

Memorial visitation will be from 11 a.m. until time of memorial service at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16 at Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon, with Pastor Jack Briggs officiating. Cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial has been established.

Arrangements were completed by Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon. Condolences may be sent to www.prestonschilling.com.

Robert Alexander 'Alex' Stormont

BYRON—Robert Alexander "Alex" Stormont, II died suddenly on Thursday, Dec. 8 at SwedishAmerican Hospital in Rockford.

He was born March 11, 1954 in Rockford the son of Robert N. and Helen M. (Barnhizer) Stormont. He attended Walker Grade School and graduated from Winnebago High School in 1972. He obtained his associates degree from Rock Valley College and bachelor's degree from Cardinal Stritch University.

He married Virginia "Jenni" Whidby on Nov. 18, 1972 in Jackson, Tennessee. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in St. Lucia.

Alex served his country in the U.S. Air Force from 1972-1976. He previously worked for UC Industries and Owens Corning. He currently worked the past 10 years as a CQE for Woodward in Rockford.

He loved to ride his Skidoo snowmobile in the winter and drive his Sebring convertible in the summer. He also liked to be in the sun on a beach, working in his veggie garden and taking care of his lawn. He was a lover of chocolate and pizza.

Alex was proud of his Scottish heritage and was a Scottish Laird. He served as president of the Rockford Burns Club

in Rockford and for a time was the drum major for The Pipe Band of the Scottish Educational Society.

Alex had several cats which he adored. He was a fan of Jimmy Buffet music.

Alex was predeceased by his parents and grandparents.

He is survived by his loving wife Jenni of Byron, daughter Christine Brooks of Oak Creek, Wisconsin, son Matthew (Mandy) Stormont of Byron; four sisters, Mary Stormont of Oklahoma, Suzanne Roeh of Madison, Wisconsin, Patsy Stormont of Colorado and Robin (Doug) Albright of Rockford; four grandchildren (whom he loved to spoil), Cheyenne Brooks, Dylan Stormont, Hayden Stormont, Dakota Pendergrass and many friends and relatives.

A funeral service will be held at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 506 W. Merchant St. in Byron with Pastor Michael Hoffman of the Oregon Church of God officiating. Visitation will be prior to the service from 3-5 p.m. at the funeral home. A memorial fund is established for the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago.

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



Stillman Valley grad elected to Maryland state senate

Dawn D. Gile has been elected Senator-elect to District 33 Maryland. Senator-elect Gile is a graduate of Stillman Valley High School, Rockford University and Loyola School of Law and is a partner at MacDonald Law Group LLC.

She is also president of Military Spouse JD Network as well as a trustee of Rockford University. She resides in Severna Park, Maryland with her husband SGM D.J. Gile (ret.) and her three daughters. Dawn is the daughter of Tom and Joyce Niehaus, Byron.



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Report policy

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

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

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officers investigate car versus deer crash

Nov. 28
At 12:34 p.m., Oregon Police issued Hannah J. Cantrell, 20, Chana, citations for operating a vehicle when registration is suspended for no insurance and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 600 block of South 4th Street.

Nov. 29
At 7:28 a.m., Oregon Police investigated a car vs. deer traffic crash in the 1,500 block of West Washington Street involving a 2010 Toyota driven by Samantha M. Smidt, 32, Oregon. No citations were issued.

At 10:48 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Ahmad M. Ashour, 34, Dixon, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia. Ashour was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

At 9:52 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance call in the 200 block of North Jones Terrace resulting in the arrest of Eugene F. Collins, 55, Oregon, for elder abuse/neglect. Collins was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

Nov. 30
At 9:03 a.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the rear parking lot of the Oregon Post Office, 500 W. Washington St., involving a 2012 Freightliner box truck driven by Eric B. Jeffers, 43, of Brandon, Florida, and a parked 2011 Chevrolet belonging to Allison J. Geuther, 48, of Amboy. No citations were issued.

At 3:10 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 100 block of North 4th Street involving a 2008 Lincoln driven by Darlene E. Josel, 79, of Lanark, and a parked 2022 GMC belonging to Andrew K. Bush, 36, Oregon. No citations were issued.

Dec. 2
At 3:30 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jacob A. Swartz, 17, Forreston, a citation for passing a school bus while loading/unloading. This violation occurred in the 100 block of East Washington Street.

At 8:41 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jason D. Paul, 48, Oregon, a citation for disobeying a traffic control device. This violation occurred at the intersection of Monroe and 5th Streets.

At 11:07 p.m., Oregon Police issued Nathan R. Brown, 31, of Warrentonville a citation for speeding, 47 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Gale Street.

Dec. 3
At 10:15 a.m., Oregon Police issued Matthew W. Martin, 34, of Mt. Morris, citations for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 900 block of West Washington Street.

Dec. 4
At 9:22 a.m., Oregon Police issued Joshua T. Elmendorf, 25, Amboy, a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 300 block of West

Washington Street.
At 9:46 a.m., Oregon Police issued Margo L. Gardner, 62, Chana, a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 300 block of West Washington Street.

At 8:57 p.m., Oregon Police issued Bria J. Petkovich, 28, Oregon, a citation for use of a cell phone while driving. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

Eight parking citations and three verbal warnings issued during the week of Nov. 28 through Dec. 4.

Dec. 5
At 12:29 p.m., Oregon Police issued Mallory L. Herring, 32, Mt. Morris, a citation for use of a cell phone while driving. This violation occurred in the 100 block of North 4th Street.

At 6:32 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Jose A. Alvarado Aguilar, 28, Rockford, for no valid driver's license. Alvarado Aguilar was transported to the Ogle County Jail. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

At 9:27 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Jennifer S. Kregar, 46, Sterling, on an outstanding Whiteside County warrant for obstructing a court order. Kregar was also issued a citation for speeding 44 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. Kregar was transported to the Ogle County Jail. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 5th Street.

Dec. 6
At 3:48 p.m., Oregon Police issued Sean M. Howe, 25, Leaf River a citation for speeding 46 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

Dec. 7
At 2:47 p.m., Oregon Police were notified of a traffic crash that had occurred on Oct. 25 at 8:05 a.m. in the parking lot of the Blackhawk Center, 1100 Jefferson St., involving a 2018 Ford driven by Francis E. Labay, 42, Byron, and a 2007 Chevrolet driven by Emmett C. Peterson, 17, Mt. Morris. No citations were issued.

At 7:30 p.m., Oregon Police responded to the intersection of 4th and Jefferson Streets for a traffic crash that had just occurred involving a 1999 Acura driven by Trei T. Sanders, 28, Mt. Morris, and a 2012 Buick driven by Kristi J. Powell, 62, Oregon. Sanders was charged with aggravated driving while license revoked and aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol with a revoked driver's license. Sanders was also issued citations for failure to yield from stop sign, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of alcohol with blood alcohol content greater than .08 percent. Sanders was transported by Oregon EMS to KSB Hospital and then subsequently transported to the Ogle County Jail by the Oregon Police Department.

At 9:31 p.m., Oregon Police re-

sponded to the 300 block of South 3rd Street to investigate a disturbance that had occurred a short time previously. Following the investigation, the Oregon Police arrested Rebecca S. Neuman, 56, Oregon, for battery. Neuman was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

Dec. 8
At 10:13 a.m., Oregon Police issued Colton R. Fuller, 19, Dixon, a citation for operating a vehicle in violation of the tinted front side windows law. This violation occurred in the 800 block of

West Washington Street.
At 3:45 p.m., Oregon Police issued Robert J. Leddy, 73, Oregon, a citation for violating the Oregon city code ordinance of trash/rubbish/junk. This violation occurred in the 500 block of South 2nd Street.

Dec. 9
At 8:51 p.m., Oregon Police issued Payton D. Wohlford, 20, Oregon, a citation for speeding 45 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.



RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

PICK UP SERVICE:
Saturday, January 7th
trees will be picked up by local high school FFA groups in these areas:

VILLAGE OF MT. MORRIS
CITY OF OREGON
BYRON AREA
CITY OF POLO
VILLAGE OF ADELIN
VILLAGE OF FORRESTON
BAILEYVILLE
GERMAN VALLEY

TREES MUST BE AT THE CURB BY 8 A.M.
ON JANUARY 7, 2023

Rochelle Residents: The City Street Department will chip trees at the curb, January 2-13, 2023

REMOVE ALL DECORATIONS.
NO WREATHS, GARLAND,
OR PLASTIC BAGS.

Any questions call
Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department
815-732-4020

DROP OFF SITES:

STARTING DECEMBER 26TH

Oregon:
Park District
Maintenance Dept.,
507 Hill St.

Byron:
Byron boat launch lot,
E. Blackhawk Dr. (Rt. 2)

Forreston:
407 N. Locust St.

Leaf River:
208 Railroad St.

Rochelle:
Atwood Park, 10th Ave.
& 20th St.

Monroe Center:
Lichty's Landscaping
309 Pacific St.

Polo:
Southwest corner of E.
Colden St. & S. Green Ave.

DROP OFF ENDS,
JANUARY 22, 2023

Joy To The World! The Lord Is Come

The Lord did come over 2,000 years ago to bring joy to the world. The joy that He brought was far more than the joy that comes from the birth of a new child. The baby born in a manger came as the long awaited king. "And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord: we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." (Isaiah 25:9).

To some His presence was threatening, to others He was just another child, but to those who received Him as their Savior, He brought great joy. Has He brought joy to your heart? Many today still feel threatened by His presence and many see Him as only another man. But to all who recognize Him as the King that He is and surrender themselves to His leadership, He brings overflowing joy.

This joy comes when we have experienced His salvation and life changing power, and the guilt of sin is removed. "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." (1 Peter 1:8,9). This joy can be a reality for you!

"Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing."

Brought to you by:
Little Prairie Mennonite Church
For spiritual help please contact
Pastor Norm Reinford (779) 861-3700

Happy Holidays from all of us at R&R!



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giving 25% off all alignments
thru the month of January!!
Schedule your
appointment today!!**

LOCAL NEWS

Students of the Month recognized



BHS students named November Students of the Month
 Congratulations to the Byron High School Students of the Month for November. Pictured from left to right are: Madison Lane (ninth grade), Claire Henkel (10th grade), Nick Drake (11th grade), Shannon McHale (12th grade) and Stillman Bank Executive Vice President & COO David Mecklenburg. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement.



Byron Middle School Students of the Month named for November
 Byron Bank, located at 200 N. Walnut St. in Byron, is proud to announce the Byron Middle School Students of the month for November 2022. Students are selected by teachers based on criteria of: work habits, positive attitude, good manners, cooperation with faculty and peers and a good role model for other students. Byron Bank presents the students with a cash prize and a certificate of award. The November 2022 Students of the Month are: (pictured L-R) Mr. Mike Sand, BMS principal sixth grade Evan Fuller; seventh grade Emma Shine; eighth grade Jayce Keese; Omni – Jolie Corkran and from Byron Bank Mr. Brent Baker.

November 2022 From The Heart Cash Calendar winners

- Nov. 1 - Josh Williams, Rochelle, Foundation, \$25
 - Nov. 2 - Rochelle Rescue Mission, \$25
 - Nov. 3 - Matt Gerard, Rochelle, \$25
 - Nov. 4 - Foundation for Focus House, \$25
 - Nov. 5 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
 - Nov. 6 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50
 - Nov. 7 - Jacob Meyers, Rochelle, \$25
 - Nov. 8 - Sharon Watkins, DeKalb, \$25
 - Nov. 9 - Rachel Huff, Rochelle, \$25
 - Nov. 10 - Pastor Greg & Tina Hoffman, Rochelle, \$25
 - Nov. 11 - Foundation for Focus House, Rochelle, \$250
 - Nov. 12 - Nancy Pfab, Lindenwood, \$25
 - Nov. 13 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50
 - Nov. 14 - Michael Shumack, Amboy, \$25
 - Nov. 15 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
 - Nov. 16 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
 - Nov. 17 - Patty Rudolphi, Dixon, \$25
 - Nov. 18 - Justin Hutchinson, Sterling, \$25
 - Nov. 19 - Adam Heal, Rochelle, \$25
 - Nov. 20 - Dale Galland, Rochelle, \$50
 - Nov. 21 - Gary and Sharon Olszewski, Rochelle, \$25
 - Nov. 22 - Colby Capes, Chicago, \$25
 - Nov. 23 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
 - Nov. 24 - Adam Heal, Rochelle, \$500
 - Nov. 25 - Rochelle Rescue Mission, \$25
 - Nov. 26 - Sharlene Meadows, Rochelle, \$25
 - Nov. 27 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$50
 - Nov. 28 - Fran Robertson, Sycamore, \$25
 - Nov. 29 - Debra R. Mayer, Rochelle, \$25
 - Nov. 30 - Rochelle Foods, Rochelle, \$25
- Checks to winners will be mailed out at the end of each month.

BYRON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officers issue multiple speeding citations

On Nov. 28, Jeremy R. Navarra 40, of Winnebago was issued a citation for speeding.

On Nov. 28, a 16-year-old juvenile of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

On Nov. 29, Shayn A. Sanders, 32, of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

On Nov. 29, Thomas L. Bartscher, 79, of Rockford was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 1, Fischer R.J. Jackson, 20, of Shannon was issued citations for driving while license suspended, operating an uninsured vehicle and operating a vehicle while registration suspended.

On Dec. 2, a 17-year-old juvenile of Oregon was issued a citation for disregarding an official traffic control device.

On Dec. 2, Hyecha Lindquist, 77, of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 2, Michelle M. Swartz, 53, of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 2, Shirley E. Sreng, 71, of Oregon was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 3, Jemya D. Thomas, 33, of Davenport, Iowa was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 3, Zachary S.A. Bailey, 25, of Mt. Morris was arrested on a warrant for contempt of court. Bailey was transported to Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Dec. 4, Greg May, 52, of Des Plaines was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 4, Xavier N. Gallegos, 53, of Oregon was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 4, Donald E. Johnson, 65, of Rockford was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 4, Bradley R. Serpico, 35, of Hampshire was issued a citation for disobeying a traffic control device.

On Dec. 4, Ryan T. Snodgrass, 35, of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 5, Laura A. Haenitsch, 34, of Polo was issued a citation for operating a vehicle while registration suspended.

On Dec. 6, Daysha R. McClain, 22, of Oregon was issued a citation for operating a vehicle while registration suspended.

On Dec. 6, Laura L. Madden, 58, of Leaf River was issued citations for driving while license suspended, operating an uninsured vehicle and operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

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

NOTICE OF ADOPTED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR FORRESTVILLE UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #221

I. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended for 2021 were \$5,233,899.48.

The adopted corporate and special purpose taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$5,680,493.00. This represents an 8.53% increase over the previous year.

II. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2021 were \$1,104,247.95.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 are \$1,030,385.00. This represents a 6.6890% decrease from the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended for the year 2021 were \$6,338,147.43.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$6,710,878.00. This represents a 5.8807% increase over the previous year.

Dated this 14th day of December 2022.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FORRESTVILLE VALLEY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #221, OGLE & STEPHENSON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS



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

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LOCAL NEWS



Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club wins club of the year

LEAF RIVER — The Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club did it again, they won the 4-H club of the year award for Ogle County! The award was earned with completion of projects by members. The club also took many tours and helped at different community events in support of the county 4-H program. Their prize was the supplies for a club pizza party, which will be used soon.

Pictured left to right: David Wehler, Lydia Sherburne, Kaden Lingbeck, Lucy Miller, Natalie Johnson, Nikki Lingbeck and Grant Johnson.

The Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club meets at the River Valley Complex in Leaf River on the second Monday of every month.

Article submitted By: Grant Johnson, club reporter.



Stillman Valley High School November Students of the Month named

Congratulations to the Stillman Valley High School Students of the Month for November. Pictured from left to right are: SVHS Vice Principal Jeff Voltz, Brandon Pittman (ninth grade), Liz Henderson (10th grade), Jacob Onken Carter (11th grade), Blakelynn Swanson (12th grade) and Stillman Bank Executive Vice President & COO David Mecklenburg. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement.

Barkalow awarded degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic

DAVENPORT, Iowa — Maxwell Barkalow of Forrester graduated with a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College

of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa on Oct. 21.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and

largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, California; and Port Orange, Florida.

Lifeline Food & Self-Help Project served 72 families this month

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

Hours are Tuesday 1:30-4 p.m. for food and clothing, Thursday from 1-4 p.m. for clothing only, Friday from 1:30-4:30 p.m. for

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

Lifeline served 72 families this month. Thanks to all of you who donate food and gifts to Lifeline.

We would like to thank everyone that gives donations to Lifeline, we appreciate your help and food that you give us.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

'Understanding Your Grief' support group

OREGON — Serenity Hospice will facilitate a free, six-week grief support group that will meet weekly on Mondays (10-11:30 a.m.) from Jan. 9 to Feb. 13.

Based on the book "Understanding Your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart" by Dr. Alan Wolfelt, these groups are designed to assist individuals along their grief journeys by connecting them with a supportive

community and providing helpful resources.

The group will be facilitated at Serenity Hospice and Home, 1658 South Illinois Route 2, Oregon. Individuals who would like to attend should register by calling Denise Watts or Cathy Warren of the Serenity Bereavement Team at 815-732-2499. Participation is open to the public.

Support groups at the Rock River Center

• Cancer support group meets fourth Wednesday of March, June, September

and November from 2-3 p.m.

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

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

• Low vision group meets 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.

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VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Mike Feltes, General Manager
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor
The Ogle County Life is a division of
News Media Corporation.

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Dec. 28, 1900, Mrs. Lulu Jenkins, of Chicago, was paid \$4,000 in compensation for the lynching of her husband in Ripley County, Indiana. Mr. Jenkins allegedly was involved in the theft of a horse and ended up the victim of a furious mob. Two other men were killed as well.

* On Dec. 31, 1943, Henry John Deuschendorf, better known to us today as singer-songwriter, actor John Denver, was born. In a four-decade career before his untimely death in an airplane crash, he won worldwide affection and acclaim not just for his music but for his dedication to humanitarian and environmental causes.

* On Jan. 1, 1962, the U.S. Navy SEALs unit was created. Their elite members (only about 20% actually make it that far) are trained to operate in urban, desert and jungle locations and to withstand torture.

* On Dec. 26, 1966, the first Kwanzaa celebrations began in America, with the holiday continuing until Jan. 1. Created by activist, author and professor of African studies Dr. Maulana Karenga, the annual event, which affirms African family and social values, was originally intended to replace Christmas for Africans.

* On Dec. 30, 1984, speleologists (cave studiers/explorers) in the Mexican state of Oaxaca landed upon what was then thought to possibly be the world's deepest cave after going through a maze of underground tunnels in the jungle.

* On Dec. 27, 1994, Rwanda's president died in a plane crash and the African country was plunged into a genocidal blood bath in which the Hutu majority slaughtered the Tutsis, leaving half a million dead. A distraught missionary exclaimed of the carnage: "There are no devils left in hell. They are all in Rwanda."

* On Dec. 29, 2011, Russian authorities discovered a large amount of a rare caviar stored in, of all places, a morgue in St. Petersburg. A businessman and morgue attendant were arrested but claimed that the caviar was being kept for a personal New Year's celebration.

(c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Fuel prices hitting farmers

THE average price of diesel is \$5.32 per gallon, more than \$1.50 above the same time last year. While prices are below the \$5.81 peak in June, the high cost of fuel is hitting farmers hard as they navigate the fall harvest season.

A ban on U.S. imports of petroleum from Russia, lower domestic production capacity, and seasonal demand are all contributing to higher costs. Russia provided 20 percent of the petroleum imported into the U.S. in 2021, but that was halted after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Beyond the impact of Russia, since 2019, domestic diesel production capacity has dropped by 180,000 barrels per day. Several plants closed during the coronavirus pandemic and are not yet back online.

National diesel prices are expected to average \$4.86 per gallon through the end of the year, according to government projections, and \$4.29 per gallon in 2023.

The price difference between diesel and gas has many scratching their heads. On Oct. 31, the average diesel price was \$5.32 per gallon, while the average gas price was \$3.86.

On the supply side, back in March, the U.S. banned imports of Russian oil and Russian petroleum products. While we only get three percent of our oil from Russia, we get 20 percent of our petroleum products from that country. And a lot of those pe-

troleum products that we were importing are used to make diesel fuel. We've also seen some downturn in production as refiners have been taking their plants down for maintenance.



Ron Kern

Gasoline tends to peak in the summertime when Americans are out hitting the open road on vacation, whereas diesel demand tends to increase in the fall and the winter with increased trucking as retailers are stocking their shelves for the holidays. Of course, farmers are using more diesel during harvest. And as folks are using a lot more heating oil as the temperatures drop. So, it's a combined supply and demand issue really going on here with diesel that is separating it from gasoline prices.

Nationwide we're down about 17 percent relative to the same time last year, but on the East Coast, they're down 37 percent; the Midwest is down 15 percent, the West Coast and Rocky Mountain regions are down 11 and nine percent, respectively. So, certainly feeling a pinch in multiple regions across the United States, but the East Coast far and away having the biggest supply constraint, followed by the Midwest.

Holiday ideas

Feeding Minds Press, the publishing arm of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture offers a range of holiday ideas for the bookworm in your life.

Holiday shoppers can find

agriculture-focused children books this gift-giving season from Feeding Minds Press.

Feeding Minds Press has a couple of things to offer to shoppers, especially in the holiday season. One of their books called 'Barn at Night' has got a wonderful winter and holiday vibe. And that book just won the Silver Moonbeam Award in the picture book category for 4-year-olds to 8-year olds. And also, they have another book that just won an award called 'I LOVE Strawberries'. It won Good Housekeeping's Best Kids Book Award.

Feeding Minds Press was really started to create engaging books about modern agriculture. They really want to show young readers what farms look like today. Agriculture is a really exciting career field, and they want to make sure that students see it as something fun and exciting and fresh.

You can find them on Amazon, on Barnes and Noble, you can find them in the FB store where they also sell educator guides and ag mags to accompany them if you're looking to create a nice educator bundle package for a teacher gift, and you can also order them through Bookshop, which will help you find a local independent bookstore near you as well.

"I once wanted to become an atheist, but I gave up - they have no holidays." -Henny Youngman

Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.

It's who is behind the trigger

I remember taking my oldest daughter Gracie fishing 14 years ago at Lake Springfield.

We talked about the ducks, geese and boats floating in the lake, her favorite cartoons and the brand-new Barbie life jacket she was wearing.

After about three hours wiggling on a dock staring at a bobber that refused to go under, she exclaimed, "I think all of the fish have gone on vacation to a different lake."

It was a grand day to be a dad. She seemed to be having a good time too. No sooner had we packed up the worms and closed the tackle box than she was asking when we could go fishing again.

I guess uninterrupted time with Dad was more important than how many bluegills we reeled in.

After finishing at the lake, I decided to let her pick out a new fishing pole, so

I took her to Gander Mountain, which was one of those "big box" sporting goods stores on the city's south side.

She chose a rod with the cartoon character Sponge Bob embossed on the reel.

After loading the fishing pole into the cart we wandered into the firearms section.

I occasionally hunt, but with three kids and a busy job, I don't always have the time. In fact, this year is the first time in the last five that I haven't found myself in a tree stand holding a shotgun and waiting for a deer.

Unlike other retailers that put firearms behind a counter, Gander Mountain, at the time, displayed guns attached to tethers so customers could hold them unsupervised -- but not walk away with them.

What I saw that day frightened me.

A couple of junior high kids were playing with a rifle and pointed it toward me, other customers and at my then 3-year-old daughter.

I remembered my father's admonitions when I was their age:

"Never point a gun at something you don't plan to destroy."

"Always assume a gun is loaded."

"Never count on a gun's safety."

I started handling guns when I was 9 or 10. A reverent respect for firearms was instilled in me by my father and older brother.

But I didn't see that same quiet respect in those teenagers at the store. Instead of tools for harvesting game, they seemed to view guns as macho playthings.

Some of the "adults" shopping in the gun department

weren't much different.

They were "ooing" and "awing" over guns dolled up to look like military weapons. (The gun control crowd likes to call them "assault weapons" and gun-rights groups call them "modern sporting rifles.")

There's a word for all those "assault weapon" add-ons like - bayonet holders, detachable magazines and pistol grips - it is called "marketing."

Just as my 3-year-old thought a "Sponge Bob" fishing reel would be "way cool," these fellows seemed drawn to firearms with macho doodads attached.

Here's a few hints, guys:

They don't fire off bullets any faster than any other semi-automatic rifle. (They may look similar to military weapons, but they aren't the same.)

Wildlife doesn't care what the gun

looks like (and neither does your wife.)

If you need more than 10 bullets in your rifle, you must be a pretty lousy shot.

It's OK to go out in public wearing something other than camouflage — really.

Illinois lawmakers are considering legislation that would not only ban the future sale of "assault weapons" but would require the registration of ones already owned. It would also ban the sale of magazines with more than ten bullets in them, as well as raise the age for FOID cards to 21 for all guns.

It's no secret that firearms are viewed in radically different ways depending on where one lives in the state. My hope, as always, is that lawmakers will listen intently to the concerns of one another and compromise.

But experience tells me gun debates generate more heat than light. One thing

I do know is that no one in the General Assembly relishes the thought of innocent people dying.

Some proposed restrictions, such as lengthening the term of firearm restraining orders from six months to a year, make sense. Other aspects of the bill while well-intentioned, will do little to make our communities safer.

A sad reality is that loud demands for gun control mean more guns are sold to people afraid they will soon be banned.

The main problem isn't what the guns look like — it's who is behind the trigger.

That's a problem that won't be solved by passing another law in Springfield. It can only be solved with good parenting.

Have all the good parents gone on vacation?

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

LIFE letters' policy



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

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

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

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

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

Woman cited for improper lane use following accident

On Dec. 6 at approximately 10:17 a.m. deputies along with Byron Police Department and Byron Fire and EMS responded to a single vehicle accident in the 9,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. Upon investigation, it was determined that a red Hyundai sedan, driven by Alice Dalton, 63, of Sterling, was northbound on Illinois Route 2 when it left the roadway and struck a guard rail on the east shoulder of the roadway. The vehicle then crossed the roadway and came to rest in the west ditch. Dalton was transported to the hospital for examination by Byron EMS. Dalton was issued a citation for improper lane usage.

On Dec. 7 at approximately 7:20 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the 11,000 block of West Henry Road for the report of a physical domestic disturbance. After an investigation, deputies arrested Joseph D. Smith, 35, of Polo, for aggravated battery to a peace officer and domestic battery. Smith was taken into custody and transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held in lieu of

bond, pending an appearance in front of a judge.

On Dec. 10 at 10:31 a.m. deputies responded to the 4,000 block of South Ridge Road in reference to a loose cow in the roadway. After the cow was located roaming outside of the cattle yard, Merle Yocum, 83, of Oregon, was arrested for Illinois domestic animals running at large. Yocum was given an I-bond and was released at the scene.

On Dec. 11 at approximately 2:20 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 11,000 block of West Town Line Road. After investigation, deputies placed Kasey Erckfritz, 37, of Machesney Park under arrest for driving while license suspended. Erckfritz was additionally issued citations for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration and a citation for illegal transportation of alcohol. Erckfritz was released on an I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Illinois State Police District 1 announces monthly activity for November

STERLING – Illinois State Police District 1 Commander Dyan Talbot has announced enforcement figures and activity for November.

Illinois State Police District 1 Troopers issued 331 citations, 472 written warnings, and made two criminal arrests during

the month of November. Troopers issued 194 citations for speeding, 20 citations for distracted driving violations and 20 citations for seat belt violations. There were 16 arrests for no valid driver's license or driving while license suspended/revoked.

Troopers investigated

19 traffic crashes, assisted 87 motorists, and conducted 101 commercial motor vehicle inspections. There were two arrests for driving under the influence.

District 1, which encompasses Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties, investigated no fatal traffic crashes in November.

Man faces drug charges following speeding stop

OGLE COUNTY – Tomas M. Torrence, 35, of Madison, Wisconsin was stopped for speeding on Dec. 12 at 1:44 a.m. on Interstate 39 at milepost 98 in Ogle County. Torrence was charged with possession of

drug paraphernalia, possession of hypodermic syringes, unlawful possession of cannabis by driver, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and speeding. Torrence was released on bond.

ISP announces results of special traffic enforcement patrols

STERLING – Illinois State Police (ISP) District 1 Interim Commander Lt. Dyan Talbot recently announced the results of daytime special traffic enforcement patrols (sSTEP) in Lee and Ogle Counties during this month of November. These sSTEPs allowed the ISP to provide increased enforcement for impaired driving, occupant restraint, speeding, and distracted driving violations during the National "Click It or Ticket" Campaign.

Occupant restraint violations: One. Driving under the influence and drug/alcohol-related citations: Zero. Speeding citations and warnings: 73. Distracted driving citations and warnings: One. Total citations: 62. Total written warnings: 44.

Driving the posted speed limit, sober, not distracted, and buckled up will save your life and the lives of many others. This project is funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Last-Minute Gifts!

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No secret formula to Stillman girls hoops success

'This is such a special group'

BY GEORGE HOWE
CORRESPONDENT

STILLMAN VALLEY — The Stillman Valley High School girls basketball team had high expectations and goals coming into the 2022-23 campaign. So far, to no one's surprise within the program the Cardinals are off to an impressive 9-1 overall and 1-1 Big Northern Conference record. One early-season accolade was winning the Forrester Tournament back in November.

This season's team returns all five starters from last year's squad that went 23-9 and 7-2

overall, finishing third behind Winnebago and Byron. The word on the street last year was that the team was going to be competitive but was rather young to make a serious run in the post season.

"We kind of flew under the radar last year and that was okay by us," Head Coach Bobby Mellon said, who has been at the reigns since 2014.

Not so much this time around. Through their first nine games Stillman has outscored opponents 412-254, while averaging just under 46 points per game. As of this writing they were ranked



Guard Maddy McCammond is a starter on this year's Stillman Valley girls basketball team that is off to a

fourth in the state in 2A play. Mellon and his staff don't have a secret formula that they creat-

ed, but pride themselves on "getting after it" in practice to prepare for whatever the opponents

might throw at them.

"We'd like to bottle up the effort and energy that this team puts forth every day and use it for years to come," Mellon said with a laugh. "Our big focus is to limit our opponents' points by making defensive adjustments during games to not allow teams to settle into a routine. This team handles our adaptations very well."

Leading the charge on the floor is sophomore co-captain Taylor Davidson. The 5'10 point/ shooting guard leads the team in scoring, followed closely by teammate junior 6'0 post player Mya Janssen. Forwards, sophomore 5'8 Brooke Jordal and senior 5'7 Jenna Shelburne, along with senior co-captain shooting/point guard 5'6 Maddy McCammond round out the top five.

Another advantage that Mellon attributes their success to is the communication that is

evident as a result of the group playing together and working very hard over the summer.

"One of our strengths is our teamwork, unselfishness and the girls' willingness to create shots for each other by finding open looks and spacing the floor," he explained. Mellon went on to say that it also helps to have a player like McCammond who is an extension of him on the floor. "As a senior, Maddy knows what I want and looks over at our bench all game long to see what we might be doing next," Mellon said. "She is very valuable."

"I feel confident knowing that coach trusts me to relay our plays to the rest of my teammates," McCammond said.

Davidson expressed that the non-verbal communication makes them doubly dangerous.

See STILLMAN page 3



From left to right: Stillman Valley girls basketball players Mya Janssen, Jenna Shelburne, Taylor Davidson and Maddy McCammond are all starters this year and four of them are returning starters. (Courtesy photo)

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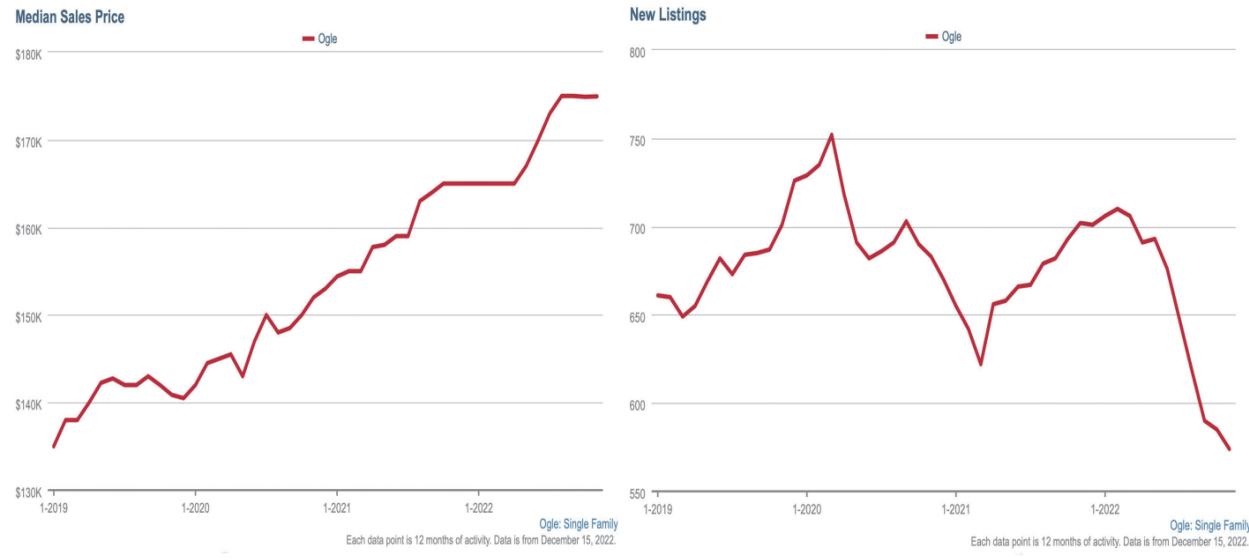
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SPORTS NEWS

A journey to Israel

THE bonds one carries over from a high-school sports team can often extend to decades later. That is the case for me with guys from my class that were on the 1975 Rochelle football team. Nearly 50 years later, I find myself boarding a plane to Israel this week with former team-mate Chris Rice. Embarking on a spiritual journey for 10 days, we will renew our friendship and make new memories.



Andy Colbert

year's 61st edition much anticipated after such a long absence. I have no idea who's good and who isn't. This tourney will serve as an early barometer as to where teams stand. A unique feature of this event is lack of turnover, something not found in most other tourneys. Once a team gets a spot at Forreton, they rarely leave.

It is a regional blending of primarily the Big Northern and Northwest Upstate Illinois conferences. Other tourneys often try to bring in big-name schools from outside the area as a star attraction. It is not needed at Forreton and in fact, would tarnish it. How this tournament has evolved locally is copasetic to a rural quality of life and ideal small-school showcase.

Another plus for attending the Forreton tournament is lack of commercials. As a fan of college football, I spend far too much time in front of the TV and the non-ending stream of commercials has become mind numbing, though the Dr. Pepper ones are quite creative.

As someone who often pines for the past, it sure didn't seem like the old Rose Bowl games had that many commercial breaks. Back then; a game took maybe three hours. Now, it is more like four hours.

I bring up the Rose Bowl because so many of us grew up watching the "Granddaddy Of Them All." With the implemen-

tation of a 12-team college playoff, the Rose Bowl will no longer be guaranteed its prime New Year's afternoon TV slot, with the famous third-quarter sunset over the San Gabriel Mountains.

For those of us living in the frigid Midwest, that sight was as enticing as the actual game, just as cold-weather golf fans enviously view the Pebble Beach PGA event in February.

A few years ago, so inspired by watching Pebble Beach on TV, I attended the event in person and it was everything it was cracked up to be. Simply stunning to watch golf at such a venue where water meets land.

Getting back to the forced-fed football commercials. As fans, we are subjected to this because of the vicious cycle of money. TV stations pay huge contracts to get rights to broadcast games.

In turn, schools pay multi-million contracts to coaches and lavishly spend on facilities, recruiting, etc. It's not much different than an arms race. Meanwhile, us commoners are subjected to an inordinate amount of commercials because someone had to pay the freight. Is there any hope for us lowly television viewers to rise up and protest this injustice?

At least that won't be a concern for me while in Israel.

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



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STILLMAN: Coach savoring every minute

From page 1

"I can give a head tilt or raise my eyebrows and my 'sisters' spring into action," Davidson said.

Mellon realizes that it's a long season and like all teams the ultimate goal is making the postseason and drawing a good regional seed for starters. In the meantime, he wants things to slow down a little.

"We play a lot of games and it can be a grind from time to time," Mellon said. "This is such a special group that I'm lucky enough to coach and I want to savor every moment. Every day it's so much fun to come to practice and then the games. It seems to be flying by and we look forward to the rest of the season."



Taylor Davidson is a starter on this year's Stillman Valley girls basketball team that is off to a 9-1 start. (Courtesy photo)

The Stillman Valley Cardinals varsity girls basketball team is off to an impressive 9-1 overall and 1-1 Big Northern Conference record so far this season. (Courtesy photo)



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SPORTS NEWS

AREA SPORTS

Oregon bowling teams win against Marengo

The Oregon Boys and Girls Varsity bowling teams defeated Marengo at Town & Country Lanes in Mt. Morris Dec. 1. The boys team raised its season record to 6-1 with a season high 3,399-3,115 win over Marengo. The Hawks were led by Matthew Stahl with a 623 series (171,276,176) followed by Roberto Hernandez's 595 series, Gavvin Surmo's 574 series, Brady Davis's 564 series, Styler Klapp's 544 series and Brandon Rowe's 499 series. The JV boys went to 5-0 on the season with a 2,928-2,350 victory. The JV was led by Bryan Immel with a 616 series/233 game and Codey Dunbar with a 553 series.

The Lady Hawks raised their season record to 3-0 with a 2,793-2,649 win over Marengo. Oregon was led by Ava Wight with a 573 series (201,216,156) followed closely by Mackenzie Alford's 531 series, Kendra Ehrler's 495 series, Trinity Hultquist's 426 series, Kylie Kurg's 420 series and Ahren Howey's 348 series. The JV girls were led by Mirelle Carrillo with a 230 series.

Stillman Valley boys hoops defeats Harvard

On Dec. 1, the Stillman Valley boys basketball team defeated Harvard 50-32. Owen Dunseth led the Cardinals in scoring with 18 points including four 3-pointers. Nine Stillman Valley players scored in the game. Brett Pierce was the Cardinals' second leading scorer with seven points.

Oregon girls hoops defeats AFC

On Dec. 1, the Oregon girls varsity basketball team defeated Ashton-Franklin Center 37-30. Hadley Lutz and Liz Mois each scored 10 points for the Hawks.

Oregon girls hoops falls to Rock Falls

On Dec. 2, the Oregon girls varsity basketball team fell to Rock Falls 54-17. Hadley Lutz and Ella Dannhorn each scored four points for the Hawks.

Oregon bowling hosts Oregon Hawk Invitational

On Dec. 3, The Oregon boys and girls bowling teams hosted their annual Oregon Hawk Invitational at Plum Hollow Family Center in Dixon. On the girls side the Lady Hawks finished in fifth place (out of 11) with a 4,836 score. Oregon finished with a pair of top-five individuals with Ava Wight finishing in second place overall with a 1,205 six-game total (149,187,234,178,202,255) and Mackenzie Alford finishing in fifth place with an 1,119 series (209,140,194,139,195,242). Also competing was Kendra Ehrler (924 series), Trinity Hultquist (840 series), Kylie Krug's 493 series (four games) and Ahren Howey's 255 series (two games). The 255 game by Wight and the 242 game by Alford were the high games bowled by any Oregon bowler, boy or girl, for the tournament and both came in the challenging

sixth game helping them vault up in the standings.

The Oregon boys entered two teams with Oregon Red finishing in fifth place with a 5,206 series and Oregon White finishing in eighth place with a 4,825 series. The boys teams were led by Brandon Rowe with a 1,128 series (137,203,171,196,203,218) finishing in 11th place overall. His teammate Gavvin Surmo and Oregon White team member Xander Garcia tied for 13th individually with a 1,077 series. Also bowling were Roberto Hernandez (1042 series), Codey Dunbar (998 series), Matthew Stahl (990 series), Brady Davis's 785 series (5 games), Bryan Immel's 695 series (four games), Styler Klapp's 479 series (three games), Immanuel Arellano's 470 series (three games), Sebastian Alford's 446 series (three games), Aiden Currier's 389 series (three games), Caleb Ehrler's 296 series (two games), and RJ Keene's 159 game.

Oregon boys bowling defeats South Beloit

On Dec. 5, the Oregon Boys bowling team traveled to South Beloit to bowl the Sobos and came away with a 3,429-2,326 victory at Viking Lanes, South Beloit. The Hawks were led by Gavvin Surmo with a 647 series (200,231,216) followed closely by Styler Klapp's 634 series, Matthew Stahl's 631 series (match high 248 game), Brady Davis's 569 series, Brandon Rowe's 561 series and Roberto Hernandez's 387 series. The win raised Oregon's season record to 7-1, (2-0 NIBC). The JV raised its record to 6-0 with a 3,042 series, more than 700 pins ahead of South Beloit's varsity total and was led by Sebastian Alford with a 630 series (188,233,209). The JV 2 bowled an exhibition against Rockton Hononegah's JV 2 and totaled a 2,632 series and was led by Ethan Smice with a 514 series (128,204,182). The JV 3 also bowled in the Hononegah exhibition was led by Chase Buchanon with 173 game and 406 series.

Oregon girls basketball defeats West Carroll

On Dec. 6 at home, the Oregon varsity girls basketball team defeated West Carroll 51-20. Oregon raised its record to 5-3 overall.

Hadley Lutz scored 17 points for the Hawks. Oregon's second leading scorer was Liz Mois (13 points). West Carroll won the junior varsity game 35-30.

Oregon bowling teams compete in Sterling

On Dec. 8, the Oregon boys and girls varsity bowling teams traveled to Sterling to bowl at Blackhawk Lanes. The boys team raised its season record to 8-1 with a season high 3,488-3,240 win over Sterling. The Hawks had an individual with an outstanding night and the remainder of the team was extremely balanced. Oregon was led by Brady Davis with a season high 683 series (234,236,213) followed by Brandon Rowe's 586 series, Styler Klapp 570's series, Roberto Hernandez and Codey Dunbar with 555 series and Bryan Immel with a 539 series. The

JV boys went to 7-0 on the season with a 2,774-2,566 victory. The JV was led by Sebastian Alford with a 507 series and Ethan Smice had the high JV game of 195.

The Lady Hawks lost a 33-pin decision to fall to 3-1 on the season, 2,703-2,670. Oregon was led by Ava Wight with 623 series (210,203,210) followed by Mackenzie Alford's 561 series (220 high game), Kendra Ehrler's 442 series, Trinity Hultquist's 404 series, Kylie Kurg's 327 series and Ahren Howey's 313 series. The JV girls were led by Mirelle Carrillo with a 320 series.

Oregon boys bowling raises record to 9-1

The Oregon boys bowling team raised its season record to 9-1 with a 3,361-2,479 victory over South Beloit Dec. 9 at Town & Country Lanes, Mt Morris. On a night where four members of the varsity group were out, the young Hawks stepped up and led the way with freshmen Aiden Currier's 638 series (215,225,198) and Xander Garcia's 596 series (157,24,235) being the top two performers on the night. They were followed by junior Brady Davis's 570 series, sophomore Matthew Stahl's 561 series, senior Roberto Hernandez's 519 series and junior Codey Dunbar's 477 series. It wasn't just the underclassmen on the varsity that bowled well, but on the JV the match-high game of 245 was rolled by sophomore Ethan Smice (574 series) and a 241 game by sophomore Caleb Brooks (506 series). Overall the JV raised its record to 8-0 and rolled a season high 3,030 series.

Stillman Valley girls hoops falls to Dixon

On Dec. 9, the Stillman Valley varsity girls basketball team fell to Dixon 50-24. Taylor Davidson led the Cardinals in scoring with 10 points.

Oregon girls hoops falls to Genoa-Kingston

On Dec. 9, the Oregon varsity girls basketball team fell to Genoa-Kingston 44-27 on the road. Katelyn Bowers led the Hawks in scoring with 12 points and was followed by Hadley Lutz (six points).

See SPORTS page 6

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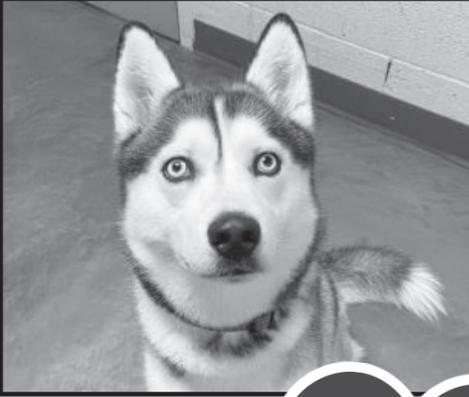
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SPORTS NEWS

SPORTS: Local teams' scores reported

From page 5

Oregon bowling competes in L-P Invitational

The Oregon boys and girls bowling teams competed in the LaSalle-Peru Invitational on Dec. 10 in Peru. The boys team finished in sixth place and was led by 21st place finisher Bryan Immel with a 1,123 series (233,188,177,161,187,177). He was followed closely by Brady Davis's 1,107 series, Brandon Rowe's 1,057 series, Styler Klapp's 950 series, Roberto Hernandez's 732 series (four games) and Codey Dunbar's 259 series (two games). The girls team finished in fourth place and was led by ninth place finisher Ava Wight with a 1,003 series (167,167,200,156,135,178). She was followed by Mackenzie Alford's 928 series, Kendra Ehrler's 857 series, Trinity Hultquist's 801 series, Kylie Krug's 698 series (five games) and Ahren Howey's 109 game.

Oregon girls compete in Pearl City tournament

On Dec. 10, the Oregon varsity girls basketball team competed in the Pearl City tournament. The Hawks defeated East Dubuque 32-23 and were led in scoring by Ella Dannhorn's eight points. Oregon was defeated by Lena-Winslow 46-23. The Hawks were led in scoring in that game by Hadley Lutz (nine points).

Oregon bowling teams travel to Freeport

The Oregon boys and girls bowling teams traveled to Freeport to bowl varsity and JV against Dakota and JV2 boys against Freeport on Dec. 12. Girls varsity

raised its season record to 4-1 with a 2,841-2,058 victory. Oregon was led by Ava Wight with a 639 series (224,234,181) followed by Mackenzie Alford's 585 series, Kendra Ehrler's 471 series, Kylie Krug's 390 series, Trinity Hultquist's 384 series and Ahren Howey's 372 series. The JV girls were led by Mirelle Cairillo with a 335 series.

The Oregon Boys varsity lost a 21-pin decision to Dakota 3,410-3,389 falling to 9-2 on the season. The Hawks' balanced lineup could not overcome Dakota's top two bowlers, Jacob Holste 737 series (279 game) and Caden Elmer 690 series. Oregon was led by Brandon Rowe's 619 series (194,208,217) followed closely by Styler Klapp's 608 series, Roberto Hernandez's 551 series, Bryan Immel's 550 series, Brady Davis's 533 series and Gavvin Surmo's 528 series. The JV boys raised their record to 10-0 and were led by Matthew Stahl with a 546 series.

Oregon girls fall to Orangeville

On Dec. 13 in the Pearl City tournament, the Oregon girls varsity basketball team fell to Orangeville 47-19. Hadley Lutz led the Hawks in scoring with eight points.

Stillman Valley boys hoops loses to Rock Falls

On Dec. 13, the Stillman Valley varsity boys basketball team lost to Rock Falls 59-43 at home. Owen Dunseth led the Cardinals in scoring with 13 points and was followed by Logan McKee's 11 points.

Oregon bowling teams host Dixon

The Oregon boys and girls bowling teams hosted Dixon High School at Town & Country Lanes in Mt. Morris Dec. 13. The boys team raised its season record to 10-2 with

a 3,324-3,295 victory. The Hawks were led by Brandon Rowe with a 606 series (192,255,159) followed closely by Roberto Hernandez's 580 series, Gavvin Surmo's 579 series, Bryan Immel's 558 series, Styler Klapp's 519 series and Brady Davis's 482 series. For the second consecutive night an opponent had a bowler roll a 279 first game, and Dec. 13 it was Clark Bonnell who did it en route to a match-high 750 series. The JV raised its record to 10-0 with a 3,092-2,229 victory. Four JV bowlers had 500 or higher series and were led by Xander Garcia with a 549 series.

The Oregon girls fell to 4-2 on the season with a 2,928 2,541 loss to Dixon. They were led by Ava Wight with a 592 series (223,180,189) followed by Kendra Ehrler's 528 series, Trinity Hultquist's 453 series, Ahren Howey's 352 series, Kylie Krug's 325 and Mirelle Cairillo's 291 series.

SCORES

Varsity girls basketball

Dec. 1: Stillman Valley 48, Genoa-Kingston 41
Dec. 5: Stillman Valley 62, Rochelle 37
Dec. 8: Stillman Valley 47, Stockton 18

Varsity boys basketball

Dec. 3: Stillman Valley 66, Spring Valley Hall 64
Dec. 6: Dakota 47, Stillman Valley 24
Dec. 7: Putnam County 63, Stillman Valley 48
Dec. 8: Stillman Valley 60, Fieldcrest 57

Varsity co-ed wrestling

Dec. 1: Stockton 40, Stillman Valley 35
Dec. 3: Riverdale 38, Stillman Valley 31
Dec. 3: Stillman Valley 66, Mercer County 18
Dec. 3: Stillman Valley 67, Sherrard 17

Varsity boys wrestling

Dec. 1: Stockton 39, Stillman Valley 36
Dec. 8: Stillman Valley 51, Princeton 30

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Kids Sunday School: (for ages 3 thru 5th grade) 9:30-10:15am
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FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY (CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH)

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Interim Pastor Lisa Orris
103 S Maple St, Stillman Valley, IL
815-645-8872 | www.valleyevc.org
Sunday Morning 9am "Cather" for learning & conversation, 10:15am Worship both onsite and online at facebook.com/VECCISV
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



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www.stillmanbank.com

OGLE COUNTY LIFE

211 Hwy. 38 E. Rochelle, IL 61068
Ph: 815-732-2156 Fax: 815-562-2161

ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

LOCAL NEWS

Mumford earns American Rivers Academic All-Conference honors

WAVERLY, Iowa — Tucker Mumford was one of 92 Wartburg College student-athletes named to the American Rivers Conference 2022 All-Academic Team. Mumford, of Polo, is a member of the football team. To be eligible for the A-R-C All-Academic Team honors, a student-athlete must be on the eligibility list for the sport of nomination, at least a sophomore in academic standing with at least one year in residence and attain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale). Wartburg led the way in total honorees with 92 student-athletes earning All-Academic recognition, 15 more than the college in second place.



Read and Recycle

ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

Christmas/New Year's Holiday Hours

Rock River Center will be closed from 12:00 noon on Friday, December 23, 2022 through Monday, January 2, 2023.

No activities, programs or transportation will take place during this time. Please plan accordingly.

We will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Benefit Access Program

The Benefit Access Program allows you to get a discount on your license plate sticker. The cost of your sticker could be as low as \$24.00.

To qualify, you must meet income guidelines as follows: You must be 65 years of age or older by December 31 of the current year; or you must be 16 years of age or older and totally disabled before January 1 of this year.

Your 2021 annual income must be less than: \$33,562 for a 1 person household, \$44,533 for a 2 person household or \$55,500 for a 3 person household. You must live in Illinois at the time you file

your application.

Property Tax Assessment Freeze

This exemption "freezes" your assessed value at a certain level and base year, depending on what year you originally applied. Your future real estate tax bills are calculated at this "frozen" assessed value, thereby slowing the increase of your property taxes. You must re-apply for this exemption every year.

Although your assessed value is frozen under this exemption, tax bills can continue to increase if spending by any of the local units of government (like schools, cities, parks, etc.) goes up. Also, please be aware that you may, later in the year, receive a "change of assessment notice" if the township assessor has re-evaluated your property. This will in no way affect your status under this senior assessment freeze exemption. Real estate taxes are calculated on your "frozen" assessed value.

To qualify, you must meet guidelines as follows:

You must be 65 or older, own and use the property as your principle residence.

Your total income, and the income of any other individuals using the property as their principle residence, must be less than \$65,000.

Support groups

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

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

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

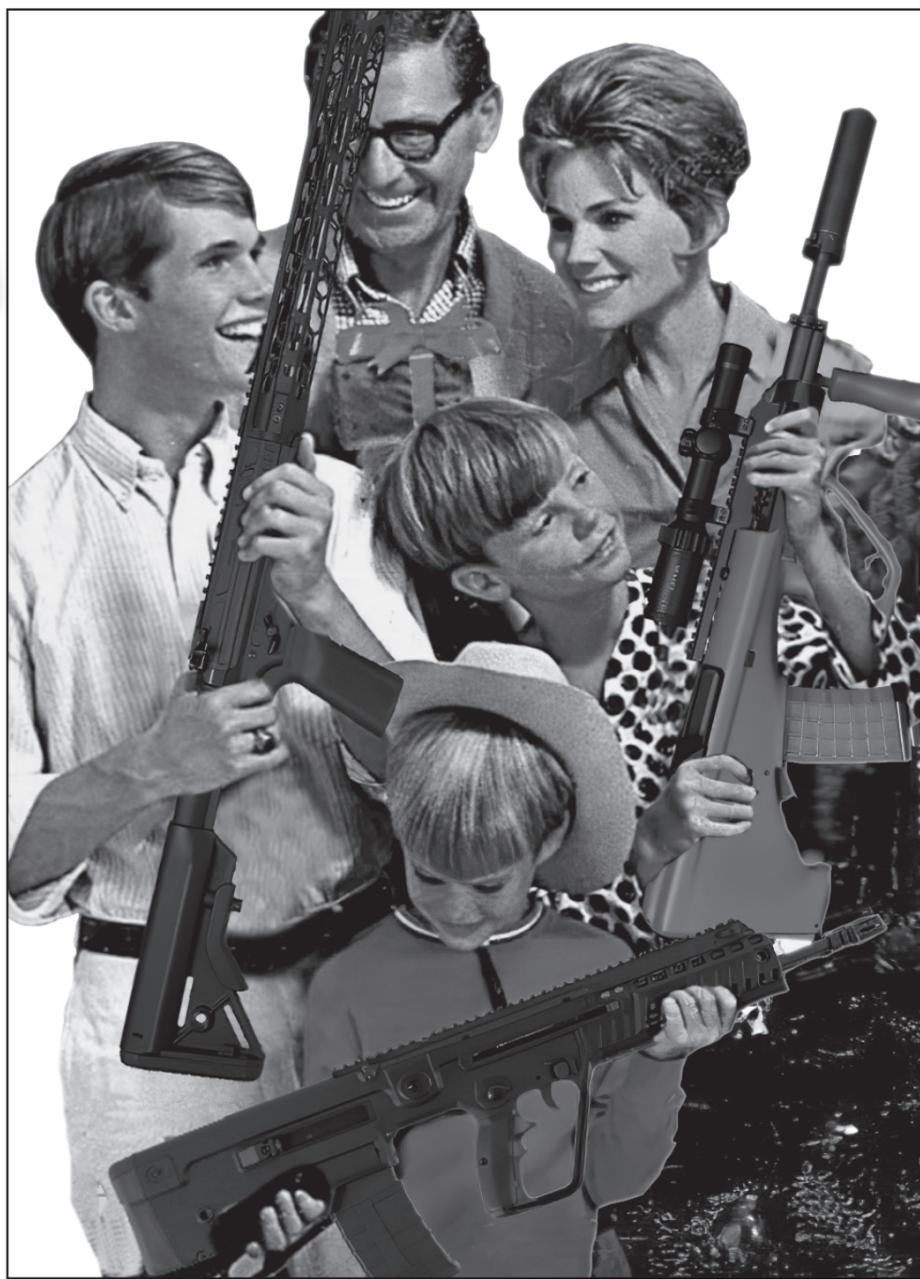
Low vision group meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month from noon to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 or 1-800-541-5479.

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR A NEW FIREARM



OR SELL US YOUR GUNS FOR SOME EXTRA CASH JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



DON'T FORGET WE BUY GUN COLLECTIONS



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www.ratworxusa.com



LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

Young Critics Book Club

Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20 for a book discussion and hands-on craft/activity all about the book "The Poet's Dog" by Patricia Maclachlan. Stop by the library to register and pick up your copy of the reading.
Ages 7-9.

Winter Reading Challenge

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

Tween Scene: The Great Oreo Taste-Off

How well do you know you Oreos? We'll quiz your expertise in this blind test to see who's taste buds reign supreme. While sampling these wacky flavors, we'll also vote on our favorite. Tuesday, January 3 at 6:00 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Adult Book Club: "The Lonely Stories"

Pick up a book, then join us on Monday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m. for a lively discussion of Natalie Eve

Garrett's absorbing collection of essays, "The Lonely Stories: 22 Celebrated Writers on the Joys & Struggles of Being Alone." Adults only. Copies of the reading available on loan. Email Joanna at jkluever@mail.meridian223.org with questions, or to register for a link to the program.

Fun Day Monday: Do You Want to Build a Snowman?

School's out for the day! Join us at the library for some creative play. We'll use science to whip up our very own indoor snow, then a variety of craft supplies to build a unique snowman. Monday, January 16 at 1:00 p.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Teens: Hot Cocoa Buffet

Stop by the library after school for a warm cozy treat: hot cocoa! You'll create your own with all the best mix-ins: marshmallows, candy canes and whip cream! Friday, January 20 at 3:00 p.m. Ages 13-18. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Introduction to Ancestry: Genealogy Basics & Census Records

Explore Census records using Ancestry Library Edition! This class will cover the basics of genealogy. Then, we'll practice how to search for and read census information. Tuesday, January 24 at 6:00 p.m. Adults only. Registration required.: 815-645-8611.

Holiday Closings

The library will be closed December 24-26 and December 31- January 2 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. No materials will be due during this time.



Young library patrons donned their favorite pajamas for a special holiday storytime that included games and a fun craft at Julia Hull District Library (Stillman Valley).

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
	12				13					14			
	15				16					17			
12				19				20					
13				21		22	23		24		25	26	27
14	28	29	30					31		32			
15	33				34				35		36		
16	37			38		39				40			
18	41				42		43						
20				44		45			46		47	48	49
21	50	51	52					53	54			55	
24	56					57						58	
28	59					60						61	

ACROSS

1 Feedbag bit

4 Chilled

8 Theatergoer's souvenir

12 Show to a seat, slangily

13 Cleopatra's river

14 Poi base

15 Dance syllable

16 Fabric fastener

18 Klum of "Project Runway"

20 Hide-hair insert

21 Early birds?

24 Apple intruders

28 Wind-driven toy

32 Tidy

33 Altar affirmative

34 Fussess

36 Log chopper

37 Region (Abbr.)

39 Flag-shaped blazer accessory

41 Pago Pago's place

43 Sleuth Wolfe

44 Sphere

46 Lively dance

50 Yankee uniform pattern

55 Squeak stopper

7 TV chef Paula

8 "Sophie's Choice" author

9 Spigot

10 Swiss canton

11 "— voyage!"

17 AAA job

19 Morning moisture

22 Earth sci.

23 Auto style

25 Harvest

26 Extra-long

27 British gun

28 Plum centers

29 Notion

30 Standard

31 Easy gait

35 Eden tempter

38 Perches

40 Privy

42 Illustrations

45 Telly watcher

47 Earring site

48 "Star Trek" captain

49 Medicinal plant

50 Prof's degree

51 Three, on a sundial

52 Away from SSW

53 "— Little Teapot"

54 Standard

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MAGIC MAZE

CASH-RICH WORDS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: KIDNEY-SHAPED NUT

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Cash bar | Cash-and-carry | Cashmere | Lancashire |
| Cash cow | Cash-poor | Cold cash | Noncash |
| Cash crop | Cashbox | E-cash | Uncashed |
| Cash flow | Cashier | Encash | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

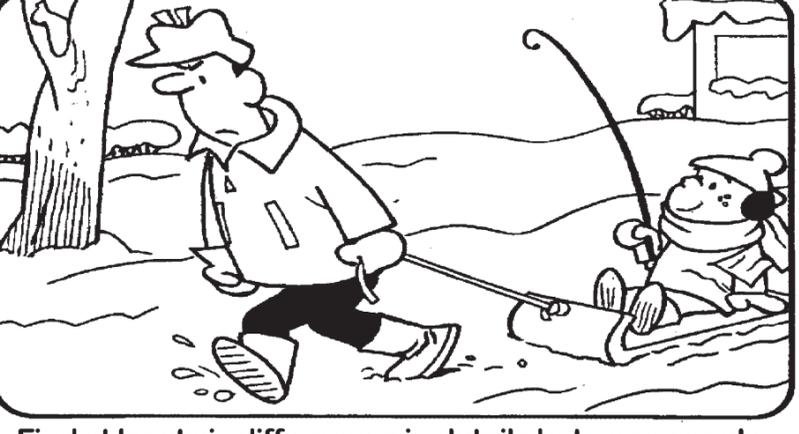
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

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

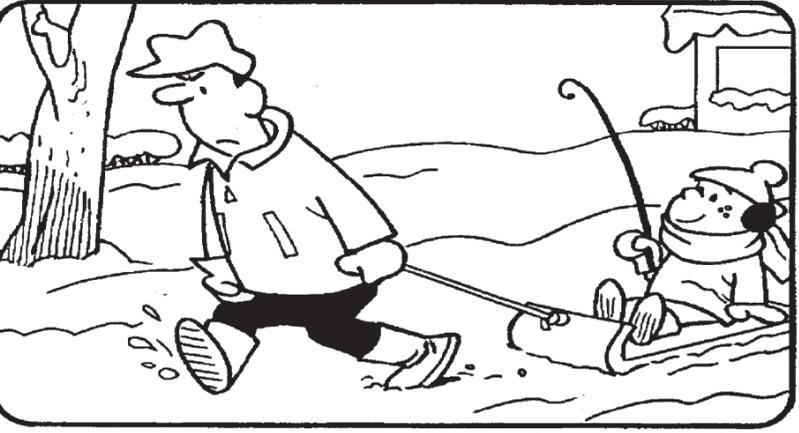
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Collar is different. 3. Leg is missing. 4. Rope end is missing. 5. Whip is shorter. 6. Scarf end is missing.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

CASH-RICH WORDS

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
CENTRAL BANK ILLINOIS
successor by merger to
The First National Bank
& Trust Company of
Rochelle,
Plaintiff,

vs.
RICHARD M. FENTON,
deceased; UNKNOWN
HEIRS AT LAW AND/
OR LEGATEES AND/OR
DEVISEES OF RICHARD
M. FENTON; PARTIES
IN POSSESSION;
INTERESTED PERSONS,
UNKNOWN OWNERS,
and NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS
Defendants.
CASE NO. 2022 FC 72
NOTICE OF PENDENCY
OF ACTION -
NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE
(735 ILCS 5/2-206, 5/2-
207, 5/2-413, 5-15-
1501(c)
5/15-1502 AND 5/15-
1503)

The requisite affidavit for
publication having been
filed, notice is hereby
given to Interested
Persons, Unknown
Owners and Non-Record
Claimants, Defendants
in the above captioned
action, pursuant to
the provisions of 735
ILCS 5/2-206, 5/2-207,
5/15-1502 and 5/15-
1503, that the above
captioned action has
been commenced in
the Circuit Court of Rock
Island County, Illinois,
seeking to foreclose
mortgages covering the
following described real
estate situated in Rock
Island County, Illinois, to
wit:

1. Legal description:
Lot T in the Resubdivision
of part of Southview
in the City of Rochelle,
according to the Plat
thereof recorded in the
Book J of Plats, page 27,
in the Recorder's Office
in Ogle County, Illinois;
situated in the Township
of Flagg, County of Ogle
and State of Illinois.
PIN: 06-24-36-227-003

2. Common address or
location of the
mortgaged premises:
114 Southview Drive,
Rochelle, IL 61068,
and for such other relief.
Summons were duly
issued by the Court as
provided by law and this
action is now pending.
Unless you file your
answer to the Complaint
in this action or otherwise
make your appearance
in the Circuit Court of
Carroll County, Illinois
on or before January 11,
2023, default may be
entered against you.

3. The names of all
Plaintiffs and the case
number are identified
above.
4. The Court in which the
action was brought is
identified above.
5. The names of the
titleholders of record are:
Richard M. Fenton

6. A common address or
description of the
location of the real estate
is as follows:
114 Southview Drive,
Rochelle, IL 61068.

7. Identification of the
mortgages sought to be
foreclosed are as follows:
(a) Name of Mortgagor:
Richard M. Fenton
(b) Name of Mortgagee:
Central Bank Illinois
(c) Date of Mortgage:
December 6, 2001
(d) Date of Recording:
December 7, 2001
(e) County where
recorded: Ogle County,
Illinois
(f) Recording Document
Identification: Document
No. 0114721
DATED: December 2,
2022

/s/ Kimberly A. Stahl
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Attorney for Plaintiff
Douglas R. Lindstrom, Jr.
LANE & WATERMAN LLP
220 N. Main Street, #600
Davenport, IA 52801
(563) 324-3246
(563) 324-1616 (Fax)
Email: dclindstrom@l-
wlaw.com
No. 1217 (Dec. 19, 2022)

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF SEALED BIDS SALE OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE OREGON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Board of Trustees of the Oregon Fire Protection District, Ogle County, Illinois, is currently accepting sealed bids for the purchase of property no longer needed for fire protection purposes pursuant to 70 ILCS 705/10a. The property is located at 5995 E. Honey Creek Rd., Chana, Illinois. 17-16-400-007

This property consists of a 36x60 Phalen steel constructed Butler LRDS framed building sitting on a large triangular lot, 1.033 acres. The building has been improved with 2 bays with 12x12 5-24 overhead doors, 2 restrooms, loft space for storage or office use, floor drains and aluminum roof and a large black top parking lot.

The property is subject to the Ogle County zoning ordinance and any zoning ordinances as adopted by the Village of Chana. The property is improved with 200-amp single phase electric and propane gas utilities, radiant ceiling heat, well water and septic facilities, and subject to easements of record. 3 Phase electric is available at the lot line. Any party interested in submitting a sealed bid must do by obtaining a bid packet located at the Oregon Fire District Administrative Office located at 106 S. First Street, Oregon, Illinois beginning 12/19/2022 on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. All bid packets must be returned to this same Administrative Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on 1/2/2023. All bids must be submitted in conformity with the detailed instructions contained within the bid packet. The Board of Trustees shall open the sealed bids during a Special Meeting on 1/3/2023 at 11:00 a.m. The minimum acceptable bid for the property is \$150,000.00. The District retains the right to reject any and all bids.
No. 1223 (Dec. 19, 2022)

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

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

113 FINANCIAL
NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS
"This publication does not knowingly accept

fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

121 LOST AND FOUND

Lost. 7 Month Old, Female Cat. Gray with a Brown Belly & White Spots on Each Side. Last Seen Wearing a Pink Harness. Lost around Rochelle Gardens on Caron Road. Call 815-503-3654. \$100 Reward

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in it's care.

301 ANTIQUES

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

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

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

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

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will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

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CAROL'S SELF STORAGE IN OREGON
Reasonable Rates
Sizes 10'x24' & 6'x10
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K&P SELF STORAGE
1563 Kysor Drive, Byron (next to D&W Garage)
815-247-8518
OUTSIDE STORAGE NOW AVAILABLE
Storage Unit Sizes:
5' x 10' 10' x 10'
10' x 15' 10' x 20' 10' x 30'

107 CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Richard Mocker would like to extend our heart-felt thanks to the staff at Generations at Neighbors in Byron, IL for their exceptional care of our father. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

203 HELP WANTED

Byron School District Openings
HS Kitchen Worker (2.75 hours)
Full-time Bus Drivers (3 hours)
Substitute Bus Drivers
Apply online at www.byron226.org
Under the About Us tab in the Employment Opportunities Section
++Potential Bus drivers - training is available!!++
Contact Barb Rundle at 815-234-5491 x 4400

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

NOW LEASING
North Prairie Apartments
1015 Carrie Ave, Rochelle IL 61068
815-562-6451
1, 2, & 3 br. units available
Interested parties please contact us for an application
Applications available anytime in 1015 building
Amenities :Water, sewer and trash incl.
Range, refrigerator, a/c, and off-street parking
North Prairie Apartments are professionally managed by CMS an Equal Housing Provider



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Online Auctions Now Available
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Hacksauction.com
A&T Auction Services, LLC
Travis Cunningham
(815) 297-4595
Located in Forreston, IL

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION
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'Antique Advertising, Country Store, Petroleum Collection Auction'
BIDDING OPENS: FRI., DEC. 23 @ 8 A.M.
PREVIEW: FRI., DEC. 23 - 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
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Great Selection of Old Advertising! Hundreds of Old Tin Litho Adv. Cans & Containers-Cigar-Tobacco-Gas-Oil-Talcum Powder-Name Brand & More; Beer & Soda; Automotive; Coin-Operated Machines; Signs & Posters; Clocks-Thermometers-Neon; National Brass Cash Register; Country Store & Pharmacy; Architectural; Primitives; Old Gaming Wheel; Tavern Table Set; Railroad-Cast Iron Crossing Sign; Vintage Toys & Cast Iron Banks; Tonka Hi-Way & Construction Toys; Cigarette Lighters; 1953 Schwinn Panther Bicycle & Whizzer Motorbikes; Musical; Electric Guitars & Amps; Sports Autograph Collection-Hillierich & Bradsby Bats-Leather Gloves-Hank Aaron; Much More!

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Greg & Swan Hachmeister, Auctioneers
Pecatonica, IL 815-239-1436
www.hacksauction.com | I.A.F.L.#44000128

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION

NEW, USED SCRATCH & DENT
• Refrigerators • Freezers
• Washers/Dryers • Stoves

We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.
6331 11th Street, Rockford
815-874-2257

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

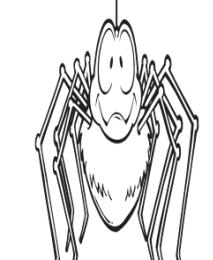
Class-A CDL Drivers Wanted
\$500 Sign on bonus
Earn up to \$33/per hour
Local Trucking Company seeking full time, year- round driver to haul grain.
815-938-3644
Please leave message.

"Farm Help Needed"
Grain Farm needs help with miscellaneous jobs.
\$18.00/hr., Approx 10hrs./week. Some lifting required.
Do not send texts.
Rochelle Area
(815) 751-9076

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

1989 Dodge Dakota 5 speed
NEW TIRES, BAD HEAD GASKET, LITTLE RUST, 107,291 MILES.
\$1,000
(815) 520-0195

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Monday, December 19, 2022
Section C



Recycle and reduce waste for the holidays

THE holiday season is a special time of year. Individuals often spend a little more on gifts, indulge a little more on rich foods and treats and make a concerted effort to enjoy more time with their loved ones during the holidays. The tendency to overdo things during the holiday season can create a lot of waste. In fact, Americans produce 25 percent more garbage from Thanksgiving through the end of the year, according to Waste Advantage magazine, a publication of the waste and recycling industry. That uptick equates to one million tons of extra trash per week throughout the holidays.

Extra food, plastic and paper waste is generated this time of year, but people can be mindful of the potential to go overboard and take some steps to be more waste-conscious as they entertain.

- Reuse a small portion of wrapping paper or look for other wrapping items. Sunday comics, newspaper, colorful magazine pages, and even pieces of fabric can be used to wrap gifts in lieu of purchasing new wrapping paper. Otherwise, collect used wrapping paper and reuse it next year, doing the same with boxes and bows. According to researchers at Stanford University, if every American family wrapped just three

presents in reused materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.

- Skip disposable party items. It's certainly easy to use disposable plates, napkins and cups when hosting holiday parties, but that is very wasteful. Opt for durable, reusable products that can be packed away and used each year during holiday events.
- Buy durable and reusable items as gifts. Avoid fad gifts and focus on items that will have staying power. Homemade gifts, such as foods, knitted scarves, artwork, and more, are generally eco-friendly.
- Set up marked trash and recycling receptacles. Remind party guests to recycle the appropriate materials by clearly marking a pail designed for collecting recyclables,

such as cans, plastic beverage bottles and glass wine bottles. Most hard plastics can be recycled.

- Remove your name from catalog lists. Call companies and ask to be taken off promotional mailing lists to reduce paper waste.
- Send a photo. Mail holiday card recipients photos of the kids or the entire family in lieu of cards. They're apt to save the photos and display them, helping to keep even more paper trash out of landfills.
- Research new recipes for leftovers. With an abundance of food remaining after entertaining, turn leftovers into new meals by exploring recipes from friends or by doing a little research online.

Waste can get out of control during the holidays, but there are ways to tame the excess.

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Popular songs to stream this holiday season

THE holiday season is steeped in tradition. One of the most popular

traditions is playing holiday music, which many retailers begin to broadcast over their PA systems shortly after people put their Halloween costumes in storage.

The popular music streaming platform Spotify tracks the most popular holiday songs each year, and 2021 featured a mix of some newer songs and some all-time classics. According to Spotify, these five songs were the most streamed holiday tunes on the platform between November 1 and December 9, 2021.

1. "All I Want for Christmas Is You" — Mariah Carey
2. "Last Christmas" — Wham!
3. "It's Beginning

to Look A Lot Like Christmas" — Michael Bublé

4. "Jingle Bell Rock" — Bobby Helms
5. "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" — Brenda Lee

Individuals who want to stream something a little more contemporary this holiday season can consider these songs, which Spotify reports are the five most-streamed holiday songs that were released over the last half decade.

1. "Snowman" — Sia
2. "White Christmas" — Amy Grant
3. "Santa's Coming for Us" — Sia
4. "Hallelujah" — Pentatonix
5. "Merry Christmas" — Ed Sheeran and Elton John

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Happy New Year!

8 easy holiday centerpiece ideas

THE holiday season is a great time to make any home a bit more merry and bright. Most individuals let their personalities show through their home decor, and holiday decorating is just as personal as decorating throughout the rest of the year.

The main living areas of a home get the most decorating attention, with a Christmas tree or menorah taking a prominent position in the front window. Garlands, candles and other accoutrements also may dress up spaces. However, when it comes to holiday hosting, attention also should be given to the dining table — which can benefit from a festive centerpiece.

Premade centerpieces are undeniably attractive, but adding a homespun touch can be a fun creative pursuit and become a family tradition. Explore these

eight simple ideas to dress up your holiday table.

1. Frosted pine cones: Take advantage of a crisp winter's day to venture into a forest or park that is rich with evergreen trees. Gather pine cones from the forest floor and, if possible, a few evergreen boughs. Give the pine cones a touch of winter whimsy with a little faux snow in a can or even white paint. Nestle the boughs and pine cones into a wide-mouthed vase or bowl in the center of the table. Individual pine cones can later be turned into place cards for seating guests.

2. Holiday thanks: Cut many strips of paper roughly 6 inches in length from various colored pieces of paper to match the holiday theme. When guests arrive, ask them to write a favorite holiday memory or two, or what



they're thankful for. Twirl the paper strips around a pencil to curl them, and then place the curlicues into a decorative bowl in the center of the table. Later in the evening, the host or hostess can read some of the sentiments.

3. Magical forest: Use green and silver conical party hats to turn a table or sideboard into a veritable evergreen forest. Arrange them on a blanket of faux snow or white confetti.

4. Freshly cut: Select attractive flowers in vibrant holiday hues from

a florist or even the supermarket floral section. Cut the stems and place them into an unusual display container, such as holiday themed mugs or a punch bowl.

5. Glass baubles: Who says ornaments should be exclusive to the tree? A crystal or glass cake stand can be transformed into an icy delight when topped with silver and clear glass ornaments.

6. Birch wood: The crisp white coloring of birch bark is right at home with holiday decor. Go stark with pieces of the cut wood in vary-

ing heights intermingled with white candles that mimic the shapes and scale of the wood.

7. Fruit and vegetables: If guests are coming over and the race is on for a fast centerpiece, look no further than the kitchen. Lemons, artichokes, pears, or pomegranates look festive in a bowl interspersed with some greenery and baby's breath.

8. Cornucopia: The

horn of plenty can be customized to any holiday. Purchase a horn in wicker or woven grapevine and fill with flowers, fruit and greenery, or even painted gourds or miniature pumpkins.

Holiday hosts and hostesses should not neglect the dining table when they decorate. Festive centerpieces can be handmade without much effort on the part of hosts.

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Lesser known Chanukah traditions

CHANUKAH is a relatively modern holiday in regard to the Hebrew calendar. Unlike Yom Kippur or Passover, which are steeped in rich traditions, there are few Chanukah customs.

Chanukah celebrants still participate in various customs each year, some of which are customized according to family preferences. While some traditions, such as the lighting of the Chanukah menorah, are familiar, others may not be as widely known — especially to those outside of the faith. Here's a look at a select few.

• Saying the Shehecheyanu blessing: Traditionally, there are two blessings that some people say each night while lighting the candles. The first is recited while holding the lit shamash, and the second is

said while lighting the candles. Another blessing, known as the "Shehecheyanu," is said the first night. According to 18Doors, a resource on the Jewish faith, it's the same blessing traditionally said on the first night of all Jewish holidays and other special occasions.

• Display or use of the shofar: A shofar is a type of instrument made from a ram's horn. It is a symbol of the ram that Abraham offered as a sacrifice in place of his son Isaac, exemplifying heroic faith of the fathers of the Jewish people. The shofar also serves as a reminder of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, and calls people to strive for Israel's renewal and fellowship with God.

• Singing "Ma'oz Tzur": Chanukah songs may not be as



numerous or as widely sung as Christmas carols during the holiday season, but there are a select few that are part of the festivities. "Oh Chanukah Oh Chanukah" and "The Dreidl Song" are some of the

most widely known songs, but some people also follow the custom of singing "Ma'oz Tzur (Rock of Ages)" around the menorah. The words were composed in the 13th century, and the song

summarizes historical challenges faced by the Jewish people that were overcome with God's help.

• Use of oil in Chanukah feasts: It's well known that latkes, or fried potato

pancakes, are served around Chanukah. The reason is due to the oil used to fry them, which traditionally is olive oil. Fried foods call to mind a specific Chanukah miracle. After the Greeks destroyed the sanctuary and defiled what was thought to be all of the oil, one jug sealed with the imprint of the High Priest was found. That one jug managed to keep the Temple's menorah lit for eight days, despite it being insufficient to handle this task. This was considered a miracle and celebrated in subsequent years.

Chanukah is a relatively modern holiday with few traditions. However, the customs associated with this holiday are held dear.

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January 6 marks the celebration of the Epiphany, sometimes referred to as Three Kings Day, Little Christmas, the Baptism of Jesus, and Día de los Reyes.

Fun facts about Three Kings Day

THE holiday season begins with Thanksgiving, and many people believe that the festivities come to a close after ringing in the new year. In fact, for the faithful, the Christmas season does not end until January 6 (January 12 in Eastern churches). January 6 marks

the celebration of the Epiphany, sometimes referred to as Three Kings Day, Little Christmas, the Baptism of Jesus, and Día de los Reyes. The Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after December 25. In fact, that is where the phrase the Twelve Days of Christmas, and the song of the same name, originated.

Christians believe that the real celebration of the holiday season does not begin until December 24 and then continues through Three Kings Day. While the four weeks preceding Christmas, also known as Advent, are supposed to be times of reflection and prayer in anticipation of the birth of Jesus

Christ, the 12 days of Christmas are times of great celebration. On the Epiphany, children may leave their shoes out for presents in a similar fashion to the way stockings are hung. Gifts are exchanged, reminiscent of the three gifts the magi presented to the Christ child of gold, frankincense oil and a resin called myrrh. The gold represented Christ's royal standing. The frankincense marked Christ's divine birth. Finally, the myrrh stood for Christ's mortality.

Many celebrants will bake ring-shaped cakes in which they will hide plastic baby figurines that are meant to symbolize Jesus Christ. The cake is called The Kings Ring, or Rosca de Reyes.

In Latin America, the three magi are more prominent figures than Santa Claus and are greatly revered by children and adults alike. Until the 19th century, the Epiphany may have been considered more important than Christmas day. However, those tides have largely shifted outside of Latin America and areas dominated by large populations of people who have Latin American heritage.

Christmas and New Year's garner considerable attention during holiday celebrations, but Three Kings Day also is an important date on the calendar for faithful Christians.

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Bake up a sweet holiday treat

ENTERTAINING is a big part of the holiday season. Calendars are packed this time of year with gatherings with friends, family and professional colleagues.

Entertaining requires keeping plenty of refreshments on hand to ensure guests maintain their holiday spirit. Dessert is no stranger to the season, with office break rooms, dining tables and buffet stations brimming with sweet treats to tempt celebrants' palates. Everyone should have a go-to dessert to bring along to a holiday party or to offer guests when hosting their own fêtes. Cookies are a standard due to their versatility and portability.

Festive "Sour Cream Cookies" provide all of the holiday feels and can be customized in color to reflect celebrations of Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, or New Year's. Bake up a batch, courte-

sy of "Live Well Bake Cookies" (Rock Point) by Danielle Rye.

Sour Cream Cookies

Makes 22 cookies

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened

3/4 cup granulated sugar

1 large egg, at room temperature

1 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

1/2 cup sour cream, at room temperature

Vanilla Buttercream Frosting

1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened

1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

1 tablespoon heavy

whipping cream or milk
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Gel food coloring (optional)

1. To make the cookies: Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats and set aside.

2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt until well combined. Set aside.

3. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or in a large mixing bowl using a handheld mixer, beat the butter and granulated sugar together for 1 to 2 minutes, or until well combined.

4. Mix in the egg and vanilla extract until fully combined, making sure to stop and scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed.

5. Mix in the dry ingre-

dients in two additions, alternating with the sour cream. Make sure to mix in each addition until just combined, and be careful not to overmix the batter.

6. Using a 1 1/2-tablespoon cookie scoop, scoop the cookie dough onto the prepared baking sheets, making sure to leave a little room between each one.

7. Bake for 14 to 16 minutes, or until the tops of the cookies are set and spring back when touched lightly. Remove from the oven, and allow to cool on the baking sheets for 10 minutes, then carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.

8. To make the vanilla buttercream frosting: In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment or in a large mixing bowl using a handheld mixer, beat the butter for 1 to 2 minutes, or until smooth. Add the powdered sugar, 1/2 cup at a time, mixing in each addition until well combined.



9. Add the heavy whipping cream, vanilla extract, and gel food coloring (if using), and continue mixing until fully combined.

10. Once the cookies have cooled completely,

spread the frosting on top of the cookies.

11. Store the cookies in an airtight container at room temperature or in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.

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How to host a New Year's brunch

NEW Year's Day unofficially marks the end of the holiday season. After the turkey and trimmings of Thanksgiving and the gifts galore of Christmas and Chanukah, New Year's presents one final chance to toast to fun and fortune.

Chances are good that after an evening of ringing in the New Year and dancing until dawn, most people will sleep in and catch up on a few extra hours of sleep on January 1. Breakfast may come and go before tired revelers are ready to greet the day. That is what makes brunch so popular on January 1.

Brunch is a meal eaten in the late morning or early afternoon — generally between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. It consists of a blend of breakfast and lunch foods. Historical evidence suggests that brunch originated in the British upper classes in the late 19th century. Many upper-class people gave servants partial or full days off on Sundays. Staff would set out buffet spreads in the morning before leaving, enabling homeowners to graze among breakfast and lunch items.

It may be challenging to compete with the excitement of New Year's Eve, but a New Year's Day brunch can be just as memorable, especially when planning is a priority.

• Send invitations early on. The holiday

season is a busy time and people often commit to invitations early on. If you want to host certain guests at the brunch, send out those invitations several weeks in advance.

• Keep it intimate. Individuals will be feeling the effects of a late night of partying and it's likely you will be as well. Make things easier on yourself by keeping the guest list on the small side. In turn, there will be less food required and perhaps less mess to clean up afterward.

• Serve familiar foods. Brunch combines the best of breakfast and lunch. Guests will be expecting some of the standards, including omelets, French toast, bagels, deli meats, and

salads. If you want to get creative, change up these recipes in subtle ways, such as serving French toast stick dippers with a warm maple-caramel dipping sauce or bite-sized omelets baked in small ramekins.

• Keep the coffee flowing. Coffee, teas and hot chocolate are great at brunch. It's easier to recover from New Year's Eve overindulgence with a warm jolt of caffeine. Set up a nice beverage bar, and be sure to include other drinks that enable guests to rehydrate after a night of revelry.

• Keep it simple. Soft music and nice conversation may be all that's needed to entertain during a New Year's brunch. Another



It may be challenging to compete with the excitement of New Year's Eve, but a New Year's Day brunch can be just as memorable.

low-key option is to queue up a light-hearted movie or play a relatively easy trivia

game. New Year's brunches can close the door on another successful

holiday season with a relaxing afternoon spent in the company of family and friends.

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