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Speaking to Oregon Rotary

Byron's Ryan Reever recently spoke with the Oregon Rotary Club. **10A**



Winter Olympics program is a hit

Village of Progress joins with Oregon Park District for special activities

OREGON – During the fall of 2021, the Village of Progress and the Oregon Park District brainstormed on what could be offered to keep everyone at the Village active during the winter months.

The Village of Progress runs a biking program April-October that is enjoyed by all. As temperatures dropped, they were looking to fill that gap and the challenge was presented to the Oregon Park District. Working with park district staff, a 19-week program centered on the Winter Olympics was created for anyone from the Village that chose to participate.

Each Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. friends from the Village joined Oregon Park District recreation staff to compete in activities as well as play fun games. No activity was off limits and the Village enjoyed basketball, kickball, pickleball, relays, hockey, stretching and everyone's favorite – dancing.

The 19-week program culminated in a special medal ceremony on Thursday, March 24. The ceremony featured a podium for the athletes, t-shirts, flowers, Star Spangled Banner as well as an MC, special guest, and a closing ceremony.

"Every Thursday I have enjoyed seeing our friends from the Village of Progress engage in new activities and have had a front row seat to witness the enjoyment by both the athletes and the staff who participated," said Park District



Executive Director Erin Folk, who served as MC of the event.

"This program presented by the Recreation Department was part of a partnership formed in 2019 with E.D. Etnyre," she said. "Each year the company funds projects for the recreation department to offer at no cost or low cost to everyone in our community. Staff is always looking to fill the needs of the community, and this was a perfect fit! The success of this program and today's ceremony would not have been possible without our athlete's and the support of a few other individuals. Neal Trainor is the mastermind behind these activities, but he greatly benefited by the support offered by Tina Ketter, Lesley Sheffield, and Chris Hartzog."

The Winter Olympics ceremony was open to the public and family and friends of the athletes were able to enjoy the celebration.

See **PROGRAM** Page 2A

Sheriff warns of bank scam

The Ogle County Sheriff's Department says they have received multiple reports recently of a phone scam targeting Byron Bank customers.

The scam involves a person contacting people with the Caller ID reading Byron Bank, and the caller claiming to be an employee of the bank. The caller advises of possible fraudulent activity on their account, and then obtains information from the victim that gives them

access to the bank account. Victims have reported a monetary loss between a few hundred and several thousand dollars.

The Sheriff's Office reminds people to be aware that their bank, regardless of where that is, will never call and ask for personal information regarding your account over the phone. Should you question the legitimacy of a call, hang up the phone and contact your bank directly.

Steel Manufacturer bringing 100-plus jobs to Ogle county

By Jeff Helfrich
Managing Editor

ROCHELLE – When Nippon Sharyo made the decision to close its Rochelle campus in 2018, working to fill that site became City of Rochelle Economic Development Director Jason Anderson's responsibility.

He worked closely with Nippon Sharyo during the sale and actively worked on trying to get 1600 Ritchie Court bought and redeveloped for two years. A point came where Anderson was told by Nippon Sharyo that it had a buyer. About nine months after that, Anderson was engaged by that buyer and

given the name Project Jackpot.

That name was how the buyer was known for months around the community as city officials, bound by nondisclosure agreements, negotiated incentives and worked to bring the company to town.

On March 4, an announcement was officially made that Project Jackpot was Zekelman Industries, the largest steel pipe and tube manufacturer in North America.

Operations will commence in Rochelle this fall and the development is expected to create between 100 and 150 jobs locally.

See **JOBS** Page 3A



The site in Rochelle where Zekelman Industries will operate.

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
49 36	57 41
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
58 33	51 32
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
53 34	56 36

OBITUARIES

- Herman Willms, Jr.
- Emerald Brass, Jr.
- Udell Aarom Foss
- Virginia Hough
- Adaline M. Beck
- Barbara West
- Pia Leombruni
- John Cain
- Donald S. Eliel

See page 4A, 5A, 6A

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LOCAL NEWS

PROGRAM: Olympic athlete on hand for event

Continued from Page 1A

The athletes were introduced to special guest, Catherine Bohan Greene. Greene, originally from Ireland, competed in three swimming events in the 1980 Olympics representing Ireland. Greene went on to attend the University of Iowa and became a teacher in Freeport. Greene's mother Maura Bohan helped start the Special Olympics swimming division in Ireland in 1976. Greene was honored to support the athletes and helped present the medals during the ceremony.

"Everyone in attendance today succeeded, not because they were destined to, but because they

were determined to," Folk said as she introduced each athlete.

She went on to introduce each event and winners received gold, silver and bronze medals and posed for a photo on the podium while receiving their medals and flowers.

Trainor, Oregon Park District employee and coordinator of the Winter Olympics, closed out the ceremony.

"The past 19 weeks have gone quickly," he said. "I've watched these athletes perfect their skills and enjoy both the competition and supporting their teammates. As in any Olympics, the closing ceremony is always something to remember.



Medals handed out in a number of categories

- Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals were awarded in the following categories:
- Event #1- Basketball and the most made shots
 - Gold - Mathew
 - Silver - Clo
 - Bronze - Cameron
 - Event #2 - Basketball
 - Gold - Mathew
 - Silver - Adam
 - Bronze - Jason & Sam
 - Event #3- Shot Put
 - Gold - Jason
 - Silver - Clo
 - Bronze - Mathew
 - Event #4- Slideto Slide Pick Up
 - Gold - Mathew
 - Silver - Summer
 - Bronze - Jessica
 - Event #5 - Bulls Eye Competition
 - Gold - Rebecca
 - Silver - Hope
 - Bronze - Summer
 - Event #6 - Hockey Shots on Goal
 - Gold - Rebecca & James
 - Silver - Sharon & Adon
 - Bronze - Darin
 - Event #7 - Hockey Shoot Out
 - Gold - Clo
 - Silver - Sue
 - Bronze - JR
 - Event #8 - Basketball Best of 10
 - Gold - Karl
 - Silver - Sue & Jessica
 - Bronze - Adon & Cameron
 - Event #9 - Quadrathlon
 - Gold - Adon
 - Silver - Brian
 - Bronze - Tony
- Special awards were presented to three athletes for their Leadership through the program. These athletes demonstrated sportsmanship, enthusiasm, and leadership at every turn during the 19 weeks.
- Gold Leadership Award - Cameron
 - Silver Leadership Award - Clo
 - Bronze Leadership - Mathew

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Game fundraiser April 8

OREGON—Don't forget to mark your calendar for April 8 to attend the Oregon Woman's Club Game Afternoon at the Rock River Center.

This fundraiser is open to the public. Bring your own cards or board games. Gather friends and reserve a table or join others to play favorite games.

Refreshments will be served, and at the end of the afternoon, there will be a drawing for door prizes. Admission is \$5 per person at the door. Fees will go to support OWC's various local charities.

Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. Games start at 1 p.m. Call 708-369-2037 to reserve a table.

Ukraine prayer vigil April 10

POLO—There will be a Polo community candlelight prayer vigil for Ukraine on Sunday, April 10 at 6 p.m.

The event will be held at Louise Quick Park. In case of rain the event will be held at the Polo Senior Center. Please bring lawn chairs and blankets. Candles will be provided.

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LOCAL NEWS

Schiller's step down from running county's Airport

Doug and Nathalie Schiller, after a combined 30 years of service as airport manager and bookkeeper at Ogle County International Airport, have decided it was time to step aside and refocus on other interests and hobbies.

Doug has been airport manager since the airport was incorporated in 2002. He organized a dozen 4th of July breakfasts, not to mention numerous other fly in breakfasts and lunches. He put together a

team of investors to increase the number of available hangar's on the North end of the field. Doug built his own hangar on the runway row and in it assembled Challenger light sport aircraft. He flew his Maule Rocket VSTOL aircraft off the grass strip getting his private and instrument pilot ratings. Under his leadership the airport received IDOT Small Airport of the year award in 2007 and according to Roger Finnell of IDOT Ogle County

airport is always one of the top 5 best grass strips.

Nathalie has been bookkeeper for more than 10 years. She devised her own computer spread sheet to send billing, estimate fuel taxes, divide property taxes, along with numerous other airport specific calculations. She brought up to speed numerous OCPI Presidents, Treasurer's and OCPI Board members on the financial aspects of the how the airport

runs. She was the behind the scene glue that kept Ogle County Airport running and in the black.

Doug and Natalie Schiller have created a good foundation for the airport to continue to thrive and expand, leaving big shoes to fill. The pilots of Ogle County Airport thank Doug and Nathalie for all their hard work. The pilots also wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.



Traitor Challenge winner named

The Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate the winner of The Traitor Challenge, Hiedi VandeSand.

Forty-five people signed up to participate in our 21-day community health and fitness challenge and VandeSand was drawn as our winner from those who worked hard during the duration. She and many of our "traitors" are continuing on with their health journey and we have found this to be such a wonderful experience.

The Chamber would like to thank organizers of this challenge Hydrobar Illinois and Reign XT who lent their time, product, and knowledge to help

our greater community focus on their health.

Thank you to the sponsors for encouraging our traitors by donating to the challenge: Blackhawk Nutrition – Oregon, Curves of Oregon, JTI Salon and Spa, Locus Coworking and Wellness Space, Merlin's Greenhouse and Flowers and The Other Side Boutique, RE/MAX of Rock Valley, and Shepherd Premier Senior Living.

If you are interesting in joining us on our next fitness challenge please contact chamber.director@oregonil.com and visit our website for upcoming community events at oregonil.com (community calendar)

Leaf River Lions hosting Breakfast with Bunny event on April 16

LEAF RIVER – The Leaf River Lions will be serving, "Breakfast with Bunny" on Saturday April 16 from 7-10 a.m. in the Bertolet Memorial building.

The menu being served will be pancakes, waffles, French Toast scrambled eggs and whole hog sausage. Also available will be blueberry or chocolate chip pancakes as well as strawberries and whipped cream on your pancakes or waffles. Children 10 and under will eat free while cost for children 11-13 years is \$4, ages 14 and over is \$7 and All You Can

Eat is \$9.

After breakfast, at 10 a.m., the Lions will be having their annual Easter Egg Hunt in Bertolet Park, weather permitting. The Easter Egg hunt will be inside the Bertolet building if weather is bad. The Easter Egg hunt is open from toddlers to 8 year-olds. The hunt is divided into three age groups, 0-4 years, 5 & 6 and 7 & 8, with prizes awarded for each group.

The next Lions dinner on April 24 will be the Roast Pork Loin dinner in support of the Summer Daze Festival.

That dinner will consist of roast pork loin, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, dinner roll, applesauce and cake for dessert. Cost of the meal at the door is \$6 for children 6 thru 13 years and 14 years and older \$10. Children 5 and younger eat free.

Advanced tickets are available saving \$1.00 per dinner at the Bertolet Library or Lions Paul Lindstrom, Connie Hartje, Kathy Rose, Josh Lamping and Dorothy Mahon. Advanced tickets will be available April 1 and sold until Saturday April 16.

Byron Police report

March 1
Jeff Deornellas, 51 of Byron, was issued a citation for No Proof of Insurance.

Driver's License, No Proof of Insurance, and Operation of Motor Vehicle When Registration is Suspended.

March 4
Rueben Burgess, 31 of Rochelle, was issued a citation for Speeding 45 mph in a 30 mph Zone.

March 17
Matthew Zumdahl, 37 of Byron, was issued citations for Driving While License is Suspended and Expired Registration.

March 9
Jorge Avila-Herrera, 19 of Rockford, was issued a citation for Speeding 48 mph in a 30 mph Zone.

March 20
Byron Police arrested Vanessa Lulling, 35 of Chicago, for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Lulling was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

Michael Bless, 58 of Marengo, was issued citations for Driving While License is Suspended and No Proof of Insurance.

March 21
Byron Police arrested Austin Martin, 24 of Dixon, on 2 Lee County warrants. Martin was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

JOBS: Zekelman will be a major user of the rail system in Rochelle

Continued from Page 1A

In the past, Zekelman Industries has been said to be making a capital investment of over \$130 million in the facility and its jobs will pay an average of \$52,000 per year before benefits.

When Anderson was originally approached by Zekelman Industries, he said it was through a third party to negotiate incentives as it came up with its plans for both buildings, all the rail assets and the land at 1600 Ritchie Court.

The reason for the anonymity was because Zekelman Industries wanted to protect itself from its competitors, Anderson said.

The main piece of attracting Zekelman In-

dustries to Rochelle was amending the Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone to add 10 years of 50 percent abatement by creating a new category for companies that make an investment of \$100 million or more plus adding at least 125 new jobs and a pay rate of \$50,000 or more before benefits and maintaining 95 percent employees.

That amendment was passed by 17 taxing districts in the enterprise zone, Anderson said.

The west building of Zekelman Industries' had its abatement extended by 10 years.

The full tax bill will be paid on the east building, which was no longer abatable.

"The Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone competes with

other zones around the state and others have gotten very creative," Anderson said. "DeKalb has seven different categories for tax abatements. It's crazy. You're always competing with other communities and regions in other parts of the country when it comes to these kinds of incentives. By adopting the three-tiered system, we are more competitive in our tax abatement schedules."

Along with getting the enterprise zone amended, city officials also entered into negotiations on a development agreement with Zekelman Industries. City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said when that was finalized, he knew the steel

pipe and tube manufacturer was coming to town. That was in July 2021 and negotiations occurred for 4-6 weeks before that.

"Generally, that's when you know you've got something nailed," Anderson said.

The city owning its own public power utility in Rochelle Municipal Utilities also played a large part in attracting Zekelman Industries. Before any knowledge of the project possibly coming to town, the city had already begun work on developing a \$13.8 million electrical substation right next to 1600 Ritchie Court.

Zekelman Industries will be the city's largest

power user and work had to be done to make sure the city could provide all the power it needed along with other utilities like water and sewer. Fiegenschuh and City Attorney Dominick Lanzito along with city staff members worked to make sure that was feasible.

The city manager called the feeling of finalizing the development agreement "excitement, relief and joy." But what followed was a lot of work on meeting utility requirements and finishing the substation during supply chain issues and inflationary

cost increases caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Quite honestly, there wasn't any time for me to be excited," Fiegenschuh said. "It was like, 'OK, this is great. Now we need to move forward and get all this stuff done so when they're ready to power up, we can flip the switch and provide them with the power and utilities that they need.'"

Zekelman Industries will be a "major" user of the city's rail system as well, which Anderson said has been coming on lately as a "larger and larger" driver of economic development.



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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Adaline M. Beck

POLO — Heaven gained a beautiful angel as Adaline M. Beck, 102, of Polo, passed away Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at Serenity Hospice and Home. She lived a long and wonderful life, but it was her time to be reunited with the love of her life Dale and infant son Rodger. She will be sadly missed by her three daughters.



Grossnickle, Donna (Kenny) Soltow all of Polo.

Adaline was born Jan. 22, 1920, in Dekalb, the daughter of Walter and Mary (Miller) McAdams. On May 17, 1941 in Maple Park, Ill., she married her soul mate Dale Beck and together they had four children Bev Merdian, Rodger (deceased), Linda (Steve

Merdian, Andria (Dave) Young, Julie Albrecht, Jeff (Brenda) Soltow; 17 Great Grandchildren; 1 Great-Great Granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by husband Dale, son Rodger, 2 brothers Walter and William McAdams, sister Alvina Stickles and a son-in-law Robert Merdian.

A private family service will be held where she will be laid to rest next to her husband at Fairmount Cemetery in Polo.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon

Survivors include her daughters; 6 Grandchildren Bob (Julie) Merdian, Denny (Karla) Merdian, Michael (Heather

Virginia Angle Hough

MOUNT MORRIS — Virginia Angle Hough, age 91, passed away on March 25, 2022 at Pinecrest Manor, Mt. Morris.



of St. James Lutheran Church, rural Forreston.

She was a 4H leader for the Jolly Jane's Club, was a Cub Scout Leader and was a member of Ogle County Home Extension.

She was an accomplished seamstress and quilter and was a proud member of the West Branch Ladies Aide Society. She always cooked and baked as if the threshers were coming. Her ham balls and parker house rolls were legendary.

She truly was "Granny 1" which she proudly displayed on her licenses plates for nearly 50 years. Ginny is survived by her son, Gerry Hough, of Mt. Morris; daughter, Jane (Wayne) Atteberry, Belvidere; grandchildren, Chris (Jason) McCoy, Milwaukee, Wis., Rob (Lynnette) Hough IV, Mt. Morris, Rick Hough, Mt. Morris, Joselyn Hough,

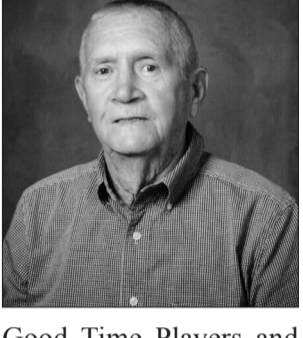
Charlotte, N.C., MacKenna (Eric) Winterton, Glen Elynn, Michael (Allison) Atteberry, Greenfield, Wis., and Geoff Atteberry, Morton; six great grandchildren, Benjamin McCoy and Samuel McCoy, Milwaukee, Wis., Rebecca Hough and RG Hough V, Mt. Morris, Peyton Boyd, Mt. Morris and Corbin Atteberry of Morton, Ill.

Ginny was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two sisters; three brothers; infant daughter, Susan Kay; son, Timothy John; daughter-in-law, Janice.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at Finch Funeral Home with Rev. Josh Ehler officiating. Burial Oakwood Cemetery, Mt. Morris. Visitation was Tuesday, March 29, 2022 from 5-7 p.m. in Finch Funeral Home, 405 East Hitt, Mt. Morris. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Serenity Hospice and Home of Oregon, Mt. Morris Fire Department, or Pinecrest Good Samaritan Fund. Arrangements were entrusted to Finch Funeral Home 405 E. Hitt St. Mt. Morris, IL 61054

Udell Aaron Foss

Udell Aaron Foss, 90, passed away on March 26, 2022 at Generations at Neighbors in Byron.



Good Time Players and of the Shriner's Masonic Lodge in Madison. After retiring from farming he was an independent truck driver. He was a life-long member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Paynes Point.

Udell enjoyed snowmobile trips, dancing, time spent volunteering at the Byron Heritage Farm Museum and The Lions Club, but mostly he loved the times spent with family.

Survivors include daughter Brenda (Jim

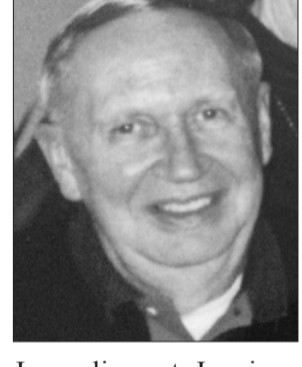
Sahlstrom, Rotunda West, Fla., and two sons Brian (Martina) Foss, Loves Park, and Brent Foss, Englewood, Fla. Grandchildren Brooke (Joel) Sahlstrom Seeger, Brigitte Sahlstrom, Nicole (Paul) Wesling and Jordan Foss. Great grandchildren Gavin and Jaxin Wesling, and Carter Foss.

He was preceded in death by his wife Marilyn, his parents, his sisters Vera Engleke, Eloise Collins, and Hazel Johnson.

Udell was a beautiful, humble, generous, and thoughtful man who considered the needs of others before his own. He will be dearly missed by all who's lives he touched. A celebration of life will be at a later date. Memorials can be sent to Serenity Hospice and Home of Oregon or Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Paynes Point.

Herman Willms, Jr.

Herman G. Willms, Jr. passed away peacefully on March 8, 2022, his 89th birthday. Herman was born on March 8, 1933 to Herman and Stella Willms. He grew up on a farm near Rochelle with his three sisters, Norma, Carol, and Joanne.



Journalism at Jennings Senior High School in the suburb of St. Louis, Missouri for 17 years. He returned to England, Oxford summer classes, and Europe many times. In 1976, he purchased the El Con Book Store in Tucson, Ariz. When the bigger bookstores arrived, he sold his store and went on to pursue a Library of Science Master's Degree at the University of Arizona in 1986. He moved to Vail, Colo., as full time Administrator at Vail Public Library, where his lunch hour was often spent on the ski slopes during winter months. Three years later he became an Administrator for the Fort Collins Public Library before retiring in 2001 and returning to Tucson, Ariz. His love of books prompted him to write, "Killing for Power and Profit: Remembering the Victims". He researched the wars and spent two years writing it. It covered 100 years of war in concise chapters, making it readable and interesting. Publishing his book in 2018, he hoped to reach

the younger generation of readers.

In addition to his parents, Dean was preceded in death by his sister, Norma Geise, her husband Charles, brother-in-law, Dr. James Parsons, niece, Julie Parsons, great niece, Kristi Geise, and nephews Jackson Gallup, Dan Sawicki, and Jay Senkerik.

He is survived by his sisters, Carolyn Parsons and Joanne (Tom) Senkerik, nieces and nephews, Brenda (Will) Whitaker, Richard (Rene) Geise, Janet (Tres) Wiley, Sue Sawicki, Jim (Terri) Parsons, Lisa (Tom) Mucenski, Jeffrey (Cindy) Senkerik, Kourtney Senkerik, along with 12 great nieces and great nephews and many friends. He is and will be missed by all for his positivity, intellect, and love of his extended family.

In keeping with Dean's wishes, there will be no funeral service or reception. Arrangements by Adair Funeral Homes and interment of ashes will be at Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Marana, Arizona.

Special thank you to Cindy and Jeff Senkerik for truly being Dean's angels, to Rod Smith for your friendship and caring, to the caregivers at Hacienda De Luna Assisted Living, and to the staff at Casa de la Luz Hospice. He spent his last weeks happy, content, and grateful.

Emerald G. Brass, Jr.

OREGON — Emerald G. Brass, Jr. passed away at KSB hospital in Dixon on March 24, 2022 after a long battle with diabetes and cardiac complications. He was born in Rochelle on Jan. 17, 1954 the son of Emerald G. and Rosella (Dirksen) Brass, Sr.



to work many years at Quebecor in Mt. Morris. Following that, he worked at Sports N More in Rockford. Emerald attended Ebenezer Reformed Church in Oregon. He was a huge Indianapolis

Colts fan.

He is survived by his mother, Rosella Brass of Oregon; sisters, Joan Brass of Oregon and Rosemary (Wes) Prewett of Stillman Valley; and many cousins.

He is preceded in death by his father.

Cremation rights have been accorded. No services will be held. The family appreciates your thoughts and prayers. To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

Report policy

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

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Advertisers please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes, notify us immediately. We will make changes for errors made on our part and we will adjust bills accordingly, but only provided we receive notice immediately following the first time the ad appears. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper, which also reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser, and not this newspaper, is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. Advertising is also subject to credit approval, and may be refused at any time for any reason.

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Oregon VFW Post hosting breakfast, presentation on April 9

The Oregon VFW Post 8739 and the Veterans Assistance Commission Of Ogle County are hosting a free breakfast for all Ogle County Veterans and a guest on Saturday, April 9 from 8-11 a.m.

There will be a presentation about Ogle County Veteran history. The menu will be scrambled eggs, potatoes, sausage, pancakes, biscuits and gravy and refreshments. There will be representatives from the Veterans Assistance Commission available if you desire to discuss your VA benefits.

There will be a free will offering collection to help defray the costs of the food. We hope to see you there.

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Pia Leombruni



BYRON – Pia Leombruni, age 97, shared an extraordinary amount of love, kindness, and comfort with all who knew her. She will be remembered by her friends and family for her joy and generosity, for gathering everyone around her kitchen table countless times, and for her easy smile and warmth. Pia died March 26, 2022, in Rockford surrounded by her loving family.

Pia was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and she cherished all of these roles. Each and every one of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren was special to her – and she made sure to tell them often with her sweet smile and a warm hug, adding “bella” or “bello” as always. Pia was a tremendous cook who nurtured everyone around her with delicious food, and a terrific gardener who happily shared the bounty. As a devout Roman

Catholic, her faith in God guided and supported her in every moment. Pia was born September 24, 1924, in Ferrentino, Italy, the daughter of Domenico and Antonia (Villani) Picchi. She married Alberto Leombruni on May 18, 1946, in Rome, Italy. Pia immigrated to the United States in 1954 with their 7-year-old son, joining her husband in Rockford. Pia treasured her family and lifelong friendships both near and far. For those back in Italy, she would catch up with carefully-timed international phone calls, and reunite with them on trips back to Ferrentino and Rome.

Meanwhile, in Rockford, her door was always open, and a hot pot of coffee and homemade cookies would be waiting. Pia absolutely shined in her kitchen. She was a talented and loving cook, and whether she was preparing a full Italian spread or making rice krispie treats with her grandkids, she knew just how to bring people together in her kitchen and make anyone who sat around her table feel like family. Pia was a proud co-owner of her family’s restaurant, Leombruni’s Italian Village, in Byron for over two decades, where she shared that same warmth and care with guests.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband Alberto, her grandson Marco Leombruni, and her seven siblings.

She is survived by her children: Ernest (Mimi) Leombruni of Byron; Piera (Norman) Sagon of Granger, Ind.; and Annette (Steve) Jones of By-

ron. Pia had 8 grandchildren: Tony (Lyn) Leombruni, Rob Leombruni, Lisa (Scott) Collins, Erica (Jeff) Wuslich, Nathan (Emily) Sagon; Sarah (Scott) Gibson; Bekki (Mark) Presson; and Emily (Kevin) Rollins. Pia had 17 great grandchildren: Marco, Dominic, and Gabe Leombruni; Alexandra, Samantha, and AnnaMaria Leombruni; Ben and Henry Wuslich; Gianna and Vincent Sagon; Cooper and Haven Gibson; Kennedy, Ireland, and Johnna Heaslip, Amiah Presson, and Hendrix Rollins.

Funeral mass was held at 11 a.m., Friday, April 1, 2022, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 220 E. 2nd Street, Byron, IL. Visitation precedes the service from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Burial will be in the Calvary Cemetery, 8616 W. State Street, Winnebago. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Pia’s name to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.

Barbara West



BYRON – Barbara West, age 78, passed away at home on March 23, 2022. She was born on Sept. 14, 1943 in Glen Ridge, New Jersey the daughter of Richard and Georganna (Michael) Blair.

She married Robert Ebel and with him had their son, Scott. After Robert passed away, she married Don West. She lived in the Byron area for many years until downsizing following Don’s passing. Barbara loved the outdoors. She enjoyed spending her spare time gardening, hiking, hunting, and fishing. When she wasn’t outside, she could be found at the Starbucks or shopping. She was an animal lover who had many pets over the years. She loved her family. She was a phenomenal person. She never met a stranger and loved everyone she met. Her bright and colorful clothes matched her personality.

She is survived by her son, Scott (Patricia) Ebel; brothers, Bob Blair and Jim Blair; granddaughters, Ashley (Mike) Frame and Tapanga Ebel; great grandchildren, Russell and Maci; and her little buddy, Otis.

She is preceded in death by her parents and husbands.

Cremation rights have been accorded. Per Barbara’s wishes no services will be held and an interment will be held at a later date in Idaho. To leave an online condolence please visit www.FarrellHollandGale.com

Easter Services

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 308 E. Brayton Rd., Mt. Morris, IL
 815-734-6354 • www.trinitymmil.net

Palm Sunday Worship – 9:30 am 4/10
Maundy Thursday Worship – 7 pm 4/14
Good Friday Worship – 7 pm 4/15
Easter Vigil Saturday – 7 pm 4/16
Easter Sunday – 9:30 am 4/17

ALL are Welcome!

St. Paul Lutheran Church
 – Holy Week Services –

Loving Christ, Sharing Christ, Trusting Christ

Maundy Thursday Service
 April 14 – 7 PM

Easter Sunday Service
 April 17 – 11:30 AM
 Easter Brunch served at 10:15 AM

Handicap Accessible - Holy Communion at all services

114 South 5th Street, Oregon, IL
 815-732-2367

THE RESURRECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING

Join us Sunday April 17th at 10:45 AM
 609 S. Tenth St. Oregon, IL

The heart of God is a resurrecting heart. He longs for us to experience new life. Join us as we celebrate the greatest moment in human history. New life has come and we now have hope through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Make sure to bring your kids as RiverKids will be celebrating Easter with their own service geared specifically for kids in nursery thru 6th grade!

United Church of Byron
 701 West Second Street, Byron, IL
 815-234-8777
www.unitedchurchofbyron.org

Loving God • Serving People • Following Jesus

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY ~ APRIL 10
 8:15am: Lectio Divina Meditative Service
 10:30AM: Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ APRIL 14
 6:30pm: Soup Supper & Service with Communion

EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 17
 8:15am: Lectio Divina Meditative Service
 10:00am: Easter Egg Hunt For Kids
 10:30am: Worship

All are welcome!

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

John Allan Cain

OREGON – John Allan Cain, age 58, died Monday, March 28, 2022 at the Serenity Hospice and Home near Oregon. He was born Sept. 22, 1963 in Rockford the son of Allan and Mary (McLennan) Cain.



He graduated from Byron High School in 1981 where he participated in Baseball and basketball. John also graduated from Northern Illinois University in Dekalb with his Bachelor's Degree in Athletic Training. He married Melanie Stabler on July 21, 2001 in Princeton, Ill. John was a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association and the National Strength and Conditioning Association. He enjoyed astronomy and often volunteered at the observatory at the Byron Forest Preserve. He was an avid Cubs, Blackhawks and Notre Dame football fan. John was Athletic Trainer at Oregon High School for the past 30+ years where he helped

hundreds of students recover from their sports injuries. He received the gift of life through a kidney and pancreas transplant at UW-Madison on June 14, 2005.

He was predeceased by his father Allan Cain, his paternal grandparents Lester and Leola Cain, and maternal grandparents Don and Leona McLennan.

He is survived by his loving wife Melanie Cain of Oregon; mother Mary Cain of Byron; sister Lori Crask of Rockford; Aunts Kathy McLennan of North Dakota, and Joan (Tom) Nally of Florida; father- and mother-in-law Lee

(Mary Jane) Stabler of Kewanee, Ill.; brother-in-law Nick (Brandy) Stabler of Chatham, Ill.; several cousins, nieces and nephews: Adam (Kori) Crask, Sara (the late Levi) Lorenz, Olivia Stabler, Wesley Stabler; great nieces and nephews: Addison Crask, Baylee Lorenz, Cena Lorenz, and Noah Crask.

A memorial service will be held 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th Street in Oregon, IL with the Pastor David Rogula officiating. Visitation will be held Monday, April 4, 2022 at the funeral home from 5-7 p.m. A memorial fund is established in John's name for the Serenity Hospice and Home and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Transplant Program. In John's honor, please consider registering to be an organ donor. Visit www.farrellhollandgale.com to leave a condolence or memory of John.

Rock River Center has upcoming events, activities

Rock River Center is a resource center located at 810 S. 10th Street, Oregon. 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.

Rock River Center Transportation
Spring is here! With the warm weather, more people are getting out. That means more bus rides. Also, this spring we are utilizing a new computerized bus scheduling application. In order to give you, our riders, the best possible service we need to have all information pertaining to you ride when you call us. Please be prepared to give us the following: your name, pickup address, phone numbers (home and cell), city, date and day of ride, time, how long your appointment will be, name and address of destination. The phone number of your destination would be helpful but not necessary. These seemingly small details are a great help when setting up the routes. Please be ready a few minutes prior to your pick up time. We understand cancellations due to illness. If you must cancel for other reasons, please do so as soon as you cannot keep your ride.

We go to Freeport on Tuesday; Dekalb/Sycamore on Thursday; Rockford on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; local Ogle county and Dixon daily. Thank you for riding with Rock river Center.

2022/2023 American Classic Tours Preview

We are excited to invite you to a special Tour Preview highlighting our 2022/2023 Tour Schedule. Join us on Wednesday, April 13, at 10 a.m. at the Rock River Center.

Joe Conroy, President of American Classic Tours, Inc. will provide an informative program schedules complete with beautiful images of these destinations.

American Classic Tours, Inc. of Grayslake, IL offers deluxe, well-paced, all-inclusive tours throughout North America. Come and learn about their unique, top quality itineraries. American Classic Tours, Inc. has been a proud partner of the Rock River Center for many years.

We will be serving assorted "travel-themed" snacks as refreshments.

This is the first event in our "Passport to Fun". We will be distributing passports and providing a brief description of the program beginning at 9:30 a.m.

To register to attend, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 by Thursday, April 7.

RRC Holiday Hours

Rock River Center will be observing the following holiday:

Friday, April 15, Good Friday; Center will close at Noon

No activities, programs or transportation will be scheduled at this time. Please plan accordingly.

Thank you and enjoy your holiday.

Senior Information Services Provided By Rock River Center

Do you need help with Benefit Access Application, Medicare, housing, personal care, homemaking, heating assistance or other things? Rock River Center's Information & Assistance Specialists are available at various locations throughout Ogle County. We are at:

Byron/Jarrett Prairie Center - Apr. 11 - NO MTG.

Forreston/Faith Lutheran Church on Apr. 20 from 11 a.m.-noon

Mt. Morris Library on Apr 20 from 11 a.m.-noon

Polo Public Library on Apr 27 from 10 a.m.-noon

Rochelle/Hub City Senior Center on Apr 6 and 27 from 9:30 a.m.-noon

Donald S. Eliel

OREGON – Donald S. Eliel, age 85, passed away on Sunday, March 27, 2022 at his home. He was born in Paducah, Ky., on Jan. 1, 1937. He is the son of Frank and Pauline (Stinnett) Eliel.



He married Cheryl Appel on June 14, 1968. Donald was a U.S. Navy veteran. He worked for AT&T for many years until he retired in 1996. Donald was a faith filled man. He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church where he enjoyed singing in the choir. He loved the outdoors; especially spending time fishing and scuba diving. He was an avid hiker; hiking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Donald loved to travel and traveled with his wife to all 48 contiguous states. He was an avid woodworker.

Donald was an involved parent and grandparent who enjoyed being Boy Scout leader and coaching soccer. In his spare time; he would stay involved with local community theatre productions and played Santa for many years. Donald was also a dedicated Mason.

He is survived by his loving wife, Cheryl of Oregon; children, Kelly (Jeff) Camacho of Pittsboro, N.C., Jennifer (Daniel) Erdmann of Franklin Grove and Brett Eliel of Lake in the Hills; grandchildren, Brad (Megan) Nichols,

Matthew Eliel, Isaac Erdmann, Caden Camacho, Tessa Camacho, and Maddox Camacho; and great grandson, Braden Nichols.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Albert Eliel.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, April 3, 2022 at Farrell-Holland-Gale 110 S 7th Street, Oregon from 3 - 5 pm concluded with a Masonic service at 5 PM. A Celebration of Donald's Life will be held 10:30 a.m. on Monday, April 4, 2022 at St Paul's Lutheran Church with Pastor Carl Rasmussen officiating. Burial at Daysville Cemetery in Oregon. Memorials are established for Serenity Hospice & Home and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oregon. To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

Mt. Morris Senior Center sets activities

* Join us for a new game! We will be playing pool on our table on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. All are welcome and we are happy to teach you the game.

* We will be carpooling to Brother's Inn in Lanark on April 8th at 11 a.m. for lunch. If you would like to join us, simply call Melissa at 815-734-6335 to get on the list. All are welcome.

* An adult Easter Egg Hunt Fundraiser will be held on Saturday April 9th on the campus. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased by calling Melissa at 815-734-6335 or stopping by Mt. Morris Village Hall. All proceeds will support the Mt. Morris Senior Center and the Let Freedom Ring Festival.

* There will be a Potluck at noon on Monday, April 11th. Please bring a dish to pass or \$5.

* There will be a free craft class at 11 a.m. on April 14th with Kerri from Liberty Village of Rochelle. All are welcome, but please sign up by calling 815-734-6335 or stopping by the Senior Center.

* There is a Supper Club at 4 p.m.

on April 19th at Cornett's Chana Tap. The carpool to Chana will leave the Senior Center at 4 p.m. or you can meet us there at 4:20 p.m. All are welcome!

* We will be taking a trip to Galena on April 21st. The cost for this trip is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. We will be taking a Rock River Center Bus and visiting downtown Galena and Fergidaboutit Winery in Hanover. Give Melissa a call at 815-734-6335 to sign up!

* There will be a Health Fair on April 22nd from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. sponsored by the Mt. Morris Senior Center and KSB. All are welcome to join us to learn some new things and have a little fun. There will be healthy eating demonstrations, a talk about "plarn", and door prizes. All are welcome!

* There is a Pie and Ice Cream Social on April 25th from 4 to 6 p.m. on the front lawn of the Mt. Morris Senior Center. All are welcome to join us for this free event. All donations received will go to the United Way of the Rock River Valley.

Forreston Easter Egg hunt is April 16

FORRESTON – The Forreston Lions/Forreston Area Business Association will be having an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 16 at 10 a.m.

The hunt is for children ages 1-10 at Memorial Park. In case of bad weather, it will be held inside at Forreston Grade School.

Tails PET OF THE WEEK
Humane Society
815.758.2457
www.tailshumanesociety.org



Adopt ME Lady
Greetings! I'm Lady, I'm 4, and I'm hoping you will help me find a home. I'm a very friendly girl who is eager to please. Being by your side, whether strolling down the street or hanging out in the house, is what I enjoy. And when I look at you with my deep brown eyes, you will know that my love for you will never end. A more true blue companion cannot be found! One other thing I adore is food...maybe some of you can relate. I weigh just under 50lbs but really need to take off several of those. And because yummy morsels are a top priority, I'd be best not living with kids who tend to leave crumbs wherever they go. I am house-trained, whining at the door when I need to go potty, so no need to worry about that. And at 4, I've settled down and, though I still have plenty of energy, am not a whirling dervish. One thing I do wish is to be in a home without cats as I'm not very fond of them.. sorry! But oh boy, I sure hope my forever home is around the corner!

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Dalmatians are born without spots! They are born with plain white coats with their first spots appearing after they are 1 week old.

Now is a great time to adopt a pet! Call Tails today!

LOCAL NEWS

Registration now open for 4-H Day Camps

Registration for 4-H Day Camp 2022 is open. 4-H Day Camp is set for June 14, 15, and 16 at Rock River Christian Camp, Polo. Sign up today to get your child in on all of the amazing fun. Youth may choose to participate in all three days of camp or attend the dates that work best in their schedule.

The 2022 4-H Camp is a day camping experience that is conducted cooperatively by University of Illinois Extension staff in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago Counties and the professional staff at RRCC.

Historically, parents have sent their children to 4-H Camp for a variety of reasons: to have fun, to make new friends, to develop new skills, to be physically active, and to appreciate nature. 4-H Camp is about way more than a few days of fun. Sending your child to 4-H Camp will allow them to create memories they will carry with them through adulthood. 4-H camp teaches youth to make good decisions, build their self-confidence, become independent, and gain the ability to work well with others. These skills will help youth develop into strong adult leaders. In addition, 4-H camp counselors devote

much of their time to ensure today's campers have the same great experience they did as children.

Campers at 4-H Camp will check-in daily at 9 a.m., and daily checkout beginning at 8 p.m. During camp week, youth will engage in a variety of activities designed to challenge, educate, and entertain. Free-choice periods will be offered daily and will include options such as hiking, shooting sports, arts and crafts, crate stacking, team-building challenges, zip-lining, swimming, and more. Anna Dittmar, a first-time camper, thought "the zipline was thrilling!"

4-H Camp is open to all boys and girls,

ages 8-14 by June 14. 4-H membership is not required; however, all participants will be expected to comply with the same high behavior standards expected of 4-Hers. Youth need to be interested and excited to have a day of outdoor fun, away from television and technology.

Cost each day is \$70. All camp fees must be paid in full by May 2. Download a camper application online or register online at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo/northern-illinois-4-h-camp>. You may also call an office near you: Jo Daviess County at 815-858-2273; Ogle County Extension at 815-732-2191; or Whiteside Counties at 815-632-3611.

Dems make donation

The Ogle County Democratic Central Committee took the current challenge of not being able to gather in person and made it into a positive. For the second consecutive year, committee members decided to take their holiday party contribution and instead turned it into a donation to benefit Ogle County food pantries. This holiday season, \$800 was collected and distributed to eight pantries throughout the county. For more information about the Ogle County Democrats, visit their website at oglecountydems.org. David Donald (left), Treasurer of the Ogle County Democrats, presenting Kathy Wragg, Director of the Polo Lifeline Food Pantry, a check for \$100.



Oregon clean up planned

OREGON – The Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to Have A Spring Clean Up Day on April 24, from 1-4:30 p.m. The rain date will be May 1.

This is a day for Oregon residents to get outside and clean up our yards together as a community. All the information can be found online at <http://oregonil.com/oregons-community-clean-up-day/>

Is your yard already awesome? Sign up at the website provided to help someone who needs a hand and a team captain will contact you with details. Do you need some help with your yard? Is your siding needing some pressure washing or maybe you're struggling to get your mower going? Please sign up and a team captain will contact you with details. Call Executive Director Liz Vos if you have any questions: 815-732-2100

A fall clean up on Sept. 11 is also planned.

A special thanks to participating businesses and organizations. We are very lucky to have them here serving our community. Special thank you to the City of Oregon for providing support, and Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department for providing grant assistance. Thank you to Oregon Lions Club, Oregon School District, Oregon Together, Oregon United Methodist Church, St Paul Lutheran Church, Woods Equipment for helping two years in a row.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tues., April 5

Young Widows Group will meet from 6-7 p.m. at the Serenity Home 1658 S IL RT 2 in Oregon. This group is for ages 55 and under. To register please call 815-732-4111 by noon. Group size is limited.

Thurs., April 7

C.A.F.E. will meet from 9-10 a.m. at The Shed 131 N 3rd Street in Oregon. This group is open to all adult bereaved in the community. To register please call 815-

732-4111 by 4 p.m. on April 7. Group size is limited.

Diamond Art will meet from 9-11 a. m. at The Shed 131 N 3rd Street in Oregon. Open to all adults in the community. Please call 815-732-4111 by 4 p.m. on April 7 to register. Please bring your own supplies.

Fri., April 8

The New Beginnings Al-Anon Family Group meets each Friday morning at 10 a.m. at the KSB Medical Clinic, 1107 S. Division (Route 52),

in Polo. The meeting is also on Zoom; information for that option may be acquired by calling 815-732-7616.

Sat., April 9

The Oregon VFW Post 8739 and the Veterans Assistance Commission Of Ogle County are hosting a free breakfast for all Ogle County Veterans and a guest from 8-11 a.m. There will be a presentation about Ogle County Veteran history. There will be representatives from the Veterans Assistance Commission available if you

desire to discuss your VA benefits.

Sun., April 10

There will be a Polo community candlelight prayer vigil for Ukraine at 6 p.m. The event will be held at Louise Quick Park. In case of rain the event will be held at the Polo Senior Center.

Please send your items for the weekly Community Calendar to bjennings@oglecountylife.com. Deadline for all items is 3 p.m. Wednesday.

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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
Brad Jennings, Editor

The Ogle County Life is a division of
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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On April 20, 1841, Edgar Allan Poe's story, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," first appears in print. The tale, generally considered to be the first detective story, describes the methods used to solve a series of murders.

* On April 22, 1889, at precisely high noon, 50,000 to 60,000 would-be settlers make a mad dash into the newly opened Oklahoma Territory to claim cheap land. Towns like Norman and Oklahoma City sprang up almost overnight.

* On April 18, 1906, in San Francisco, an earthquake registering 8.0 kills 3,000 people as 30,000 buildings are destroyed. Two days later, 20,000 refugees trapped by a massive fire were evacuated from the foot of Van Ness Avenue onto the USS Chicago.

* On April 21, 1930, a fire at an Ohio prison kills 320 inmates, some of whom burn to death when they are not unlocked from their cells. The prison, built to hold 1,500 people, had 4,300 prisoners.

* On April 23, 1945, two weeks after taking over as U.S. president, Harry Truman gives a tongue-lashing to Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov. Truman was determined to take a tougher postwar stance with the Soviets than his late predecessor, Franklin Roosevelt, had. Molotov, indignant, stormed out of the meeting with Truman.

* On April 24, 1953, Winston Churchill, the British leader who guided Great Britain and the Allies through the crisis of World War II, is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. He would win the Nobel Prize in literature later that same year.

* On April 19, 1993, near Waco, Texas, after a 51-day siege, the FBI launches a tear-gas assault on the compound of Branch Davidian leader David Koresh and his disciples as part of an investigation into illegal possession of firearms and explosives. The compound at Mount Carmel was burned to the ground, and some 80 Branch Davidians, including 22 children, died in the inferno.

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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.

Slap a symptom of larger problem

Seems I missed the slap heard around the world.

As usual, I did not watch the Academy Awards ceremony last week. Watching a bunch of entitled people handing out awards to each other doesn't do much for me. And since I haven't even been to a theater for years, I am not exactly up on the "best" movies out there.

Give me a nice horror movie or a great documentary and I am good.

But the Oscars certainly made headlines for all the wrong reasons this year, as actor Will Smith slapped comedian Chris Rock after Rock made a joke about Smith's wife.

Look, I am not going to rehash everything here. You saw it or heard about it, most certainly. If you need a re-cap you can go to Google.

Why Smith felt that was the best time to slap someone who makes a living telling jokes is beyond me. But we need to make sure this is clear — it was assault. Thankfully for Smith, Rock is not pressing charges.

First, I want to make

Living the Life

By Brad Jennings



clear that physically assaulting someone who says something you don't like does not make you a tough guy. It makes you look weak. Heard of toxic masculinity? That is what it looks like.

But this speaks to a much deeper issue in society. We are a violent bunch, and these days seem to use violence as a go-to response.

We scream, and yell and storm the Capital and threaten those we don't like. On social media, people belittle and mock and type nasty things in ALL CAPS. We have politicians who openly say the most inflammatory things about those they don't agree

with, and these people are applauded by those who agree with them.

I think we need to take a mirror and stare into it . . . deeply. We need to take a long look at ourselves. Will Smith is just a guy living on the planet. Sure, he is more famous and richer than all of us, but he is just a dude. And in America in 2022, if someone says something you don't like, you assault them. With apparently no consequences.

This is not a good lesson.

Where does this stop? Do people start charging the stage at comedy shows if a comedian says something that offends them? How about a musician who sings a song protesting something you love? Do you get physical? Make threats? I see reporters being threatened with bodily harm for simply covering political events. It is terrifying what is happening in this country.

Politicians get death threats all the time. Even other elected officials post things on social media that seem to call for violence against those on

"the other side."

This is who we are, and I don't like it at all. The vitriol and anger and name calling we see every day horrifies me. I am so sick of those who set out to divide.

It is harmful and hurtful and disgusting.

One rich guy slapping another rich guy on TV in front of millions, including children, is just life now, I suppose. We have people with obscenities painted on barns and it is fine, right? We put down and laugh at people all the time.

If we keep going this way, it is going to get much worse. We have got to, as a society, reject the anger and division and especially the violence. If not, I hate to think about the country my future grandchildren will be living in.

All of this from a simple slap, you ask? Yes. That slap was a symptom of a much bigger and continually growing problem. Let's be a part of the solution.

Brad Jennings is Editor of The Ogle County Life.

Incident made me realize my own privilege

A few months ago, I was pulled over by a Springfield-area police officer for a minor traffic violation.

He shined a flashlight in my car and said, "Mr. Reeder, are you carrying?"

I replied that "no," my firearm was home locked up in a safe.

He replied "You should always carry. It doesn't do you any good if its home locked up."

He gave me a verbal warning and sent me on my way.

I couldn't help but wonder how different that encounter might have been if I were Black.

In 2020, I wrote a piece about Rep. Curtis Tarver, D-Chicago, who was pulled over not far from his home for having a burned-out headlight. An officer asked him, "Do you have a gun in the car?" He responded he did and showed them his valid conceal carry permit.

But he says he was still hauled into a police station, handcuffed to a table for seven hours and not allowed to call an attorney. They treated him this way despite knowing he was a lawyer and a state lawmaker.

Nine months later, charges against him were dismissed because it was determined he hadn't broken any law. But the cops kept his gun.

Tarver is Black. I'm white. He was arrested despite being licensed to carry. I was scolded for not carrying.

That's the definition of white privilege.

I might add that white privilege isn't necessarily something someone seeks. And it doesn't mean you haven't had struggles

in your life. It just means that one of those struggles wasn't related to the color of your skin.

Sometimes it manifests itself in big ways such as whether one is arrested. But often smaller things are more telling.

Last week, our puppy chewed up my well-worn pair of work boots. I went to my favorite shoe store, a place where I've always found the service to be excellent.

There was one other customer there, a Black man with his family. He has a good job as a union dry wall installer, and he too was buying a new pair of boots.

After trying a pair on, I asked if I made the purchase whether they could throw in a free pair of socks. In a rather officious tone — as if he were speaking to an audience, not just me — the manager told me, "We never do that."

And he pointed at my sales associate and said, "He could be fired if he did that."

I stepped into the washroom and when I returned the African American family had left. The associate had my boots boxed up and handed me a free pair of socks. He said, "You're a good customer — you deserve this."

My first reaction was, "That's nice, he changed his mind."

As I drove home, it dawned on me that whole charade was done so they wouldn't be obliged to also give a free pair of socks to the Black customer who was spending the same amount as me.

White folks, myself included, can be pretty clueless when it comes to the privileges we are extended.

Several years ago, I was driving

just south of Springfield Memorial Hospital when I came across a van that had broken down on a side street.

The driver was a young African American man who had recently graduated from high school. He said he had run out of gas and was worried about being late for his job working in a restaurant.

I had him climb in my truck and I drove him to a gas station several blocks away. I got out of the truck and grabbed a nozzle to fill up my gas can.

The young man said, "You can't do that. This is my neighborhood station and you have to pre-pay." But it was the station I stopped at routinely on the way to work, and I had never prepaid.

Sure enough, as soon as I stuck the nozzle in the can, gasoline flowed.

I looked at the young man who was dressed in a nice pair of jeans. I had been doing yard work that day and was wearing a pair of bib overalls. So, it wasn't how I was dressed that got me treated better.

He drove an old van, but I was driving an old pickup.

Perhaps I was treated better because I have some gray in my hair, but I doubt it.

It would seem my skin color offered me a privilege that's denied others. That's just not right but it won't change until more white people realize that the privileges they receive often are denied others.

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

Thanks for generous donation to FFA program

Dear Editor,

The Forrestville Valley School District and FFA would like to recognize the family of Norm and Mary Ellen Ludwig for their generous donation to the FFA Program at Forreston High School in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig.

Norm and Mary Ellen Ludwig were lifelong farmers in Forreston. They loved farm life and dedicated their lives to being good members of the community. Norm was a member

of the US Army and served in the Korean War, he was active in his church and was a member of the American Legion and Mt. Morris Moose Lodge. Norm passed away in September, 2019. Mary Ellen was generous with her time and volunteered in multiple ways to help her community including at her church, with local girl scout troops, and as an election judge. Mary Ellen passed away in December, 2021.

To honor their memory and

their love of farming, their family donated \$1,000.00 in their name to the Forrestville Valley High School FFA Program. Forrestville Valley appreciates the generosity of the family, friends and neighbors for continuing Norm and Mary Ellen's legacy with this donation.

**Sheri Smith, Superintendent
Forrestville Valley Board of
Education
Kelley Parks, FFA Advisor**

LOCAL NEWS

Ogle County Sheriff

Feb. 26
At approximately 8:32 p.m., Deputies initiated a traffic stop on I-39 at mile marker #109 northbound. Upon further investigation Shundell Brown, 25 of Rockford, was arrested for No Valid Driver's License. Shundell was released on an I-Bond with a future court date given. Shundell was also cited for Operate Uninsured Motor Vehicle, No Child Restraint, and Possession of Cannabis.

At 12:31 a.m., Ogle County Deputies responded to Rochelle Community Hospital for a reported child abuse. Upon further investigation, Luis Vasquez Jr., 21 of Rochelle was charged with Aggravated Domestic Battery. Vasquez was transported to the Ogle County Corrections Center where he was released to Corrections' Personnel in lieu of bond.

At approximately 8:21 p.m., Ogle County Deputies conducted a traffic stop at N Main St and IL Rte 38 in Creston. After a brief investigation, Deputies arrested Jorge Cabrera, 32 of Rochelle, for Driving While License Suspended. Cabrera was taken into custody without incident and released on a \$2,500/10% Individual Bond with a return court date set. Cabrera was also issued citations for Illegal Window Tint and Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

At 10:55 p.m. Deputies conducted a traffic stop on I39 at mile marker 104, and after a short investigation Deputies arrested Asia Harron, 65 of Rockford for no valid license. Herron was released on scene and will appear in court on 4-1-22 at 0900.

At 8:02 p.m., Deputies conducted a traffic stop on I39 at mile marker 99. After a short investigation Deputies arrested Austin Sumner 28 of Washington IL for DWLS, and improper Cannabis container. Sumner also received citations for one tail light, no insurance, and failure to change address. Sumner was released on scene and will appear in court at a later date.

Feb. 25
At approximately 10:02 p.m. Ogle County Deputies conducted a traffic stop at IL Rte 38 and Mulford Road. After a brief investigation, Deputies arrested, Juan Manuel Huertes-Ceballos, 43 of La Salle, for No Valid Driver's License. Huertes-Ceballos was taken into custody without incident and released on a \$2,500/10% Individual Bond with a return court date. Huertes-Ceballos was also issued a citation for Illegal Window Tint.

At 11:32 a.m., Deputies conducted a traffic stop at Mud Creek Road and N Illinois Route 2. After a brief investigation, Jaime Carter, 40 from Oregon was arrested for Driving While License Revoked and Possession of Methamphetamine (Class 3 Felony). Carter was transported to Ogle County Jail where she was being held pending an appearance before a judge.

Feb. 24
At approximately 10:03 p.m., Deputies responded to a Theft on N. Highland Court in Stillman Valley. After investigation, Deputies placed Dustin Gray, 34 of Stillman Valley under arrest for Possession of a Stolen Firearm (Class 2

Felony), No FOID card (Class 3 Felony), and Theft under \$500.00. Gray was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

At approximately 1:13 a.m., Ogle County Deputies conducted a traffic stop on I39 at mile marker 108. After a brief investigation, Deputies arrested Cristian Menjivar-Alvarenga, 28 of Rockford, for No Valid Driver's License. Menjivar-Alvarenga was also issued citations for No Front Registration and Operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle. Menjivar-Alvarenga was given an I-Bond with a return court date later next month and released on scene

At approximately 2:40 a.m., Deputies conducted a traffic stop on I39 at mile marker 113. After investigation, Deputies placed Damontre Turner, 28 of Rockford under arrest for Driving While License Suspended. Turner was released on an I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date.

Christopher Taylor, 33, was placed under arrest for Violation of the Sex Offender Registration Act (Class 3 Felony). Taylor was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending an appearance before a judge.

Feb. 22
At 3:10 p.m., Deputies conducted a traffic stop at 3rd Street and Franklin Street, Byron. After a short investigation, Deputies arrested James Turcato of Byron, 27 for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. James was transported to Ogle County Jail. James was also issued

citations for Expired Registration and No Front Registration.

Feb. 21
At approximately 6:46 p.m., Ogle County Deputies conducted a traffic stop at E IL Rte 38 and Mulford Rd. After a brief investigation, Deputies arrested David Alarcon-Hernandez, 38 of DeKalb, for No Driver's License. Alarcon-Hernandez was taken into custody without incident and released on a \$2,500/10% Individual Bond and given a return court date. Alarcon-Hernandez was also issued citations for No Splash Guards, Illegal Window Tint, and Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

Feb. 20
At approximately 3:30 a.m. deputies responded to the 8,000 block of Clinton Street in Grand Detour for in the report of a domestic disturbance. Dixon Rural Fire department was also responding to the address for the report of a natural gas leak. After an investigation, Dillon Hawn, 24 of Grand Detour was arrested for domestic battery, possession of a firearm with no FOID card, and reckless discharge of a firearm. Hawn was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

At approximately 8:13 p.m., Ogle County Deputies conducted a traffic stop on I39 mile marker 111. After brief investigation, Deputies arrested Keith Sanders, 58 of Freeport, for Driving While License Revoked. Sanders was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released to Correctional Staff and held in lieu of bond.

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2022 Easter Menu
Seatings at 11 & 1
Buffet \$25
Seniors (60 & Over) \$22
Children (Under 13) \$15

- Vegetable Du Dour
- Mashed Potatoes
- Rock River Chicken
- 24-foot Dessert Table
- Bacon and Sausage
- Carved Seasoned Pork Loin
 - AuGratin Potatoes
 - Beef Gravy
 - Baked Ham
- Yankee Pot Roast
- Maxsons Tossed House Salad
 - Omelet Station
 - Breakfast Potatoes
 - French Toast Bake
- Broccoli Rice Cheese Bake
- Assorted Dinner Rolls

New **HOT** private gaming machines
Riverboat resumes operations for Mothers Day. Mother's day reservations also available - seatings at 11am and 1pm.
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Friday Fish Fry & Saturday Prime Rib

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Spring Recycling Event
Latex Paint, Aerosol Cans, & Paper Shredding
Saturday, April 9th, 2022 - 8 AM to 12 PM
County Annex Building, 909 Pines Rd., Oregon, IL
****Ogle County Residents ONLY, NO Permit Required****

Residential Liquid Latex Paint:
Bring in original containers, no mixing of colors to make a full container. Liquid latex paint only. No dried out or hardened paint. Prices listed below. Cash, card, or check payable to "Earthpaint" accepted.

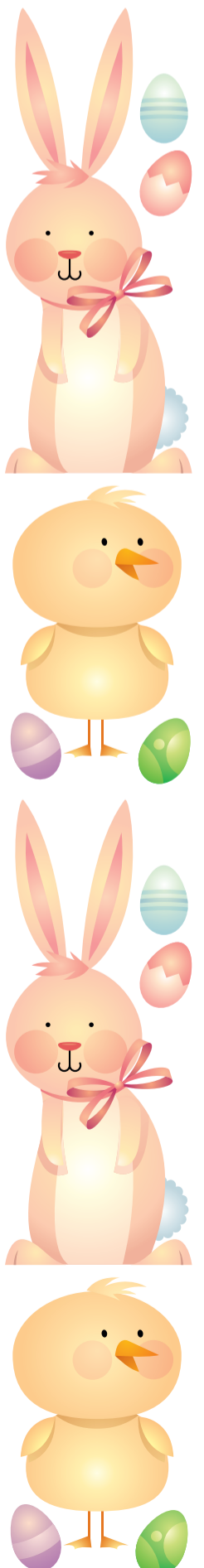
Container Size	Total Recycling Cost	County Portion (Subsidized)	Your Cost - First 10 Containers
Quart	\$2.50	\$1.50	\$1.00
Gallon	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$2.00
5 Gal. Pail	\$18.00	\$10.00	\$8.00

For more than 10 containers, you pay full cost.

Aerosol Cans/Spray Paint/Single Use Propane Tanks:
Accepted items include aerosol spray cans of paint, auto care/lubricants, food products, insecticides, household cleaners, and personal care products. Some aerosol products may not be accepted. 14-16 ounce small propane tanks and isobutene tanks also accepted. First 10 items are fully subsidized by the Solid Waste Mgmt. Dept. Additional items, you pay full cost to recycle (\$1/spray can & \$2/propane tank). See website or Facebook for full list of acceptable aerosol products.

Paper Shredding: 9 AM - 12 PM
No charge for Ogle County residents; no business or institutional materials; limit 3 "bankers" boxes" per vehicle; documents will be shredded on site.

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815-732-4020
Facebook: Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.
Email: solidwaste@oglecounty.org



LOCAL NEWS

Byron Rotary Club offering scholarship to BHS student

BYRON – Rotary Club of Byron is once again offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a worthy Byron High School senior.

The 2022 “Bob Adams Service Above Self Scholarship” is being offered for the 13th year to a graduating senior who plans to further his or her education in the Fall. The winner will be someone who has demonstrated academic achievement while exemplifying the Rotary motto of

“Service Above Self.” Family income is not a consideration.

Bob Adams was a charter member of Byron Rotary whom the club credits with tirelessly working to establish a local club and to expand our membership. Because of Bob’s vision, and with the support of the Byron community, Rotary Club of Byron helps in the worldwide effort to eradicate polio, to assist victims of

natural disasters and to provide clean drinking water to small villages in third world countries.

Locally, Byron Rotary provided seed funding for the Byron High School Pantry, made donations to Byron Cemetery war memorial, funded construction of the Byron Forest Preserve Sled Shed, collects pop tabs to help pay for family stays at Ronald McDonald House, and provides

financial assistance to foster families.

Applications for the “Bob Adams Service Above Self Scholarship” are available in the Byron High School Guidance Office and on the students’ Naviance-Family Connection Accounts. The application deadline is Friday April 22.

The winner will be announced at the Honors Convocation Wednesday May 18.



Oregon Rotary

Oregon High School FFA members were among guests attending the Oregon Rotary Rural-Urban day program last week at the Steak Pit in Oregon. Ryan Reeverts of Byron former Illinois FFA Reporter was the guest speaker. Oregon area farmers were guests of Rotarians and heard Ryan address, “The Dynamic Changes of American Agriculture”! Reeverts is standing far right with Stan Eden who was program chairman for the day.

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 Deadline for entry is Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at Noon.
 Winners will appear in the April 11, 2022 Life. Winners’ certificates will be mailed before Easter!

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Students of the Month

Meridian Junior High School would like to congratulate the December Student Leaders of the Month. These students were first nominated and voted on by their classmates for the December trait – KINDNESS and also Leader In Me Habit #4 – Think Win-Win. Congrats to the following (front row): Kaylyn Cicogna (6th), Genesis Aldana-Fernandez (7th), Aaliyah Moreno (8th), (back row) Ayden Alderks (6th), Hudson Pollock (7th), Collin Evenson (6th) and Wyatt Birkett (8th).




NEW LISTING



12862 Springhill Drive, Winnebago
\$210,000 Call Josie

Welcome home to this beautiful ranch in popular Westlake Village! The living room features laminate flooring and a cozy wood burning fireplace. Master bedroom has a large walk-in closet and ensuite full bathroom. There are two bedrooms and an additional full bathroom on the main floor as well. There have been so many upgrades in less than 5 years. The exterior; roof, sidings, fascia, gutters, and sliding glass door. Interior; new laminate flooring throughout, guest bath tile and vanity, fresh paint in most rooms, oversize furnace (2.5 ton), and tankless water heater. Better move fast as this home will not last long!! Trampoline does not stay. HOA is \$81/monthly.

NEW LISTING



1006 S. Third Street, Oregon
\$79,900 Call Mark

This cute 1 1/2 story home features 2 bedrooms with the master on the main floor. All appliances stay, windows are 2 years old, roof is 10 years old, Vinyl siding is a year old, water heater is a year old, and new garage door.



608 S. Fifth Street, Oregon
\$94,900 Call Carla

Loads of potential with this 2 bedroom in Oregon. Hardwood flooring on main floor, large Living room, Dining room and Family room. Two bedrooms with LVT and bath in the upper level. All kitchen appliances stay. Huge kitchen with loads of cabinetry. Covered front porch and deep back yard. Great location close to schools and NASH Center.



1326 Ill Route 2, Oregon
\$499,000 Call Rebecca

TURN KEY MOTEL! Opportunity knocks with your chance to own "The Chateau Lodge" a 12 room motel located just outside of Historic Oregon with views of Blackhawk Statue and the Rock River! With great reviews and many repeat customers, this tourism staple boasts an excellent occupancy rate and is turn key for the next operator. Each room has electric baseboard heat, window unit air conditioning, refrigerator and full bathroom with tub. The property also includes a 2 bedroom apartment with updated kitchen and full bathroom. There is a laundry room and janitorial space with two washer and dryers for taking care of guest linens. Many updates including: roof, hot water heater, furnace & exterior maintenance. You have to see to believe how well this property is managed and cared for!



803 Missouri Drive, Dixon
\$24,900 Call Merri

Triple Lot in Lost Nation! Build your dream home on this wooded, sloped lot- perfect for lower level exposure. This lot is conveniently located lot near the lake and golf course. Enjoy all the amenities that Lost Nation has to offer. Amenities of the gated subdivision include: multiple parks, recreation center, 2 beaches, golf course, and an 80+ acre lake perfect for fishing!

The Average Homeowner Gained More Than \$55K in Equity over the Past Year

If you're a current homeowner, you should know your net worth just got a big boost. It comes in the form of rising home equity. Equity is the current value of your home minus what you owe on the loan. Today, you're building that equity far faster than you may expect – and this gain is great news for you.

Here's how it happened. Home values are on the rise thanks to low housing supply and high buyer demand. Basically, there aren't enough homes available to meet this high buyer interest, so bidding wars are driving home prices up. When you own a home, the rising prices mean your home is worth more in today's market. And as home values climb, your equity does too. As Dr. Frank Nothaft, Chief Economist at CoreLogic, explains:

"Home prices rose 18% during 2021 in the CoreLogic Home Price Index, the largest annual gain recorded in its 45-year history, generating a big increase in home equity wealth."

The latest Homeowner Equity Insights from CoreLogic shed light on just how much rising home values have boosted homeowner equity. According to that report, the average homeowner's equity has grown by \$55,300 over the last 12 months.

Want to know what's happening in your area? See the chart for a breakdown of the average year-over-year equity growth for each state based on that data.

In addition to building your overall net worth, equity can also help you achieve other goals like buying your next home. It works like this: when you sell your house, the equity you built up comes back to you in the sale.

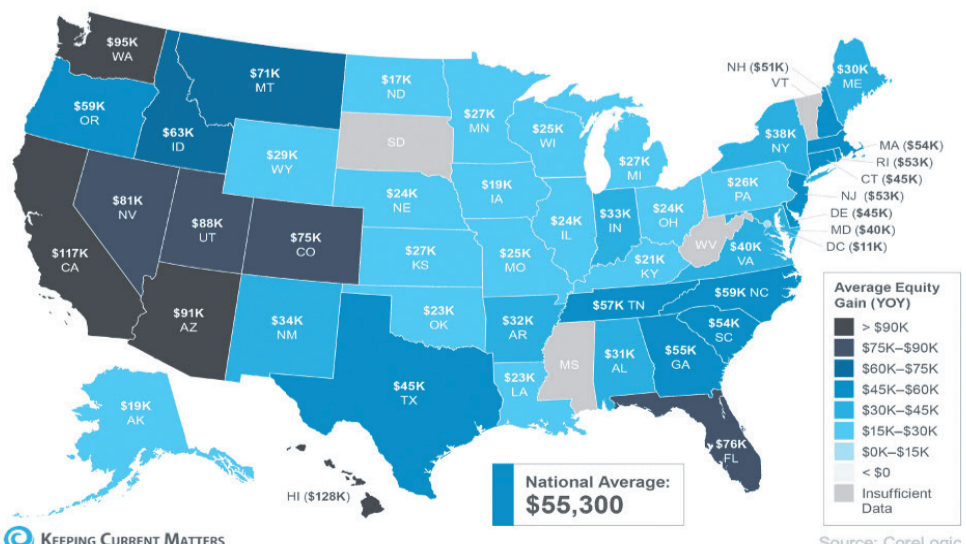
In a market where you're gaining so much equity, it may be just what you need to cover a large portion – if not all – of the down payment on your next home. So, if you've been holding off on selling and worried about being priced out of your next home because of today's home price appreciation, rest assured your equity can help fuel your move.

Bottom Line

Equity can be a real game-changer if you're planning to make a move. To find out just how much equity you have in your home and how you can use it to fuel your next purchase, connect with a trusted Realtor at RE/MAX of Rock Valley.

Homeowner Equity Gains

YOY, 2021 Q4



 Rebecca Hazard 815-520-8810	 Carla Bensch 815-985-6235	 Mark True 815-631-1699	 Lori Peterson 815-973-2180	 JD Gieson 815-677-1873	 Boone Lockard 815-970-3596	 Carrie Rowland 815-677-8656	 Jenny Kirchner 815-440-2145	 Josie Kuss 815-994-1079
 Kim Behn 815-520-8810	 Taylor Miller 815-751-0943	 Merri Cruz 815-988-7947	 Casey Cline 217-840-8855	 Jamie Pendergrass 815-243-4310	 Ashley Patterson 815-291-6308	 Erin Spence 815-262-5555	 Stephanie Wendt 815-985-2055	

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Scores

Girls Varsity Soccer	March 28
	Stillman Valley 4, Stow Munroe Falls 9
March 24	
Stillman Valley 7, Pecatonica 1	
Boys Varsity Baseball	March 29
	Stillman Valley 0, Pikeville 10

Birthday



Hartman celebrates 101 years

Leela Hartman turned 101 on March 13, 2022. Five generations attended her birthday party: Daughter Debi, grandson Jason, great grand daughter Kelsey, great-great grand daughter Winnie and great-great grand daughter Mikayla.

Dean's List

Upper Iowa University

FAYETTE, Iowa – Upper Iowa University is pleased to announce the Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester. To be honored, the undergraduate must have earned a minimum 3.50 GPA and be enrolled as a full-time student. Among those named to the Dean's List was Emily Cahill, a Business Administration major from Mount Morris.

Ripon College

RIPON, Wis. – Ripon College has announced its Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester recognizing academic excellence. To qualify for the Dean's List at Ripon College, students must achieve a 3.40 grade-point average or higher on a 4.00 scale and complete at least 12 credits of regular letter-graded works. Arynn Mathieu of Byron, is majoring in Exercise Science - Human Performance Psychology and was named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List. Ripon College, founded in 1851, prepares students of diverse interests for lives of productive, socially responsible citizenship.

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LOCAL NEWS

Byron Library News

Special Hours
The Byron Public Library will be closed Sunday, April 17 in observation of the Easter holiday. We wish our patrons a safe and happy Easter!

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

Money Smart Week – Spend Smart, Eat Smart
Monday, Apr. 11
1-1:30 p.m.
This webinar is entitled, “Spend Smart. Eat Smart.” Review planning ideas that can encourage you to take charge of your food budget in a way that works best for your household. Please register by visiting Byron.evanced.info/signup or calling 815-234-5107.

Money Smart Week – Credit: Build & Improve It
Tuesday, Apr. 12
1-1:30 p.m.
This webinar is entitled, “Credit: Build & Improve It.” An explanation of what a credit score is and how to boost your credit score will be discussed. Please register by visiting Byron.evanced.info/signup or calling 815-234-5107.

Money Smart Week – Understanding Social Security, Retirement, Spouse & Survivor Benefits
Thursday, Apr. 14
1-1:30 p.m.

This webinar is entitled, “Understanding Social Security, Retirement, Spouse and Survivor Benefits.” Become informed about the entitlement factors for retirement, spouse, ex-spouse and survivor benefits. Get the facts about the options to start benefits at various ages. To enhance your experience, you are encouraged to download your Social Security statement ahead of the session by going to: www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Please register by visiting Byron.evanced.info/signup or calling 815-234-5107.

Natural Cleaners
Tuesday, Apr. 12
6-7 p.m.
In honor of Earth Day on April 22, we will show you how to make your own “green” cleaners with simple household items. Each attendee will receive a bag of these earth-friendly ingredients and recipes to begin cleaning. Please register by calling 815-234-5107 or visiting Byron.evanced.info/signup.

Wine Glass Candle Holders
Thursday, Apr. 21
6-7:30 p.m.
Get in touch with your crafty side with us as we create a set of wine glass candle holders. Call 815-234-5107 or visit Byron.evanced.info/signup to register.

Bee Keeping
Thursday, Apr. 28
6-7:30 p.m.
Come learn what all the buzz about bee keeping is in this class for beginners. Call 815-234-5107 or visit Byron.evanced.info/signup to register.

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

Julia Hull Library News

Storytime at the Library!
Join us at the library for songs, stories and crafts! Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Ages 2-5. Space is limited: call the library to register: 815-645-8611.

Tween Scene: DIY Squishies Lab
Squeeze your stress away, tweens! On Tuesday, April 5 at 6 p.m., we’ll experiment with paper, sponges and foam to test which technique makes the best squishy. All supplies provided. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Craft Bomb: Crafts In Bloom
What will it be? You’ll find out when it drops, Friday, April 8! Watch our FB and Instagram feeds for a video tutorial. Then, follow the directions for placing your order. While supplies last. One kit per person. Adults only.

Diorama Contest
Come celebrate Spring at the library on Saturday, April 9 at 10 a.m.! Each family will create a diorama featuring marshmallow Peeps! All dioramas will be photographed and posted on the library’s social media. The diorama with the most votes after a week wins a prize! All supplies provided. All ages. Registration required. *MUST REGISTER BY MONDAY, APRIL 4th: 815-645-8611.

Felted Desert
This April, we’re returning to the magic of felt painting...with a Southwest-inspired theme! Join Joanna on Monday, April 11 at 6 PM as she instructs participants through the process of felting wool roving on fabric to create a painted desert scene. Registration required for this Zoom program. Email Joanna at jkluever@mail.meridian223.org. Adults only.

Teen Advisory Council (TAC)
Teens are invited to join us in this decade-plus long tradition at the library! What’s TAC all about? TAC members assist in the planning and promotion of the library’s programming, discuss and contribute ideas for the library’s collection, and volunteer at library events. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 12 at 3 p.m. Member application required. Contact Kelly at khaas@mail.meridian223.org to inquire. Or, stop by the library! Ages 13-18.

Library Closure
The library will be closed Friday, April 15 for Good Friday, and Saturday, April 16 for Easter Observance.

Young Critics Book Club
In honor of National Poetry Month, join us for a book discussion and hands-on craft/activity all about If It Rains Pancakes, by Brain P. Cleary. Stop by, or call the library to register for this in-person program, and reserve your copy of the reading: 815-645-8611. Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m. Ages 7-9.

Short & Sweets
Join Joanna at the library on Wednesday, April 20 at 10 a.m. for an engaging discussion of Kevin Wilson’s short story, “Biology,” while we snack on homemade dessert! Copies of the reading available at the Circulation Desk. Adults.

Teen Eggsclusive Scavenger Hunt
Teens, this egg hunt is just for you! Don’t worry, it’s eggstra tricky, egg-stremely hip, and all the eggciting people will be there. Ok, you get the idea. Bring your friends to the library on Thursday, April 21 at 3 p.m. to hunt for eggs that reveal clues to the location of an eggstravagant jumbo candy prize. Ages 13-18. Registration required.

Andy & Judy: New England Folk LIVE In Concert
Join us on the library lawn Monday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of live music with folk singer-songwriters Andy & Judy. Contact the library to register: 815-645-8611. All ages welcome. BYO chair.

Bertolet Library News

Closed: Saturday, April 16th
Bertolet Memorial Library will be closed on Saturday, April 16th for Easter weekend.

Trustee Opening:
We currently have an opening for a Trustee with a term that expires in 2023. Our Board of Trustees meets at the library on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00PM. If interested, please contact Director Linda Schreiber at 815-738-2742 during business hours or by email at bertolet705@gmail.com.

National Library Week: April 3rd-9th
Stop in during National Library Week. We will have adult and youth raffle baskets, a scavenger hunt, and our annual Guess-Me Jars! Prize winners will be drawn on April 11th.

Lego Club: Monday, April 4th, 5 p.m.
Lego Club returns for ages 5 and up on Monday, April 4th!
Story Hour: Thursdays at 10 a.m.
Join Miss Jana for Story Hour and learn about animals and letters on Thursdays at 10:00AM. Registration requested but not required.

Craft Kits for Adults:
Celebrate Spring by picking up our adult and family craft kit for April--a bunny flower pot. Hop on it, as they are available only as supplies last!

Create-a-Card: Saturday, April 23rd, 9 a.m.
Spring is in the air! High School graduation season is just around the corner. Create a one-of-a-kind card for that special graduate!

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

New Releases:
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The Recovery Agent by Janet Evonovich
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Yellowstone Season 4
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Encanto

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LOCAL NEWS

Polo Library News

Children's Programs - Saturday, April 9th, "Reading to the Dogs" 12 to 2:30 p.m. Read aloud to some new doggy friends from LLC Comfort Dog Ministry Team! Must register to participate.

Storytime Saturdays are in person at the library on April 9th and April 23rd at 10:30 a.m., come join Ms. Melanie for a story, a craft, and other hands-on activities.

Early Out Dismissal...kiddos, head on over to the library, Wednesday, April 6th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for Movie @ the Library. Enjoy a movie and refreshments together. Look for clues on our Polo Library Facebook page to help you figure out the movie we will be watching.

Kicking off in April...Spring Reading Program "Bloom into Reading". This

program will run April 9th to Saturday May 14th. This 5-week spring program will focus on nature related activities and book reading participation.

Look for more on.....Clay Day Every Monday starting April 11th from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Lego Nights, 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. starting on April 7th.

Adult Programs - Friday Book Discussion Group is now meeting at Polo Senior Center. They will meet to discuss *Talk Funny Girl* by Roland Merullo on April 8th at 1:00 p.m. Book 2 Movie Group is reading and watching *French Exit* by Patrick deWitt . Their meeting is on Wednesday, April 20th at 5:00 p.m. Monday Afternoon Book Club will meet on April 25th at 1:30 p.m. to discuss *Carnegie's Maid* by Marie Benedict.

Coffee with a Cop - Join us for coffee (or tea) and conversation with Polo's Police Chief Troy Randall on Wednesday, April 13th at 10:30 a.m.

Genealogy Assistance - Are you interested in researching your ancestors but don't know where to start? Do you have a start and need help with your research? Stop by the first Wednesday 5-7 p.m. or the third Saturday 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and let Donna help with your project. Polo Library is now a FamilySearch Affiliate Library which allows access to more digital records when you're researching.

Master Gardener intern Carl Mook will join us on Zoom on Wednesday, April 27th at 6:00 p.m. to present his program "Trees to Beautify Your Yard: how to select, plant, and care for your trees". There will be time at the end of the program

to ask questions. Please call the library (815-946-2713) to register and receive the link for this program. There will also be a limited number of seats available to view at the library so contact us early to reserve your seat.

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

Library newsletter - Our April/May newsletter is chock full of information on library services and programs. Print copies are available at the library, Lifeline Food Pantry, Polo Senior Center, Polo Fresh Food Market, and Polo Laundramat. If you prefer to receive it electronically visit our website and subscribe.

Forreton Library News

Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Preschool Storytime is back! Join us for a fun-filled time of stories, activities, and crafts each week! Please call the library for more information or to preregister.

Plastic Recycling

We are collecting film-type plastic for recycling. This includes plastic bags, zipper type baggies (with the zip portion removed), cereal/snack bags, bubble wrap, and other soft plastic. Please make sure bags are free from

debris and remove all paper/sticker labels. We cannot accept hard plastic, such as water bottles, milk cartons, etc., for this program. Thank you!

Community Room

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

New Materials

New Adult Fiction titles include: "The Recovery Agent" by Janet Evanovich, and "A Safe House" by Stuart Woods.

Library Hours

The library is open: Monday 10am-1pm, 2-7pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10am-1pm, 2-6pm, and Saturday 9am-12pm. We may be reached by phone at (815)938-2624, email at forretonpubliclibrary@gmail.com, or through Facebook messaging. Of course, we always love to see you in person, too!

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13			14				
15			16		17					
18			19							
20			21	22		23	24	25	26	
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45						46		47		
48	49	50	51					52		
53					54			55		
56					57			58		

- 1 Justice Dept. agency
- 4 Physician's nickname
- 7 Grating
- 12 Vintage
- 13 Away from WSW
- 14 Mountain crest
- 15 Set afire
- 16 Yosemite peak featured in "Free Solo"
- 18 "CSI" evidence
- 19 Dewy
- 20 Billboard
- 22 Swiss peak
- 23 Bloke
- 27 Author Fleming
- 29 Abrasion
- 31 Planet circlers
- 34 Heart line
- 35 Coffeehouse bill collector
- 37 L-P link
- 38 Utah ski resort
- 39 "Yoo- —!"
- 41 Pottery oven
- 45 Quotable Yogi
- 47 Eastern path
- 48 Bygone
- 52 Cadillacs
- 52 Copper head?
- 53 Tierney of "The Affair"
- 54 Superlative
- suffix
- 55 Texter's chuckle
- 56 Velocity
- 57 Irish actor Stephen
- 58 Decade parts (Abbr.)
- DOWN**
- 1 Creates origami
- 2 Russian pancakes
- 3 Luggage attachment
- 4 Consider
- 5 Borrowed
- 6 Director DeMille
- 7 Engrossed
- 8 "Exodus" hero
- 9 Fixed
- 10 Sch. org
- 11 Hankering
- 17 Nile vipers
- 21 Martial arts warrior
- 23 Swindler
- 24 Guffaw syllable
- 25 Suitable
- 26 Green shade
- 28 Simile part
- 30 Paint container
- 31 1959 Kingston Trio hit
- 32 Texas tea
- 33 Choose
- 36 Mother of Zeus
- 37 Gloomy
- 40 Sequence
- 42 Tuscany setting
- 43 Hard work
- 44 Seasonal songs
- 45 Thin nail
- 46 Nick and Nora's dog
- 48 Ambulance initials
- 49 Napkin's place
- 50 Payable
- 51 Mine material

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: HARPER'S —, W. Va.

- Andover
- Dalton
- Erwin
- Franklin
- Gatlinburg
- Gorham
- Hampton
- Hanover
- Kent
- Lincoln
- Luray
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. Sail is different. 2. Pocket is different. 3. Headline is different. 4. Glasses are missing. 5. Umbrella is missing. 6. Camera is missing.

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King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

CITIES ALONG THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Classified Marketplace

FREE!

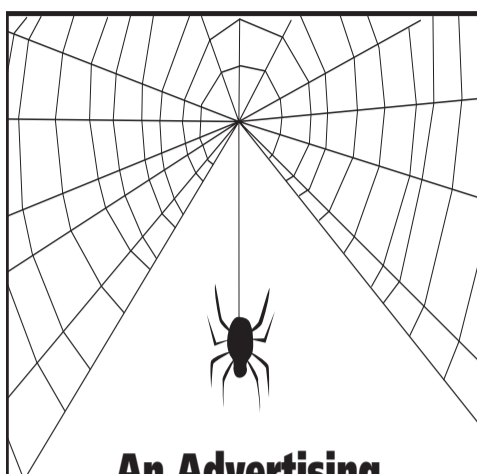
Sell your household items for free.
Total value of item must be \$200 or less. (15 words
- one week - 7 publications - price must be listed)



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

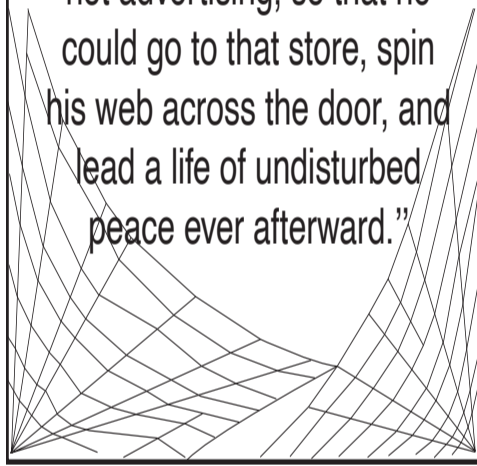
on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following: Reports of officers and decide on such measures as may in

pursuance of law, come before the meeting. Dated March 14, 2022 Sheryl Hopkins, Pine Creek Township Clerk No. 0409 (April 4)



An Advertising Proverb

When Mark Twain was editing a newspaper in Missouri, one of his subscribers wrote in, saying that he had found a spider in his newspaper and wondered whether it was a sign of good or bad luck. Twain's response: "Finding a spider is neither good luck nor bad. The spider was merely looking over our newspaper to see which merchant was not advertising, so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door, and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever afterward."



203 HELP WANTED



Temp. Cleaners
at the Byron Exelon Generation station. Pay is 18.54 an hour with Over time and Double time. Required training/ testing . Must pass Drug screening.

Apply on ABM.com look for ABM career opportunities. Search Location Byron and apply to the cleaner. Any questions call MaryJean Hoffman 815-406-2430.

04042022

Rewarding Sales Position with Hiring Bonus!

If you have an outgoing personality, an energetic get-it-done approach, and enjoy helping clients build their business, then you may be a perfect fit for a fun and rewarding multimedia sales position with the Ogle County Life.

As a multimedia sales consultant, you will service current accounts and also help new clients in the Ogle County region of northern Illinois market their products and services through a variety of highly visible, popular and effective local media vehicles.

If you have a passion to get out of the office and meet with clients on a regular basis to help grow their audience and reach new customers, then we would like to talk to you because this position may be right up your alley.

We have two positions to fill and are offering an incremental hiring bonus up to \$1,500 for candidates who can start by March 31, 2022.

Applicants should possess excellent communication and organizational skills with a positive personality and team-player approach. Previous media sales or related marketing experience is a plus, including print, digital and social media advertising.

Sky is the limit on earning potential and career development in this position. We offer a competitive base salary plus commission, paid vacation, paid sick days, paid holidays, excellent medical benefit plans, and 401-K options.

Qualified applicants should mail or e-mail their resume to Mike Feltes (mfeltes@oglecounty.com) or mail it to the following address:

Ogle County Life
ATTN: Mike Feltes
P.O. Box 175
Rockelle, IL 61068

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."

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

Furman Lawn Care and Tree Service. Mowing, Hedge Trimming, Painting, Interior and Exterior. Gutter Cleaning, Storm Damage Clean up, Spring and Fall and Much More. In Business Since 1999. Call Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please Leave Message Will Return Call ASAP. Fully Insured. (TFN)

JNJ JUMPERS Indoor/ Outdoor Bounce House Rentals Available Year Round. Please Call 815-784-4256 For Availability or Visit us on Facebook.

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.

203 HELP WANTED

ASHTON - Bartenders and Waitresses Needed, Apply in Person at Ralphie and Lulu's. 812 Main Street in Ashton or call 815-453-2103. (TFN)

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

H.O.P.E
For Free Help or Information Call **815-562-8890** 24 Hours
All Calls Are Confidential.
Support, Advocacy, Referral Services, Shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children.
HOPE of Ogle County

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

VILLAGE GREEN APARTMENTS
502-506 Barbara St.
Mount Morris, IL
Immediate openings for 1 bedroom apartment homes. Must be 62 years of age or older; disabled regardless of age. Included in rent; water, sewer and trash. All units have washer-dryer, stove, refrigerator & a/c units. Family pet welcome with a deposit.
Interested parties, please contact: **815-234-2620**
Contact us today to receive an application for your new home.
Professionally Managed by CMS Management Company
An Equal Opportunity Provider.

205 SITUATIONS WANTED

Looking for someone for a ride to Oregon or Byron from Leaf River once a week. (815) 218-0842

301 ANTIQUES

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

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

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 8AM-NOON ONLY. SEE RECEPTIONIST AT FRONT COUNTER Rochelle News-Leader.

311 FARM EQUIPMENT

King Cutter 5ft BN Scraper - \$500 OBO - Franklin Grove - Call (815) 456-2839 (4-6-22)

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the

409 LOTS AND ACREAGE

LAND FOR SALE
South Edge of Oregon
45.4 Acres South of Pines Road
Between the Railroads. 19.4 Acres Tillable-Zoned Industrial with creek and timber.
\$6,535 Per Acre
Daniel J. Boehle, Managing Broker
510 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL
815-732-6050 815-751-0037

303 APPLIANCES

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

BUY! Buy! BUY! Sell! Sell! Sell!

305 GARAGE SALE

Estate Sale
April 7th, 8th, and 9th
from 9am-4pm
at 119 S. German Church Rd.
Oregon, IL 61061
Power Recliner, Kitchen Table, Furniture, Tools, Good Riding Lawn Mower and Snow Blower.

203 HELP WANTED

Byron High School Opening
HS Head Custodian
HS 3rd Shift Custodian
Apply online at www.byron226.org under the 'About Us' tab,
In the Employment Opportunities Section

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

Summer Employment Roadside Mowing Positions
Ogle County Highway Dept
Applicants must be at least 18 yrs of age. Starting wage is \$12/hr. Apply in person 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM or contact the office for an application. Applications must be received by April 29, 2022
Ogle County Highway Dept
1989 S IL Rt 2, Oregon, IL
815-732-2851
www.oglecounty.org

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Large 2 bedroom Northside of Rochelle. FREE heat and water. NO PETS! Available Now at \$750/month. Security Deposit, Credit Report, and Job Verification needed. Call (815) 919-9015

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

511 STORAGE UNITS

K&P SELF STORAGE
1563 Kysor Drive, Byron (next to D&W Garage)
815-247-8518
OUTSIDE STORAGE NOW AVAILABLE
Storage Unit Sizes: 5'x10' 10'x10' 10'x15' 10'x20' 10'x30'

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

03072022

11222020

02022021

LOCAL FISH FRY GUIDE

SALT

Rochelle, IL.

Fish Fry Days

Every Friday During Lent

Fish Fry EVERY Friday night plus other fish specials all throughout Lent!

531 S 7th Street, Rochelle, IL, 815-561-2727
salt251.com

03072022

St. Mary's

Lenten Fish Fry Buffet

All You Can Eat Every Friday Night

March 4th-April 8th
Serving 5 p.m. through 7 p.m.

Adults \$13.00
Children under 5 are free

Handicap accessible
Carry outs available
\$10.00

881 N. Mongan Dr., Route 64 West
Oregon, IL 815-732-7383

Lenten Fish Fry

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

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

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

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

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

MENU

Dr Del's Baked & Fried Cod
Alfano's Pizza
Macaroni & Cheese
French Fries
Potatoes w/Parsley
Green Beans
Cole Slaw
Dessert
Drinks

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH PARISH CENTER
236 KELLEY DRIVE. ROCHELLE, IL

Friday Night fish fry dinners are sponsored by Saint Patrick Parish Youth

CATCH OUR FISH FRY!

Friday Night Fish Fry!

Your Choice of
Cod OR **Perch**
\$13 OR **\$15**

Fish Fry Special!
Cod (All you can eat) - \$13

4-8 pm
Other seafood available/Full menu available

Win some money gaming!

1469 N. IL Rt 2
Oregon IL
815-732-6761
Maxsons.net

VFW

Post 8739

1310 W. Washington St.
Oregon, IL
815-732-6851

Every Friday Fish Fry
Cod, Catfish & Shrimp Dinners

Served 3pm-8pm
Public welcome, dine in or carry out.

453-2103 • Ashton, IL

RALPHIE & LuLu's
Inc.
Est. 2001

FISH FRIDAY

Every Friday night
Serving 5 - 8 p.m.

Fried cod, baked cod, bluegill or shrimp

\$10.95 - \$11.95

Includes: choice or potato (baked, french fries or onion rings), salad bar with homemade soup and complimentary dessert

Dine in, carry out or curbside delivery

812 Main St. - Ashton

Friday 5pm-9:30pm

FISH FRY FRIDAYS

FRITZ'S WOODEN NICKEL RESTAURANT

208 N. Walnut St.
Stillman Valley
815-645-9828

PUBLIC WELCOME, DINE IN OR CARRY OUT. CHECK FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES

02282022

02282022