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# The Ogle County LIFE

/Rock Valley Shopper

## Early deadlines

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, deadlines for editorial content the weeks of Dec. 21 and 28 will be 3 p.m. Monday. Classified deadlines will be 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 41

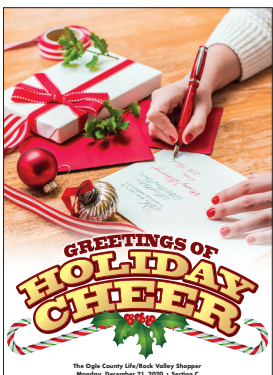
**MONDAY**  
Dec. 21, 2020

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### What's Inside



### Obituaries

A 4, 5, 6

### Today's Inserts

- Snyder Pharmacy
- Felker Foods
- Polo Fresh Food
- Family Dollar

# Vaccines on the way

## County has already received its first doses to help fight the COVID-19 virus

By Russell Hodges  
Sports Editor

ROCHELLE – The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, which utilizes mRNA technology, has made its way into Ogle County and the City of Rochelle this week after the U.S. Food & Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization for the vaccine on Dec. 10.

Illinois will receive 109,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which will be sent to 10 hospitals across the state that will serve as distribution centers for the vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses, with the second vaccine dose taken 21 days after administering the first dose.

Public Health Administrator

Kyle Auman updated the Ogle County Board on vaccine distribution plans during the regular board meeting on Dec. 15. Auman said the County will receive 355 doses of the vaccine in the initial shipment arriving this week. Auman also said that hospitals, which will receive the vaccines first, will receive weekly shipments moving forward.

“We are set to receive the vaccine this week,” Auman said. “It will probably be a couple of months before we get to vaccinating everyone. This will be a voluntary vaccine and nobody will be forced to get the vaccine. There’s a light at the end of the tunnel and things are looking up.”

(See VACCINE, A-2)



## Chilly fishing

A man fishes on the Rock River in Oregon on a recent cold morning. While snow has pretty much stayed away from the region, temperatures have taken a dip. It looks like it will be cold on Christmas Day, but the chances of a white Christmas are slim. (Brad Jennings photo)

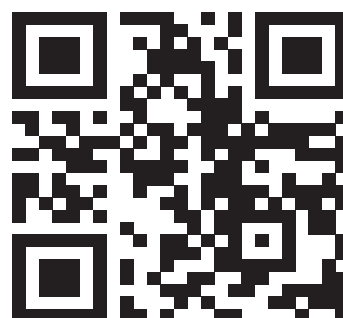
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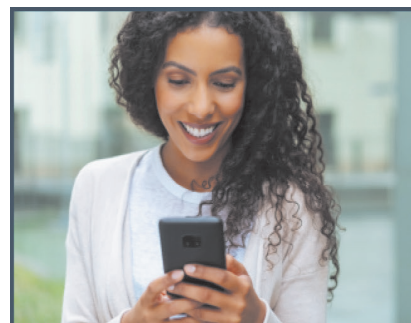
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# VACCINES: Will be given in phases over time

From page 1

In Rochelle, Chief Ancillary Officer Jim Carle said the Pfizer vaccines arrived at Rochelle Community Hospital on the afternoon of Dec. 16. Carle said RCH received 155 doses of the vaccine, which will be administered at the hospital over the next three days. Carle said all 155 vaccines are spoken for and the number of vaccines was determined based on the number of EMS providers throughout Ogle County and the number employees at the hospital.

Illinois received its first shipments of the Pfizer vaccine Monday. Under Phase 1A of the IDPH COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Guide, healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents will receive vaccines first. Auman said that long-term care facilities in Ogle County will partner with Walgreens and CVS to administer vaccines to both residents and staff members.

Phases 1B and 1C could include front-line workers, high-risk adults and seniors ages 65 and older. Both phases, as well as later phases, will require additional guidance from the CDC and ACIP. Auman said the vaccinations of long-term care residents and staff will begin on Dec. 28.

Auman said the Ogle County Health Department will establish distribution points once the county has received adequate amounts of the vaccine. The vaccine will be offered at no cost, although Auman said some facilities may charge administration fees billable to insurance. Auman said it may be a few months before the county can begin vaccinating the general public.

Pfizer and BioNTech are the first companies to have a COVID-19 vaccine approved. Moderna will have its vaccine data reviewed for FDA approval on Dec. 17. Johnson & Johnson, as well as AstraZeneca and Oxford University, are currently conducting late-phase trials. Pfizer's vaccine was found to be 95 percent effective, while Moderna's was 94 percent effective.

Ogle County Life Editor Brad Jennings contributed to this story.

# Rock sworn in as State's Attorney

OREGON – On Dec. 1, 2020, Mike Rock took the oath of office and was sworn-in by Judge Robert Hanson as Ogle County State's Attorney in the Ogle County Courthouse.

Shortly afterwards, the Honorable Judge Hanson also swore in three new prosecutors: First Assistant State's Attorney Matt Leisten and Assistant State's Attorneys Heather Kruse, and

Allison Huntley.

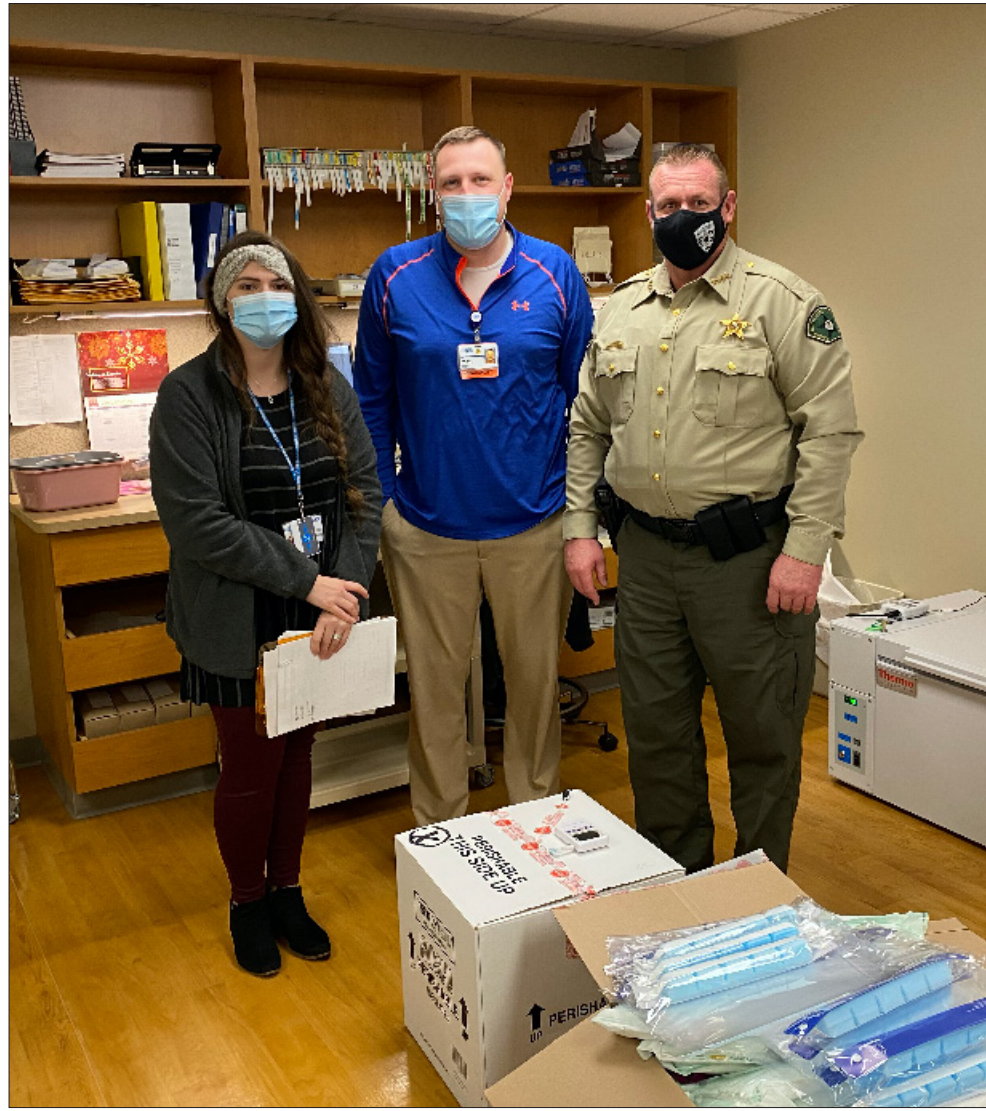
"I'm really grateful the voters of Ogle County gave me this opportunity and I'm looking forward to working hard in return," Rock said. "I've recruited a great staff of assistant state's attorneys who are really experienced and talented, and we're ready to hit the ground running."

Rock, 53, who lives with his wife and children in Byron,

most recently served as Chief of Staff in the Winnebago County State's Attorney office. Prior to that, he was appointed and served as the Ogle County State's Attorney in 2014. Rock previously worked as a prosecutor in the Ogle County State's Attorney office in 1994-2000 (shortly after graduating law school), and again from 2010-2014 under then State's Attor-

ney Ben Roe. In-between those two tenures, Rock worked as an associate attorney in private practice.

"It's always been my goal to be a fair, but firm, prosecutor," Rock said. "And I'm determined to work to serve the people of Ogle County, to maintain efficient working relationships with law enforcement agencies, and to seek justice."



## CGH gets vaccine

The COVID-19 vaccine has arrived at CGH Medical Center. Matt Hammer, PharmD, Director of CGH Pharmacy (center), receives the vaccine shipment from Emily Davy Gonzalez, Infectious Disease RN, Whiteside County Health Department and Whiteside County Sheriff John Booker. While not all the counties in Region 1 are receiving allocations of vaccine, the vaccine is being utilized in the Region to reach healthcare workers and long term care residents that are most at risk as part of the Phase 1a vaccine distribution. As more vaccine becomes available, additional shipments of vaccine will be allocated to continue to meet the priority group populations in additional areas of the region. Please watch [www.cghmc.com/covid19vaccine](http://www.cghmc.com/covid19vaccine) for additional information. The Northern Illinois Rockford Region 1 includes Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties.

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## Sworn in

Byron Forest Preserve District Board President Aaron Vincer (left) swears in newly appointed commissioner, Jeff Ludwig (right). Ludwig will serve on the board until the election on April 6. There will be three board positions available, two 4-year terms and one 2-year unexpired term. Those interested in running for the office of Commissioner can visit [oglecounty.org](http://oglecounty.org) or pick up a petition packet at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 North River Road, Byron.



## Police arrest barricaded man for battery

ROCHELLE—Following an incident with a battery suspect who had barricaded himself inside a laundry room early on the morning of Dec. 4, Rochelle police arrested a 30-year-old man.

Police were dispatched at 12:27 a.m. Friday to the 100 block of Seventh Avenue in reference to a battery.

“After taking the initial report, officers met with the alleged offender outside of Road Ranger,” Rochelle Police Eric Higby said. “When they attempted to arrest him he fled the scene northbound.

While searching the common areas of 1251 Short Court where he was last seen, they located him in a laundry room. He would not come out, was not compliant and he was armed with knives.”

The Ogle County Emergency Response Team was called to the scene to assist officers. The suspect, Dery Carpenter, 30, was eventually taken into custody without incident.

Carpenter was arrested and charged with three Livingston County warrants (two being felony warrants), an Illinois Department of Corrections warrant for parole violation, battery and obstructing justice.

E-mail news items to [bjennings@oglecountylife.com](mailto:bjennings@oglecountylife.com)  
Please send photos in the jpeg format.

A large thank you to everyone for your cards for support, prayers and calls for our Dad and Husband Al Olsen. He will be missed forever.

God Bless.  
The Olsen Family

Scot DeWall and his family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for the recent drive-through tribute for Scot at Serenity House in Oregon. For people to take time out of their day to express their love during this hectic time was wonderful and really made Scot's day. There were over 100 cars that participated, and traffic control was handled by the Sheriff's Department during this event. So, thank you to all who were involved in making this happen for Scot – it was a wonderful tribute.

Hale & Elaine Guyer  
Jim & Melodie DeWall

12212020

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## RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE



Remove all decorations.  
No wreaths, garland,  
or plastic bags.

Sponsored by:  
Ogle County Solid Waste Mgmt. Dept.

Due to Covid-19 there will be no curbside pick up of trees by the high school FFA clubs. Please take your tree to a drop off site.

**Rochelle Residents:** The City Street Department will chip trees at the curb, January 4-18, 2021

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

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

### DROP OFF SITES:

**STARTING DECEMBER 26TH**

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

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

**Forreston:**  
407 N. Locust St.

**Leaf River:**  
605 Main St.

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

**Monroe Center:**  
Lichty's Landscaping  
309 Pacific St.

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

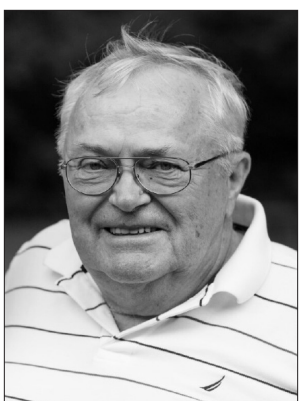
**DROP OFF ENDS, JANUARY 24, 2021**

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# Obituaries

## Marvin Lyle Binkley

POLO – Marvin Lyle Binkley, age 78, passed away on Monday, Dec. 14, 2020 in Swedish American Hospital, Rockford. Marv was born on June 18, 1942 in Freeport, the son of Tommy and Florence (Fry) Binkley.



He is a graduate of Polo High School class of 1960. Marv married Beverly Meier on Friday the 13th, Dec. 1963 in Adeline. He started his trucking business in 1962 and his busing service in the 80's and when he retired from both, the businesses were named Dixon Meyers. Marv owned and operated Binkley Enterprises and was a huge advocate of snowmobiling. He taught snowmobile safety to 100s of kids in the area. He was a founding member of the Northwoods Express, were

they rode from Mt. Morris, to Winnepeg, Canada on snowmobiles with no support vehicle to promote snowmobiling. Avid BS'er, the story wasn't worth telling if you didn't make it worth telling. Past President and board member of the Blackhawk Model Train Club. He enjoyed building layouts and running model trains. He

was a loyal companion to dogs Suzy and Teddie.

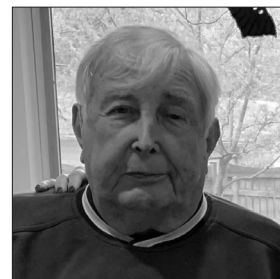
Marv is survived by his wife Bev Binkley, Polo; children: Karen (Brian) Wolber, Oregon, Kathy (Bill) Pavlis, Orland Park, and Scott Binkley, Polo; 8 grandchildren: Caitlyn (Jake) Bettner, Hannah and Austin Wolber, Jack, Cloe, and Nick Pavlis, Chase and Chandler Binkley, and nephew: Tod Binkley.

Marv is preceded in death by his parents, sister: Marjorie DeKoning, brother: Lauren Binkley; and nephew: Troy Binkley.

Family graveside services was held Friday, Dec. 18, 2020 in Silver Creek Cemetery, Mt. Morris, with Rev. Joan Scheffler officiating. In lieu of flowers memorials to Polo Fire & Ambulance.

## Daniel Buchanan

LEAF RIVER – Daniel James Buchanan, age 82, passed away on Dec. 14, 2020 at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford. He was born on Oct. 4, 1938, to Thomas and Mary (Koza) Buchanan.



the self-proclaimed Mayor of Leaf River. Daniel was so proud of his grandchildren and cherished making memories together with them on the farm.

He pursued an art degree at Arizona State University, which served him well later on in life when he established an advertising agency. While living in Wilmette after college, he married the love of his life, Janice Weisenburger, and had four children. They remained happily married for over 60 years until his passing.

Daniel also loved the sun, sand and heat of tropical locations; he would take annual trips with his wife Janice and their good friends to small Mexican coastal fishing towns. He also enjoyed the outdoors throughout his life where he spent time fishing, golfing and hunting.

In his earlier days, Daniel was a talented artist and worked very hard at building a career leading to his own agency. Throughout his career, he taught many clients about transferring his artwork to advertising. It was often overheard that clients loved to work with him and appreciated his honesty, integrity and in-

dustry knowledge. Daniel was easily approachable and was well liked by those who came in contact with him.

Later in life when Daniel retired, he welcomed the peace and quiet of Leaf River, where he felt at home and enjoyed building new friendships. He would occasionally joke that he was

He is survived by his wife Janice of Libertyville; children, Kelli (Bob) Prenner of Leaf River, Kathy (Erik) Spracklen of Libertyville, Kim Buchanan of Libertyville, and Marshall (Laura) Buchanan of Wauconda; sister, Katie Cleson of Des Plaines; and his grandchildren, Sean, Sara, Sydney, Ryan, McKenna, and Maxwell.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Thomas Buchanan.

A graveside service was held at North Grove Evangelical Cemetery on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020, at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please dedicate your donation in honor of Daniel Buchanan to St. Jude's Children Hospital, www.stjude.org.

## Norma I. Hardesty

BYRON – Norma I. Bymaster Hardesty, 85, of Byron, the best wife, mom, grandma and great grandma a husband could ever ask for, died Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 in her home. Born March 23, 1935 in Oregon, the daughter of Russell and Mary (Howard) Bymaster.



Norma married her high school sweetheart, Dennis Hardesty, in Oregon on July 30, 1955 by the Justice of the Peace, Chet Landers. To this marriage six children were born: Kevin, Greg and Nancy (deceased); Denise, Peggy and Sandra (surviving). Norma loved her family and friends, never missing sending them Christmas, birthday and anniversary cards. She always had Thanksgiving and

Christmas dinner for all her family into her late 70s. Norma worked at Quality Metal, 3rd National Bank and then in the printing business for 26 years, retiring from Professional Graphics in Rockford. She loved to can and take care of her flowers and was the best cook. She was blessed

with 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Also preceded in death by her parents, 3 brothers and 2 sisters. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Norma will be dearly missed by all her family, especially her husband of 65 years, Dennis.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, private family services will be held with burial in Mouth of Stillman Cemetery, Stillman Valley with Pastor David Rogula presiding. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Norma's name may be made to Mercy Hospice of Rockford or Serenity Hospice & Home, Oregon. Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, Byron assisted the family with arrangements.

## Marie E. Cole

OREGON – Marie E. Cole, 63, of Oregon died Monday, Dec. 14, 2020 in Oregon Living & Rehabilitation Center following an extremely long battle with early onset Alzheimers. Born June 30, 1957 in Aurora, the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Sullivan) Brummel.

Marie was a 1975 graduate of Hiawatha High School in Kirkland. Married to Douglas Cole June 7, 2001 in Sycamore. She was

a member of the American Legion Auxiliary 337 in Genoa. Marie loved animals of all sorts and riding on the back of her husband's Harley.

Survived by her husband, Doug Cole of Oregon; several estranged brothers and sisters and 3 children who she wished would have visited her in her later years; step-daughter, Rachael (Lt. Col. Louis, USAF) McDaniel; and grandchildren, Jonathon, Abigale and

Michah, who dearly loved their Grandma Marie.

Preceded in death by her parents and Aunt Mary.

Thanks are extended to Unity Hospice of Rochelle for their excellent end of life care. No services are scheduled. In lieu of flowers, donations in Marie's name may be made to any animal rescue shelter or directed to the family. Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, Oregon assisted the family.

## Adam J. Leather

OREGON – Adam J. Leather, age 29, died Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020. He was born Jan. 17, 1991 in Dixon, the son to Veronica Lawrence.



Adam graduated from Sterling High School in 2009. He loved to work on cars and was an auto technician; he also was currently working at the Mexican Cheese Producers, Inc. in Darlington, Wisconsin. In his spare time Adam loved to ride his motorcycle, go fishing, and listen to music. He liked to tell jokes and was known as a prankster. Most of all he loved being with his family and friends.

Adam was predeceased by his maternal grand-

parents Tom and Kathy Seaworth, maternal great grandparents Orval and Kathryn Seaworth and Francis Symons.

He is survived by his mother Veronica "Vicki" Seaworth-Lawrence (Bill Buss) of Shullsburg, Wisconsin, brother Matthew Leather of Oregon, aunt Ann Seaworth of Rock

Falls, uncle Chris Seaworth of Mt. Morris, extended family members Spenser, Cody, Tanner, and Cooper Buss, and many cousins, aunts, and uncles.

A private family service will take place at a later date. A memorial fund is established for the Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association, 200 East Evergreen, # 123 in Mt. Prospect, IL 60056, phone # 847-259-3570 and the Mental Health Matters organization at 626 Main Street in Darlington, WI 53530 phone # 608-776-4886. Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 South 7th street in Oregon, IL 61061 is assisting the family.

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### The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

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# Obituaries

## Dale L. Emery



BYRON – Dale L. Emery, 82, lifelong Byron area resident passed away Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. Dale was born on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1938 at St. Anthony Hospital, Rockford.

He was preceded in death by his parents Clarence and Viola (Hoffman) Emery, his brother Donald Emery, and his best friend and business partner James (Jim) Fortune.

He was raised and lived on the Emery Family Farm at the corner of Tower and Water Roads in Byron up until 10 years ago. Dale was a 1956 graduate of Byron High School where he excelled in agriculture and music. In high school Dale enjoyed being a member of FFA and wearing the Blue Jacket. While in FFA Dale played saxophone in the FFA State Band in 1955 and 1956. During this time Dale was also a member of the Rock River Triers 4-H Club in which he served as an officer and was a member of the 4-H band. While in H.S. he also sold Purebred Chester White Boars Hogs and started a Guernsey herd of cows.

After graduating from

high school Dale went to work at J.I. Case Co. as a timekeeper. When Dale left J.I. Case he went to work for Hamer STD Service in Byron, it was here where he met what was to be his business partner and best friend Jim Fortune and together they owned "Fortune & Emery TV & Western Auto" in downtown Byron, IL which later became Western Auto & Bait Shop and a car wash on Blackhawk Drive where Holcomb Bank now sits. During Dale's employment with Hamer Std Service he was held up by three men with shotguns in the middle of one night. For many years Dale took care of the Christmas decorations for the City of Byron in which they awarded him a plaque. He was a charter member of the Byron Lions Club, a past master of Byron Grange, was 7th degree of the National Grange.

In 1962 Dale was fortunate to escape death when he fell asleep at the wheel of his car while driving down Route 2 and ended up in the Rock River. Dale retired from his store business in 2000 and went on to work for the Byron C.U.S.D. as traffic control for 17 years. Dale treasured time spent with family and friends, spending time at his summer home in Tomahawk, Wis., taking pictures, baling hay for himself and helping other area farmers, bowling and attending to the many animals on his farm.

Dale is survived by his wife of 41 years Beverly L. Emery, his two stepsons Patrick (Angela) Streff, and Michael (Vernie) Streff his grandchildren Miranda (Jason) Coyne, Jamie (Justin) Streff, Katelyn Streff, Alexis Streff and Katie Koch. Great-Grandchildren Trinity, Noah, Maya, Carter, Maci, Dylan, Austin, Taylor and Cailey.

Due to COVID19 restrictions, an Immediate Burial with a Private Family Graveside Ceremony will be held. Celebration of Life to be held at a later date pending COVID restrictions. Memorials to the family.

## Betty B. Pearce



STILLMAN VALLEY – Betty B. Pearce, 85, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 at her home in Stillman Valley, Illinois. Betty was born on Sept. 22, 1935 to Earl and Ruth (Drumheller) Paul in Chana. On Feb. 7, 1953, she married Kenneth L. Pearce in Rochelle. He preceded her in death on Oct. 29, 1988. She worked for Barber-Colman in Rockford, for 33 years.

In her younger years, Betty was an avid bowler and part of a bowling league for many years. When her girls were young, she enjoyed many Girl Scout trips. Spending time with family, friends and especially her grandchildren were some of her most treasured times. As many will remember, her

favorite go to drink was

Pabst Blue Ribbon beer. Preceded in death by her parents and all nine of her siblings.

Betty is survived by her three children: Carol (Mike) O'Keefe of Rockford, Brian (Sheri) Pearce of Stillman Valley, and Karen (Doug) Vallem of Rockford; seven grand-

children: Trisha (Cory) O'Keefe, Tim (Jackie) O'Keefe, Talene (Keith) Pearce, Brandon Simmons, Trent Simmons, Todd (Meghan) Vallem and Trevor (Julie) O'Keefe; numerous great grandchildren and special friend, Jean Van Vleet.

There was a private family funeral service at 1 p.m., Monday, Dec. 14, 2020 with Pastor Brandon Simmons officiating. The service was live streamed on the Unger-Horner Funeral Home Facebook page. Burial followed the service at Trinity Memory Gardens in Rochelle. Memorials may be made in Betty's memory to the American Cancer Association. Visit [www.ung-erhorner.com](http://www.ung-erhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

## Alfred (Al) Roberts



BYRON – Mr. Alfred (Al) Roberts, 92, of Bryon, joined his heavenly father on Dec. 10, 2020. He passed away peacefully in Sebring, Fla., with his wife and a son by his side. He enjoyed wintering in Florida.

Alfred was born in 1928 in Winter, Wis., to Bert and Laura Roberts. Al had one sister, Betty Allen and two brothers, Dale and Vernon. Al married the love of his life Donna (Hook) Roberts on June 9, 1951 at the First Presbyterian Church in Winter, Wis. They enjoyed 69 wonderful years together and were blessed with four

children, Cynthia, Roger, Timothy and Mark. As a family they enjoyed visiting and camping in most of the 48 states.

Al worked 37 years for ComEd and held various positions each with increasing responsibilities until his

retirement from the Bryon nuclear power plant in 1984. Al was a merchant marine and sailed the great lakes.

In addition to his wife Donna, he is survived by sons, Roger and Linda of Winter, Wis., Timothy and Kaye of North Prairie, Wis., and Mark and Kelly of Stillman Valley; 9 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren; and his sister Betty Allen.

He was preceded in passing by his mother, father, two brothers and daughter.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Arrangements with Fountain Funeral Home, Avon Park.

## Helen A. Wick

OREGON – Helen A. Wick, 98, of Oregon, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 at Oregon Living & Rehab. Born July 6, 1922, in Rockford, the daughter of Elmer and Anna (Ohlsen) Olson. Attended Rockford Central High School. Helen married Howard Wick in December 1938 in Iowa. He predeceased her on Feb. 3,

1984. She was a member of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs.

Survived by her children, Karla (Lynn) Stivers of Byron, Charles Wick of Rockford, Sheri (Pete) VanBriesen of Oregon, and Pete Wick of Rockford; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Jan Rubeck; and several nieces and neph-

ews. Also predeceased by her son, Jim Wick; grandson, Tim Stivers; great-granddaughter, Brittany Wallace; and brother, Lloyd Olson.

Private graveside burial in Stillman Valley Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family. To share a memory or online condolence, visit [olsonfh.com](http://olsonfh.com)

## Thomas Strawbridge

Thomas S. "Tom" Strawbridge died peacefully of natural causes Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 at Amberwood Care Center in Rockford. The son of L. R. "Bud" Strawbridge and Isla (Whitsell) Strawbridge, Tom was born March 21, 1952 in DeKalb.

Tom attended grade school in Rochelle, and high school in Oregon. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on Nov. 9, 1969 and was stationed at Kaiserslautern, Germany where he served as a supply clerk. He was honorably discharged in 1972. "Pops," as he was known to his wide circle of friends, enjoyed a variety of jobs but identified most affectionately his years as a bartender, barber, insurance agent, car salesman, and

restaurateur. He never met a stranger and relished his connections with people.

Surviving are his son, Christopher "Kit" (Julie) Strawbridge of High Point, N.C.; grandsons, Joshua (Alex) Burcham and Jarred (Kenzie) Burcham and great-granddaughter, Averie. Also, surviving are sisters Linda R. Daub of Chana, Donna (Tom) Heid of Cape Haze, Fla., and Aunt Marjorie (Strawbridge) Gregory of Cottonwood, Ariz., as well as nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends who cared.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law, Darrell Daub; niece, Angela Daub-Bergstrom and significant other, Debra Matheny.

At Tom's wishes cremation will take place. Assistance to the family was graciously accorded by Tim at Honquest Family Funeral Homes with Crematory. Family also wishes to acknowledge Rochelle Community Hospital, Amberwood Care Center, Unity Hospice and the VA Hospital of Madison for the kind and respectful care he received in his final days. Due to Covid-19 restrictions memorial services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Tom's name may be given to Rochelle Fire Department Ambulance Service or Lifescape Meals on Wheels program, both of which were active participants in Tom's care in the past several years.

## Marie E. Cole

OREGON – Marie E. Cole, 63, of Oregon died Monday, Dec. 14, 2020 in Oregon Living & Rehabilitation Center following an extremely long battle with early onset Alzheimers. Born June 30, 1957 in Aurora, the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Sullivan) Brummel.

Marie was a 1975 graduate of Hiawatha High School in Kirkland. Married to Douglas Cole June 7, 2001 in Sycamore. She was

a member of the American Legion Auxiliary 337 in Genoa. Marie loved animals of all sorts and riding on the back of her husband's Harley.

Survived by her husband, Doug Cole of Oregon; several estranged brothers and sisters and 3 children who she wished would have visited her in her later years; step-daughter, Rachael (Lt. Col. Louis, USAF) McDanel; and grandchildren, Jonathon, Abigale and

Michah, who dearly loved their Grandma Marie.

Preceded in death by her parents and Aunt Mary.

Thanks are extended to Unity Hospice of Rochelle for their excellent end of life care. No services are scheduled. In lieu of flowers, donations in Marie's name may be made to any animal rescue shelter or directed to the family. Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, Oregon assisted the family.

# Obituaries

## Helen M. Cramer

LEAF RIVER – Helen M. Cramer passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020. She was born on the home place, Leaf River Township on May 10, 1925 to Earl and Mary Garkey Schelling. Later a brother, Donald came along. Don has always been very special in her life.

She graduated from Leaf River High School in 1943. Worked at Burgess Battery Factory in Forreston for a while and then National Life in Rockford.

She married Howard “Jim” Cramer on April 6, 1945. From there she was a farm helper, which she loved. She and Don were always close, talking most every day of her life. Some of his reflections are she was always a tom boy who loved being around and taking care of the animals. She had chickens to the end, and always had a dog or two. Even having two kittens in



their basement without Jim knowing. Helen and Jim milked cows for many years and were grain farmers. The two of them working together. They enjoyed fun together too; bowling and camping, and always at the Farm Progress Show. Helen also had a sense of humor with many pranks over the years.

Helen and Jim had no children but were very fond of neighboring children. The last few years Sydni Bad-

ertscher was a favorite and made both Helen and Jim laugh. They were always a friend with their neighbors and loved by them. Helen liked to talk “farming” with neighbor farmers but always asked what you were doing up until the end.

She is predeceased by her husband, Jim and her parents. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Helen was able to spend her last days at home with the help of Serenity Hospice. Memorials are established for them or the Leaf River Fire Department.

A special thank you to Julie Wright for many years of daily care and love.

A private burial was held at Lightsville Cemetery on Friday, Dec. 11 due to Covid-19.

To leave an online condolence please visit [www.FarrellHollandGale.com](http://www.FarrellHollandGale.com)

## Elizabeth Pierson

Elizabeth Pierson, 93, died peacefully at home with her family on Monday Dec. 14, 2020. Born Lieselotte Meilinger in Munich, Bavaria, to her parents Ludwig and Therese (Strixner) Meilinger.

She took the name Elizabeth following immigration to the U.S. in 1947 to marry Earl Pierson of Byron. They were together 64 years until Earl’s death in 2012. Elizabeth was also predeceased by her brother Ludwig. After her children left home for college, Elizabeth devoted twenty years to teaching German at Byron High School. Elizabeth was an active and faithful member of St Mary’s in Byron until the end, and was honored by the diocese at St Mary’s Woman of the



Year in 2017.

Survivors include Kris (Bill) Craig of Byron, Jeff (Deanne) Pierson of Rockford; grandchildren Andrew (Kimberly) Pierson of Pawtucket, RI; Rebecca (Bradley) Barnhart of Corvallis, Ore.;

Kathryn (Tyler) Pierson of Denver, Colo.; and great-granddaughters Olivia, June, Ellie, Josie, and Anna.

Private family Mass and Christian burial was Friday, Dec. 18 at St. Mary’s in Byron with Reverend Richard Rosinski officiating. The Mass was streamed; details at [www.saintmaryinbyron.org](http://www.saintmaryinbyron.org). The Family is grateful for caregivers Barb and Alma who made it possible for Elizabeth to remain at home in her final year, and for the excellent services provided by Serenity Hospice. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Bell Tower Project at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, PO Box 1070, Byron, IL, 61010. To share a memory or online condolence, visit [olsonfh.com](http://olsonfh.com)

## Martha A. Schneider

BYRON – Martha A. Schneider, 89, of Byron, passed away on Dec. 14, 2020 into the loving arms of God surrounded by family. Martha was born at home in Pine Rock Twp. Oregon, on Aug. 12, 1931 the daughter of Martin and Gertrude (Zell) Engelkes, last child of 13, her nickname was Babe.

On Dec. 19, 1953 Martha married Warren Schneider and celebrated 62 years of marriage before Warren passed in 2016. She attended Limerick School located on

Brick Road, Oregon. Martha served the community as a Cub Scout den mother for years. In her younger years, Martha worked at a Oregon Manufacturing Co. and a toy factory in Oregon. After marriage, she worked at Kysor of Byron and Caron International, Oregon for many years. Warren and Martha spent many days and evenings with Chuck and Gladys Bright playing cards, marbles, and enjoying leisure time on their homemade pontoon boat. Nephew Clarence Morris and family were always special to Martha; she visited often and never left hungry. Martha kept herself busy



sewing, knitting, crocheting, and crafting. Warren and Martha spoiled the grandkids by taking them for rides around the countryside looking for birds and animals; they always brought the kids back home filled up with pop, chips, and candy, all of the “stuff” their mom’s and dad’s would not let them have at home. After the grandkids got older Warren and Martha enjoyed their time taking small trips around the region. Some of their favorite spots were the Mississippi River locks watching he eagles, Upper Peninsula of Wisconsin, Wisconsin cranberry bogs and Horicon marsh. More

than a few times they got stuck on old logging roads and that is when we insisted that they carry a cell phone.

Martha is survived by children Dennis Schneider, Byron, DeAnna (Tim) Fidler, Belvidere, Grandchildren; Mona (Chris) Brown, Mary (Dan) Davenport, Stephanie Schneider, Carl (Sarah) Schneider, Joshua (Lindsey) Fidler, Rebekah (Wade) Posusta, Bridgette Fidler; 7 Great-grandchildren; 4 Great-great grandchildren. Predeceased by parents, husband, sisters Amanda Davison, Viola Morris, Elizabeth Mowers, Helen Wernick, Gladys Bright, Elsie Isenhart; brothers Albert and Arend.; infant siblings Albert, Ella Mary, Georgia May, Gertie J., son Monte Nance, Great-great Granddaughter Ivy.

A Private family visitation and service will be held at the Ebenezer Reformed Church, 2997 N. German Church Rd, Oregon; burial in Ebenezer Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Serenity Hospice and Home, Oregon.

To share a memory or condolence visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com)

## Mary K. Raum

OREGON – Mary K. “Kathy” Raum, 83, lifelong Oregon/Byron resident, died Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020 in her home in Oregon. Born Aug. 17, 1937 in Afton, Iowa, the daughter of Edmund and Rose (Wollensack) Vogel.

Kathy was a 1956 graduate of Byron High School and was head of the “50’s Club” for her Byron High School classmates and ran the Byron Nostalgia Facebook page. Married to John Peter Raum April 27, 1957 in Byron. She was employed at the Ogle County Zoning Office for many years, retiring in 2000. Kathy was very artistic and an active member of the Eagles Nest Art Group, serving as Treasurer and was also a Girl Scout leader



1963-1968. She enjoyed sewing, making most of her own and many of her daughter’s clothes. Kathy was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Oregon where she sang with the church choir most of her adult life.

Survived by her husband of 63 years, Pete Raum of Oregon; daughter, Christine (Kenn Gall)

Raum of Rock City; sons, Pete (Gary Lenhart) Raum, Jr. of Oregon and Craig (Shigeko) Raum of Yakasuka, Japan; grandchildren: Brittany and Alexandra Raum, Jennifer & Rebecca Raum, and Andy & Jaime Raum; and great grandchildren, Linkin and Layke.

Predeceased by her parents and brother, Joseph Francis Vogel.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a private family Funeral Mass will be held at St. Mary Catholic Church, Oregon. A Celebration of Life will also be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Kathy’s name may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church, Oregon. Farrell-Holland-Gale assisted the family.

## Mount Morris Police report

Sept. 1

Heather L. Heathcott, Mt. Morris was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County Warrant. Heathcott was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

Sept. 2

A Village Ordinance Citation was issued to Robert M. Disch for Furniture in the yard.

Sept. 5

Tonya R. Cardott, 42, Mt. Morris was arrested for Disorderly Conduct. Cardott

was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

A Citation for speeding was issued to Natali J.O. Garcia, 23, Freeport.

Sept. 6

A Village Ordinance Citation was issued to Robert M. Disch for Improper storage of Furniture in the yard.

Sept. 7

A Village Ordinance Citation was issued to Robert M. Disch for Furniture in the yard.

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, deadlines for editorial content the weeks of Dec. 21 and 28 is 3 p.m. Monday.



### Food drive

The Stillman Valley National Honor Society hosted a non-perishable food drive for the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Stillman Valley during the month of November. The members were able to collect car loads of food and over \$700 in cash donations. The donations were delivered to the church where they will be used for an upcoming distribution. The National Honor Society would like to thank all of those who donated and helped to make their drive a success.

# Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Thank you for your loyalty throughout this crazy year of 2020. We have survived, thanks to you!*

*-Merlin, Cindy & Family*

**35% OFF STOREWIDE CHRISTMAS**  
**20% OFF STOREWIDE**



**Poinsettias**  
**6" \$9<sup>99</sup>**  
**HUGE Poinsettias**  
**\$24<sup>99</sup>**

**Merlin's Greenhouse and Flowers The Other Side Boutique**  
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**300 Mix Street • Oregon, IL 61061 • 815-732-2969**  
*Small town charm, Big city style.*



Watch Facebook for our daily special. Open until 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve.

# Donating meals

Rural Byron resident Mark Schwendau donated \$500 to purchase 100 meals for the Ogle County Sheriff's Department at the Kitchen Table at Rochelle. Schwendau did so as sheriff's deputies came to his home to conduct two different wellness checks during the year. The first occurred when his cell phone pocket dialed 911 while he was mowing the lawn. The second happened when a neighbor could not reach him and became concerned about him during the COVID lockdown. The Kitchen Table is Illinois' first community cafe where people can dine two days per week where those who have much can help pay a little forward to help feed those who may be struggling. If you would like to learn more about the Kitchen Table to dine, volunteer or donate, visit their website [www.KitchenTableRochelle.org](http://www.KitchenTableRochelle.org). Pictured: Sheriff Brian VanVickle receives meal gift cards from Schwendau by way of Kitchen Table Director Carolyn Brown.



# Jingle Bell Trot virtual 5k now underway

Lace up your running/ snow shoes and join Pegasus Special Riders for the Jingle Bell Trot, a virtual 5k.

Race dates are Dec. 20 through Jan. 2 and registration runs from now until Dec. 30. This fundraiser is a 5k run/walk/trot at your own pace and location. Groups and single runners of all ages are welcome. Registration is \$25 and a Jingle Bell Trot T-shirt is included for \$35.

Go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Oregon/PegasusSpecialRidersFall-Trot> for registration and be on your way to some great exercise for a great cause!

# RRC closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1

Rock River Center will be closed from noon on Dec. 24, through Jan. 1. No activities, programs or transportation will take place during this time.

The center will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 4. The staff of Rock River Center wishes you all a Safe and Happy Holiday.

Deadlines for editorial content the weeks of Dec. 21 and 28 is 3 p.m. Monday.

**M & M**  
**CAR WASH**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**TOKEN SALE**



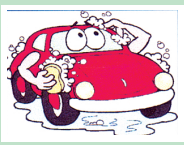
**DECEMBER 1-24, 2020**

**TOKENS:**

**5 for \$20 or 13 for \$50**

- Make great stocking stuffers
- Secret Santa Gifts
- For that Someone Special
- For that hard to buy for person

*Merry Christmas from all of us at M & M Car Wash to all of you!*



**M & M CAR WASH**  
Route 2, 520 Blackhawk Dr., Byron, IL

*Show off your Christmas decorating skills in the Christmas Tree Photo Contest*

Visit [rochellenews-leader.secondstreetapp.com/Christmas-Tree-Photo-Contest/rounds/1/gallery](http://rochellenews-leader.secondstreetapp.com/Christmas-Tree-Photo-Contest/rounds/1/gallery) to enter and to vote. Submissions will be accepted until Dec. 15. Voting starts on Dec 16 and runs through Dec. 31.

**The winner will receive a \$100 gas card!**

Sponsored by:

**JEFFPERRY**  
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# Isley to lead new Office of Public Defender

OREGON – In November, Ogle County named Kathleen Isley as Chief Public Defender to the newly developed Ogle County Office of Public Defender.



The Public Defender's Office is a county department that will provide direct legal counsel and representation to indigent defendants in criminal and juvenile cases. Isley's work in the information office, located in the Ogle County Judicial Center. She will be working to expand the office and

develop a full-time staff to serve the needs of all indigent defendants in all courtrooms.

# Lorado Taft Campus eagle watching brunch Jan. 31

OREGON – Join the Oregon Park District at Lorado Taft Field Campus on Sunday, Jan. 31 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for an amazing opportunity.

You will be able to watch the bald eagles soar past Taft dining hall windows while you enjoy your brunch of biscuits and gravy, bacon, scrambled eggs, friend chicken, cinnamon rolls and other delicious treats!

Learn about the bald eagles mating habits, how they raise their young as

well as why they are "bald" during our interactive educational brunch. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Children 3 and under are free.

The deadline to register is Jan. 17. Modifications may be made to the meal or program to remain compliant with CDC and IDPH guidelines at program time. The fee is just \$16 per Resident and \$18 per Non-Resident. Register online at oregonpark.org or by calling 815-732-3101.

# Nominations being accepted for SWCD Board

To all people of legal voting age who own or reside on land located within the boundaries of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District, nominations are being accepted for two, 2 year terms as directors of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Nominations can be made at the District's office, 1213 Pines Road, Suite 3, Oregon, IL 61061, during the normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To be considered for nomination as a candidate for the office of director, nominees must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located within the boundaries of the district.

Interested persons must respond by 4 p.m. on Jan. 21, 2021.

# Bank promotes Woessner

SHANNON – Robin Wilhelms Saar, President and Chairman of the Board at First State Bank Shannon-Polo-Lake Carroll, announced Allen Woessner, senior vice president of First State Bank Shannon-Polo-Lake Carroll was recently promoted to Chief Financial Officer.

Woessner graduated from several banking schools including Trust School and the Wisconsin Graduate School of Banking.

Shannon in 1981. He has performed various duties at the bank including Trust officer, Compliance Officer and Loan Officer. He also prepares the bank's financial reports and completes the regulatory reporting.



# Now open

The Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce celebrates Grand Opening Day at Sweeny's Outfitters pop-up shop. Located at 111 S. 4th St Oregon. Stop in and shop one of the longest running tack shops in the upper Midwest. They offer men's, ladies, and children's western apparel, boots, and tack. They also have some 2nd chance consignment items including saddles, tack and show apparel. Belts and buckles, boots and more. Come check them out and welcome them to town! Holiday Hours are Wednesday-Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can reach them at 920-946-5088. (Long Shots Photography)



# Getting Sick Isn't Convenient; Accessing Care Should Be

Getting sick never comes at a good time. Rochelle Community Hospital offers Convenient Care that works for you with our extended Convenient Care hours and "Save My Place" online scheduling. Simply reserve a place in line using your computer, tablet or smart phone before you arrive and check in at the Convenient Care kiosk when you get here. We'll have you on your way and feeling better in no time.

**The right care, right here in Rochelle.**

## Convenient Care Hours:

### Monday-Friday

11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

### Saturday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed Sundays and Holidays

## No appointment necessary!

Walk in or use "Save My Place" online at [rochellehospital.com](http://rochellehospital.com).

## RCH COVID-19 TRIAGE LINE

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please call to be screened to determine what testing is right for you.

**CALL 815-561-8829**

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**CALL 815-561-3100**

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



# Ogle County Sheriff

Nov. 28

At approximately 11:20 p.m., Ogle County Deputies conducted a traffic stop on I-39 at mile marker 99. After investigation, Deputies arrested Pablo Reyes- Perez, 26 of Rockford, for Unlawful Possession of Cannabis as the driver. Reyes-Perez was also issued a citation for an equipment violation. Reyes-Perez was given an I bond with a return court date later next month.

At approximately 4:26 p.m., Deputies responded to a single vehicle accident in the 14000 block of West Sterling Road. An investigation determined that an eastbound vehicle driven by Adriana Wiggins, 17 of Polo, lost control and entered the north ditch. The vehicle then continued into a residential yard where it struck a tree. Minor injuries were reported. Deputies were assisted on scene by Polo Police and Polo Fire/EMS. The accident remains under investigation.

Nov. 27

At 10:22 p.m., Deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5000 block of Illinois Rte 251. After a short investigation Deputies arrested Dustin Doyle, 24 of Davis Junction, for Driving While License Suspended and Unlawful Possession of Cannabis. Doyle was released on a notice to appear with a court date of 01/01/2021 at a.m.

At approximately 6:17 p.m., Deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 100 block of Main Street in Leaf River. After further investigation, Derrick Simmons, 40 of Leaf River, was placed under arrest for No Valid Driver's License. Simmons was released from the scene on an I-bond and will appear in court at a later date.

At approximately 9:33 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of Condon Road just into Winnebago County. After investigation, Deputies placed Erika Villalobos-Miller, 20 of Oregon Under Arrest for Driving While License Suspended and also issued her a

citation for Operating an Uninsured Vehicle. Villabos-Miller was released on an I-Bond at the scene.

At 10:36 p.m. Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a report of a hit and run that had originally occurred in the 5400 block of S. Mulford Rd. After the original report the offending vehicle fled southbound on Mulford Rd until the driver lost control at the overpass of I-88. The offending vehicle came to rest after striking a guardrail. Upon Deputies arrival at the scene of the crash Deputies determined that the driver and a passenger had fled the scene on foot. Deputies deployed a K9 unit to perform a track and the driver and passenger were located a short distance away hiding in a field. The driver, identified as Mark J. Burdick, 34 of Eau Claire Wis., and passenger, identified as Bobbie J. Braun, 50 of North Saint Paul Minn., were both transported to the Rochelle Hospital by the Rochelle Ambulance for treatment of minor injuries. At the hospital, Mark Burdick was charged with DUI, Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Accident, No Valid Driver's License, Illegal Transportation of Alcohol, No Insurance, Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid an Accident, improper Lane Usage and Unlawful Possession of Cannabis. He was released on an I-Bond and will appear in court at a later date. Deputies were assisted at the scene by the Creston Fire Department, Rochelle Police, and the Rochelle Ambulance.

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office arrested Valerie Power, 29 of Aurora, for Driving Under the Influence. Power was arrested by Deputies on Route 64 near the 251 intersection. Power was held in lieu of bond at the jail.

Nov. 26

The Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Aljeuel Steel, 23 of Rockford, for Driving While License Suspended. Steel was arrested by deputies on I-39 near Rte 64 after being stopped for speeding. Steel was released on a I bond and will appear in court at a later date.

Nov. 25

The Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Alondra Rodriguez, 27 of Dixon, for Driving Without a Valid License. Rodriguez was arrested by Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies on I-39 near Rte. 64 after being stopped for speeding. Rodriguez was released on a I bond and will appear in court at a later date.

Nov. 21

At approximately 5:58 a.m. Ogle County deputies along with Mt Morris Fire Department, Mt. Morris EMS and Oregon EMS responded to a two-vehicle accident with entrapment at the intersection of Mud Creek Road and Rock Road. After an investigation it was learned that Andrew D Stroud, 22, of Mt Morris, failed to stop at the stop intersection, where he struck an oncoming vehicle. Stroud and his passenger Nolan M. Wortman, 21, of Stillman Valley were transported to KSB hospital for non life threatening injuries. The driver of the second vehicle, 17-year-old male, from Mt. Morris was transported to KSB hospital by Oregon EMS. The vehicle were removed from the location by D&W Towing and Neilson's Towing. Stroud was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, disobeying a stop sign, improper lane usage, and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Stroud was given an I-bond and released to hospital staff for treatment.

Nov. 19

At approximately 8:37 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of N IL Rte 2 and Town Hall Rd. After investigation, Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Jacob M. Powell, 29, of Sterling, for Possession of a Controlled Substance. Powell was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

Nov. 17

The Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Tanya Vega, 42, of Rochelle for

Driving While License Suspended. Vega was arrested by Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies on I -39 near Rochelle after being stopped for Improper Lighting. Vega was released on an I-bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

Nov. 14

At 2:48 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies along with Rochelle and Creston Fire/EMS were dispatched to the 8000 block of S. Woodlawn Rd. for the report of a 2-vehicle crash. After an investigation, it was determined that a tractor pulling farm equipment was driven northbound in the 8000 block of S. Woodlawn Rd. by Mark Hill, 64 of Rochelle. The tractor and farm equipment were partially in the southbound lane. A Dodge truck driven by, Brian Bozarth, 32 of Shabbona, was traveling southbound, and struck the farm equipment being pulled by the tractor. The Dodge truck then veered towards the east guardrail, and came to rest after striking the guardrail. Bozarth was transported to Rochelle Hospital to be evaluated. Hill was uninjured in the crash. Bozarth was later arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving on a revoked license, and operating uninsured motor vehicle. The crash remains under investigation.

Nov. 13

At approximately 10:36 a.m. Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of N. IL Rte. 251. After investigation, Deputies issued Seth Rodriguez, 24 of Rockford a citation for Driving While License Suspended. Rodriguez was released on an I-Bond and was given a future court date.

Nov. 11

Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies initiated a traffic stop on I-39 near Monroe Center. After a brief investigation, Deputies arrested Richard McClain, 19 of Rockford, for Driving While License Suspended. McClain was released from the scene on an I-Bond and will appear in court at a later date.

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS 2020 WITH YOUR LOCAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES!**

Whether you plan to celebrate Christmas online, in-person, on the radio, on Youtube, or Facebook the 10 Hub Cluster United Methodist Churches welcome you and your family to join us for Christmas Services. Check out [www.UMCHub.org/Christmas](http://www.UMCHub.org/Christmas) or the listed webpage or Facebook page listed for the most up to date info for service or streaming options.

**Ashton United Methodist Church**  
Facebook search Ashton UMC, Ashton IL

**Chana United Methodist Church**  
[www.ChanaChurch.org](http://www.ChanaChurch.org)

**Creston United Methodist Church**  
[www.facebook.com/CrestonUMCIL](http://www.facebook.com/CrestonUMCIL)

**Esmond United Methodist Church**  
Facebook search Esmond United Methodist Church, Esmond IL

**Franklin Grove United Methodist Church**  
Facebook search Franklin Grove UMC, Franklin Grove IL

**Lighthouse United Methodist Church**  
[www.facebook.com/LighthouseUMCIL](http://www.facebook.com/LighthouseUMCIL)

**Malta United Methodist Church**  
Facebook search Malta United Methodist Church, Malta IL

**Reynolds United Methodist Church**  
[www.ReynoldsUMC.net](http://www.ReynoldsUMC.net)

**Rochelle United Methodist Church**  
[www.RochelleUMC.com](http://www.RochelleUMC.com)

**Steward United Methodist Church**  
[www.facebook.com/StewardILUMC](http://www.facebook.com/StewardILUMC)

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

[www.UMCHub.org/Christmas](http://www.UMCHub.org/Christmas)

**Christmas Carol Cruise**  
Ready to get in the holiday spirit? Checkout the Hub Cluster Christmas Carol Cruise. Dec 4-6. Drive by each of the Hub City area churches to sing along and learn the history of 10 different Christmas Carols. Scan this code to learn more.

# Park District has upcoming activities

Classes may be modified or cancelled due to modifications related to COVID. Participants will be notified prior to programming if any changes will need to occur. Full refunds will be offered if a program is cancelled or modified and doesn't meet your needs.

ested in coaching please contact Lesley at lesley@oregonpark.org.

**Lorado Taft Campus presents Eagle Watching Brunch**  
Join us at Lorado Taft Field Campus for an amazing opportunity in partnership with the Oregon Park District. You will be able to watch the bald eagles soar past our dining hall windows while you enjoy your brunch of biscuits and gravy, bacon, scrambled eggs, friend chicken, cinnamon rolls and other delicious treats! Learn about the bald eagles mating habits, how they raise their young as well as why they are "bald" during our interactive educational brunch. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Children 3 and under are free. The program is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 31 from 9:30-11 a.m. The deadline is Jan. 17. Program modifications may occur due to IDPH and CDC guidelines. The fee is just \$16 per Resident and \$18 per Non-Resident.

**DIY Kit-Winter Snowman Sign with T+T**  
Enjoy stenciling a Winter Snowman on a 10" x 10" canvas. This DIY project is perfect for kids or adults looking for a crafty project. Pick up your kit on Monday, Jan. 18 at Nash. Enjoy creating trendy art pieces with the help of a prepared kit (includes canvas, stencil, and all paint needed) and access to a "HOW TO" video with Charlotte from T+T. Class fee is \$14/Resident or \$17/Non-Resident. Registration deadline is Jan. 11.

**Hearty Chicken Pot Pie**  
Chicken Pot Pie is the ultimate comfort food and perfect on a cold winter night! Join Lynn Kaufman with Lynnies' Kitchen at Cork & Tap on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 6 p.m. Learn to make a delicious Pot Pie with a Cheddar Cheese crust. Take it home and pop it in the oven the next day and dinner is served! All supplies included in class fee, but participants are asked to bring a few kitchen tools from home. Fee is \$32/Resident or \$38/Non-Resident. Registration deadline is January 13.

**Ensalada De Nopales Avocado Cooking Class with Hector's Cocina**  
Learn to make an Avocado Cactus Salad from Michelle Carreno at Hector's Cocina on Tuesday, Jan. 26. Learn to choose, peel, cut, and cook a cactus. You will also learn about the health benefits of incorporating cactus into your daily diet. This salad is great on a tostado shell or with a bag of Hector's signature chips. Limited space is available. Choose between the 5:30-6:15 p.m. or the 6:45-7:30 p.m. time. Class fee is \$28/Resident or \$34/Non-Resident. Registration deadline is Jan. 19.

**6TH grade girls competitive basketball**  
This competitive league elevates the expectation of both the players and the coaches. Games are scheduled by Oregon School District and will replicate the 7th and 8th grade schedule. All home games will be played at Nash. Transportation to all away games will be provided by OCUSD. Roster size is limited on this team and try-outs may be required. Practices scheduled to begin the week of Jan. 4. All Government guidelines will be followed. A volunteer coach is needed for this league. If interested, please contact lesley@oregonpark.org. If the season is canceled by IHSA, we will still be offering a skills based program to ensure that the players continue to develop their skills. Deadline - Dec. 21. Fee \$75

**DIY Canvas Painting Kits for ages 5+**  
Looking for an art project to enjoy during the cold winter months? Painting on canvas is fun for all ages and the beauty of the DIY kit is painting your project when your schedule allows. No experience required. The pattern is already drawn on the canvas for you. Kits will be available for pick up on January 26. Choose between a swirly tree or birds in a birch tree. Registration deadline is Jan. 19. Fee is \$17/Resident or \$20/Non-Resident. For an additional \$5 three paint brushes can be purchased.

**Indoor soccer**  
Practice your soccer skills in the warm of Nash! Youth players, ages 4-7, will develop their fundamentals and team playing strategies through a 30 min practice followed by a 30 min intra-team scrimmage every week, while adhering to current Covid-19 safety guidelines for youth sports. Masks must be worn and there will be no officiated competitive games against other teams, no spectators will be allowed. Volunteer coaches are needed. Please email lesley@oregonpark.org if you are interested. All players will receive a t-shirt and their own soccer ball to keep! Season runs Feb. 8 through March 4th and practices will meet on either Monday or Thursday evenings depending on coach preference and gym availability.  
Deadline for registration is Monday, Jan. 25. Fee \$40/ \$48 NR. If you are inter-

**Growing Greens and Herbs at Home with Merlin's/Hagemann Horticulture**  
Never buy leafy greens or herbs at the store again! Learn to grow a healthy bounty indoors, year-round that is simple and nearly fool proof. Enjoy fresh and ready to use greens whenever you need them. Class will be held on Thursday, Jan. 28, at Cork & Tap. Choose between the 6:00 p.m. class or the 7:30 p.m. class when you register. Fee is \$55/Resident or \$65/Non-Resident. Fee includes a 4" state of the art grow light and a jar growing kit. Registration deadline is Jan. 21.

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



**Herbie**  
Hiya! I'm Herbie, cute as a bug's ear and very smart. I am still very much a pup as I'm only a year old and I'm a wee little guy at only 25lbs! I love toys and running around outdoors. At such a young age I still have some things to learn and I'm willing to put in the work. My manners aren't the best and so I need a patient, confident, experienced dog owner who is willing to put in the time and work to help shape me into the perfect pupper. My pals here at Tails recommend an adult only household for me. I do enjoy the company of dogs sometimes, but it might be best if I was your only pet, at least at first. I'm a very good little boy, I'm housetrained and know several commands, but I just haven't found that Special Somebody yet. Will it be you? And if not, would you please tell all your friends about me? My person HAS to be out there somewhere. P.S. I am staying in a quieter area of the shelter, so please ASK to meet me.

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## 5 Tips for a Pet-Safe Christmas Tree

1. Securely anchor your tree to keep curious pets from knocking it over!
2. Sweep up pine needles frequently to avoid ingestion
3. Keep glass, breakable or any edible ornaments up high, out of pets reach!
4. Keep pets from drinking tree stand water & don't add toxie tree preservatives to it!
5. Avoid using tinsel, string or ribbons - they can cause sever damage



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

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mon., Dec. 21

6TH grade girls competitive basketball deadline is today. This competitive league elevates the expectation of both the players and the coaches. Games are scheduled by Oregon School District and will replicate the 7th and 8th grade schedule. All home games will be played at Nash. Fee \$75.

Share Your Story, 11 a.m.-noon, via Zoom with the Byron Library. Seniors are encouraged to join Beth as she provides monthly journal prompts. Reflect on and

record your memories for future generations. A journal will be provided to each registrant and will be available for pick up at the library any time after Friday, Dec. 18. Please visit [Byron.evanced.info/](http://Byron.evanced.info/) signup or call 815-234-5107 to register. Zoom meeting ID will be emailed to registrants.

Tues., Dec. 22

Friends of the Library grab bag book sale, daily at the Oregon Library. This is an ongoing sale and the bags are in the library labeled by genre. You can purchase a bag for

\$5. There are approximately 8-10 books in each bag. Don't miss out on this awesome deal! Please call the Library at 815-732-2724 if you have any questions.

Weds., Dec. 23

Holiday no-bake 10 a.m. with the Polo Library on [Facebook.com/pololibrary](https://www.facebook.com/pololibrary). Ms. Melanie shares a no-bake snack for kids (recommended K-5rd Grade) to make for the holidays! This video will air on Wednesday the 16th, but will stay available to watch on Polo Library's Facebook page.

Fri., Dec. 25

Merry Christmas!

Sat., Dec. 26

Dogwood Inn (Rt. 26/64) Indoor Market, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

*Please send your items for the weekly Community Calendar to [bjennings@oglecountylife.com](mailto: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  
News Media Corporation.

## MOMENTS IN TIME

\* On Jan. 7, 1789, Congress sets today as the date by which states are required to choose electors for the country's first-ever presidential election. A month later, on Feb. 4, George Washington was elected president by state electors and sworn into office April 30.

\* On Jan. 10, 1901, a drilling derrick at Spindletop Hill near Beaumont, Texas, produces an enormous gusher of crude oil, signaling the advent of the American oil industry. The geyser flowed at an initial rate of 100,000 barrels a day. Today, only a few oil wells still operate in the area.

\* On Jan. 5, 1920, the New York Yankees announce the purchase of heavy-hitting outfielder George Herman "Babe" Ruth from the Boston Red Sox for \$125,000. Ruth had played six seasons with the Red Sox, leading them to three World Series titles.

\* On Jan. 6, 1936, Porky Pig makes his world debut in a Warner Brothers cartoon, "Gold Diggers of '49." When Mel Blanc joined Warner Brothers the following year, he became the famous voice behind Porky as well as Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Sylvester and Tweety.

\* On Jan. 8, 1966, ABC's rock and roll TV variety show "Shindig" airs its last episode. The show had debuted in September 1964, featuring acts including the Everly Brothers, the Rolling Stones and The Beach Boys.

\* On Jan. 9, 1972, a fire breaks out aboard the lavish Queen Elizabeth, and by the next morning the world's largest passenger ship lies in a wreck on the bottom of Hong Kong harbor. Launched in 1938, the Queen Elizabeth steamed across the ocean as a troop transport during World War II.

\* On Jan. 4, 1999, 11 nations adopt a single currency, the euro, and "locked in" their exchange rates relative to each other and to the euro. At midnight, their currencies officially ceased to exist.

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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.

## Hard to get in the Christmas spirit this year

Here we are – Christmas week.

Seems like it is only about June, doesn't it? OK, maybe not the weather, but this has been one incredibly strange year. It has thrown my sense of time off completely.

I am not exactly Mr. Christmas, but this year the holiday has crept up on me like never before. I honestly feel like Halloween was last week. Did we just skip Thanksgiving? I don't really remember it.

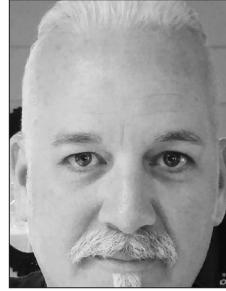
But when I think about it, I understand why everything seems so, well, off this year.

Last year, my wife and I cut the cable. That means we get all of our TV viewing off of the Internet. We have Netflix and Hulu and Amazon Prime and Sling. Yes, we can get local channels with an antenna, but we honestly never watch them. We haven't watched a single football game this year, for example.

That means we are not seeing the Christmas commercials that usually flood

### Living the Life

By Brad Jennings



TV this time of year. There are some on the Sling app, but not a lot of holiday commercials. Maybe it is because we aren't watching the Hallmark Channel. I will say it has been a welcome change.

We also haven't been going to any holiday parties this year. Thanks to COVID-19, office Christmas parties are off this year. So are parties with our friends – and trust me, we are a party-happy group. We like nothing more than gathering for good food, good conversation and some

adult holiday beverages. For me, that means light beer.

Festive!

We aren't even going to my wife's dad's house on Christmas Eve, something we do every year. We have a big meal and enjoy family and open presents. It is a long-standing tradition. Hopefully it will return next year.

I think one of the big things that has made me feel holiday disorientation this year is that we haven't been out shopping. When you are out shopping you see the Christmas decorations, you hear the Christmas songs, you see the horrible multi-colored sweaters.

Yes, I prefer to shop online when I can, but I do go to local stores. I love to support local businesses. But this year it has not really been something we have done. We take our health seriously, so we just haven't been out much.

That means I have not heard one – not one! – Christmas song this year. As far as

I am concerned that's a good thing, but it is still weird not to hear them this time of year.

Even the cold hasn't made me think of Christmas. First, we have no snow. Second, while it finally got cold early last week, there are days I don't even leave the house. That means it is always 73 degrees for me. When I do leave, it is a serious slap in the face.

Don't judge me, but we haven't even put up a Christmas tree this year. Really, there is no need. My kids are adults who live in different states, and my wife and I are pretty ambivalent when it comes to dragging the lovely plastic tree up from the basement this year.

I am sure that will change next year. With the vaccine on the horizon, I am counting on the Christmas spirit coming back hard in 2021. I might even listen to a Christmas song.

In the meantime, Merry Christmas and stay safe!

Brad Jennings is Editor of The Ogle County Life.



# VIEWPOINT

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Published every Monday  
Mike Feltes, General Manager  
Brad Jennings, Editor

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## Reader has suggestions to enhance tenets of Constitution

Dear Editor,

I have a few comments regarding Mr. Harp's December 7, 2020 column.

Our country's founding fathers foresaw the possibility of a few states gaining too much power at the national level. They knew that collective radicalism, liberal or conservative in nature, could creep in and congregate within states or regions, and that it must be kept in check.

Regarding the so-called Sen-

ate's geographic lopsidedness, the issue of a given state's population being represented proportionally is already addressed by the House of Representatives. Equal representation for each state via the Senate is part of the check and balance system within the Legislative branch. And the presidential election was never intended to be a true democratic election, again because of the possibility of collective radicalism. Thus, the Electoral College and two senators from each and every

state. Both of these institutions have the same intent – protect the constitution and, thus, each citizen.

Regarding radicalism, fascism and communism/socialism are simply two ends of a not quite closed circle. They may be opposites in terms of political labels, but they each accomplish the same thing – complete and utter power for those in control of the government/military and devastating oppression for the rest of the populace, or at least a selected subset of it. A couple of

respective examples - Germany in the 1930s and 1940s, Venezuela of today. That all said, isn't it interesting how people espousing left-wing radicalism (i.e., communism/socialism) that eventually come into power quickly become fascist dictators? The gap between the two ends of the not quite closed circle is very small.

Consent of the Governed is a great principle, so long as the governed have not lost their collective minds and aren't lap dogs.

Instituting radicalism, left or right, inevitably requires that someone's constitutional rights will be violated. That's not acceptable. Period.

As an alternative to abolishing the basic tenets of the constitution, I would propose enhancing them by adding an amendment for term limits for members of Congress – one term for Senators and two terms for Representatives. No one should ever aspire to be a career politician, let alone be allowed to do so.

Jim Durand, Davis Junction

## Local food pantry thankful for support

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the community for their ongoing support of the Loaves & Fish Food Pantry. Special thanks to Sullivan's for their fall "leaf" donations and pre-packed food bag sales; to the Boy Scouts for a wonderful food drive Dec. 5; to everyone who contributed to the holiday meals (turkey and ham dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas); to Jerry Stauffer for the donations from the light show; and to everyone who has given monetary and grocery donations!

Thank you, also, to all who have donated hats and gloves as well. We are overwhelmed with the generosity of our community!

Just a reminder – Loaves and Fish Food Pantry is located on the lower level of Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren. Distribution dates are the first and third Thursdays from 4:30-7 p.m. and second and fourth Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m. No proof of income or residency is required. Food is available to anyone in Mt. Morris and Leaf River who needs it!

Jan Francis and Barb Diehl, co-directors



**PUT  
WASTE IN  
ITS PLACE!  
RECYCLE!**

# Economic Impact of the Byron Nuclear Plant on the Oregon Community

Closure of the Byron Nuclear Plant will have a devastating impact on our region and community. The financial contributions of the Byron Plant reach beyond tax revenue and will drastically affect the services residents have come to expect.

Taxing bodies directly affected in Oregon include the Oregon Park District, Oregon Community Unit School District, Ogle County, and Rockvale Township. Additional financial effects will impact local business, real estate values, and the service industry. Join us as we come together to save the Byron Nuclear Plant and support the businesses and industry directly impacted by a potential closure.

**More information on how you can help can be found at <https://savebyron.com/> or <https://saveilnuclearpower.com/>.**



## 2019 PROPERTY TAXES PAID

From the Byron Plant to Ogle County, Oregon Park District, Oregon CUSD and Rockvale Township

# \$7,600,503

was spent on local government services in your community

## # OF OREGON HOUSEHOLDS AFFECTED

# 74

Residences within the Community with household members working at the Byron Nuclear Plant

## OGLE COUNTY GDP

Byron Station's contribution to the Ogle County overall GDP

# 17%

Estimated at \$338 Million by NIU Economic Impact Analysis

## OREGON INCOME LOSS

Reduction in income to the City of Oregon

# \$134,000

Through Sales Tax Receipts and Direct Income

# dickersonnieman.com homes



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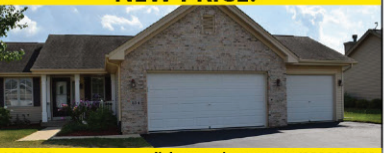
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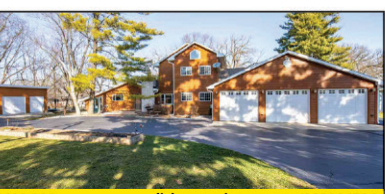


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**988-4388**



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**\$64,500** dickersonnieman.com/202006415  
**MOVE IN READY!** This adorable 2 bed, 1 bath home is move in ready! Great location, unfinished walk-up attic for additional storage or future room. Freshly painted, beautiful arches & nice woodwork! Fenced in back yard, 1 car detached garage. 2021 GRANT Avenue, Rockford  
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**INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!** 2-family 2-story located in Rockelle. Unit #1 - 3 bed, 1 bath w/cozy kitchen. Unit #2 - is a 1 bed, 1 bath w/large living room & open kitchen/dining. Separate utilities. Laundry hook-ups in the basement. 922 N 7TH Street, Rockelle  
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**COZY RANCH!** Ranch home on large lot South Rockford by airport. Large bathroom, arched doorway, large bedrooms, wood floors, cedar lined closet in master bedroom. Large eat in kitchen. Mature trees. 7821 S MAIN Street, Rockford  
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**66 ACRE FARMETTE W/LOTS OF PRIVACY!** This 2 bed, 2.5 bath home is only 14 years old w/large rooms, open floor plan, Ben Franklin fireplace in large LL family room w/lots of storage. FF laundry and outbuilding 36x80. LL is finished. 5600 E IL ROUTE 64, Chana  
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**LOTS OF POTENTIAL!** 4 bedrooms on the main floor w/1.5 baths. Partially exposed lower level has partially completed family room, 2 possible additional bedrooms & 1/2 bath. All sitting on approximately 1.10 acres with mature trees. 6861 ALVINA Road, Rockford  
**ALISA PATTERSON**  
815-719-0020



**Tom Oracki**  
**262-5212**



**Chris Snyder**  
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**John Orlando**  
**234-7309**



**Tanya Vincir**  
**703-6118**



**\$119,900** dickersonnieman.com/202004103  
**A MUST SEE!** Newly remodeled ranch home on nice shady lot. 2 car garage, new metal roof 3 bedroom, 2.5 baths, large kitchen/dining room. Out buildings, central vac, central air, and patio. 711 MONROE Street, Oregon  
**MAYDELL LESSEN/ DANA DAUB**  
815-622-4619/ 815-440-2835



**\$119,900** dickersonnieman.com/202003765  
**1.5 STORY IN COUNTRY SETTING!** 2 bed, 1.5 bath home on .75 acre MOL w/mature trees. Newer roof & updated electrical. Open flow on the main floor w/half bath. 2 bedrooms & full bath on UL. 2 car deep garage w/additional work space. Close to I-39. 5010 N ARMOUR Road, Stillman Valley  
**ROBIN HENRY**  
815-985-1747



**\$91,900** dickersonnieman.com/202003596  
**MOVE IN READY!** Completely remodeled 2 bedroom home, all appliances stay. Freshly painted, hardwood floors. Close to town & schools. Newer roof. Furnace & C/A newer. Seller offering home warranty. 311 S 3rd Street, Oregon  
**SHARON BOWERS**  
815-757-7462



**\$115,900** dickersonnieman.com/202003435  
**AMAZING RIVER VIEWS!** 2 bed, 1 bath ranch situated on the Rock River. Great place to bring your water toys and enjoy river living. Approximately 300 ft of riverfront. Laundry room could be turned into third bedroom. Freshly painted in 2017. 7632 RIVER Road, Byron  
**TANYA VINCIR**  
815-703-6118



**Kelli Wensky**  
**543-7657**



**Jerre Woodworth**  
**494-2237**



**Jerre Woodworth**  
**494-2237**



**\$575,000** dickersonnieman.com/202001611  
**BEAUTIFUL 2 STORY!** 3 bed, 2.5 bath restored stone home nestled in the woods outside of Oregon on over 32 acres. Property is zoned ag with 2 barns and a pond. Home has tons of old character with updated amenities. A true must see! 4972 W HENRY Road, Oregon  
**ROBIN HENRY**  
815-985-1747



**\$265,000** dickersonnieman.com/202000579  
**OREGON!** Byron schools. Riverfront, split floor ranch with 3-4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 car attached & 2 car detached garages, garden shed. 4005 N IL RT. 2, Oregon  
**MAYDELL LESSEN/ DANA DAUB**  
815-622-4619/ 815-440-2835



**\$639,900** dickersonnieman.com/201906894  
**HOME ON 14 ACRES!** 4 bedroom ranch with open floor plan. Oak floors, custom built hickory cabinets, 2 fireplaces, finished LL, a 100 foot pond off of deck, hot tub, and 3 car detached garage. Property also contains a guest house. Zoned Ag 1. 6820 W SPRING Road, Oregon  
**SHARON BOWERS**  
815-757-7462



**\$79,900** dickersonnieman.com/201906406  
**BEAUTIFUL HOME!** This 4 bedroom 2-story sits on a cul-de-sac in great area! Sunroom looks over fenced in backyard with mature landscaping. All 4 bedrooms are upstairs, with a full bath. Hardwood floors and close to everything. 704 LARKFIELD Circle, Rockford  
**ROBIN HENRY**  
815-985-1747



**\$141,700** dickersonnieman.com/201906262  
**BEAUTIFUL 2 STORY!** Offers 4 bedrooms, large living room, dining room, crown molding, oak floors, walk-in closets, built-in cabinets, fireplace, window seats, 1st floor master & laundry. Corner lot w/30' flag pole. Pergola/2 car garage. 709 W WASHINGTON Street, Oregon  
**MAYDELL LESSEN/ DANA DAUB**  
815-622-4619/ 815-440-2835



**\$39,000** dickersonnieman.com/202005309  
**BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME!** On the last available lot in the Chase Meadows Subdivision! So many possibilities with this 1+ acre lot that is surrounded by nice homes. NOT builder restricted. Beautiful views & great Neighborhood. Meridian 223 School District. 0000 KYLEWOOD Drive, Stillman Valley  
**ROBIN HENRY**  
815-985-1747



**\$21,900** dickersonnieman.com/202004886  
**BUILDABLE WOODED LOT!** Still time to build your dream home on this large lot with lots of trees in the Oregon School District. Well & Septic required. No Restrictions on size of home. County Taxes: S RED OAK Lane, Chana  
**SHARON BOWERS**  
815-757-7462



**\$34,900** dickersonnieman.com/202000416  
**LAND IN OREGON!** Stunning 1.7 acre parcel just outside of Oregon. Gorgeous, tranquil setting w/ample privacy. Riding and walking trails. Established subdivision to build your dream home. Large common area in cul-de-sac. A must see! 0000 ORCHID Lane, Oregon  
**TIFFANY CRAVATTA**  
815-988-4388



# Bread of Life sets distribution dates

STILLMANVALLEY—BreadofLifeis a food pantry serving residents of Ogle County and Meridian School District. We provide groceries to our neighbors in need. We meet at Valley Covenant Church, on the corner of Route 72 in Stillman Valley, on the second Tuesday of each month. Please bring photo I.D. and proof of residence.

Upcoming dates are Jan. 12 and Feb. 9. Distribution is curbside from 3-5 p.m. When Meridian Schools close for weather we do, too. If you are new to Bread of Life please call 815-645-887 to register for our next distribution.



606 E Washington St, Oregon, IL

**815-732-9100**

RockValleyProperties.com

Each office is independently owned & operated.



## Interest rates are projected to stay low

One of the biggest drivers for this year's booming real estate market were record-low mortgage rates.

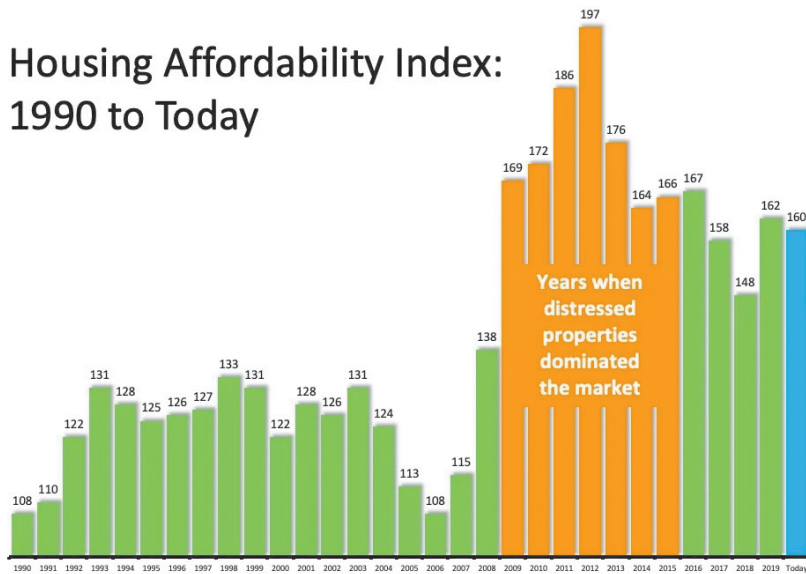
Because of this, affordability reached one of the highest levels it has in the last 30 years. Naturally, eager buyers followed.

The good news is, experts are predicting that mortgage rates will remain low for the foreseeable future.

While home prices continue to appreciate across the country (more on that later), the counter of the low mortgage rates have made purchasing a home increasingly affordable, especially for first-time homebuyers.

This trend is expected to stick around in 2021, continuing to drive a very competitive market.

## Housing Affordability Index: 1990 to Today



KEEPING CURRENT MATTERS

National Association of Realtors

## Home sales are projected to grow by 7%

If you thought you were busy this year, just wait until 2021.

That's because experts are predicting a 7% increase in home sales compared to last year.

This signifies one big piece of news: we will likely see an increase in inventory for 2021.

Whether it's hesitant homeowners who waited out the pandemic or brand spanking new homes from builders, more inventory will be a welcome change from the last year.

## Home prices are projected to appreciate by 3-4%

It's a simple case of supply and demand. When high buyer demand meets low inventory, home prices will appreciate.

This year, however, we saw it at a faster-than-usual pace averaging about 7% nationwide.

For 2021, experts project that we will continue to see appreciation, just at a slower pace that's reflective of a more balanced market.

While some may be worried that the rapid acceleration of home values means we're heading for another bubble, remember that context is everything.

With the end of the pandemic in sight, experts expect inventory levels to rise and home prices to appreciate at a more steady pace.

**Bottom Line- 2021 will be a great time to sell!**  
**Contact one of our TOP PRODUCING AGENTS**  
**for a FREE Market Analysis!**



**307 Main Street Mt Morris \$67,000 Call Mark**  
Cozy 2-3 bedroom, 1 bath home in Mt. Morris with 1 car attached garage and fenced yard with garden shed! New roof in 2011 and many rooms have been freshly painted. Refrigerator, dishwasher, stove and washer/dryer all stay. Gas furnace with central air and plenty of closet space! Bright, airy sunporch area and nice deck make this home move in ready!



**209 S Congress Ave, Polo, IL 61064 \$59,900 Call Erin**  
GREAT LOCATION AND GREAT LAYOUT...all that you need to bring is LOVE! This 3 bed, 2 bath home on a nice large lot in convenient, downtown Polo just needs someone with tools and a little time to bring it back to glory! Hardwood floors in the living room, a large separate room with half bath could be a main floor master, adorable and large kitchen! With a little paint and a little pluck, the possibilities and potential are endless! Don't miss this amazing opportunity - make an appointment today!



**411 Mix Street Oregon now \$155,000 Call Lori**  
Fabulous 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom house and a 1 room 1 bath cottage on a .88 acre partially wooded lot. Walk out basement with family room and bathroom. Large deck on back of house overlooking fire pit and hillside. Hot tub stays. Kitchen has walnut cabinets, appliances included, 2 fireplaces. Brand new air conditioning system. No need to haul laundry up and down with laundry hook ups on second floor. Come see what all this house has to offer. Great neighborhood with homes on larger sites. Cut down on mortgage payments with rental income from the cottage. Many replacement windows, newer roof and insulation. Cottage is rented at \$500 per month. Tenant pays electric and water.



**512 Division Street Dixon now \$112,600 Call JD**  
Ranch home with a view! Within walking distance of Reagan Middle School and moments from I-88, this home has it all. 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms - including a master bed/bath combo with a walk out porch. Featuring an open concept kitchen and breakfast bar, spacious living room with vaulted ceilings, main floor laundry, and full basement



**300 E Main Street Sublette Now \$124,900 Call Jenny**  
What a BEAUTY!! You will love the gorgeous woodwork, hardwood floors, high ceilings, and ABUNDANCE OF SPACE to live and entertain in. The kitchen is a cook's delight with tons of cabinet and counter space. Main floor laundry is conveniently placed off of the kitchen. Dining and sitting area provide an open concept along with the spacious family room. 1st floor office is great for working at home. The 2 beautiful winding staircases make this home incredibly unique and functional. The wrap around front porch and deck off the kitchen are great for relaxing and entertaining. Enormous backyard, massive 3 car garage, and additional shed provide ample room for all of your hobbies and needs. \$5,000 seller credit for roof and HOME WARRANTY included. Don't miss out! Call for your showing today.



**Rebecca Hazzard**  
Manager Broker/ Owner  
815-509-8432



**Carla Benesh**  
815-985-6235



**Mark True**  
815-631-1699



**Lori Peterson**  
815-973-2180



**JD Gieson**  
815-677-1873



**Stephanie Wendt**  
815-985-2055



**Kim Behn**  
815-520-8810



**Boone Lockard**  
815-970-3506



**Ashley Patterson**  
815-291-6308



**Erin Spence**  
815-262-5555



**Carrie Rowland**  
815-677-8656



**Jenny Kirchner**  
815-440-2145



**Andrea Baumann**  
815-245-7549

# Anniversary

## Couple celebrates 50 years

Dennis and Connie Arjes of Oregon celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary Nov. 28 at their home. They were married On Nov. 28, 1970 at Holy Cross Church in Mendota.

They have three daughters – Rachel, Amanda and Kim; seven grandchildren – Ashley, Dylan, Mya, Kaleb, Aiden, Alee and Cara; and two great-grandchildren – Zoey and Cooper.



# Birthday

## Whitney is turning 100 Dec. 24

We invite you to join us in celebration Edith Whitney's 100th Birthday. On Dec. 24 Edith Whitney will be celebrating this major milestone.

Edith lived in the Oregon area for nearly all her life, but for the last 10 years she has been living in an independent facility in Baraboo, Wis. There she has enjoyed many new friends and all the activities of the facility.

Edith was an elementary school teacher in both Chana and Oregon schools during her working years. Also, she was active in the Payne's Point Emmanuel Lutheran Church, annually hosting their Ice Cream Social at her home.

Her sons – Larry Whitney of Baraboo, Wis., and Jerry Whitney of Stillman Valle – invite you to join the celebration of this special birthday by "showering" Edith with birthday/holiday wishes and cards sent to her at Edith Whitney, 800 Waldo Street Apt 3013, Baraboo, WI 53913.



# Birthday

## Untz celebrates 90 years on Dec. 28

Loraine Untz of Oregon will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Dec. 28.

Loraine has 5 children, her youngest son William lives with her, and he is also celebrating his birthday the same day. He will be 62.

She has 12 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren. Please help her celebrate and send a card to: 106 N. 13th Street Oregon, IL 61061



# Bertolet Library News

### Holiday Hours:

Christmas Hours: Bertolet Memorial Library will be closed Dec. 24-27. We will reopen on Monday, Dec. 28.

New Years Hours: Bertolet Memorial Library will close at 4 p.m. on Dec. 31 through Jan. 3. We will reopen on Monday, January 4th.

Hat and Mitten Tree: You guys are doing a great job! Our tree is nice and warm. Keep hanging your donations of hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens on our tree by the end of the year. They will be distributed through the New Life Community Center in Forreton in January.

Winter Take & Make Crafts: Miss Jana will have craft kits to keep your kids from getting antsy as we lead up to Christmas. Stop by each Monday to pick up your take & make craft kit for the week!

**New Releases**  
Adult Fiction

The Amish Candymaker by Laura Hill-ton

The Cowboy Way by Elmer Kelton  
The Missing Pieces of Nancy Moon by Sarah Steele

Promised Land by Robert Whitlow  
Juvenile Fiction  
Spaced Out by Stuart Gibbs  
The Night Garden by Polly Horvath

**Wednesday WhoDunIt**  
Wednesday WhoDunIt will resume after the holidays. Put a new mystery title on your Christmas wish list!

**Family Story Time**  
Family Story Time will resume after the holidays.

Reminder: We are unable to collect soft plastics at this time. Also, we regretfully cannot accept book donations right now. We apologize for the inconvenience. We ask that you refrain from depositing your plastics and book donations unattended. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Tired of shoveling snow? Enjoy maintenance free living in this move in ready condo!  
Listed at \$116,900

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doug@dougweber.net | 1688 Brandywine Lane, Dixon, IL | www.dougweber.net

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

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Hopefully Open JAN 4, 2021  
**Cod, Catfish, Shrimp or Chicken**  
**Friday's - Carry out available**

Check Facebook page for full menu  
and daily specials.

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**J&J Gaming**

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Wednesday and Friday 3-7 pm

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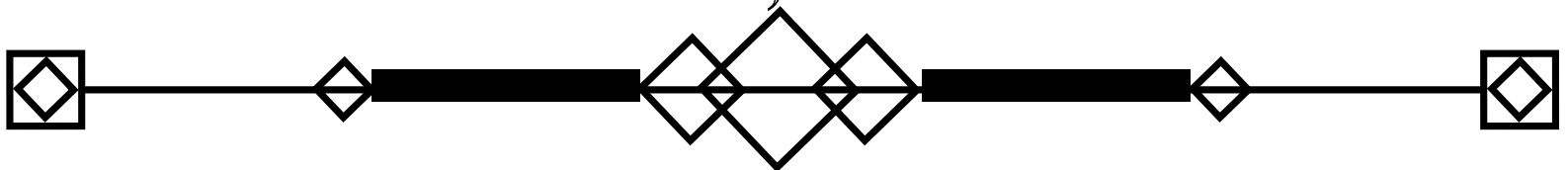
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# DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

## Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

**A.A. Hotline** 800-452-7990  
**Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.**  
**Oregon** 732-3157  
**Rochelle** 562-3801

## Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

**HOPE of Ogle County** 562-8890 or 732-7796  
**Counseling Services, Court Advocacy, Latina Advocacy, and Shelter programs**

## Education

**University of Illinois Extension-Ogle County**  
**421 W Pines Rd, Oregon 61061** 732-2191

## Low Income Housing

**Ogle County Housing Authority**  
**200 W Washington, Oregon** 732-1301

## Mental Health

**Family Counseling Services** 962-5585  
**Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.**  
**Oregon** 732-3157  
**Rochelle** 562-3801  
**The Serenity Shed Grief Services** 732-2499

## Senior Citizens Services

**Hub City Senior Center** 562-5050  
**Mt Morris Senior Center** 734-6335  
**Polo Senior Center** 946-3818  
**Rock River Center** 732-3252  
**Oregon, IL** 800-541-5479  
**Visiting Nurses Assoc.** 971-3755  
**4223 E State, Rockford**

## Sexual Assault/Abuse

**Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling**  
**24-hour hotline** 636-9811  
**412 W Washington, Oregon** 732-0000

## Therapeutic & Recreational Horseback Riding

**Pegasus Special Riders** 973-3177

## Veterans' Services

**Rock River Center** 732-3252  
**Serenity Hospice and Home** 732-2499  
**Veterans Assistance Commission of Ogle Co.** 255-9181  
**Medical Transportation** 677-6515

## Wellness Services

**Ogle County Health Dept**  
**907 Pines Rd, Oregon** 562-6976  
**510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle** 562-6976  
**Serenity Hospice and Home** 732-2499  
**Visiting Nurses Association** 971-3755  
**4223 E State, Rockford**

# Oregon Library News

### **Holiday library hours**

The Oregon Public Library will be closed, Christmas Eve 12/24, Christmas Day 12/25, New Year's Eve 12/31, New Year's Day 1/1. Have a safe holiday and keep reading!

### **New library procedures**

Oregon Public Library has shifted to touch free services due to the Tier 3 mitigations. We will only be offering curbside pick up and appointments for computer use, printing or faxing. If you are interested in curbside pick up or a computer reservation please call 815-732-2724. Holds can be placed three different way:

Online through the catalog: <http://search.prairiecat.info/iii/encore/?lang=eng>

Over the phone with Library staff at 815-732-2724,

or through our NEW mobile App - PrairieCat Mobile.

Log into your library account with your library card number and PIN (last four digits of the library card number).

Once your requested items are available for pick up you will receive the automated notification from PrairieCat. Please call us at (815)732-2724 after you receive this notice to schedule your curbside pick up.

Remember to check our Facebook posts or the local papers for new releases! You can also talk to the librarians for book recommendations and to place items on hold!

### **Book bundles at the library**

Don't know what to read or check out for curbside?! Look no further! We have librarian created book bundles! Each bundle has 3-4 books, we have bundles of mysteries, holiday books, fiction, non fiction, assorted and even a trilogy from a local author!

### **Zoom story time and video story time**

We'll be taking a break for the rest of December but looking forward to seeing you in 2021!

### **Paint your New Year's Eve glass**

Make and Take Kits Available – Dec. 28  
 Pick up your FREE kit to paint your wine glass and toast the New Year in style. Kits include wine glass, two paint markers, and stencils. Instructional video available on our website. Registration for kits required, 815-732-2724.

MUST be Oregon Public Library District Patron.

### **Library book clubs**

**The Afternoon Book Club** meets Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 12:30 p.m. to discuss *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes. **Books on Tap Book Club** meets on Thursday, Jan. 28 at 6 p.m. to discuss *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate.

### **Maker Monday's – Take and Make Kits**

Registration required 815-732-2724. Ages 18 and up.

One Monday a month, the Library will provide a take and make kit. The class will be held at 10:30 a.m. on a Monday, and will be recorded for use at any time if you are unable to attend the live virtual class. Please register 815-732-2724.

### **Take it Tuesday during COVID**

Craft kits will be available for pick up on 4th Tuesday of the month. Kits vary and are first come, first serve.

### **New Library APP!**

You can now check your library account, search for items, place holds, see library events all from your mobile device! Download the PrairieCat Mobile app today! Search for PrairieCat Mobile on your device's app store, connect with your Oregon Public Library card and you are all set!

Friends of the Library grab bag book sale

Friends Annual Book Sale... The Grab Bag Book Sale continues! This is an ongoing sale and the bags are in the library labeled by genre. You can purchase a bag for \$5. There are approximately 8-10 books in each bag. Don't miss out on this awesome deal! Please call the Library at 815-732-2724 if you have any questions.

### **Oregon Public Library StoryWalk®**

The Oregon Public Library StoryWalk® at Oregon Park West is now open! StoryWalk® was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT in 2007, and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library. Thank you to the Etnyre Foundation and the Oregon Park District for helping the Oregon Public Library present this unique reading experience. The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka begins on the path at the main parking lot.

### **Two new online resources!**

#### **Brainfuse and Scholastic teachables**

Brainfuse HelpNow offers a personalized homework help in core subjects (math, reading, writing, science and social studies) including SAT preparation. The Adult Learning Center is included in the HelpNow suite. Brainfuse is available to all library patrons from the public computers at the library or from any computer with internet connection simply by going to the Oregon Public Library website and logging in with your library card.

Scholastic Teachables provides educator-created & expert-vetted teaching materials. Unlimited online access to the best classroom-tested printables. It has a wide variety of free printable worksheets for grade Pre-K through 8 that span over many different skills! Go to the Library website and log in with your library card number.

### **New releases**

*Piece Of My Heart* by Mary Higgins Clark (Mystery)

*Ready Player Two* by Ernest Cline (Science Fiction)

*Dark Tides* by Philippa Gregory (Fiction)

*War Lord* by Bernard Cornwell (Fiction)

*The Awakening* by Nora Roberts (Fiction)

*Moonflower Murders* by Anthony Horowitz (Mystery)

*Prime Deceptions* by Valerie Valdes (Science Fiction)

*The Worst Of All Possible Worlds* by Alex White (Science Fiction)

*Silver Creek Fire* by Lindsay McKenna (Paperback Romance)

*The Truth About Dukes* by Grace Burrows (Paperback Romance)

*Made In Italy* (Rated R)

*Love In Winterland* (Rated G)

*One Winter Weekend + One Winter Proposal* (Rated G)

# Julia Hull Library News

## Library Services

Due to Statewide COVID-19 mitigations, the library has suspended all in-person services, until further notice. Curbside pickup, remote services, and online programming will proceed as normal: Monday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. What does this look like? Patrons may still reserve program kits and materials online or by telephone to collect curbside; register and renew library cards via email; and email and drop-off documents for copying, faxing, and scanning. Patrons may also contact library staff to personally shop for them. System-wide interlibrary loan is still available. And, as always, digital materials can be accessed 24/7 on our website. For assistance, please give us a call: 815-645-8611.

## PrairieCat Library App

Introducing the PrairieCat app! Manage your library account, search our catalog, discover upcoming programs, and more...all from the palm of your hand! Just visit your favorite app store, search for "PrairieCat," then select "Julia Hull District Library."

## A Song & A Story

Join us for a virtual thematic song, story, and craft on Facebook Live. It's the perfect light and refreshing delight for your little one. Call the library to schedule a curbside pickup for the weekly craft, or use the form on our website: <https://juliahull.org/curbside-pickup-request>. December kits now available. While supplies

last.

## 2021 Adult Winter Reading Challenge

Read books, and complete fun challenges and activities for a chance to win prizes! Use the Beanstack App to register and track your reading and badge progress. Prefer paper and pen? No problem. Ask us for a paper review form. Drawings held weekly. Complete 10 review forms, or earn 10 badges by Feb. 28, and be entered to win our Grand Prize: a gift certificate to Lino's Pizza in Rockford! January 2-February 28. Pre-registration available now through the Beanstack app.

## Holiday Closures

The Library will be closed the following dates for the Christmas and New Year's Holiday season: Dec. 24-Dec. 26; and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

## Tween Scene: Photo Transfer Art

This January, we're creating some photo art! What photo will you choose? Your family? Your favorite pet? Bestie or favorite superhero? You choose! Email Ms. Zoey at [zferrari@mail.meridian223.org](mailto:zferrari@mail.meridian223.org) to register and send her a jpeg of your choice! You can pick up the craft kit at the library (with your included photo) once it's ready! Ages 10-12. Registration Required.

## Adult Book Club: The Sacrament

Pick up a book, then join us on Zoom for a lively discussion of Olaf Olafsson's unforgettable novel, *The Sacrament*. Adults only. Copies



Participants had lots of hands-on fun at Julia Hull District Library's seasonally-inspired Modern Farmhouse Wreath program on Zoom with Joanna. Thanks to the participants who shared their final projects seen here. (Stillman Valley)

of the reading available for curbside pickup. Email Joanna at [jkuever@mail.meridian223.org](mailto:jkuever@mail.meridian223.org) to register for a link to the program.

## Teen DIY: Hot Cocoa Mug Cakes

Hey teens, come cozy up

and beat the winter chill. Join Kelly on Zoom to learn how to take your love of hot cocoa to the next level. We'll take the classic winter staple and transform it into a mug cake, all without even turning on an oven! Email Kelly at [khaas@mail.meridian223.org](mailto:khaas@mail.meridian223.org).

org, call the library, or use our pickup-request to request a to-go kit and link to the class. Ages 13-17.

**Happy Holidays!**  
**RERUNS**

120 W 2nd St, Byron, IL • (815) 406-8060  
We will be closed  
Dec 24th - Dec 26th, Dec 31st, and Jan 1st, 11302020

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Thanks for making 2020 so much fun for us. We look forward to taking care of you in the New Year. Merry Christmas & Best Wishes!



**Blake Automotive**  
Matt Freeze - Owner  
3678 W. Rt. 64, Mt. Morris  
815-734-7228 12142020

# Forreston Library News

## Santa StoryTime & Craft

Santa's first book reading is now posted on our Facebook page. Stop in the library to pick up a craft that ties in with the story before you enjoy the video with your favorite little person. Santa's reading of "The Night Before Christmas" will be posted the week of Dec. 21. Also, congratulations to our Christmas in the Country door prize winners: Lee Hammil, Liam Levan, and Collin Mealing.

## Hat and Mitten Tree

We are accepting donations of hats and mittens through Monday, Dec. 21. All items will be given to New Life Community Center for local distribution.

## Library Hours

The library is open with the following hours: Monday 10 am-1 p.m., 2-7 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 2-6 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon. We are closed on Friday and Sunday. Masks are required for everyone over the age of 2 and children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a responsible party. Curbside pickup is still available for anyone who wishes to use it.

## Holiday Closing

The library will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24 for Christmas Eve and Friday, Dec. 25 for Christmas. We will reopen Saturday, Dec. 26 at 9 a.m. Merry Christmas!

# Mount Morris Library

## Holiday Closures

Mount Morris Public Library will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24 through Saturday, Dec. 26 for Christmas and Thursday, Dec. 31 and Friday, Jan. 1 for New Years.

**eRead Illinois Axis 360 K-12 Collection Increase**  
RAILS received a grant of \$125,000 through the Illinois Office of the Secretary of State as part of the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act). The COVID-19 pandemic has created an urgent need for reading materials that can be accessed remotely by school-aged students. RAILS will use the grant funds to purchase e-books and audiobooks for K-12 users of the eRead Illinois Axis 360 shared collection. Be watching for an increased number of items to be available as they add to the collection! [You get automatic access to Axis 360 with your library card, if you need more information, please contact the library at 815-734-4927.]

## To-Go Craft Kits for All Ages

We have the following to-go craft kits available while supplies last: Kids: Bead Ornaments; Teens: Book Page Ornament; Adults: Red Napkin Poinsettia. Call the library (815-734-4927) or email dawn.mtmorrislib@gmail.com to get yours!

## FREE Library Cards for ALL OCUSD 220 Students

Mount Morris Public Library and Oregon Public Library, in conjunction with OCUSD 220, are partnering for a pilot program where ALL students qualify for a FREE library card! Information and forms will be sent home from the school. Contact the library (815-734-4927) for more information.

## Virtual Storytime & To-Go Kits

Virtual Storytime will be at 11:15am via Facebook Live every Wednesday. Weekly Storytime themed kits will be available and will include things like a craft, a letter book, stickers and tracing

page. Call the library (815-734-4927) or email dawn.mtmorrislib@gmail.com to get yours!

## Family Storytime {In-person}

In-person family storytime is available on Fridays by appointment and for one family at a time. It will last approximately 30 minutes and will include books, rhymes and a craft. Masks will be required for ages 3 and up and you will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entry to the library. Call the library (815-734-4927) or email dawn.mtmorrislib@gmail.com to register.

## Browsing & Computer Use By Appointment

We are open for browsing and computer use by appointment; call the library to schedule a time. Masks are required and you will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entering the library. No unaccompanied children are allowed in the library at this time (please do not bring your children if you will be using the computer). Browsing is limited to 30 minutes and computer use to one hour.

## Curbside Pickup, Interlibrary Loans, Library Cards

Curbside Service and Interlibrary Loans are available during regular business hours. Mt. Morris Patrons can place holds through the catalog, by calling or emailing. Library staff is quarantining all returned items for a period of time. Recently returned materials may remain on your account longer than usual. No overdue fines will be charged. New library cards: Patrons can call or email the library to set up an appointment to renew or receive new library cards. Please bring a photo id and a second form of id with current address. Contact the library at 815-734-4927 or mmlib@mtmorris-il.org.

## Open Trustee Positions

We have two Trustee positions expiring. If you are interested in being in the Spring elections, packets are available for pickup from Village Hall.

## The 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients: YMCA/Rochelle Childcare Center, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.



**OUR CHARITIES NEED OUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

For Just \$20 you have a chance to be one of **365 DAILY WINNERS TOTAL CASH PRIZES \$18,250** PLUS Each Calendar Has VALUABLE LOCAL COUPONS

## Here are 3 Ways to Purchase Your 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

- **ONLINE:** Go to <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org> and click on **PURCHASE CALENDARS**. Once the calendar is purchased we will mail it out to you! Shipping and processing fees will be added to cost.
- **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:  
In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest  
In Oregon at: Merlin's  
In Dixon at: Shining Star  
In Amboy at: Amboy News Office
- **BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

**YES! Send me my 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar!**  
(Please Print)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CALENDARS: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail this form along with \$22 (\$20 per calendar plus \$2 per calendar postage) to:  
**Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068**

## Welcome Back The Rink!

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Get two admissions for the price of one, any Saturday or Sunday afternoon 1-4pm session.



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Must present coupon. Not valid with any other coupon or offer. Exp. 12/30/20

Deadlines for editorial content the weeks of Dec. 21 and 28 is 3 p.m. Monday.

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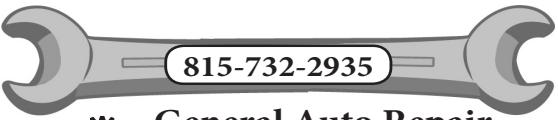

## Auto



**Hank's Repair**  
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 ASE Certified  
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 54 Stephenson St.  
 German Valley, IL 61039  
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 Fax ph. 815-362-2316

Bus. ph. 815-362-3451

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 1100A Bennett Dr. - Oregon, IL  
  
**815-732-2935**  
  
**General Auto Repair**  
**Computer Diagnosis**  
 Ryan O'Rourke Lloyd Duncan

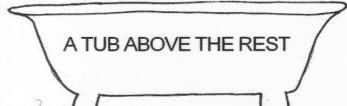
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**ILLINOIS AUTO REPAIR & TIRE**  
  
**Tony Kurzac**  
 107 E. Washington St.  
 Route 64  
 Oregon, IL 61061  
 815-312-7089  
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 All Makes & Models  
 Cars/Truck Service  
 Lowest Price Around  
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**Grant Sketo**  
 Owner  
**89C S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL**  
**815-732-6016**  

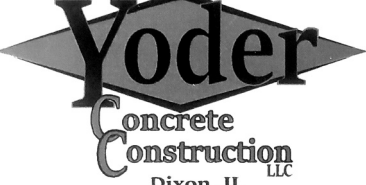

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# Byron Library News

## Holiday Hours

The Byron Public Library will be closed December 24 and 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. The Byron Public Library will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 31 and closed on Jan. 1, 2021 for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. We wish all of our patrons a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!

## Return to Curbside Only

Due to Covid-19 mitigations, book browsing will no longer be available at the Byron Library until further notice. Library staff will be available by email and telephone to answer questions or help you choose items to place on hold for curbside pickup. Virtual programming will continue, and supply kits can be picked up curbside. Our hours will remain the same and the book drop is always open. If you wish to use the computers, please call ahead to make an appointment. In addition, we can provide notary services and help with your printing or faxing needs. For more information, make sure you visit our Facebook page and check out our website at byronlibrary.org for our wide array of online services and for our calendar of events.

## Curbside Delivery

Curbside service is here to stay! 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. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

## Check out our eBooks!

While we can pull books for you to deliver curbside, our digital books are available 24/7! Check out Hoopla, Libby, Axis 360 and Biblioboard for free with your library card at <http://byron.lib.il.us/resources/>.

## Share Your Story

Monday, Dec. 21

11 a.m.-noon, via Zoom

Seniors are encouraged to join Beth as she provides monthly journal prompts. Reflect on and record your memories for future generations. There will be a designated time for seniors to share their stories with the group, if interested. A journal will be provided to each registrant and will be available for pick up at the library any time after Friday, Dec. 18. Please visit [Byron.evanced.info/signup](http://Byron.evanced.info/signup) or call 815-234-5107 to register. Zoom meeting ID will be emailed to registrants.

## Choose a Word for 2021

Tuesday, Dec. 29

6-7 p.m., via Zoom

Instead of a New Year's Resolution try something new: choose a word to focus on in 2021. Choosing a word with intention can encourage you to discover a life goal and give you direction. Join Beth as you ponder questions to encourage you in choosing your word. After discovering your word, you will create a visual reminder. A list of potential words will be provided. Please visit [Byron.evanced.info/signup](http://Byron.evanced.info/signup) or call 815-234-5107 to register. Zoom meeting ID will be emailed to registrants.



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# Polo Library News

## Polo Public Library is Open for Curbside Pickup

Mondays – 2-6 p.m., Tuesdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesdays 2-6 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Step 1 - Log in to your PrairieCat/Encore account and request items for pickup. You can also call 815-946-2713 or email library@pololibrary.org at least one business day in advance of preferred pickup day with a list of items you would like to check out. Need a suggestion? Library staff are happy to select several books for you to try.

Step 2 - Call 815-946-2713 to schedule a date and time for your contactless pickup. Please remain in your car and allow library staff to place your items in your trunk or back seat.

Step 3 - Drop items off as you are finished with them. Our book drop, located to the left of the Congress Street door, will continue to be open 24/7. As always, Polo Library is a Fine Free Library.

## Additional Curbside Services

We are still offering copy/print (.25/Black and White .50/Color) and fax (\$1/page). We also offer home delivery at no extra charge for patrons who are unable to use curbside pickup. Please call 815-946-2713 for more information and to schedule an appointment or home delivery.

## \*New date\* Holiday No-Bake - Wednesday, Dec. 23, 10 a.m. On Facebook.com/pololibrary

Ms. Melanie shares a no-bake snack for kids (recommended K-5rd Grade) to make for the holidays! This video will air on Wednesday the 16th, but will stay available to watch on Polo Library's Facebook page.

## Winter Reading Programs, all ages – Jan. 4-Feb. 28

This winter, travel through reading! There is a "Passport to Reading" program, recommended for kids and stu-

dents ages 0 - 6th Grade, or the "Travel the World through Reading" program for everyone else, 7th grade and up! For more information about the programs and to register, visit pololibrary.readsquared.com. If you have any questions, or are unable to register online, call 815-946-2713.

## Book Subscription Box – Grades 6-12

The book subscription box contains one book to read and some goodies. You pick the genre, we supply the book! Email library@pololibrary.org and ask for a Book Subscription Box form, fill it out, and we'll call you to set up a pickup time when your box is ready! Read the book while you enjoy some treats, then return the book in the book drop.

## Yoga on Facebook – Third Monday of the Month, 6 p.m., Facebook.com/pololibrary

Just because we're taking a break from doing yoga together doesn't mean your yoga practice needs to suffer! On the third Monday of every month at 6pm on facebook.com/pololibrary we will post a yoga video to get you stretching and moving.

## Virtual Storytime – Saturdays 10:30 a.m., Facebook.com/pololibrary

Every Saturday morning head over to Polo Library's Facebook page to watch Ms. Melanie read a children's story. They air each Saturday at 10:30 a.m., but you can watch them any time! Stop by the Library to pick up a bag with a fun craft to go along with the book that was read. If you have a book you'd like to hear read for Saturday Storytime, email Ms. Melanie at melaniew@pololibrary.org

## Pinterest Party at Home

Check out the Library's Facebook page (Facebook.com/pololibrary), or email library@pololibrary.org, for

instructions to make this month's craft.

## Book Clubs

Polo Library currently has two traditional book clubs meeting via Zoom, one on the fourth Monday of each month and one on the fourth Friday of each month, both at 1:30 p.m. In January, we will be starting a third book club that will be a books to movies group that will meet on Zoom on a weekday evening (exact day and time to be decided by people interested in joining the book club). If you have any questions or are interested in joining any of the book clubs, please email carlap@pololibrary.org.

## Biblioboard - eBooks available to anyone in Illinois, with or without a Library Card!

Everyone in Illinois now has access to thousands of e-books and more, without the need of a library card. Public libraries statewide offer free e-books for the over 12 million Illinois residents and anyone else in the state, through a partnership between the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) and BiblioLabs. The e-book service, called BiblioBoard, has nearly 40,000 items available at any time to anyone in the state, and the items are always available. Potential users of BiblioBoard have easy access to available content through links on libraries' websites, or by going to illinois.biblioboard.com. Content includes local community histories, self-help resources, cookbooks, classics with beautifully reimagined covers, kids' books, community collections by RAILS libraries, books on equity, diversity, and inclusion, graphic novels, and much more.

## A Note on Donations

Due to the need to quarantine items before they can be checked in and put back in their place, we regretfully do not have the space to receive donated items at this time.

# Is your Holiday Shopping Stressful?



## Shop our Local Unique Boutique

Raku Potteryworks

O My! Goat's Milk Soap

Vesl CBD - Purses - Jewelry

Scarves - CC Hats - Candles

Masks, holders & much more!



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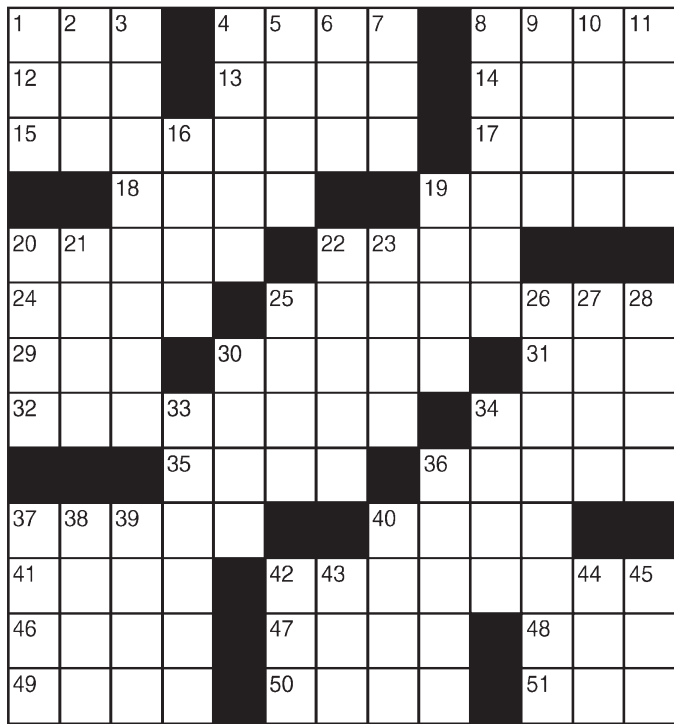
\*\*Does not include cost of material. Expires 12/31/20. †All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$25 gift card. Retail value is \$25. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail or e-mailed within 30 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Lowe's and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Expires 12/31/20.

# Weekly Brain Busters

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Doctrine
- 4 Commotions
- 8 Mid-May honorees
- 12 Cattle call
- 13 "Arrivederci"
- 14 "So be it"
- 15 Wordplay specialists
- 17 Hindu royal
- 18 Locate
- 19 Piece of cheesecake?
- 20 Subsequently
- 22 Reedy
- 24 Concoct
- 25 Good news for bargain hunters
- 29 Bard's "always"
- 30 Unrefined
- 31 Id counterpart
- 32 Ruins
- 34 Touch
- 35 Cincinnati team
- 36 Gets up
- 37 — Valley (California ski resort)
- 40 Family member
- 41 Cather's "One of —"
- 42 Expensive seafood
- 46 Platter



- 47 Between jobs
- 48 Carnival city
- 49 Remain
- 50 Ball-bearing items
- 51 Agent
- 7 "Mayday!"
- 8 Leatherneck
- 9 Mideast nation
- 10 Options list
- 11 Use scissors
- 16 Gush forth
- 19 Snapshots
- 20 Sleeping, perhaps
- 21 Release
- 22 Cafeteria stack
- 23 Greet the villain
- 25 Motivate
- 26 "— Dictionary"
- 27 Chills and fever
- 28 Deteriorates
- 30 Staff
- 33 In poor taste
- 34 "— She Sweet?"
- 36 Strategic tricks
- 37 Turfs
- 38 Resign
- 39 — Major
- 40 Competent
- 42 Illuminated
- 43 Rhyming tribute
- 44 Tear
- 45 Tofu base

### DOWN

- 1 Mischievous tyke
- 2 Old French coin
- 3 2001 movie, "—, Inc."
- 4 Thespian
- 5 Regimen
- 6 Scull tool

## MAGIC MAZE ● WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE — ?

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

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

- |             |              |        |             |
|-------------|--------------|--------|-------------|
| Airline     | Dessert      | Movie  | Sports team |
| Car brand   | Holiday      | Pet    | U.S. city   |
| Coffee shop | Kind of book | Season | Website     |
| Color       | Magazine     | Song   |             |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

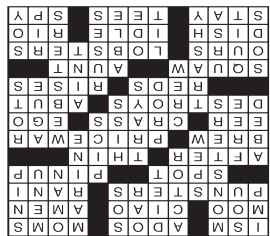
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



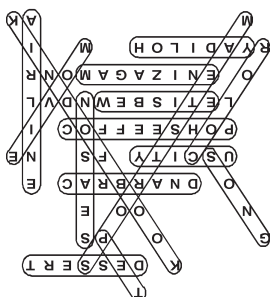
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Santa's boots are black. 2. Building is shorter. 3. Brick pattern is different. 4. Car wheel is black. 5. Boy's coat has pocket. 6. Santa's beard is longer.



Solution time: 27 mins.  
 Answers



WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE — ?

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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# Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

## CODED RIDDLE

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

XIBU EP ZPV HFU XIFO ZPV DSPTT

DISJTUNBT FWF XJUI UJFE-VQ SPQF?

UIF LOPU CFGPSF DISJTUNBT.

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# Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                       |               |                |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Pulsation          | ___ _ _ _ B   | Toss           | ___ _ _ _ W   |
| 2. Garment pouch      | ___ O ___ _ _ | Fence style    | ___ I ___ _ _ |
| 3. Brood of puppies   | ___ I ___ _ _ | Last mentioned | ___ A ___ _ _ |
| 4. Two scores         | ___ _ _ _ Y   | Talent         | ___ _ _ _ E   |
| 5. 90 degree angle    | R ___ _ _ _   | Power          | M ___ _ _ _   |
| 6. Infer              | ___ _ _ _ _ E | Subtract       | ___ _ _ _ _ T |
| 7. Skin               | ___ L ___ _ _ | Just picked    | ___ R ___ _ _ |
| 8. Like an empty page | ___ _ A ___ _ | Eye movement   | ___ _ I ___ _ |
| 9. Center             | M ___ _ _ _   | Enigma         | R ___ _ _ _   |
| 10. Collision         | ___ _ A ___ _ | Infatuation    | ___ _ U ___ _ |

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## HOCUS-FOCUS

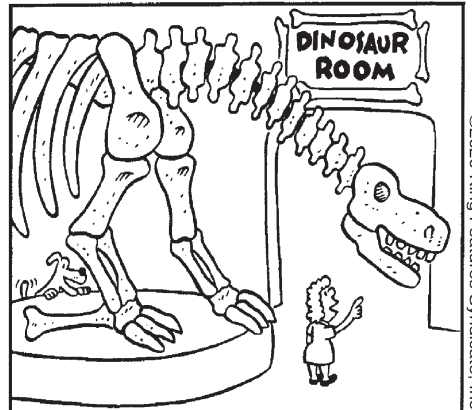
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Santa's boots are black. 2. Building is shorter. 3. Brick pattern is different. 4. Car wheel is black. 5. Boy's coat has pocket. 6. Santa's beard is longer.

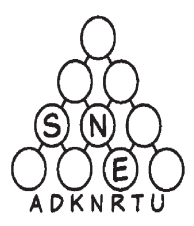


**A BONEYARD BAFFLER!** Sally loves to count the number of bones in the dinosaur room. See it you can dig up the same number as she did.

Answer: Not counting the teeth, Sally found 38 bones.

**A SEATTLE SPRITZER!**  
 What word, in an Oxford English Dictionary, do people in Seattle always pronounce incorrectly?  
 Answer: That word would be ... "Incorrectly."

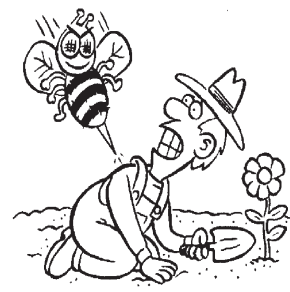
**CHAIN REACTION!** Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: dust, dusk, dunk, dune, dank, Dane, dare, darn.

# Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

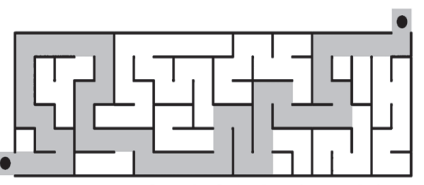


## YELLOW JACKET JOUSTING!

Can you identify the "stinging" words asked for in the following questions? (all of the words end in "sting.")

1. What sting has excessive pride?
2. What sting cures hunger?
3. What sting writes for someone else?
4. What sting is found in bakeries?
5. What sting is found in theaters?
6. What sting is found in schools?
7. What sting makes you laugh?
8. What sting leaves you hungry?
9. What sting do farmers love?
10. What sting changes bread?
11. What sting cleans your room?
12. What sting ruins old boats?

Answers: 1. Boasting. 2. Feasting. 3. Ghosting. 4. Frosting. 5. Casting. 6. Testing. 7. Jestng. 8. Fasting. 9. Harvesting. 10. Toasting. 11. Dusting. 12. Rusting.



Kids' Maze Solution

**Even Exchange**  
 ANSWERS

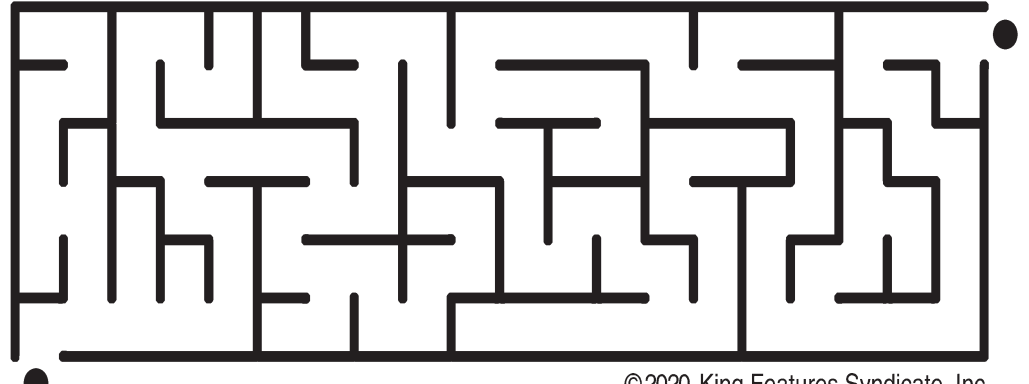
1. Throb, Throw
2. Pocket, Picket
3. Litter, Latter
4. Forty, Forte
5. Right, Might
6. Deduce, Deduct
7. Flesh, Fresh
8. Blank, Blink
9. Middle, Riddle
10. Crash, Crush

What do you get when you cross Christmas Eve with tied-up rope?  
 The Knot Before Christmas.

## Puzzles4Kids

Answer

# Kids' Maze



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**VILLAGE OF STILLMAN VALLEY**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Village of Stillman Valley is considering the use of tax increment financing (as provided in the Illinois Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act, 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-1 et seq.) and the adoption of the Tax Increment Financing District Eligibility Study and Redevelopment Plan and Project for the IL-72 and Stillman Road Redevelopment Project Area in order to cause economic and physical development in this portion of the Village.

A public hearing will be held on these matters on January 11, 2021, at 6:00 PM, at the Stillman Valley Fire Department, 200 S. Rural Road, Stillman Valley, Illinois. By law, the Village is required to provide this Notice by certified mail to property owners in the proposed redevelopment area at least ten (10) days in advance of the public hearing.

This Notice also includes the following information:

1. In order to implement tax increment financing, a redevelopment plan must be adopted. The name of the proposed redevelopment plan is the Tax Increment Financing District Eligibility Study and Redevelopment Plan and Project for the IL-72 and Stillman Road Redevelopment Project Area, Stillman Valley, Illinois. 2. The geographical boundaries of the proposed redevelopment area, the IL-72 and Stillman Road Redevelopment Project Area ("Area"), are given by legal description, as follows:

Part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 1, Southwest Quarter of Section 1, Northeast Quarter of Section 2, and part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 2, all in Township 24 North, Range 11 East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, described

as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the east right of way line of Maple Street and the south right of way line of Roosevelt Street (IL Route 72); thence West on said south right of way line of Roosevelt Street, to the east line of an alley in Block 12 of Joshua White's First Addition; thence South on said east line of the alley and its southerly extension, to the south right of way line of Wilson Street; thence West on said south right of way line of Wilson Street, to the east right of way line of Pine Street; thence South on the east right of way of Pine Street to a point 231.08 feet north of the north right of way line of Pershing

Street; thence West, to the northeast corner of Lot 1 in Johnson's Subdivision; thence northwesterly on the north line of said Lot 1, to the east line of an alley in said Johnson's Subdivision; thence South on the east line of said alley, to its intersection with the easterly projection of a line being 21.31 feet north of and parallel with the north line of Lot 2 in Johnson's Second Addition; thence West on said line being 21.31 feet north of and parallel with the north line of said Lot 2, to the east right of way line of Hickory Street; thence South on said east right of way line to the northwest corner of said Lot 2; thence West to the west right of way line of Hickory Street; thence North on said west right of way line to the south line of West Lincoln Street; thence Northwesterly 2 on said south right of way line, to the east right of way line of South Oak Street; thence South on said east right of way line to its intersection with the easterly projection of south line of the north half of Lot 26 in Johnson's Fourth Addition; thence West on said north line and its easterly projection, to the east line of Johnson's Fifth Addition; thence South on said east line, to the south line of Lot 18 in said Johnson's Fifth Addition; thence West on said south line of Lot 18 and its westerly projection, to its intersection with the west right of way line of South Rural Road (County Highway 4); thence Northwesterly on said west right of way line, to the northeast corner of Lot 70 in Homestead Subdivision; thence westerly on the north line of said Lot 70 to the southeast corner of Lot 73 of said Homestead Subdivision; thence westerly on the south line of Lot 73 and Lot 72 of said Homestead Subdivision, to the west line of said Lot 72; thence North on the west line of said Lot 72 and its northerly extension to its intersection with the north right of way line of a public highway designated Illinois Route 72; thence Easterly on said north right of way line, to its intersection with the northerly projection of the northerly part of the west line of Tax Parcel 10-02-430-003; thence South to the northeast corner of said Lot 73; thence south on the east line of said Lot 73 and being the west line of said Tax Parcel 10-02-430-003, to the southwest corner of said Tax Parcel; thence Southeasterly on the south line of said Tax Parcel, to said west right of way line of South Rural Road; thence Northwesterly

on said west right of way line, to the north line of said Tax Parcel; thence Northwesterly on said north line to the southwest corner of Tax Parcel 10-02-430-001; thence North on the west line of said Tax Parcel 10-02-430-001 and its northerly extension, to said north right of way line of Roosevelt Street (Illinois Route 72); thence West on said north right of way line, to the west line of Tax Parcel 10-02-426-001; thence North on said north line and its easterly extension, to its intersection with the centerline of North Stillman Road; thence Northwesterly on said centerline, to the south right of way line of the Iowa Chicago and Eastern Railroad; thence Southeasterly on said south right of way line, to the east line of said Southeast Quarter of Section 2; thence North on said east line, to the north right of way line of said Iowa Chicago and Eastern Railroad; thence Northwesterly on said north right of way line, to said centerline of North Stillman Road; thence Northwesterly on said centerline to the north line of Tax Parcel 10-01-153-002; thence Southeasterly along the northerly and easterly lines of said Tax Parcel, to the north line of Tax Parcel 10-01-301-004; thence along the north and east sides of said Tax Parcel, to said north right of way line of the Iowa Chicago and Eastern Railroad; thence Southeasterly on said north right of way line, to the east line of said Section 1; thence South on said east line, to said south right of way line of the Iowa Chicago and Eastern Railroad; thence Northwesterly on said south right of way line, to the east right of way line of Maple Street; thence South on said east right of way line, to the Point of Beginning. The approximate street location and description of the Area is as follows: The north and west boundaries of the RPA are generally coterminous with the north and west boundaries of the Village. The RPA is generally bounded by Maple Street on the East and between Wilson Street and Pershing Street on the South. 3. The proposed redevelopment plan calls for the use of incremental real estate tax revenues, along with any other available legally permitted funds, to finance specific project costs related to the redevelopment of the Area and/or to amortize bond or other obligations in connection therewith. These incremental

revenues are based on the estimated additional real estate taxes to be derived from the current and future development of privately owned buildings and property in the Area. The Area includes 111 tax parcels of land and consists of approximately 96 acres, more or less. The base equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of the properties proposed for the Area for the 2019 tax year (the most recent year in which assessed values and the equalizer were available at the time of creation of the redevelopment plan) is approximately \$3,730,798. Through the use of tax increment financing, the Village anticipates being able to assist in the economic development and physical improvement of the Area. New development is projected for commercial uses (retail/service/office), industrial, residential, public uses (parks and open space, streetscape, utility facilities) and road right-of-way in the Area. The estimated future assessed evaluation of the Area is projected to increase to equal approximately \$14,900,000 over a period of time of up to 23 years, the life of the redevelopment plan. Tax increment proceeds are proposed to be used for several types of eligible activities, including but not limited to the following: public improvements (utilities, streets, parks and open space and public facilities); professional services and administration (including analysis, administration, studies, surveys, legal and marketing services); land assembly (including acquisition, site preparation, demolition and environmental remediation); rehabilitation of existing buildings, fixtures and leasehold improvements; affordable housing construction; interest costs; and other costs authorized by law. The activities will ameliorate various blighting and conservation factors found in the Area, and cause economic development in the Area. The total estimated cost of these activities is \$12,000,000 over the life of the Area. It has been found that it is necessary to adopt the Tax Increment Financing District Eligibility Study and Redevelopment Plan and Project in order to provide financial assistance to induce future development in the Area. Based on criteria set forth in the Illinois Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act, the Area qualifies as a combination "blighted area" for vacant parcels

and "conservation area" for improved parcels per surveys and inspection of the Area carried out by the Village and its consultant, S. B. Friedman & Company. A copy of the Tax Increment Financing District Eligibility Study and Redevelopment Plan and Project for the IL-72 and Stillman Road Redevelopment Project Area is on file and available for inspection at Village Hall, Office of the Clerk, 120 N. Walnut Street, Stillman Valley, Illinois. This document is available for inspection during normal business hours. For appointments, please call the Village Clerk at (815) 645-2200. The general land use plan shown therein does not conflict with the comprehensive plan of the Village. 4. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing. Face masks and social distancing will be required at the public hearing. 5. The adoption of the Tax Increment Financing District Eligibility Study and Redevelopment Plan and Project is not an increase in real estate taxes. We appreciate your response to this Notice and any comments you may have. We believe that the proposed Tax Increment Financing District Eligibility Study and Redevelopment Plan and Project will benefit the Village and the general welfare of its people. No. 1207 (Dec. 14, 21)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Sealed bids will be received by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, Illinois until 2:00 P.M., January 8, 2021, for the purchase of the following new equipment with trade ins:  
1) 3.5 CY Wheel Loader,  
2) 50 hp tractor,  
3) Dump body, wing, snow plow push frame and spreader box for tandem-axle truck. Specifications for the new equipment are available at the Ogle County Highway Department, 1989 South IL Rt. 2, Oregon, IL between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday. The Road and Bridge Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. No. 1208 (Dec. 14, 21 28)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN THE )  
MATTER )2020  
OF THE )  
P90  
ESTATE )

OF )  
GARY O. )  
BOCKER, )  
Deceased. )  
CLAIM NOTICE  
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Gary O. Bocker, late of Pinecrest Nursing Home in Mt. Morris, Ogle County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued to Mark E. Bocker, 10742 Illinois Rt. 64 West, Polo, Illinois 61064, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Gary R. Gehlbach, Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Considine, LLC, 215 E. First Street, P.O. Box 447, Dixon, Illinois 61021. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at 106 S. 5th Street, Suite 300, Oregon, Illinois 61061, or with the representative, or both, on or before the date which is six (6) months after the date of the first publication of this Claim Notice, or, if mailing or delivering of a notice from the representative is required by section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Mark E. Bocker, Independent Executor Gary R. Gehlbach (ARDC No. 3122825) Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Considine, LLC Attorneys for Independent Executor 215 East First Street, Suite 100 P.O. Box 447 Dixon, IL 61021 (815) 288-4949 (815) 288-3068 (FAX) gehlbach@egbclaw.com No. 1206 (Dec. 14, 21, 28)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN this 16th day of December, 2020 that: The City of Byron's Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing Meeting to consider the following:  
The amending of the Byron Municipal Code, Chapter 17, known as the Byron Zoning Ordinance. These zoning ordinance changes are "text" only and do not reflect specifics of the zoning code itself. A copy of the full ordinance with all changes may be viewed at www.cityofbyron.com, or obtained by contacting Building and Zoning Director Larry Hewitt at (815) 234-2762. The public hearing shall be held on the 14th day of January, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held electronically via Zoom. To receive information on how to attend the zoom meeting, contact City Clerk Caryn Huber at (815) 234-2762 or email chuber@es-il.org. CITY OF BYRON, A Municipal Corporation John Rickard, Mayor No. 1217 (Dec. 21)

Not sure  
why business  
is slow?



is not just  
a saying  
in business.

Advertise today  
and let your  
business be in sight  
and in the minds of  
your customers.

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

**Life newspaper carriers wanted in Oregon, Byron & Mt. Morris**

The Ogle County Life is updating its list of individuals interested in a carrier route in Oregon, Byron & Mt. Morris

- Deliver just once per week on Sunday afternoons
- No collecting
- Good extra cash for kids or adults

Anyone 10 years or older who would like to earn some extra money by delivering the Ogle County Life should call 815-732-2156 and leave your name and phone number, and you may be contacted in the future when a route becomes available.

**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**

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**

PART-TIME LPN – CNA – MA – Wanted in Doctor's Office. 815-761-2503. Email jio8082@hotmail.com (01-03-20)

NEWSPAPER CARRIERS Wanted. (Rochelle) Several Routes Open. Call 815-561-2112 For More Information.

Local Trucking Company  
 Seeks experienced Class A-CDL Driver for Full time year round employment hauling grain  
**815-938-3644**  
 Please leave message

**301 ANTIQUES**

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

**301 ANTIQUES**

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**

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$65 for Pick-up Load. Free Delivery Rochelle Area. 815-751-8719. (12-

30-20)

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.

**FREE reading materials! 1000 magazines and novels. Read and pass to neighbors and friends. Call Sally in Oregon at 815-980-8642**

**405 HOUSES FOR SALE**

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

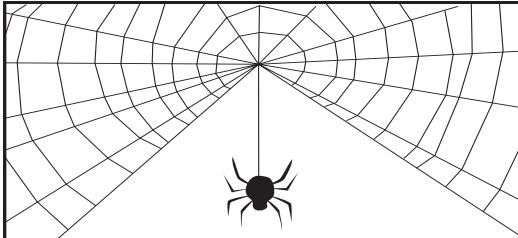
**Home for sale in Byron. 4 bd, 3 bath, all new inside. 3941 E. Whippoorwill Lane. \$249,000.**  
 www.firstchoicereals.com

**103 AUCTIONS**

**ONLINE ONLY AUCTION**  
 Hacksauction.hibid.com  
**Annual New Year's Antique Auction**  
**BIDDING OPENS: Sunday, December 27th @ 8:00 A.M.**  
**Hack's Auction Antique Center**  
**410 W. Third St., Pecatonica, IL 61063**  
**Featuring Americana & Folk Art; Painted Furniture; Advertisement Stoneware; Crocks & Pottery; Farm Primitives; Lighting; Decoys; Native American-Arrow Heads; Brass Blade Fans; Country Store; Cast School House Bell; Clock Collection-German Oak Tall Case & Others; Western Saddles & Bridles; Fairbanks Morse Marine 2-Cylinder & Maytag Gas Engines; Telephones; Airplane Propellers; Arts & Crafts; Antiques & Collectibles; Advertising & Signs; Great Old Petroleum & Oil Can Collection, Over 150 Pieces; Artwork; Knife Collection; Many Other Great Items!**  
**AUCTION PREVIEW: Sun., Dec. 27 & Mon., Dec. 28, 2020 - Noon to 3 P.M.**  
**LOCATION: Hack's Auction Antique Center, 410 W. Third St., Pecatonica IL 61063**  
**BIDDING OPENS: Sun., Dec. 27 @ 8 A.M. CST**  
**BIDDING CLOSES: Sat., Jan. 2, 2021 starting @ 7 P.M. CST**  
**ITEM PICKUP: Tues., Jan. 5 - 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.**  
**LOCATION: Hack's Auction Antique Center**

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

**103 AUCTIONS**



**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."

**AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY**

**Lenny Bryson**  
 Sales Of All Kinds  
**815-946-4120**

**Hack's Auction & Realty Service, Inc.**  
 Auctions – Real Estate Appraisals  
 Online Auctions  
 Now Available  
**Pecatonica, IL**  
**815-239-1436**  
 Hacksauction.com



**501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

1&2-BEDROOM Apartments. Clean, Quiet Available Now. Some Utilities Included. Call For Showing 815-762-6650 or 815-761-3968. (12-20-20)

**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

**OREGON,**  
2BR apt. on site  
laundry, off street  
parking, water/  
trash provided.  
Avl. Dec. 1st.  
\$550 per mo. 1  
mo. Sec. Deposit  
& min. 1 yr. lease.  
815-652-4757

Studio Apt  
in Byron.  
\$430+deposit.  
Call  
815-234-8199.

**511  
STORAGE UNITS**

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

**K&P SELF  
STORAGE**  
1563 Kysor Drive, Byron  
(next to D&W Garage)  
**815-247-8518**  
**OUTSIDE STORAGE  
NOW AVAILABLE**  
Storage Unit Sizes:  
5' x 10' 10' x 10'  
10' x 15' 10' x 20' 10'x30'

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**NEW DISCOVERY  
ELIMINATES COMMON  
SEXUAL PROBLEMS!**  
All Natural Male Enhancement  
Product Increases Staying  
Power, Performance, &  
Pleasure. Risk FREE 60 Day  
Guarantee + FREE SHIPPING.  
15% Discount with  
Coupon perform03.  
Visit: TryProZyte.com

**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** 11222020



**409  
LOTS & ACREAGE**

**LAND FOR SALE**  
3.7 Acres - Corner of Pines & Rt. 2  
Oregon, IL - Zoned Commercial  
\$250,000  
**NEW ACREAGE**  
South Edge of Oregon  
33.7 - Acres South of Railroad and West of Rt. 2.  
33 Acres Tillable-Zoned Industrial  
\$9,500 Per Acre  
45.4 Acres South of Pines Road Between the Railroads.  
19.4 Acres Tillable-Zoned Industrial.  
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Daniel J. Boehle, Managing Broker  
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### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

San Francisco 49ers	at	Arizona Cardinals
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	at	Detroit Lions
Miami Dolphins	at	Las Vegas Raiders

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020

Cleveland Browns	at	New York Jets
Denver Broncos	at	Los Angeles Chargers
New York Giants	at	Baltimore Ravens
Cincinnati Bengals	at	Houston Texans
Chicago Bears	at	Jacksonville Jaguars
Atlanta Falcons	at	Kansas City Chiefs
Indianapolis Colts	at	Pittsburgh Steelers
Carolina Panthers	at	Washington Football Team
Los Angeles Rams	at	Seattle Seahawks
Philadelphia Eagles	at	Dallas Cowboys
Tennessee Titans	at	Green Bay Packers

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

Buffalo Bills	at	New England Patriots
---------------	----	----------------------

#### TIE BREAKER #1

Total Combined Score

Buffalo Bills at New England Patriots

Total Score \_\_\_\_\_

#### TIE BREAKER #2

Total Combined Score

Tennessee Titans at Green Bay Packers

Total Score \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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DROP YOUR ENTRY TO: Ogle County Life Drop Box @ Conover Square Merchant Mall, 201 N 3rd St #236, Oregon, IL 61061  
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# GREETINGS OF HOLIDAY CHEER



The Ogle County Life/Rock Valley Shopper  
Monday, December 21, 2020 • Section C

# Ways to reduce waste this holiday season

The holiday season is a time for families to gather and express their love and appreciation for one another. Exchanging gifts has become a big part of the holiday season, and while such a tradition is well-intentioned, gift-giving annually produces substantial amounts of waste.

Food plays a big role at many holiday celebrations, and uneaten food contributes heavily to the excess waste during the holiday season. Time magazine reports that an estimated 1.3 billion tons of food, or about one-third of global production, is lost or wasted each year. The United States alone wastes 34 million tons of food annually, and a considerable amount of that waste is produced during the holiday season.

Food is not the only thing wasted during the

holiday season. Everything from packaging to gift wrap to the number of gifts purchased can contribute to excess holiday waste.

As big a problem as holiday waste has become, there are several simple ways to reducing holiday waste.

- Make a list and stick to it. Retailers are very good at upselling and getting people to purchase items they do not need during the holiday season. Stick to a shopping list for food or other supplies for the holiday season and beyond. Do not be tempted to buy more than is necessary.

- Scale back the menu. If you typically have lots of leftovers after the holiday, you're likely overestimating just how much people will eat. Learn from past experience and cook less this year. If you have a lot of leftovers,

send guests home with their own plates instead of letting them pile up in the refrigerator and spoiling. And keep in mind that leftover food can always be donated to nearby food banks and homeless shelters.

- Reuse whatever you can. Diligently collect and store holiday wrappings and trimmings that are in good condition and put them to use again and again. Gift bags and boxes are easily reused. Once materials have passed their prime, attempt to repurpose and recycle them before discarding them.

- Compost food scraps. Eggshells, coffee grounds and vegetable peels can be put to use in the garden when composted.

- Give an experience rather than "stuff." When gifting, think about giving experiences rather than traditional gifts. Experiences may

include trips to a museum or tickets to a concert or a play. Such gifts will make for memorable experiences and, because experiences are not packaged, will help cut back on holiday waste.

- Make your own gift tags and wrapping. When wrapping gifts, use comics, maps, old calendars, and items that you would otherwise discard. You even can decorate newsprint with rubber stamps or drawings from the children.

- Purchase a rooted tree. Look for a tree that has the root intact so it can be planted afterward.

- Decorate with items from around the house. Costume jewelry and other trinkets can adorn the limbs of Christmas trees. Look throughout the house to see what you might have that can serve as replacements for heavily packaged, store-bought decorations.



*Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a New Year filled with peace and happiness.*

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*A Very Merry Christmas*

Christmas will soon be here and 2021 will be brighter. As we look back on 2020, we'd like to thank those who put their trust in us.

We look forward to being your partner in healthcare throughout the New Year. Please continue to be safe throughout the holidays and enjoy the simple pleasures of the season. From all of us at Rochelle Community Hospital, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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# Ideas for making holiday memories

Counting down to Christmas Day means many different things to people across the globe. Although families likely have several different traditions they anticipate each year, it can be fun to incorporate some new merrymakers into the festivities. Here are some festive ideas to include in the days leading up to Christmas — a special family calendar of fun finds.

1. Annual memento: Have the kids or adults make one new handmade ornament each year. This way the tree is always evolving, and everyone can track milestones.

2. Cookie day: Devote one day to making Christmas cookies. Invite friends or family members over. Distribute some cookies to elderly neighbors.

3. Holiday classic: Spend a night in and watch a classic Christmas flick you've never seen before. Streaming movie services often put classics and obscure titles into rotation during the holiday season.

4. Christmas concert: Host a gathering of children where they can sing or perform their favorite tunes for an audience. Take it on the road to a nearby nursing home.

5. Dine out: Take a break from cooking, shopping and hosting and stop into a restaurant you've been meaning to try. Keep it local to support nearby businesses.

6. Adopt a child/family: Volunteer with a charitable organization that provides for less fortunate families. Answer the Christmas desires of a needy child or family



by purchasing an item on their wish lists.

7. See the sights: Pack the children into the family car to tour nearby areas and look at Christmas lights displays. Bring along cookies and hot chocolate.

8. Trim a tree: Get together with adult friends at a tree-trimming party. Rotate the hosting house each year.

9. Play dress-up: A gentleman can dress up as the man in red and pop into a friend's holiday

gathering.

10. Wilderness walk: Enjoy the crisp air and snow and see a local park from a winter perspective.

11. Acts of kindness: Choose any act of kindness and make it happen this Christmas. It can include feeding the hungry or helping a disabled person shop for the season.

12. Kids' Secret Santa: Spread the joy of giving by having the kids choose a sibling or friend's name from a hat and purchasing

or making a gift for that person.

13. Hand out hot chocolate: Make a big thermos of hot chocolate and give it out to shoppers or workers who have been out in the cold.

14. Read religious stories: Understand the true meaning of the season by reading Biblical passages.

15. Camp-in: The first night the tree is decorated, allow the kids to sleep beside it under the glow of Christmas lights.

16. Scavenger hunt: Plan holiday-themed trivia questions and hide small trinkets for children to find.

17. Surprise box: Put a gender and age nonspecific gift into a box. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, the person who finds a hidden gift tag under their chair at dinner gets to open the box.

18. Family portrait: Wear your holiday finery and pose for a portrait that actually will be printed and framed.

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Thanks for making 2020 so much fun for us. We look forward to taking care of you in the New Year. Merry Christmas & Best Wishes!

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# Dos and don'ts of holiday safety

It's the most wonderful time of the year, as long as holiday happenings go as planned.

Celebrants can ensure that this joyous time of year is not marred by injury, theft or accidents by always keeping safety in mind.

DO turn off Christmas lights before going to bed or leaving home. Lights left on can overheat and cause fires.

Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in two of every five home Christmas tree fires between 2011 and 2015, according to the National Fire Prevention Association.

DON'T locate a Christmas tree too close to a heating source, fireplace or lit candles, as trees can dry out and ignite.

DO extinguish candles before retiring for the night.

DON'T gift without doing research into whether or not toys are age-appropriate. Pay attention to toy recalls as well.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission provides lists of recalled items.

DO roast rather than fry the holiday turkey. Burns, explosions and carbon monoxide poisoning are some of the dangers associated with turkey fryers. The CPSC, which discourages the use

of fryers, says there have been 168 turkey-fryer related incidents since 2002.

DON'T keep purchases in view of potential thieves. Resist putting presents under the tree until the night before Christmas. Hide large product boxes so they're not visible in the trash or recycling pickups, where thieves might look to see what's inside the house.

DO wait until after your holiday excursion to take to social media about it. Otherwise, you're simply advertising that you are not home and risking a break-in.

DON'T drive distracted or under the influence. This is a busy time of year when more people are out and about, so keep your eyes on the road at all times.

DO keep poisonous plants out of reach of pets and children. These can include Jerusalem cherry, mistletoe berries and holly berries.

DON'T locate breakable ornaments close to the bottom of the tree in reach of young children. Glass can shatter and cause serious injuries.

DO tie the Christmas tree to the car securely after purchasing it to avoid lift-off while taking it home from the lot.



At home, secure the tree to the ceiling or a wall with a piece of invisible fishing line for extra security against tip overs. DON'T underestimate

the things that can and will go wrong when hosting for the holidays. Take a deep breath, assess the situation and stay calm through any hiccups.



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# Baking

## Make some of that gingerbread goodness

Gingerbread is a broad term that can describe anything from a firm and crispy cookie to a moist, soft cake.

Traditionally, gingerbread is seasoned with ginger, cloves, nutmeg, and other aromatic spices. Molasses and brown sugar counteract the spice with sweetness. North Americans have been baking gingerbread in various shapes or forms for more than 200 years, and the recipes even pre-date the American revolution.

However, gingerbread dates back even further to the Shakespearean era, with The Bard having mentioned it in one of his plays. Gingerbread's name can be traced to medieval England and once referred to any kind of preserved ginger. The term went on to reference ginger-flavored cakes in the 15th century, and gingerbread eventually became popular throughout the world.

Even though gingerbread cakes and cookies have been made for centuries, Germans are often credited with creating gingerbread houses, according to Smithsonian. They were probably modeled after the witch's candy cottage in the German fairy tale, "Hansel and Gretel."

Even though gingerbread can be made any time of year, it is particularly associated with the Christmas season, with gingerbread men and other fanciful shapes turning up on cookie platters.



*Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all our families from the Windsor Manor Residents!*

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- Agnes M Pahren*

12/21/2020



## WHAT A YEAR!

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*We wish you and yours a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!*



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# Holiday cookies the family will love

Many people enjoy baking come the holiday season, and perhaps no dish is more synonymous with holiday baking than cookies.

Children leave cookies out for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, while adults may indulge and enjoy an extra cookie or two at family gatherings or holiday office parties.

Cookies come in all shapes and sizes, so bakers have an array of options at their disposal when planning their holiday menus.

Chocolate chip cookies may be among the most popular types of cookies, and bakers who want to capitalize on that popularity while giving loved ones something a little different may want to try the following recipe for "Double Chocolate Chip Cookies" from Maxine Clark's "Chocolate: Deliciously Indulgent Recipes for Chocolate Lovers" (Ryland, Peters & Small).

### Double Chocolate Chip Cookies Makes about 12 large cookies

- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 5 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 5 tablespoons light brown sugar, sifted
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla essence or chocolate extract (see note)
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons self-

- rising flour
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup (or more) dark and white (or milk) chocolate chips (or roughly chopped chocolate)

A heavy, nonstick baking sheet

Preheat the oven to 350 F.

Using an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugars together until pale and fluffy. Beat in the egg and vanilla essence.

Sift the flour with the cocoa and salt in a small bowl. Fold into the egg mixture with the chocolate chips.

Place 4 heaping tablespoonsfuls of the mixture on the prepared baking sheet, spacing them well apart. Press down and spread out to about 1/4-inch thick with the back of a wet spoon or with dampened fingers (you may like to scatter some more chocolate chips over the top). Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. Let cool on the baking sheet for 1 minute, then transfer to a wire rack. When cool, store in an airtight container. Repeat with the remaining mixture.

Note: Chocolate extract is a fat-free flavoring ingredient made from a blend of roasted cacao beans, water and alcohol.



**Happy Holidays**  
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**KSB**



# What are the origins of some of the classic Christmas songs?

Scores of artists have released Christmas albums or holiday-infused singles during their careers. Christmas music can be broken down into two distinct categories: traditional hymns and carols and popular secular songs.

Some believe that the religious standards have been passed down since the earliest days of Christianity. However, that is not so. Before the 12th century, music wasn't typically included in religious services,

and even then music was included only sporadically. In present day, religious tunes identified as Christmas music typically are not sung until Christmas Eve and thereafter until the Epiphany.

Many of the oldest Christmas songs are not old at all. Many popular carols sung today are less than 200 years old. The world's most popular Christmas carol was originally a poem penned in 1816 by Austrian Catholic

priest Josef Mohr. Two years later, Mohr asked Franz Xaver Gruber, an organist and local schoolteacher, to put his words to music. The resulting song, "Silent Night," was not translated into English for 40 years.

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" also originated from a poem and had the original opening line of, "Hark how all the welkin rings." The subsequent version was more catchy, and the faster-paced accompaniment

was courtesy of Felix Mendelssohn, added 100 years after the poem was written.

"Jingle Bells," a nonreligious tune that has become synonymous with Christmas, was not originally written as a Christmas tune. In fact, the song was intended to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Christmas music is diverse, with lively tunes, modern interpretations and religious classics enjoyed through the years.

## GREETINGS OF THE SEASON



Here's hoping a very happy holiday season is in-store for all of our customers. We appreciate your shopping with us.



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# Here are some holiday songs with storied pasts

The holiday season is not complete without music. Holiday hits play in shopping malls, and families often trim the tree to their favorite albums.

Even if Elvis' "Blue Christmas" or Johnny Mathis' "Do You Hear What I Hear" reign supreme in your household, it can be interesting to learn about some of the other songs made famous this time of year.

### Modern classics

Classic carols may be the first Christmas songs that come to mind. However, less than a quarter century ago a pop singer managed to contribute to the holiday music pantheon. Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You," released in 1994, is considered to be the most popular modern Christmas standard. With global sales exceeding 16 million copies, the song is one of Carey's biggest hits.

### Sad Origins

"Santa Claus Is Coming

to Town," with its warning to children to be nice since Santa is keeping tabs on kids' behavior, has helped children tow the line for decades. Songwriter James "Haven" Gillespie was asked to pen the tune during one of the darker times in his life. Gillespie was jobless and poor and his brother had just passed away — hardly inspiration for a Christmas tune. However, after thinking about the memories he shared with his brother, Gillespie was able to pull together an upbeat and catchy classic, changing his life for the good.

### Bestseller

Even though "Silent Night" is the most recorded Christmas song in history, another tune holds the title of the best-selling holiday standard of all time. "White Christmas" was written in 1942 and reminisces about an old-fashioned Christmas celebration. The version recorded by Bing Crosby has estimated sales in excess of 100 million copies world-



wide, according to "The Guinness Book of World Records." There are various accounts as to when and where Irving Berlin wrote the song. Some state he did so at

a hotel in Hollywood, while others say it was the Arizona Biltmore. Wherever Berlin happened to be when writing the tune, there's no doubt he was pining for the quintes-

sential white Christmas.

The song was written for the 1942 movie "Holiday Inn," starring Crosby and Fred Astaire. It became an instant classic and remains

Crosby's best-selling recording. Some of the most recent versions of the song have been recorded by Pentatonix, Sara McLachlan and Laura Pausini.

## Christmas Greetings

A season of warm wishes from our family to yours



Colleen Henkel



Linda Costliow



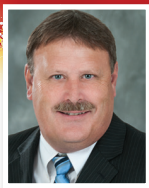
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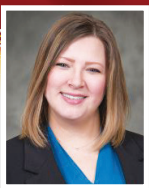
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# Tips to simplify cooking for a crowd this holiday season

Families big and small typically celebrate the holiday season together. For some, celebrating the holidays with family requires traveling, while others stay put and welcome family and friends into their homes.

At some point during the holiday season, celebrants who host family and friends will no doubt prepare a homecooked meal for their loved ones. Cooking for a crowd can seem like a daunting task, especially for first-time hosts. However, there are various ways for hosts to simplify cooking for a crowd this holiday season.

## 1. Prepare a familiar dish.

Hosts may agonize over their holiday menus, and some may feel compelled to prepare a family specialty or the same dishes their parents or grandparents prepared for holiday dinners when they were children. But holiday hosts can make things easy on themselves by choosing dishes they've made in the past, regardless of their place in family history. Chances are the ingredients for hosts' own specialties are already in the pantry, saving a potentially time-consuming trip to the grocery store. And thanks to the familiarity factor, hosts' own specialties likely won't require as much time to prepare.

## 2. Share some cooking duties.

Another way to simplify cooking for a crowd is to invite guests to bring along a side dish or dessert.



Guests who live nearby can make something in advance of the big meal, while hosts can hand over their kitchens to overnight guests who express a willingness to contribute their own homecooked dish to the party. Sharing the cooking duties gives hosts more time to connect with friends and family and serves as a great way to plan

the menu in advance.

## 3. Only make what guests are likely to eat.

Hosts also should not feel pressured to cook more food than is necessary. Holiday meals have a tendency to be lavish, but hosts don't have to spend all day in the kitchen preparing food that will

likely end up as leftovers or trash. Get a final headcount in the days before everyone comes over and adjust your recipes accordingly.

## 4. Start early.

If the big is on Christmas Day, that does not mean hosts have to start cooking while everyone unwraps their presents. Hosts who

are uncertain about what to cook can look for meals that can be prepared in advance so come the big day all they need to do is turn on the oven and let meals cook while the family spends time together.

Hosts can employ various strategies to simplify the process of cooking for a crowd this holiday season.

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# Easy Christmas morning breakfast

Christmas morning is an exciting and joyous time for families. Children are anxious to rush downstairs and see what Santa has left under the tree, and parents are eager to see the looks on youngsters' happy faces.

Having a fast and easy breakfast at the ready on Christmas morning allows families to jump right into the festivities rather than spending too much time in the kitchen.

This recipe for "Spiced Yogurt Muffins," courtesy of the National Dairy Council, Dannon and McCormick, can be made in advance and then enjoyed while peeking into Christmas stockings or watching holiday parades on television. This big-batch recipe is ideal for feeding a houseful of overnight holiday guests. Or it can be prepared in advance and doled out as needed throughout the week. The muffins also can be made as a treat for holiday office luncheons. Cut the recipe in half for smaller yields.

Spiced Yogurt Muffins  
(Yield: 50 servings)

- 6 1/2 cups Dannon plain fat-free Greek yogurt
- 4 cups water, room temperature
- 1 box (5 lbs) Gold Medal® Muffin Mix, Whole Grain Variety
- 3 tablespoons McCormick pumpkin pie spice
- 2 tablespoons McCormick Chipotle cinnamon

Combine yogurt and water in mixing bowl. Whisk until blended. Set aside.

Add spices to dry muffin mix in a large bowl. Add yogurt and water mixture to the muffin mixture. Mix until just blended. Don't overmix.

Using a scoop, portion into greased or lined muffin pans. Bake at 350 F for 24 minutes, or 17 to 20 minutes in a convection oven, until the tops are golden brown.



**Ho-Ho-Hope It's Happy!**

We're all revved up to wish you a merry Christmas powered by faith, family, friendship and joy. Big thanks to all of our valued customers for your trust in us. Merry Christmas!

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*Merry Christmas!*

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## Thanks & Merry Wishes

To our readers and community, we want to express our deep gratitude for your essential support through the events of 2020. We're committed to keeping you connected and informed, and we appreciate your continued trust in us.

*We hope you have a healthy and happy holiday season, and we wish you all the best in the new year!*

*From the staff at the Ogle County Life  
Sonja, April, Brad & Mike*

# The origins of some beloved holiday traditions

Tradition is integral come the holiday season. Throughout the month of December, traditions fill people's days and comprise the many reasons why individuals decorate, celebrate and dine the way they do this time of year. But few may know the origins of some of the most beloved holiday traditions.

### Christmas stockings

The Christmas stockings of today may be a byproduct of various traditions. One such tradition dates back to a Dutch custom in which children would leave shoes full of food to feed St. Nicholas' donkeys, and then St. Nicholas would leave small gifts in return.

Another origin story of Christmas stockings can be traced to the 12th century, when nuns would leave socks full of nuts, fruit and tangerines for the poor. This is why some people still put tangerines in Christmas stockings.

### Christmas tree

Christmas Trees are everywhere this time of year. The use of evergreen trees predates Christmas and is associated with the pagan festival of Saturnalia, which celebrated the agricultural god Saturn with partying and gift-giving. During the winter solstice, green branches served as a reminder that spring would arrive anew. Germans are credited with first bringing evergreens into their homes and decorating them.

### Santa Claus

Santa Claus' origin story can be traced to

St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop who lived during the fourth century. St. Nicholas was very generous and gave away his fortune to help the needy. He also did various other good deeds. St. Nicholas became infamous and began to be known by various names around the world. The Dutch called him Sinter Klaas, which was eventually transformed to Santa Claus. The jolly persona came later when 20th century advertisers — especially the artists responsible for Coca-Cola ads — portrayed Santa in a red suit with a big smile.

### Mistletoe

Mistletoe is hung in doorways, and couples who stand beneath are encouraged to share a kiss. The tradition of hanging it in the house goes back to the times of the ancient Druids. Mistletoe was thought to bring good luck to a household and ward off evil spirits. The custom of kissing under mistletoe can be traced to England. Originally, a berry was picked from the sprig of mistletoe before the person could be kissed. When all the berries had gone, there could be no more kissing.

### Christmas bells

Church bells ring for many special services, including Christmas mass. During Christmas midnight mass in the Catholic Church, the altar bells may be rung while the priest says the "Gloria." Bells are part of caroling, and jingling bells are associated with sleighs and Santa's reindeer.

Christmas is rife with traditions that date back ages.



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As 2020 draws to a close, we are mindful of the hardships and uncertainty this year has brought to each and every one of us. It is during these times that we can share in the comfort of knowing that the true spirit of the season endures and that no matter the distance, relationships & community will always remain significant. With a grateful heart, we extend our best wishes to you and your family and hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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