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Attention readers:

Early deadline next week
Due to the New Year's holiday, the editorial deadline for the Jan. 6 Ogle County Life will be noon on Tuesday, Dec. 31. Please have all items in by that time to be sure they are included in the Jan. 6 newspaper. The deadline for classified advertisements will not change.

MONDAY
Dec. 23, 2019

FREE

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 40



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What's Inside

SEASON'S GREETINGS

You can find plenty of Christmas spirit at the Jourdain residence on Falcon Drive in Byron, where they have a bright, traditional holiday display. For more photos, please see Page A-2.

Looks like Christmas

You can find plenty of Christmas spirit at the Jourdain residence on Falcon Drive in Byron, where they have a bright, traditional holiday display. For more photos, please see Page A-2.

(Photos submitted).



County Board says no to pot Extends solar moratorium

By Brad Jennings
Editor

OREGON—The Ogle County Board has voted to prohibit the sale of recreation marijuana in the county, but that could change.

“We can opt into that at any time,” said County Board Chairman John Finfrock about selling recreation marijuana in the county.

The board voted 18-2 at its Dec. 17 meeting to – for now – not allow the sale or growth of recreational pot in unincorporated areas of the county. Individual municipalities can still approve their own marijuana ordinances.

Finfrock said that the main concern is that the county has not received enough information from the state on how the cannabis operations will work.

“We want a lot more information about it,” he said. “There’s so many things up in the air that we’re not sure of.”

One of those things is taxes, and what the real tax dollars flowing into the county from recreational marijuana sales would look like.

“Frankly, we don’t know,” Finfrock said.

The county first discussed recreation marijuana at its Aug. 20 meeting, when Kim Gouker was still chairman of the board.

Gouker died in September.

At the time, Gouker said he felt personally that the county should opt out, but that more information was needed.

(See COUNTY, A-2)

Obituaries
A 3, 4

Today's Inserts

- Byron County Market
- Oregon Super Valu
- Menards
- Sullivans
- Snyder Pharmacy
- Felker Foods
- Polo Fresh Food
- Family Dollar
- Stock & Field
- Farm & Fleet

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Ogle County teams with FFA chapter for Christmas tree recycling

The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will once again partner with units of local government and certain high school Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters to conduct the annual Christmas tree collection and recycling program.

Since the program began in 1999, there have been over 15,000 trees collected, with trees averaging around 50 pounds each, that equates to approximately 375 tons of trees which were all turned into usable mulch.

Starting on Dec. 26, the cities and villages that will have drop-off points include: 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.

On Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, local FFA chapters will provide curbside pick-up for trees. Remove all decorations, lights, plastic bags, and place your tree at your curb by 8 a.m. This pick-up service will be offered in Byron, Forreston, Leaf River, Mount Morris, Oregon, and Polo. For Rochelle residents, the Rochelle Street Department will mulch trees at the curb during the first two weeks of January, weather permitting.

All trees should be free of light strands, garland, and other decorations, no wreaths or other designs with wire backings, no artificial trees.

If you have any questions regarding this program, including specific drop-off points for trees or the FFA collection service, please contact the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020, visit the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept. on Facebook, or go to the county website: oglecounty.org.

Lighting up the night



COUNTY: Extends moratorium on solar

From page 1

The board also agreed at the meeting on a close 12-8 vote to extend the county's moratorium on the development of solar power. The county first adopted

the moratorium in August 2018 and has extended it several times since.

The new extension takes the moratorium until March 31, but that could change "at any time," Finrock said. He said a solar sub-com-

mittee is close to finishing its work. Once that is done, it will bring its findings to the full County Board for consideration. Finrock said he does believe the county will soon move forward on the solar issue.

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Obituaries

Marguerite 'Maggie' G. Nye

Marguerite "Maggie" G. Nye, 78, passed away in her sleep at home Monday, Dec. 16, 2019 after a long illness. Maggie was born on April 29, 1941 to E. Kevin and Marguerite (Peltier) Glynn in Chicago.



In 1959, she graduated from Aquinas Dominican High School and in 1964 she graduated from the University of Iowa with her B.A. in sociology. She was an Illinois Licensed Social Worker and worked for the Rochelle Community Hospital and Serenity Hospice. On June 9, 1964, Maggie married Philip Hastings Nye, Jr. in Chicago.

Maggie served on the Ogle County Board from 1982-1992 and again from 2008-2018. She is believed to be the first elected woman

to have served on the Board. During her service, she served as Chairman of the Juvenile and Probation Committee, Chairman of the H.E.W. Committee and the Courthouse Restoration Committee. Maggie was a member of St. Bride's Episcopal Church in Oregon, a member of the Rochelle

Community Hospital Auxiliary and a member of many boards including CASA Board, Village of Progress Board, Shining Star Board, the Ogle County Drug Court Advisory Board and the HOPE Board.

She was an avid reader, accomplished oil painter and enjoyed traveling with her husband, Phil.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Kevin Glynn.

Maggie is survived by her husband of 55 years, Phil Nye, Jr.; three children: Marguerite (James) Conboy of Denver, Colo., Philip Nye, III of St. Louis, Mo., and Mose (Michelle) Nye of Park Ridge, Ill.; brother, Mose (Doreen) Glynn of Palos Heights, Ill.; sister,

Karen (Larry) Glynn of Du Quoin; and five grandsons: William Conboy, Philip Nye, IV, Mose Nye, Jr., Jack Nye and Charles Nye.

The visitation was from 3-7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 20, 2019 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The memorial service was held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 21 at St. Bride's Episcopal Church, 1000 Rt. 64 West, Oregon, with Father Eldred George officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Maggie's memory to St. Bride's Episcopal Church, Village of Progress Foundation, P.O. Box 418, Oregon, IL 61061 or HOPE of Ogle County, P.O. Box 131, Rochelle, IL 61068. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Steven T. Hawley

DAVIS JUNCTION – Steven T. Hawley, age 61, passed away on Dec. 16, 2019 at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on Dec. 10, 1958 in Rockford, the son of Thomas and Patsy (Wingo) Hawley.



After high school, he joined the United States Marine Corp before being honorably discharged. He married Sheryl Bennett on Oct. 21, 1989 in Davis Junction. Steven worked as a union carpenter for many years before working in production at Chrysler in Belvidere. He was a member of Davis Junction United Methodist Church. In his

spare time, Steve enjoyed fishing and spending time at Apple River. He was also an avid Chicago Bears fan.

He is preceded in death by his father, Thomas and

mother in law, Sharon Bennett.

Steve is survived by his wife, Sheryl of Davis Junction; mother, Patsy Hawley of Philadelphia, Tenn.; children, Carrie (Bob) McNally of Las Vegas, Nev., Nicole (Brookes Baumberger) Rosenkrans of Evansville, Wis., Jason (Sundos) Conderman of Monroe Center, Terra Hawley of Madison, Wis., and Patricia (James) Claus of Rockford; sisters, Debby (Roger) Woodworth of Dayton, Tenn., and Denise (Tom) Ekard of Philadelphia, Tenn.; father in law Dennis Bennet of La Feria, Texas; 11 grandchildren, and 1 great

grandchild.

The family would like to thank everyone at Swedish American Regional Cancer Center and Serenity Hospice and Home; especially Valerie and CJ for their excellent care of Steven.

Funeral services were at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019 at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home in Stillman Valley. Visitation was held Saturday evening from 5-7 p.m. at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Gardens in Rochelle. To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

Donna Jean Boes

BYRON – Donna Jean Boes, age 72, died Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019 at her home in Byron surrounded by her loving family. She was born June 16, 1947 in Jacksonville, Ill., the daughter of Louis R. and Vera E. (Leffler) German.



She attended Jacksonville Schools. Donna married Larry Boes on Aug. 15, 1964 in Rockford. She was a former member of the Cathedral Baptist Church in Rockford. She loved to spend time with her grandchildren. Donna served her community as an election judge. She

enjoyed reading, playing cards, shopping, sewing and doing macramé.

She was predeceased by

her parents.

She is survived by her husband Larry of Byron, daughter Julie (Bradley) Frye of Byron, sons Bradley Boes of Byron formerly of Jacksonville, Ill., and Brian (Melissa) Boes of Roscoe, sister Judith Osborne of Mesa, Ariz., and special aunt Barb Boes of Rock City, formerly of Rockford. Also, 6 grandchildren; Joshua Frye, Courtney (Nickolas) Williams, Kahley (Sam) Watkins, Jordan Boes, Ryan (Cali) Zoeller, and Kayla Zoeller, and 7 great grandchildren.

Visitation was from 4-6 p.m., Sunday evening Dec. 22, 2019 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home in Byron. Funeral service will be 11 a.m., Monday, Dec. 23, 2019 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 506 W. Merchant Street in Byron, with the Pastor Joe Barefield officiating. Burial will be at the Byron Cemetery. The family would like to thank Roxie Welch for her special care of Donna and also thanks to Serenity Hospice and Home. Visit www.farrellhollandgale.com to leave a condolence.



Aireloom hosts fundraiser

MOUNT MORRIS – Aireloom Music Studio in Mount Morris would like to invite you to come to their 3rd annual music lesson scholarship fundraiser variety show "A Little Bit of Everything" on Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. at Pinecrest Grove Community Theatre, 500 Evergreen Lane in Mount Morris.

"It's going to be a very fun night with lots of laughs, live music, and many silly songs!" Aireloom owner Mary Ley said. "Our show raises funds for music les-

sons for families who can't afford them. Music is so important and everyone who wants to learn should be able to take music lessons. 100% of the proceeds goes towards families lessons."

Aireloom Music teaches every instrument including voice.

Tickets are on sale now at aireloommusic.com or find them on Facebook and Instagram at @Aireloom-MusicStudio. They can also be reached at 815-973-5697 or aireloommusicstudio@gmail.com.

From the family of Scott Powell.

Thank you to our family, friends, and neighbors for all your kindness during this difficult time, your calls, visits, food, and donations meant a lot to us.

A special thank you to: The Oregon Ambulance, Farrell, Holland, Gale Funeral Home, Merlin's Flowers, Pastor Hoffman for a beautiful service and the Mt Morris Moose Lodge for our luncheon.

The Powell Family

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Obituaries

Francis I. 'Fran' Hogan

BYRON – Francis I. “Fran” Hogan, age 88, died Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019 at the Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon, surrounded by his loving family. He was born July 10, 1931 in rural Byron, the son of William L. and Anna May (Stine) Hogan.



He graduated, from Byron High School in 1949 remaining ever loyal to Byron Athletics, and was himself, a two-time inductee into the Byron High School Sports Hall of Fame. He served his country in the United States Army Signal Corp. Fran married Dawn M. Hackney on Nov. 27, 1954 in Byron. He served as Byron’s “Best” Postmaster from 1966 until he retired in 1992. He was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Byron where he was a charter member of the Knights of Columbus. He was also a

member of the Byron American Legion. Fran served his community on the Byron Ambulance and the Byron Fire Department.

He was predeceased by his parents, his mother-in-law Imogene “Jean” Hackney, his wife Dawn, and daughter-in-law Marcia Hogan.

He is survived by his children; Kim Hogan of Byron, Jeanne (Andy) Cobb of San Antonio, Texas, Wil-

liam “Pat” Hogan of Byron, Michael (Carol) Hogan of Kathleen, Georgia, and Suzie (Pete) Martinez of San Antonio, Texas, sister Mary Bontjes of Byron, 2 brothers; William “Bill” (Patricia “Pat”) Hogan of Byron, and Charles “Chuck” Wilbur of Potomac, Maryland, 8 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews.

Christian Funeral Mass was at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019 at the St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Byron, with the Rev. Rich Rosinski officiating. Visitation was held Tuesday evening from 4-6:45 p.m. at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 506 W. Merchant Street in Byron, with a 6:45 p.m. Ringing of the Bell service by the Byron Fire Dept. and a 7 p.m. Rosary service. A memorial fund is established in Fran’s name.

Marvin K. Eyster

ROCKFORD–Marvin K. Eyster, 92, of Rockford, passed away on Friday, Dec. 13, 2019 at Wesley Willows. Born Nov. 17, 1927, in Kings, the son of Kenneth and Ethel (Rippentrop) Eyster.



A veteran of the U.S. Navy and Army, Marvin served in World War II and the Korean Conflict. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1951 with a Bachelor’s degree in Banking & Finance. Marvin married S. Joanne Ritchie on May 24, 1953 in Rochelle. She predeceased him on Feb. 9, 2013. He worked at Woodward Governor for 42 years, many of those as the Manager of Data Processing, before retiring in 1992. Marvin also served on the Board of Directors at Holcomb State Bank and retired in 2009. He was a member of Third Presbyterian Church in Rockford. He enjoyed fishing in the Kyte Creek and hunting ducks and pheasants. Marvin and Joanne enjoyed traveling

in their motorhome to visit family, and to see the beautiful National Parks and mountain scenery. He visited most of the 50 states including Alaska and Hawaii. One of Marvin’s biggest accomplishments was buying a piece of property and designing, then building their home with help from family, and his wife, Joanne. Always a problem solver, Marvin was a life-long handyman, constantly building things, fixing things, inventing useful gadgets, and finding many ways to save money.

Marvin is survived by his daughters, Kathy Eyster

of Montana and Charleen Boudreau of Edwards, Ill.; son, Ritchie (Catherine) Eyster of Texas; grandchildren, Beth (Jeff) Shen, Diana Boudreau, Forest Eyster, Amanda (Jacob) Rhoads and Hope Garber; four great-grandchildren; brother, Archie (Glennie) Eyster; sister, Shirley Garnett; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents; sister, Maxine (Tom) Fegers; and brother-in-law, Hugh Garnett.

Funeral Services were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 20, 2019 at Olson North Main Chapel, 2811 N. Main St., Rockford with Rev. Murray Hanson officiating. Visitation was from 10-10:45 a.m. prior to the service. A short graveside service was held at White Rock Cemetery, Kings. Memorials may be made to Wesley Willows, Third Presbyterian Church or Midway Village Museum, all in Rockford. To share a memory or condolence, visit olsonfh.com.

Shirley L. Arbogast

OREGON – Shirley L. Arbogast, 59, formerly of Oregon, died Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 in her home of the past 8 years in Fond du Lac, Wis. Born Dec. 28, 1959 in Dixon, the daughter of Frank and Hazel (Allen) Taylor.



Married to Scott Arbogast Aug. 28, 1989 in Oregon. Shirley was a 1978 graduate of Oregon High School and had been employed at Dairy Freeze in Oregon and most recently for 8 years at Kable News in Mount Morris. She loved butterflies with the greatest goal in her life the care of her family.

Survived by her husband,

of Mount Morris; brothers, Richard Taylor of Sterling and Jerry Taylor and James Taylor, both of Oregon; and nephews, Brett Taylor, Benjamin Taylor, Adam Marciniak and Clayton Metheny.

Predeceased by her father, Frank Taylor; father-in-law, Delos Arbogast; and nephew, Colin Marciniak.

Funeral services were held at noon Friday, Dec. 20 in Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, Oregon preceded by a visitation beginning at 11 am. Pastor David Rogula officiated. Burial in Chapel Hill Memorial Park, Dixon.

Scott Arbogast of Fond du Lac, Wis.; daughter, Angela (Jeremy Jones) Arbogast of Milwaukee, Wis.; mother, Hazel Taylor of Oregon; mother-in-law, Joan Arbogast of Oregon; sister, Brenda (Harley) Metheny

Nancy L. Schumacher

OREGON – Nancy L. Schumacher, age 78, passed away in her home surrounded by her loving family on Dec. 14, 2019. She was born in Oregon on Aug. 12, 1941 the daughter of Bert and Pearl (Cox) Himes.



She married Waynes “Tacky” Schumacher on March 28, 1958 in Lindenwood; he preceded her in death on March 12, 2014. Nancy worked at Neighbors Nursing Home in Byron and also as a cook and in maintenance at the Ogle County Correctional Center. She was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Paynes Point. Nancy had a zest for life and her family will remember her strength and hard-fought battle during her health troubles. She was passionate about spending time with her grandchildren and attending family gatherings and trips. In her spare time, she loved going to the casino and playing the slot machines.

She is survived her children, Connie Schumacher of Ashton, Dawn Pankhurst of Mount Morris, Ronald (Rhonda Streich) Schumacher of Forestton, Wesley Schumacher of Virginia, and Bradley (Sherry) Schumacher of Mount Morris, grandchildren; Jodi (Kurt) Goeddeke, Joe (Jamie Curatola) Harris, Amy (Rob) Gilbert, Michael (Jessica) Gilbert, Kristina (Christopher) Ley, Ryan Schumacher, Logan Schumacher, Corey Pankhurst, and Nik (Lysa)

Pankhurst, Great Grandchildren; Waylon, Jacob, Paxton, Xavier, Brayden, Aaliyah, Oakley, Xairyn, Addie, Hunter, Brantley, Jackson, Emma, Brooklyn, Cora, Makayla, and Zoey; and sibling, Bert (Judy) Himes of Byron and Gardia (Herb) Thurow of Woodstock.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, and siblings James Himes and Bernice Hitchcock.

Funeral service was at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th Street, Oregon, Illinois with the Rev. Andrew Kayes pastor of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Paynes Point officiating. Visitation was from 5-7 p.m., Wednesday evening at the funeral home. Burial at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Paynes Point. A memorial fund is established in Nancy’s name. To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellholland-gale.com.

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The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

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E-mail news items to bjennings@oglecountylife.com

Polo Police report

Dec. 5
TIME: 7:59 a.m.
REPORT: Christian T. Garcia, 23, Polo, was arrested for Driving While License Suspended and Leaving the Scene of an Accident. Garcia was taken to Ogle County Jail.

TIME: 7:59 a.m.
REPORT: Kim Miller, 50, Polo, was cited for Improper Backing. Miller was released on an I-Bond.

Dec. 7
TIME: 12:48 a.m.
REPORT: Dylan D. Holland, 25, Lanark, was cited for Operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle. Holland was released on a Notice to Appear.

Dec. 12
TIME: 11:45 a.m.
REPORT: Starenicia A. Woodson, 26, Polo, was arrested for an Outstanding Winnebago County

Warrant. Woodson was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

Dec. 14
TIME: 9:07 a.m.
REPORT: Jonathan D. Ruggles, 26, Polo, was cited for Driving While License Expired. Ruggles was released with a Notice to Appear in Court.

TIME: 12:45 p.m.
REPORT: Giovanni L. Fernandez, 20, Polo, was cited for Failure

to wear a Seat Belt. Fernandez was released on an I-Bond.

TIME: 4:34 p.m.
REPORT: Bailey Penna, 19, Franklin Grove, was cited for Operation of an Uninsured Motor Vehicle and No Lights When Required. Penna was released on an I-Bond. Penna was issued a citation for Possession of Cannabis less than 2.5 grams and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

General Calls for service for the weeks of November 17, 2019 thru December 1, 2019

Citizen Complaints/Assists	27
Animal Complaint	1
Disturbance/Domestic	1
Fire/Medical Assist	9
Lock Out	1
Traffic Stops	14
County Assists	5

Celebrate Responsibly

Please Don't Drink and Drive

'Key' strategies for a safe New Year's celebration

- * Plan an alcohol-free celebration – Host a fondue or “make your own” ice cream sundae party as a fresh alternative. Add some fun party games to keep guests entertained without drinking!
 - * Check your keys with the host – This is an effective strategy for giving the host some control over inebriated guests.
 - * Keep the number of a taxi company handy – A good tip for both party guests and hosts alike.
 - * Offer to drive a guest home – Start the New Year off right by performing a good deed and help keep drunk drivers off the road.
 - * Appoint a designated driver – Use the buddy system and you can return the favor next time.
 - * Provide lots of snacks to party guests – Drinking on an empty-stomach rapidly increases alcohol's debilitating effects.
 - * Post transportation info on party invites – Include information for public transportation, car pools and taxi company phone numbers.
 - * Don't let a friend drive drunk – Take the car keys away or use one of the strategies above to see your friends safely home.
- It probably comes as no surprise that more traffic fatalities due to drunk driving occur at the New Year than any other time, but of course, you should never drink and drive. With your safety in mind, these community sponsors urge you to review these important tips for hosting or attending a safe celebration!

Drive Safe this Holiday Season!

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Ogle County Sheriff

Dec. 18
The Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Lamonte Kazee, 27, of Milwaukee, Wis., for Driving While License Revoked. Kazee was arrested by deputies on I-39 near Monroe Center after being stopped for speeding. Kazee was held in lieu of bond at the Ogle County Jail.

Dec. 16
At approximately 11:30 a.m., Deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of IL Rte 64 and IL Rte 251 for an equipment violation. After a brief investigation Deputies issued Athena Sellers, 31, of Rockford, a citation, with a return court date for Driving While License Suspended.

At approximately 7:27 a.m., Deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1000 block S. IL Rte 251 for a registration violation. After a brief investigation, Deputies arrested Mulibwa Mwanza, 26, of Rockford, for Driving while License Suspended. Mulibwa was then transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

Dec. 12
At approximately 8:10 p.m., Deputies were dispatched to the area of Goose Hollow Rd and Freeport Rd, reference a possible car vs deer. After a short investigation Nikolas Cruz, 28 of Dixon, was placed under arrest for Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol. Cruz was then transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

Dec. 11
At approximately 4:30 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence in rural Ogle County in reference to a report of bond condition violations. After a short investigation, Karl A. Munda, 36, of Forreston, was arrested for violation of bond conditions. Munda was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he is being held in lieu of bond.

Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies Arrested Tyler J Nichol, 21, of Lena, on a Failure to Appear Warrant. Nichol has a bond of \$961 Full Cash. Nichol posted bond and was released with no return court date.

Oregon Police report

Dec. 2
At 11:33 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a 911 hang up that resulted in the arrest of Keith R. Lawnicki, 28, Oregon, for disorderly conduct. Lawnicki was transported to the Ogle County jail.

Dec. 3
At 11:34 a.m., Oregon Police issued Haley R. James, 19, of Kirkland, IL, a citation for speeding, 46mph in a 30mph zone. This violation occurred near the intersection of N. 4th and Fair Streets.

Dec. 6
At 2:23 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Stephen M. Ridenhour, 50, Mt. Morris, for driving while license revoked. Ridenhour was also issued a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Ridenhour was transported to the Ogle County jail. These violations occurred in the 500 block of W. Washington Street.

Dec. 8
At 12:10 a.m., Oregon Police issued Leslie J. Nelson, 42, of Spring Grove, IL, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred at the intersection of 4th and Washington Streets.

At 9:21 a.m., Oregon Police issued Brandon C. Herring, 30, Mt. Morris, a citation for use of a cell phone while driving. This violation occurred in the 600 block of E. Washington Street.

At 12:27 p.m., Oregon Police issued Kendrick J. Oriyavong, 16, Mt. Morris, a citation for speeding, 44 mph in a 30 mph zone. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Oregon Trail Road.

5 parking citations and 6 verbal/written warnings were issued from 12/02/19 through 12/08/19.

General calls for service Through dispatch during the week of 12/02/19 through 12/08/19:

- Checking a Subject / Vehicle 4 Citizen Complaints 8
- Animal Complaint 2
- Juvenile Complaint 1
- Citizen Assist / Civil Problem 7
- Disturbance / Domestic 2
- Assist EMS / Other Dept. 8
- Lockout Vehicle / Building 4
- Alarm Response 1
- Open Door / Window 2
- 911 Hang-up / Open Line 8
- Traffic Stops 21
- Ordinance Violations

Dec. 7
At 7:31 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 100 block of S. 4th Street where a 2004 Audi driven by Conner C. Winterland, age 16, Chana, struck a parked 2016 Ford belonging to Keith Tortorella, age 66, Chicago. No citations were issued.

Dec. 9
At 8:09 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance call in the 300 block of S. 6th Street resulting in the arrest of Ashlee L. Parisi, 29, Oregon, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant for failure to appear.

At 11:23 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Drew A. Dickens, 19, Roscoe, IL, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Dickens was also issued citations for improper lane usage, illegal transportation of alcohol, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and driving under the influence with blood alcohol content greater than .08%. Dickens was transported to the Ogle County jail. These violations occurred in the 600 block of S. 4th Street.

At 11:50 p.m., Oregon Police, while on a traffic stop, also took a report of a traffic crash that had occurred during the traffic stop, where a 1991 GMC driven by Douglas S. Carr, 50, Oregon, struck a parked 2001 Dodge owned by Drew A. Dickens, age 19, Roscoe. No citations were issued.

Dec. 12
At 2:29 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Christopher L. Cash, 31, Oregon, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Cash was also issued a citation for illegal transportation of alcohol. Cash was transported to the Ogle County jail. These violations occurred in the 300 block of N. 7th Street.

Dec. 13
At 8:56 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance call in the 300 block of S. 6th Street resulting in the arrest of Brian K. Jordan, 53, Oregon, for disorderly conduct. Jordan was transported to the Ogle County jail.

December 14, 2019:
At 6:27 p.m., Oregon Police issued Dustin Beauchamp, 34, of Walnut, IL, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 600 block of N. 4th Street.
At 7:53 p.m., Oregon Police issued Deven L.

Kenerson, 16, Mt. Morris, a citation for disobeying a stop sign. This violation occurred at the intersection of 4th and Ford Streets.

At 8:47 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Winston E. Tomlinson, 22, Rockford, for possession of controlled substance. Tomlinson was also issued a civil citation for possession of cannabis less than 10 grams. These violations occurred in the 800 block of N. 4th Street.

At 10:20 p.m., Oregon Police arrested James M. Grothe, 59, Oregon, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Grothe was also issued citations for driving without lights when required and driving under the influence of alcohol with blood alcohol content greater than .08%. Grothe was transported to the Ogle County jail. These violations occurred in the 300 block of Franklin Street.

December 15, 2019:

At 3:10 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Joshua D. Schier, 42, Oregon, for domestic battery. Schier was transported to the Ogle County jail.

At 6:40 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Tommie L. Hurst, 29, Oregon, for no valid driver's license. Hurst was also issued citations for unlawful window tint, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and operating a vehicle with expired registration plates. Hurst was transported to the Ogle County jail. These violations occurred in the 600 block of N. 4th Street.

At 7:31 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Parkview Drive resulting in the arrest of Benjamin R. Thrasher, 42, Oregon, for domestic battery. Thrasher was transported to the Ogle County jail.

5 verbal/written warnings were issued from 12/09/19 through 12/15/19.

General calls for service Through dispatch during the week of 12/09/19 through 12/15/19:

- Checking a Subject / Vehicle 3
- Citizen Complaints 3
- Citizen Assist / Civil Problem 5
- Disturbance / Domestic 6
- Assist EMS / Other Dept. 4
- Lockout Vehicle / Building 1
- Alarm Response 1
- 911 Hang-up / Open Line 3
- Traffic Stops 15
- Ordinance Violations

Please note:
Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.



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Memorial tree

In honor of the families Beverage Family Funeral Homes has assisted throughout the year, we have established a Memorial Christmas Tree. The tree can be seen from the Richardson Avenue in Ashton, 6th street in Rochelle and Railroad Street in Sandwich. The tree will be lit from now until the New Year in honor of your loved ones. The Christmas tree has ornaments with the names of the deceased and their date of date. We are remembering our families and would like to offer those of you who have had loved ones who have passed away to be memorialized on our tree, regardless if we assisted in their service or not. Please call the funeral home at 815-453-2441, 815-562-6872 and 815-786-6715 with names of the deceased and their date of death and we will place their ornament on the tree. This Christmas and every Christmas let's remember our loved ones.



From left are: Tom Myers, Keane Hudson and Jim Travi and Oregon Lion Grant Afflerbaugh

Oregon Lions donate to Honor Flight

OREGON – The guest speaker at the Oct. 24 Oregon Lions Meeting was Lion Jim Travi from the Amboy Lion Club. He shared information about The Lee County Committee of the Quad Cities Honor Flight. This organization was

formed in 2010 to honor aging Lee County and area veterans by transporting them, free of charge, to Washington D.C. where they will have an opportunity to visit the particular war memorial that honors their sacrifices. The Oregon Lions Club

donated \$250 to this organization in the hopes that it can give even more WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Veterans a chance to visit Washington D.C.

More information is available at their website at: www.honorflightqc.org

Lifescape opens new senior dining site at Rock River Center of Oregon

OREGON – Starting Monday, Jan. 6, Lifescape will be adding Rock River Center as a congregate dining site.

Lifescape and Rock River Center are thrilled to be working together to feed older adults in Ogle County. Lifescape will be serving meals at Rock River Center Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

Participants must be 60 or older or accompanied by a spouse who is 60 or older. Interested participants need to call and make reservations by 10 a.m. the day before they intend on eating at the Rock River Center. To schedule a reservation, call 815-963-1609 and let Lifescape know the days you plan on dining. Once scheduled participants show up on their scheduled day between 11:30 a.m. and noon to enjoy their meal.

Rock River Center offers transportation within Ogle County. Participants can schedule a ride to their meal by calling Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 at least 24-hours in advance.

Rock River Center has a regularly scheduled potluck luncheons on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Also, The Etnyre Foundation sponsors free food Friday the first Friday of every month. The Rock River Center will not host Congregate dining on the potluck days or free food Fridays. For January and February there will be no congregate dining at Rock River Center on the following days: Jan. 3, 14, 22, and 28 and Feb. 7, 11, 17 (closed

for Presidents Day), and 25.

Lifescape works in partnership with senior centers, churches, high rises, and restaurants to offer multiple dining sites in Winnebago, Boone, Ogle and Lee counties. Through these partnerships we are able to help older adults gain access to hot nutritious meals and social opportunities within their communities.

The Rock River Center is located at 810 S 10th St, Oregon, IL 61061, and they are open Monday from Friday from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Along with providing meals and social opportunities to seniors, Rock River Center offers outreach and referral to families or adults seeking government assistance, Medicare guidance, and other benefits such as prescription assistance, tax preparation, homemaking, Meals on Wheels, transportation, and volunteer opportunities.

Lifescape Community Services is a comprehensive regional agency empowering older adults to choose lives of independence and dignity. Based in Rockford, Lifescape provides services in an eight-county region in northwestern Illinois, including Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago. The agency serves thousands of older adults each year through its Meals on Wheels program, Adult Protective Services, Adult Day Program, Health & Wellness Services, Comprehensive Care Coordination, and Advocacy & Assistance programs. Learn more at: www.lifescapeservices.org.



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State fire marshal stresses holiday safety

SPRINGFIELD – The holidays are here and that means many will be decorating their homes. Hanging up decorations is fun, but keep in mind, holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) more than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.

“More than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles,” says State Fire Marshal Matt Perez. “The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year’s Day and New Year’s Eve. Before you head to bed or out for the evening, blow out all lit candles,” says Fire Marshal Perez. “Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.”

Here are some tips to keep in mind to stay fire safe when decking the halls this holiday season.

- * Be careful with holiday decorations. Make sure decorations are either flame retardant or flame resistant.

- * Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from decorations or anything that can catch fire.

- * Keep children and pets away from lit candles.

- * Check to make sure your lights are rated for indoor or outdoor use or both.

- * Replace any light strands that have worn or broken cords. Make sure to read the recommendation for number of light strings you can string together.

- * If you have a real Christmas tree, make sure to check water levels daily! It is not unusual for a tree to drink two gallons of water the first day it is in the stand.

- * Keep real Christmas trees away from a heat source. It can dry out the tree quickly.

After a busy cooking day on Thanksgiving, before firing the oven back up preparing the next holiday meal, make sure to clean it! In case of an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed until it is cool. Clean cook tops as left-over grease can catch fire. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, but Christmas and Christmas Eve follow closely behind.

If you are planning to host family and friends during the holidays, make sure they are aware of your fire escape plan. Show them where all the exits are in your home and make sure they are aware of the meeting spot’s location.



Stillman Valley names winners of tree decorating contest

STILLMAN VALLEY – Stillman Valley held its eighth annual Tree Decorating Contest in conjunction with the Cardinal Community Christmas event in downtown Stillman Valley on Sunday, Dec. 8.

There were 28 groups that participated, including local schools, businesses and community organizations. Cash prizes, sponsored by Indian Hill Farm & Manor were awarded in four categories based on Creativity/Originality, Best Use of Theme, Overall Appearance, and People’s Choice. Local community members judged the trees and winners were announced at the Tree

Lighting Ceremony that evening. A fifth category – Facebook Fan Favorite – was added in 2017 where people could vote for their favorite decorated tree by liking their respective photo on Stillman Bank’s Facebook page throughout the week after the event.

Stillman Valley High School Student Council won Most Creative & Original Tree. Their tree was decorated to look like a penguin. Shear Madness 2 won Best Use of Theme with their Polar Express themed tree. Finally, the Meridian 223 Transportation Department walked away with Best Overall Appearance,

Facebook Fan Favorite and People’s Choice for their school bus tree.

To determine the People’s Choice winner, attending at the event donating their loose change for their favorite tree. A total of \$603.04 was raised and all funds were given to the Bread of Life food pantry in Stillman Valley.

The trees, sponsored by the Village of Stillman Valley and Stillman Bank, will remain on display at the corner of Main and Maple streets in downtown Stillman Valley through New Year’s Eve. Thank you to all who participated in the contest.



Guild holding play auditions in January

MOUNT MORRIS – The Performing Arts Guild invites the public to join the cast of their spring performance of “Flowers for Algernon.”

Performances will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 20-22 at the Pinecrest Grove Theatre.

This is the compelling story of Charlie, a mentally

challenged man, and the strange interweaving of his life with that of Algernon, a mouse. This is a different kind of play: poignant, romantic, funny and tragic, but with the hope of man’s indomitable spirit.

Auditions will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 7 and 8 from 6-8 p.m. at the Pinecrest Grove library,

500 Evergreen Lane, Mount Morris. The cast consists of nine male and 10 female roles.

Materials will be provided at the audition, so come early to review the readings.

For more information about auditions, please contact Director Dave Sowinski at 815-718-0933.

New Year's Eve Weekend @ Maxson's!

Taking Reservations for New Year's Eve!

New Year's Eve Dinner Specials:
Filet & Shrimp **\$26** Filet & Lobster **\$35**
(Includes Salad Bar)

Prime Rib Special Saturday, December 28

WEEKEND SPECIAL:
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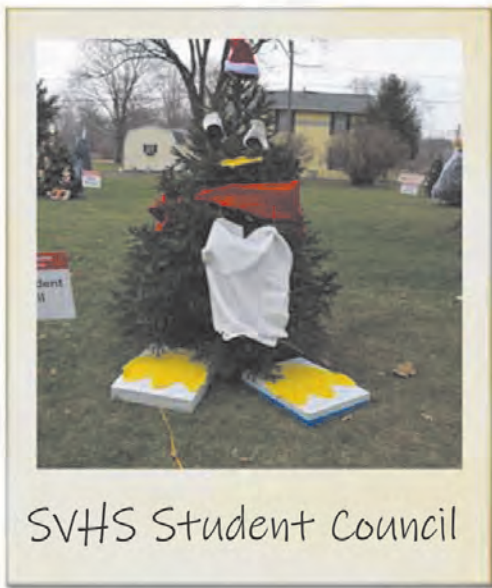
A few spots still available for Christmas! Call for reservations!

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Cardinal Community Christmas

Stillman Valley's annual Christmas event was held on Sunday, December 8, 2019. Congratulations to the winners of the 8th annual Tree Decorating Contest!

- 🍎 **Most Creative & Original Tree** - SVHS Student Council
- 🍋 **Best Use of Theme** - Shear Madness 2
- 🍎 **Best Overall Appearance** - Meridian 223 Transportation Dept.
- 🍋 **People's Choice** - Meridian 223 Transportation Dept.
- 🍎 **Facebook Fan Favorite** - Meridian 223 Transportation Dept.



To determine the People's Choice winner, attendees donated their loose change to vote for their favorite tree. A total of **\$603.04** was donated to Bread of Life food pantry in Stillman Valley.



Thank you to all who came out to this year's Cardinal Community Christmas and a big thank you to our event sponsors!



Maas Legal, LLC Team Henry Real Estate Twisty's Cycle Stillman Valley FFA Indian Hill Manor & Farm Tom Lichty's Landscaping Services



New 4-H club

The Byron Emerald Eagles 4-H Club is a new 4-H club in Ogle County. They met last month to elect officers. President Rosalyn Goldstick; Vice President Melinda Goldstick; Secretary Christopher Vargas; Treasurer Lexy Wiley; Reporter Lucas Goldstick; Recreation Chair Aleeya Dykstra.

Christmas Greetings

A season of warm wishes from our family to yours



Susan Gomez



Todd Muur



Amanda Sandrock



Colleen Henkel



David Lloyd



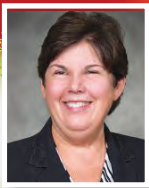
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Where you come first



Breakfast with Santa

Park District hosts annual event in Oregon

OREGON – For many local families the Oregon Park District Breakfast with Santa is an annual family tradition.

It was a full house at both seating's this year. Families gathered at Cork & Tap for a delicious breakfast catered by Ralphie & LuLu's. The Cork & Tap venue is beautiful and spacious giving participants room to move around, mingle and enjoy the morning activities.

The Oregon McDonalds and Merlin's also supported and contributed to the event.

In addition to the yummy breakfast, the children enjoyed talking with Santa and getting their annual photo with him, making a special ornament for their tree and some enjoyed the photo booth with the silly holiday props.

If you missed it this year, don't worry. We will have another Santa event next year for families to enjoy. We wish everyone a very Happy Holiday and hope to see each of you at our many programs and events in the New Year!



Keaton Griffin showing off his Christmas Ornament. (Submitted photos)



Above, Ken Skoli watches sons Cameron and Hunter making Christmas Ornaments. Top right, Kevin, Emilia, Cameron and Julie Rogers.



Right, Brynnley Huels enjoying her breakfast

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mon., Dec. 23

All 8-14 year olds are welcomed at Nash Recreation Center in Oregon for a safe and supervised afternoon in the gym. This program is free. We will have a light snack along with a new sport each Monday from 3:30- 5 p.m. Drop in and make new friends in a friendly environment.

Interactive Movie Night: Elf, 2-4 p.m. at the Byron Library. Ages: 6-12th grade. Join us for an interactive movie night watching the movie "Elf," and find

out what happens when a human baby is raised at the North Pole as one of Santa's elves! Please visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.

Afternoon Book Club at the Polo Library, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Selection: "Hiddensee," by Gregory Maguire.

Weds., Dec. 25

Merry Christmas!

Thurs., Dec. 26

The Oregon Library's

Books on Tap Book Club meets at 6 p.m. at Cork n Tap to discuss "Skipping Christmas," by John Grisham.

The Computer Technology Center at Rock River Center in Oregon is free and open to the public, and available weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 27

Al-Anon Family Groups offer help to those who are affected by someone's drinking. Join us each Friday for a free meeting,

10-11 a.m., at Community Room at the KSB Clinic at the south edge of Polo at 1107 S. Division Ave (Route 26).

Please send your items for the weekly Community Calendar to bjennings@ogle-countylife.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

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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Jan. 8, 1835, President Andrew Jackson achieves his goal of entirely paying off the United States' national debt. It was the only time in U.S. history that the national debt stood at zero, and it precipitated one of the worst financial crises in American history, the Panic of 1837.

* On Jan. 9, 1861, a Union merchant ship is fired upon as it tries to deliver supplies to Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, in the first exchange of shots between North and South. The shots were fired by gunner George E. Haynsworth, a cadet at The Citadel in Charleston.

* On Jan. 7, 1927, the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team travels west from Chicago to play their first game, in Hinckley, Illinois. Coach Abe Saperstein decided to promote his new team's racial makeup by naming them after Harlem, the famous black neighborhood of New York City.

* On Jan. 12, 1932, Ophelia Wyatt Caraway of Arkansas becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate. Caraway had been appointed earlier to fill the vacancy left by her late husband, Thaddeus Horatio Caraway.

* On Jan. 11, 1949, on Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C., the cornerstone is laid at the first mosque of note in the United States. The Islamic Center was complete with a 160-foot minaret from which prayers were to be announced.

* On Jan. 6, 1975, "Wheel of Fortune," the longest-running syndicated game show in American television, premieres on NBC. In over 7,000 episodes, show hostess Vanna White has never worn the same gown twice.

* On Jan. 10, 2008, Tata Motors in India debuts the Nano, billing it as the world's cheapest car. The bubble-shaped mini-vehicle had a base price of \$2,000. It had a body made of plastic and sheet metal -- and one windshield wiper.

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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.

Here is my Christmas wish list

Ah, Christmas. Magical, right? The family, the food, the presents. All great things. Christmas gives pretty much everyone that nice warm feeling deep down inside.

I always enjoy traveling to Wisconsin for Christmas Eve to visit my wife's family. They are good people, and we get a chance to laugh, open some gifts and pretty much eat until we can barely make it to the car for the drive home.

Honestly, receiving gifts is not a big deal for me or really in our house. My wife and I treat ourselves to a pretty good life, which is well deserved after years of hard work and sometimes struggle. When Christmas comes around, there is not much we really want or need.

But I do have a couple of things I would like this year. These are not only for myself, but for everyone. So, Santa, if you are listening, here is my Christmas list.

Living the Life

By Brad Jennings



* I want everyone to be kind to each other. I know, it is a simple request that is heard often. But we need way more kindness in this country. We need more understanding and more compassion. We need less partisanship. We need less judging of others. We need to stop belittling and bullying and supporting those who do.

* I want people to put their phones down when they are driving. Yes, it is against the

law to be using a handheld device while driving. But I can't tell you the number of people I see texting and driving. The morning I wrote this very column, I saw a young woman at a stop light in Byron starting at her phone. When the light changed, she started to go, barely taking her eyes off her phone. That is not only unlawful, it is also terrifying. Too many people are killed every year because of this distracted driving. Put. Down. Your. Phone.

* I want the press to stop being targeted by certain public officials and members of the public. Stop calling news "fake news." There is no such thing as fake news. It is news or it isn't. Reporters nationwide are being threatened and bullied, even on a local level. This is unlawful and against everything this country stands for. Without a free press, we might as well become Russia or North Korea. Don't be one of those that battle a free press.

You might not like what is reported, but that doesn't make it wrong or "fake." True Americans want and support a strong, free press.

* I want people to respect the beliefs and lifestyles of others, even if they don't approve. We are a judgmental bunch of people, us Americans. But we are straight, gay, black, white, religious, non-religious -- we come in a wide variety of flavors, so to speak. One is not better than the other, just different. If you don't like or approve of what others believe, fine. Just keep it to yourself. We all have the right to be who and what we are. Plus, worrying about how other people live is exhausting. Don't we have enough to worry about in our own lives?

* Finally, I wouldn't mind a new guitar. Hey, I'm human, right?

Merry Christmas!

Brad Jennings is Editor of The Ogle County Life.



MARGULIES
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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

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Pictured in the first row from left: Logan Apsey, Richie Sutliff and Aidan Taylor. Second row from left: Austin Schultz, Elizabeth Oltmanns, Melissa Gocha, Chris Pomatto, Jason Alberts and Jesus Arian.

Future leaders get presentation on professional dress

STILLMAN VALLEY – Men’s Warehouse in Rockford came to Stillman Valley High School on Thursday, Dec. 12 to present “Professional Dress” to the Future Business Leaders of America.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, members learned about proper professional dress for the first job interview as well as what to wear on a follow up job interview.

Men’s Warehouse presenters were Melissa Gocha, Jason Alberts, and Chris Pomatto. Along with a PowerPoint presentation, members were able to take a first-hand look at the proper types of suit coats, color of suits, ties, shirts, belts, pants/skirts, socks and shoes that are appropriate for a first and follow up interview.

“It was a very useful presentation that anyone could have used,” said Vice President Logan Apsey.

“I found it very enriching, and for someone who always wants to teach what is the best dress for professionalism, this presentation was very educational and engaging,” said adviser Ryan Read.

Before the interview, applicants should research the company that is interviewing them so that they are prepared to ask questions about the company and their activities. Men’s Warehouse also shared with the FBLA members how to prepare for an interview, and encouraged them to arrive at least 15 minutes early for any interview. They also stressed the importance of first impressions on

an interview, and shared their personal stories about candidates that they have interviewed for jobs at their store. After the interview has been completed, the applicant should always follow up the interview with either a thank you letter or an email.

“This was great timing,” said adviser Cathie Murphy. “Next month we head into Regional competition and our members need to be professional dress to compete. Now they are armed with knowledge about professional dress and have the ability to make better dress choices.”

A special thank you to Men’s Warehouse for their generosity and incentive packages that they gave to FBLA members.

Barn fundraisers set for the next year

The Ogle County Horse Barn Committee/Build-A-Barn has five fundraisers planned for 2020.

The first will be the annual Tack Sale on March 1, at the Mount Morris Moose Center, 101 Moose Drive, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. We will have vendors with a large selection of new and used horse tack; antiques, crafts and much more. The entire south wall will

be new tack, accessories and related horse equipment. We have booths still available but they are going fast. Check out our Facebook page, The Ogle County Horse Barn Committee/Build-A-Barn and download a contract or contact Lynne Radville at shadowboxerarabians@gmail.com or text to 815-238-7892.

The following shows will be held at the Ogle County Fairgrounds, 1440 N. Limekiln Rd., Oregon: May 17 – Fuzzy Wuzzy Fun Show. Bring your fuzzy horses for a day of fun. No need to clip or bathe your horses. Show tack/clothes not required.

June 27 – Open English Show. Formerly Bits n Reins show

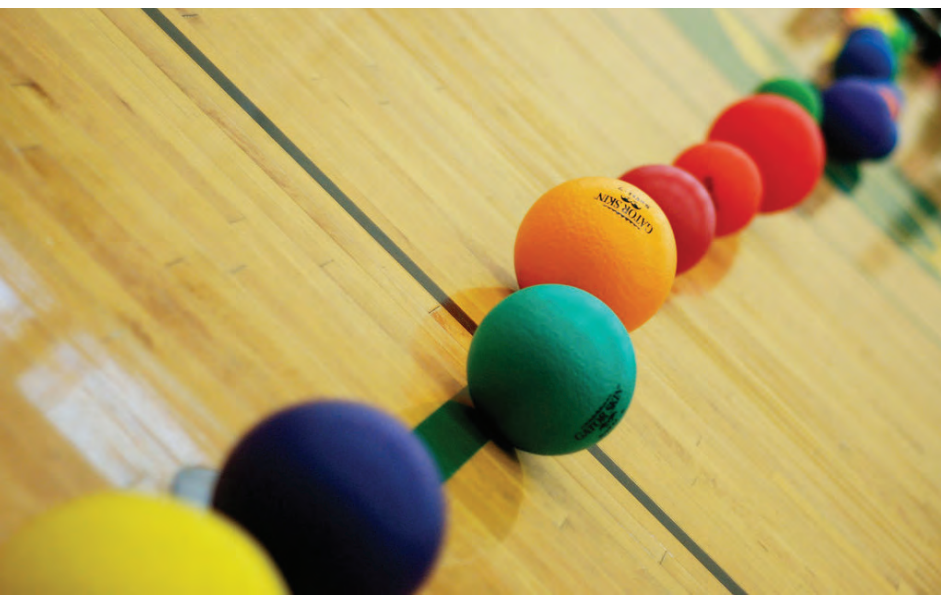
June 28 – Open Western Show. Formerly Bits n Reins show

Aug. 2 – Ogle County Fair Open Show, beginning 9:30 a.m.

Oct. 10 – Spooktacular Horse Expo - Clinics and demonstrations

Oct. 11 – Spooktacular Horse Expo - Fun Show Showbills will be posted on our Facebook page soon.

Also, our very own, Chaplain Jay LaRette, will bring the gospel to Midwest Horse Fair on April 19. If you are going to Midwest, plan on attending the church service on Sunday morning to hear LaRette’s message. LaRette and his talented horse conducted church services at our Spooktacular 2019 show.



Free Christmas break events set in Oregon

OREGON – Join the Oregon Park District and our presenting sponsor E.D. Etnyre & Co. for two free events over Christmas break.

Both events are open to all ages.

Art in the Park will be moving indoors for a special holiday edition in the River Room. Monday, December 23 join us anytime between 2:30-4:30 p.m. to make

a holiday ornament and decorate a cookie. This event is free.

On Monday, December 30 join in for an all ages game of Dodgeball from 2-3:30 p.m. Dodgeball will be held in the Nash Recreation Center gym. Snacks will also be offered in the snack bar.

For more information contact Nash Recreation Center, 815-732-3101.

First Friday in the Pool will be Jan. 3

OREGON – Join us for First Friday in the Pool on Friday, Jan. 3 for a movie in the pool at the Nash Recreation Center.

Toy Story 4 will be playing in the Pool from 6-8 p.m. and in the River Room from

6-7:30 p.m.

There will be a raffle basket to enter to win, open swim from 6-7:45 p.m., snacks and crafts in the River Room from 6-7:30 p.m.

First Fridays are free to members and a daily fee for

everyone else! Residents rates: \$2 for students and \$3 for adults. Non-resident rates are \$3 for students and \$4 for adults. For more information visit Nash Recreation Center, 304 S. Fifth Street, Oregon or call 815-732-3101.

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Audubon Society to meet on Jan. 7

At Northwest Illinois Audubon Society's January meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 7, Hannah Badgett will present wildlife photographs and commentary about her summer as a research assistant in northwest Greenland.

While there, she banded several species of birds including puffins, peregrines and ptarmigans.

The meeting which begins at 7 p.m., held at St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 Park Blvd. in Freeport, is open to everyone.

For more information, visit the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society website at <http://www.nwilaudubon.org> or contact Teresa at 815-238-3963.

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loripetersonproperties.com

Ashley Patterson
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apatterson@ilinoisproperty.com



Boone Lockard
815-970-3506
lockardlistings.com

Carrie Rowland
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www.buywithjenny.net

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www.krugerclosings.com



Carla Benesh
815-985-6235
carlabenesh.com

Mark True
815-631-1699
mtrue@ilinoisproperty.com



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OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS- PROPERTY IN BYRON SCHOOL DISTRICT! If you are looking for a secluded property with views of the Rock River, look no further! Follow the 250' of concrete driveway to 2,200 sq ft of finished living space with another 1,100 waiting to be finished. This 3 level home is situated on 5.21 wooded acres, ZONED AG! Another added bonus, is the large in ground pool with cement patio and brick retaining wall. Packed with potential, bring your ideas and turn this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom home into your dream home! Low Rockvale Tax Rate.
Agent Related.

Rebecca at 815-509-8432
4432 N IL Rt 2, Oregon, IL \$215,000



NEW LISTING

You will love the entire package included in this beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with desirable open floor plan and vaulted ceilings. Kitchen with gorgeous cabinets, stainless steel appliances, breakfast nook and island bar. The lower level features a spacious family room, rec room, and den with potential for a 3rd bedroom- 2 egress windows. Laundry room hook up on main floor and lower level. Spacious back yard located near schools and parks. 12x20 patio and 10x10 deck off of the back. Charming front porch and professionally installed landscaping.

Jenny at 815-440-2145
604 S 10th St, Oregon, IL \$139,000



NEW LISTING

Suburban Splendor with Great Location! Just move right in this beautiful 3 bed 2 bath home that features a large privacy fenced back yard and 2 stall garage. You'll just love this floor plan with two bedrooms on the main floor and one large bedroom with private bath upstairs. Lovely layout and floors that flow. Imagine your family spending playful days in the private back yard or attending popular Byron Schools. Schedule your showing today and see for yourself why this is your next home! Heated above ground pool. Swimsuit not included. 6 person Hot Tub is negotiable. Home has 200 amp service.

Mark at 815-631-1699
847 Fieldcrest Dr, Byron, IL \$149,900



NEW LISTING

You will love the entire package included in this beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with desirable open floor plan and vaulted ceilings. Kitchen with gorgeous cabinets, stainless steel appliances, breakfast nook and island bar. The lower level features a spacious family room, rec room, and den with potential for a 3rd bedroom- 2 egress windows. Laundry room hook up on main floor and lower level. Spacious back yard located near schools and parks. 12x20 patio and 10x10 deck off of the back. Charming front porch and professionally installed landscaping.

Carla at 815-985-6532
327 W 4th St, Pecatonica, IL \$69,900



NEW LISTING

BRICK RANCH IN AN EXCELLENT LOCATION! You better hurry if you have been looking for a home on the north end of Oregon, this one will not last long! Two spacious bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms situated on a .55 acre corner lot. 2 wood burning fireplaces, one in the living room and the other in the large basement that could easily be finished for additional living space. This home also features a charming screened in porch, basketball hoop & pad in the backyard. Recent updates include 200 amp service and a new sewer line. Put your touches on this home that is packed with potential!

Rebecca at 815-509-8432
800 Monroe St, Oregon, IL \$89,500



NEW LISTING

Handyman's special!! So much potential with this 2 story home on a corner lot in Oregon. Much of the work has already been completed. This stately home offers huge eat in kitchen plus a formal dining room, large living room, bathroom on each floor, hardwood flooring on both levels, 3 bedrooms up with a bonus room on the main floor, 3 car garage, Central Air, Newer replacement windows and so much more!! Don't delay, one call does it all!

Carla at 815-985-6235
500 S 2nd St, Oregon, IL \$53,000



PRICE CHANGE

Charming home with 3 bedrooms and 1 bath. Spacious fenced in backyard, 1.5 car garage and additional storage shed. Updated kitchen, newer paint throughout. Nothing to do but move in!

Stephanie at 815-985-2155
409 E Center St, Mt Morris, IL \$65,000



PRICE CHANGE

You'll love the opportunity in this 4 bedroom home with yesteryear charm throughout. Plus a \$10,000 allowance for the buyer to make the final touches on this roomy home on a corner lot! Main floor laundry, newer furnace, central air, hot water heater. 2 bedrooms down and 2 upstairs. Large living room with hardwood floors, formal dining room plus a very large eat in kitchen! So, don't delay call today to see this opportunity knocking!

Carla at 815-985-6235
508 S 3rd St, Oregon, IL \$74,900



PRICE CHANGE

Move In Ready Home! Charming home that underwent a major remodel in 2007. Downstairs is spacious with the kitchen open into the living room and dining room. The kitchen has cherry cabinets, slate tile flooring and stainless appliances that stay. Upstairs you will find two large bedrooms with walk-in closets and hardwood floors. In your backyard there is a large, composite deck and 1 car garage.

Rebecca at 815-509-8432
304 S Division Ave, Polo, IL \$82,500



PRICE CHANGE

Your in luck! This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home boast hardwood flooring, main floor master and main floor laundry. Upstairs loft is currently being used as a 4th bedroom. Spacious backyard and newer garden shed. Alley access and parking near 2 car garage.

Stephanie at 815-985-2155
802 Franklin St, Oregon, IL \$84,900



PRICE CHANGE

3 BR, 2 BA home located near downtown Winnebago. Recently renovated kitchen w/new cabinets, stainless steel appliances & granite counter tops. Both main floor bath and upstairs bath were updated as well. Updates also include fresh paint and new carpet. This home features a formal dining room, living room, family room and finished porch area. You will fall in love with the craftsman charm this home has to offer. Private backyard with mature trees & 2 car garage.

Rebecca at 815-509-8432
306 S Seward St, Winnebago, IL \$139,900

Oregon girls bowling teams shine at Cavalier Classic

OREGON — The Oregon boys and girls bowling teams faced Sterling on Thursday, Dec. 12. The boys defeated the Golden Warriors 3,602-3,428 while the girls won 3,212-2,527.

Kyle Strite led the Hawk boys with a 674 series and a high game of 247. Eddie Buttens rolled a 663 series with a high game of 226 while Isaac Kaltenbrun added a 639 series. Rebecca Meyers finished with a 647 series and a high score of 232 to lead the Oregon girls, while Ava Wight added a 610 series with a high game of 214.

Oregon's boys team suffered a narrow loss against Rockford Christian on Friday, Dec. 13 by a score of 3,644-3,559. Kyle Strite finished with a 676 series and a high score of 248 while Brandon Rowe added a

628 series and a high game of 278.

The Oregon girls took first place in the Cavalier Classic hosted by LaSalle-Peru on Saturday, Dec. 14 with a score of 5,071. Rebecca Meyers led the Hawks with an 1,174 series to win the individual championship, while Sammantha Meyers added a 1,007 series for ninth place. The Oregon boys took second in the tournament with 5,736 pins behind a 1,282 series from Eddie Buttens, who finished third individually, and a 1,230 series from Jacob Smith.

Oregon's boys team defeated Christian Life on Tuesday, Dec. 17 by a score of 3,494-2,514. Kyle Strite bowled a 667 series and a high score of 225 while Isaac Kaltenbrun added a 634 series with a high game of 232. Rebecca Meyers rolled a 639 series and a high game of 256.

Oregon Park District offering winter tumbling classes

OREGON — January tumbling classes are now available for registration at Nash Recreation Center. Deadline to register is Monday, Jan. 6.

The tumbling program has proven effective. Kids Spot Inc. utilizes interactive tumbling instructors to provide your child the best experience possible. We offer a variety of class offerings from Tiny to Intermediate classes at three time frames of

4:45, 5:45 and 6:45 p.m. for 3-year-olds and up.

January classes run for four weeks and are Wednesday evenings beginning Jan. 8 through Jan. 29. Fee is \$56 for residents and \$67 for nonresidents. Register online at oregonpark.org or by calling (815) 732-3101. You may also register in person by visiting Nash Recreation Center, 304 S. 5th St., Oregon.

2nd Annual Egg Nog Jog scheduled for Dec. 28

OREGON — The 2nd Annual KB Egg Nog Jog will be held on Dec. 28, 2019 at 2 p.m. Registration for the event is \$25. The event will commence at the Oregon VFW located at 1210 W. Washington St, Oregon, IL 61061.

The day's festivities will begin with the Egg Nog Jog, which is a 3K run/walk through the streets of Oregon. This is not a timed event. The fun will continue inside the VFW with music, food and drinks. Registration forms are available online at www.KBToughRun.com or on the KB Run Facebook page. You can also sign up on the day.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the KB Fund. This fund has been established to help those in our community that are burdened by a medical crisis. Over 100 families have been helped by the KB Fund. Their needs ranged from expenses related to cancer treatments, chronic illness, accident recovery, special needs therapy, premature births and more.

Questions can be directed to info@KBToughRun.com or to Josh Roos at 815-440-5180 or Julie Cain at 815-519-2593. To learn more about the event and the fund visit our website at www.KBToughRun.com.

Oregon girls basketball team tops Milledgeville, Forreston

POLO — The Oregon girls basketball team tipped off the Polo Christmas Tournament with a 43-39 victory against Milledgeville. Jenae Bothe led the Hawks with

16 points while Kara Hodgson added eight points in the win.

Oregon faced Genoa-Kingston in the second round and lost 34-31. Jenae Bothe had 19 points

in the game and Olivia Lambrigtsen chipped in six points. The Hawks rebounded with a 40-36 win over Forreston behind 15 points from Lambrigtsen and 13 points from Bothe.

Senior Center to host noon celebration

MOUNT MORRIS — All are welcome to attend the Mount Morris Senior Center Noon Year's Eve Celebration on Friday, Dec. 27 at noon.

We will celebrate what we accomplished in 2019 and what is to come in 2020. We hope everyone in the community is able to attend this fun event. Simply bring a dish to pass and come to the Senior Center a little before noon, so we can have a countdown to twelve o'clock noon and enjoy a potluck meal together. Table service, drinks, and celebratory items will be provided. Please call 815-734-6335 to reserve your spot. All are welcome.

The deadline this week will be Monday, Dec. 23 at 5 p.m. All items must be in at that time.

The LIFE office is located at
311 West Washington Street, Oregon.
Open Monday-Wednesday,
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-noon.
The office is Closed Fridays

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Aplington honor rolls

1st Quarter Honor roll Polo Aplington School 2019-2020

Ryplee Custer
Bailey Dusing
Ariel Foster
Carlee Grobe

B Honor Roll

Camryn Cox
Dawson Foster
Kailin Gulbranson
Caleb Sutton
Natayla Witkowski
Alayna Young

Straight A Honor Rolls Grade 6

Lydia Anderson
Wyatt Brooks
Daniel Johnstone
Camryn Jones
Joya Katner

Avalyn Henry
Dustin Kolberg
Elizabeth Merrell
Damon Rowe
James Stephenson
Leah Tobin
Sophie Watts

B Honor Roll

Nevaeh Altherr
Leah Calderon
Korbin Cavanaugh
MaKayla Cisketti
Carson Coffman
Ravyn Dixon
Iyianna Drowns
Rylie Eaton-Anderson
Taryn Heather
Joseph Rowland
Jeven Weems
Izabella Witkowski
Noah Yingling

Keilee Ketchum
Laynie Mandrell
Grace Miatke
Elsa Monaco
Nikolas Mummert
Addisyn Quinlan
Aiden Terry-Messer

Grade 7

Myah Ackeberg
Isabella Bergstrom
Kameron Grobe
Katelyn Rockwood
Gage Zeigler

8th Grade A Honor Roll

April Calderon
Madison Glawe
Courtney Grobe
Kailey Helfrich
Jacob Monaco
Gabiella Oliver
Elleanna Wells
Riley Wooden
Zoie Wyatt
Nathaniel Yingling

Grade 8

Alex Albano
Joshua Conway
Karlea Frey
Tori Leesman
Allissa Marschang

B Honor Roll

Isabelle Blumhoff
Caden Brooks
Landen Brooks
Shaylin Diehl
Zander Dixon
Ellia Escobar
Avery Faivre
DeAngelo Fernandez
Nolan Hahn
Teegyn Heather
Kirsten Romero
Benjamin Ryan
Alivia Schmidt
Brock Soltow

7th Grade A Honor Roll

Kale Grobe
Brianna Kuhn
Abbigail Merrell
Augustin Mumford
Logan Nelson
Mazy Queckboerner
Cheyenna Wilkins

6th Grade A Honor Roll

Kason Allen
Evan Carlock
Cole Chestnut

UW-Whitewater awards more than \$2.3 million in scholarships for 2019-20

WHITEWATER, Wis. – The following local student are among the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater scholarship recipients receiving financial awards for the 2019-20 academic year.

Forreston – Elisabeth Gronewold, who is studying marketing, won the following scholarship(s): Non-Resident Transfer Scholarship

Polo – Lance Pearson, who is studying media arts and game development, won the following scholarship(s): Schuh Scholarship

“Our scholarship winners represent the very best in academic, co-curricular and service excellence across all of our colleges and departments,” said Greg Rutzen, interim president of the UW-Whitewater Foundation. “We’re grateful to the many people and organizations - past and present - who have generously donated funds to make these awards a reality. Some of these scholarships were endowed more than 80 years ago, leaving a lasting legacy that has contributed to the success of generations of Warhawks.”

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Proceeds from the sale of calendars will benefit all our From the Heart recipients: 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 & Rotary.

GET YOUR CALENDAR TODAY:

In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest, Hub City Senior Center

In Oregon at: Merlin’s **In Dixon at:** Shining Star

In Amboy at: Amboy News Office

Good Citizens



Polo’s Aplington Middle School’s August/September Good Citizen’s award went to Joya Katner, Shane Hollis and Riley Wooden.



Polo’s Aplington Middle School October Good Citizen Award went to Aiden Messer, Abbigail Merrell and Zoie Wyatt.

10022019

YES! Send me my calendar! (Please Print)

NAME: _____

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PHONE: _____

**Clip and mail this form along with a \$20 check to:
Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068**

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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 W Pines Rd, Oregon 732-7330
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle 562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499
Visiting Nurses Association 971-3755
4223 E State, Rockford

RRC announces activities

Rock River Center Activities

Rock River Center is a resource center located at 810 S. 10th Street, Oregon. Our activities and trips are open to all ages. Call our office at 815-732-3252 with any questions on our programs or services. Visit us on the web at www.rockrivercenter.org and like us on Facebook.

Lifescape Opens Senior Dining Site

We are happy to announce that starting Monday, Jan. 6, Lifescape will be adding Rock River Center as a congregate dining site! Lifescape and Rock River Center are thrilled to be working together to feed older adults in Ogle County. Lifescape will be serving meals at Rock River Center Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

Participants must be 60 or older or accompanied by a spouse who is 60 or older. Interested participants need to call and make reservations by 10 a.m. the day before they intend on eating at the Rock River Center. To schedule a reservation, call 815-963-1609 and let Lifescape know the days you plan on dining. Once scheduled, participants show up on their scheduled day between 11:30 a.m. and noon to enjoy their meal.

Rock River Center offers transportation within Ogle County. Participants can schedule a ride to their meal by calling Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 at least 24-hours in advance.

Rock River Center has a regularly scheduled potluck luncheons on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Also, The Etnyre Foundation sponsors free food Friday the first Friday of every month.

The Rock River Center will not host Congregate dining on the potluck days or free food Fridays. For January and February these days include Jan 3, 14, 22 and 28, and Feb 7, 11, 17 and 25.

A monthly menu may be found at: www.lifescapeservices.org

Lawn Games and Free Lunch Jan. 3

Join us at Rock River Center for lawn games in the multi-purpose room beginning at 10:30 a.m. Participants will be served a Free lunch afterwards (mostaccioli and meat sauce). Registration required.

Upcoming Computer Classes

The Computer Technology Center at Rock River Center is free and open to the public, and available weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 6 – Intro to the Internet – 9:30-11 a.m.

This class covers basic usage of the Internet. It is appropriate for anyone new to the Net or those who would like a refresher. Experience using a mouse is required. Call 815-732-3252 to register. Registration required.

Film Plastic Recycling Program, Jan. 14

Deb Cheek and Beverly Opalka, two of the organizers of the Film Plastic Recycling Program for Mt. Morris and Oregon, will speak at Rock River Center on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 10:30 a.m. They will discuss the details and progress of Film Plastic Recycling.

Did you know that film plastics have been found on the deepest point of the ocean floor and on the top of the tallest mountain in the world? More plastic has been produced in the last ten years than in

the entire previous century. With that increase there has also been a huge rise in plastic pollution. Nearly 80% of all waste on our land and shorelines and in our oceans around the world now consists of plastic debris. And what is the lifespan of this plastic? Answer: forever!

There will be a question and answer period as well. Handouts will be provided.

Program registration requested, so please call 815-732-3252 if you plan on attending. Potluck lunch and bingo follows. If you plan on staying for lunch at 11:30, bring a dish to pass.

Looking for a Special Gift Idea? Give us a Call

See Jay Leno live, Friday, April 17

The one and only Jay Leno is coming for a hilarious night of stand-up comedy as only the former king of late night can deliver. After hosting The Tonight Show for more than two decades, Jay Leno has earned the right to take it easy, but then he wouldn't be known as "the hardest working man in show business." We have a group of tickets for his performance scheduled in our area.

Paramount Theatre
 Friday, April 17
 Depart RRC around 5 p.m.
 Full itinerary to follow

If you miss seeing him on TV, come see one of the absolute masters of comedy live in person. Act now. Once tickets go on sale, they will go fast.

Cost (includes RT transportation and Live Performance):

\$140 Members / \$145.00 Non-Members
 Reservation/payment deadline: March 1
 Please call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 to make your reservation.

MyMedicare.gov

Have you signed up to use MyMedicare.gov? If not, you may want to consider doing so. Through this web site you can access your personal Medicare related information. For example, you can:

- * check to see the status of your new Medicare Card. Look for the message, "your card is in the mail"

- * view information about your Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan or your Medicare Advantage Plan enrollment.

- * view a list of your prescription drugs.
- * view your Medicare Summary Notice and learn about the status of your Part B deductible, whether it has been met or not.

Plus, just as with signing up for a MySocialSecurity account, when you sign up for a MyMedicare.gov account, it keeps scammers from using your information to sign up for an account.

Remember, open enrollment will be Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, 2019.

If you would like help signing up for a MyMedicare.gov or a MySocialSecurity account, we can help you. Just call us at Rock River Center, 815-732-3252, or 800-541-5479.

NICOR Gas "Sharing" Program Available

NICOR Gas Sharing Program is available to assist those NICOR customers whose income is above 150 percent of poverty level and less than 250 percent of the poverty level. For a 1-person household the 30-day income limit is \$2,529, 2-person household, \$3,429, 3-person household, \$4,329, etc. For more information or to make an appointment, call Linda at 800-541-5479 or 815-732-3252.

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Senior Center offers Dec. 27 celebration

MOUNT MORRIS – All are welcome to attend the Mount Morris Senior Center Noon Year's Eve Celebration on Friday, Dec. 27 at noon.

We will celebrate what we accomplished in 2019 and what is to come in 2020. We hope everyone in the community is able to attend this fun event. Simply bring a dish to pass and come to the Senior Center a little before noon, so we can have a countdown to twelve o'clock noon and enjoy a potluck meal together. Table service, drinks, and celebratory items will be provided. Please call 815-734-6335 to reserve your spot. All are welcome.



Students of the Month

Congratulations to the Stillman Valley High School Students of the Month for November. Pictured from left are: SVHS Assistant Principal, Jeff Voltz, Jeremiah Bogner (9th grade), Josie Larson (10th grade), Ashley Wubben (11th grade), Kinsey Lauer (12th grade), and Stillman Bank Senior Vice President Jim Coons. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement.

Master Naturalist training classes to be offered in 2020

OREGON – University of Illinois Extension invites adults of all ages to join them for the 2020 Illinois Master Naturalist training.

The classes will be held in Ogle County on Monday evenings from 5-9 p.m., starting March 16 and ending May 18. The training features instructors from local natural resource agencies and organizations as well as state Extension experts. The training will highlight our rich natural heritage by hosting classes in different locations in the area such as Nachusa Grasslands and Kickapoo Mud Creek Nature Conservancy.

As a Master Natural-

ist, you will learn about ecosystems and interrelationships of plants and animals that make up our natural world. You will also learn how to assist with land management and to share your knowledge with others in your community. The goal is to encourage participants to seek out lifelong learning opportunities to further their development as a naturalist.

Master Naturalist participants agree to serve 60 hours of volunteer service within the first two years of their initial classroom experience. Volunteers can then continue their certification with 30 volunteer hours and 10 continuing education hours

annually. Volunteer opportunities in your county are extremely flexible and tailored to fit your personal interests, abilities, and time restraints.

For more information and to apply to become a certified Illinois Master Naturalist, please visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo> or call Elizabeth Sosa, Extension Program Coordinator at 815-732-2191 or email at Sosa6@illinois.edu.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact your local Extension office. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

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Post 8739



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3 Appetizers at 9 p.m.

Complimentary Champagne Drink at Midnight

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Oregon Park District has upcoming events, activities

Open swim

Join the Oregon Park District on break for open swim from 2-5 p.m. Open swim will be held on December 23, December 26, December 27, December 30, January 2 and January 3.

First Friday in the pool

Join us for First Friday in the Pool on Friday, January 3 for a showing of Toy Story 4 in the pool and the River Room from 6-8 p.m. Snacks and crafts will be provided in the River Room. Join us to make Forky and enjoy a fun, family night!

After Hours Lock-In

Grades 6th, 7th and 8th are invited to their own lock-in at Nash Recreation on Friday, January 3 from 8-10 p.m. Enjoy full use of the facility to swim, play basketball, wallyball, baggo or just enjoy being with your friends. Admission is \$3 and snacks and drinks are included. The event will be supervised, no parent supervision is required. Parent permission will be needed for students to leave before 9:45 p.m.

Free drop-in playtime

Come drop in to meet friends and actively play at Nash Recreation Center in Oregon. We will have mats, balls, pop up tents, music and more set up in the multipurpose room for children to exert some energy and get out of the house. Come enjoy a cup of coffee while the kids play. Program occurs each Friday from 9:30 a.m.-noon. This is free to members and a daily fee for non-members.

Pop up and play – dodgeball game

Looking for something fun to do during winter break? Stay active and join us on Monday Dec 30th for a fun dodgeball game in the Nash Gym from 2-3:30 p.m. This is a free event and is open to all ages. A light snack will be provided. This program is brought to you by our presenting sponsor, E.D Etnyre and Co. Any questions, please call Lesley at 815-732-3101.

Village Bakery decorating class

Join the Village Bakery and their talented staff for an exciting decorating experience. This family-oriented program for 7-12-year olds requires an adult to attend class with each child. Don't miss the amazing experience to take home some memories. Class is on Friday, January 3 from 2-3pm. Deadline to register is Dec. 27. Fee is just \$16 per Resident and \$19 per Non-Resident.

Dog training offerings

We are quickly becoming a popular and affordable choice for dog training in our community. We are having a full series of indoor training sessions available beginning in January and offered through April! There are a variety of class offerings to fit your dog's needs. Register online at oregonpark.org or by calling 815-732-3101.

* Trick Training Tuesdays January 7 through February 11 6-7pm Fee: \$50 / \$60 NR Deadline: January 2

* Beginner's Obedience Wednesdays January 8 through February 12 6-7pm Fee: \$50 / \$60 NR Deadline: January 2

* Advanced Dog Training Thursdays January 16-February 20 6-7pm Fee: \$60 / \$72 NR Deadline: January 9. This advanced obedience class with trainer Bree Pazera will be a fun challenge for you and your dog. The next step for fun-loving dogs who have graduated past obedience classes. Dog must be at least 1 year of age.

* January Dog Walk & Train Fridays in January 6:30-7:30pm Fee: \$25 / \$30 NR Deadline: January 3. Exercise your dog inside the warm gym at Nash Recreation Friday's nights in January from 6:30-7:30pm to walk the perimeter of the room and/or practice your training in the middle of the gym. Our trainer, Bree Pazera, will be available on site as needed. All dogs enrolled must have taken a least one other park district dog training class. Dog must be 8 months old to attend.

Shake-rattle-roll at the sock hop

The always popular and well anticipated Mother Son Date Night (Feb. 7, 2020) and Daddy Daughter Dance (February 8, 2020) will be here before we know it. Grab your poodle skirt or leather jacket and be ready for an evening of fun at Nash Recreation Center. The evening includes snacks and beverages, great music, dancing, games for the boys, bracelet making for the girls and lots of fun making memories. Professional pictures can also be ordered through Niki Hunt Photography. Be sure to register before the Jan. 25 deadline.

T+T wood sign workshop

These trendy sign making classes are very popular. Register for the 10" wide x 48" tall Long Board Porch Sign class which will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 6:30-9:00 p.m., at Cork & Tap. Choose from a variety of sayings upon registration (include Holiday greetings, Welcome, Home Sweet Home and more) as stencils are prepared prior to class. Registration Deadline is January 28. Class fee is \$37/Resident or \$44/Non-Resident.

Indoor soccer

This growing indoor recreational soccer program will take place on Saturday mornings. The league is split into 2 age groups, 4-5 year olds and 6-7 year olds. The season runs Feb. 15th- March 14th. Each day the program will start with practice followed by a game. If you are interested in coaching, please contact Lesley at lesley@oregonpark.org. Deadline for registration is Jan. 30th and the cost is \$35/ \$42 NR

Co-ed volleyball league

Co-Ed Volleyball is back at the Nash! Games will be played on Thursday Nights. This is a fun and semi-competitive league and will consist of a regular season and an end of the year tournament. Teams may have a maximum of 6 players on the court at one time with no more than 3 males at once. Mandatory captain's meeting will be held on 2/6 at 5:30 p.m. at Nash Recreation Center. A maximum of 8 teams will be allowed, register early! Registration deadline is February 5th, and the season runs February 13th through April 30th. Fee \$215 per team.

Boys youth basketball night

Come and support the Oregon Hawks Boys Basketball Team! Friday, Jan. 10 at the Blackhawk Center. Oregon Park District 2-5 Grade Boys basketball players, wear your team jerseys! 2/3 grade Boys teams will scrimmage during the JV game halftime. Game starts at 5:45 p.m. 4/5 Grade Boys teams will scrimmage during the Varsity game halftime. Game starts at 7:15 p.m. Wear your OPD jersey for free admission and a free hotdog from the concession stand. Door prizes will be given away!

Girls youth basketball night

Come and support the Oregon Lady Hawks Basketball Team! Friday, Jan. 31 at the Blackhawk Center. Oregon Park District 2-5 Grade Girls basketball players, wear your team jerseys! 2/3 grade girls teams will scrimmage during the JV game halftime. Game starts at 5:45 p.m. 4/5 Grade girls teams will scrimmage during the Varsity game halftime. Game starts at 7:15 p.m. Wear your OPD jersey for free admission and a free hotdog from the concession stand. Door prizes will be given away!

Polo Senior Center offering trips to S. Carolina, and S. Dakota

POLO – The Polo Senior Center announces upcoming travel opportunities for 2020.

If you are interested in any of the below travel opportunities or maybe a friend is interested. call 815-946-3818 or 815-238-8645 and ask for Barb for a complete flyer or for more information.

Savannah, Jekyll Island and Beaufort, S.C.

Sunday, March 22 through Saturday, March 28, 2020.

7 days and 6 nights – Charter Service Wiersma Charters, Morrison. Six nights of lodging including four consecutive nights in

the Savannah area.

10 meals: 6 breakfast and 4 dinners. Guided trolley tour of Savannah, followed by Hop-On/Hop-Off Privileges. Guided Tour of Beaufort, S.C. – “Queen of the Carolina Sea Islands” – plus a visit to Parris Island. We will also go to Parris Island Marine Base.

Evening show at Famous Savannah Theatre; guided tour of St. Simons Island and guided tram tour of Jekyll Island.

Trip cost \$815 double occupancy. We have single and triple rates available. A \$75 deposit is required when you sign up. Final

payment due Jan. 15, 2020. Insurance price per person for double occupancy \$69. It is recommend you purchase the travel insurance.

Mount Rushmore, Badlands, Black Hills and Yellowstone National Park

Sunday, Aug. 30 through Tuesday, Sep. 8 2020

10 days and 9 nights – Charter Service Wiersma Charters, Morrison. Nine nights lodging including four consecutive nights in South Dakota.

16 meals: 9 breakfasts and seven dinners.

Mount Rushmore: Wildlife Loop Road at Custer State Park; admission to the Unique Journey Museum; guided tour of Deadwood, plus gaming at a Deadwood Casino; visit to Crazy Horse Memorial; Badlands National Park; guided tour Yellowstone National Park.

Trip cost \$1,260 per person double occupancy. Single and triple rates available. \$75 deposit required and sign up. Final payment due June 23, 2020. Insurance price per person for double occupancy \$94. It is recommend you purchase the travel insurance.

Byron FFA



The Byron FFA recently competed in three CDE's (FFA contests) placing 1st in Meat Judging, Dairy Products and Agronomy. These contests test a student's skills and ability in these career disciplines. The top 5 individuals compete at state in mid December. Meats: Renee Gehrke 1st, Olivia Ebens 2nd, Wyatt Atkinson 3rd, Keagan Swanson 5th, Isaac Charbonneau 9th, Megan Jackson 11th Carter Conderman 12th, Brooke Whitmer 14th, Neil Ebens 22nd.

Dairy: Grace Whitmer 1st, Mikalah Freedlund 7th, Alex Cassens 8th, Brooke Whitmer 11th, Keagan Swanson 21st.

Agronomy: Ally Keefe 3rd, Alex Buseski 4th, Olivia Ebens 5th, Ryan Bendit 10th, Gunnar Shank 11th, Renee Gehrke 13th, Carter Conderman 15th, Kennedy Roth 34th.





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WEEK #17 NFL GAMES

Circle your choice for the winner of each game on the schedule.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Atlanta Falcons	at	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Chicago Bears	at	Minnesota Vikings
Cleveland Browns	at	Cincinnati Bengals
Green Bay Packers	at	Detroit Lions
Indianapolis Colts	at	Jacksonville Jaguars
Los Angeles Chargers	at	Kansas City Chiefs
Miami Dolphins	at	New England Patriots
New Orleans Saints	at	Carolina Panthers
New York Jets	at	Buffalo Bills
Philadelphia Eagles	at	New York Giants
Pittsburgh Steelers	at	Baltimore Ravens
Tennessee Titans	at	Houston Texans
Washington Redskins	at	Dallas Cowboys
Arizona Cardinals	at	Los Angeles Rams
Oakland Raiders	at	Denver Broncos
San Francisco 49ers	at	Seattle Seahawks

TIE BREAKER #1

Total Combined Score

San Francisco 49ers at Seattle Seahawks

Total Score _____

TIE BREAKER #2

Total Combined Score

Oakland Raiders at Denver Broncos

Total Score _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

DROP YOUR ENTRY TO: Ogle County Life Office: 311 W. Washington Street, Oregon

MAIL YOUR ENTRY: Ogle Co. Life, PO Box 378, Oregon, IL 61061 CONTEST RULES: Contestants must be at least 21 years or older to enter each week. 1 entry per person. The winner will be the entrant who selects the most correct winners. In case of a tie, the tiebreaker will be determined by the total score of the tie breaker game, second tie breaker will be combined score of Sunday night game. Entries must be received at the Ogle County Life by noon the Friday before the games. Winners will receive a \$20 gift certificate to one of the participating businesses!

WEEK #15 WINNER

JEFF SPRATT OF CHANA

\$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM A PARTICIPATING SPONSOR

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Bread of Life has monthly food distributions

STILLMAN VALLEY – Bread of Life is a food pantry and soup kitchen serving residents of Ogle County and Meridian School District. If you are in need, please join us for a snack, conversation, and groceries to bring home.

We meet at Valley Covenant Church on the corner of North Maple Street and Route 72, in Stillman Valley, on the second Tuesday of each month. Join us from 3-5 P.M and bring photo I.D. and proof of residence.

Winter reminder: We follow the Meridian School District closure calendar. If Meridian schools are closed, we are closed. For any questions please call Bread of Life at 815-645-8872, Ext. 15.



Polo Lions Club

The Polo Lions Club served ham, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn muffin casserole, rolls, desserts and drinks at a dinner on Dec. 7. All the proceeds benefiting the Polo Pool concession stand and restroom project. Pictures are Lions Club servers, from left: President Mark Bocker, Brian Lebaron, Winton Bocker, Aaron Miller and Josh Gorzny.

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Byron Library News

Special Hours

The Byron Library will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observation of the Christmas holiday, open 9 a.m.-5 p.m on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019 and closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020 in observation of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. We wish all of our patrons a safe and happy Christmas and New Year's!

Do you need a camera to take HD videos? Would you like to try out a Roku before deciding to purchase one? Check out the Byron Public Library's Library of Things! You can find these devices and more, including our mobile hotspots. No need to ask at the circulation desk; just stop by the Library of Things shelves to see what's available! All devices can be checked out for two weeks.

Interactive Movie Night: Elf

Monday, Dec. 23
2-4 p.m.
Ages: 6 - 12th grade
Join us for an interactive movie night watching the movie "Elf", and find out what happens when a human baby is raised at the North Pole as one of Santa's elves! Please visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.

Beanie Baby Bingo

Friday, Jan. 3
1:30-2:30 p.m.
Ages: K-5th grade
Head to the library to play Bingo. Winners take home a Beanie Baby! Please visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.

Travel Through the Holy Land with James Brown and Karen Virnoche-Brown

Tuesday, Jan. 7
1:30-2:30 p.m.
Israel, a Middle Eastern country on the Mediterranean Sea is regarded by Jews, Christians and Muslims as the biblical Holy Land. Karen and James share highlights of their pilgrimage with pictures and stories of the holy sites, the Israeli people, and their cuisine. Shalom! Please visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.



Linda Mitcheltree shares at the Marshall Field's presentation by Sarah Sullivan at the Byron Public Library on Dec. 11.

AARP Smart Driver Safety Course

Jan. 9 & Jan. 10
12-4 p.m.
Ages: 50+
The AARP Smart Driver Safety Course is the nation's first refresher course designed for drivers 50+. Course completion helps drivers refine skills and develop safe driving strategies. Attendance on both days is required for completion; \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-AARP members; checks payable to ARP. AARP members must have member number for discount. There are no tests! A completion certificate will be given for auto insurances who may offer a discount for a 3-year period. Check with your provider for participation. Please visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.

Scrap-Stravaganza

Saturday, Jan. 11
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bring our supplies, tools and pictures to spend the day scrapbooking. Tables will be first come, first-serve. No registration is required.

Library Dance Party

Monday, Jan. 13
10-10:45 a.m.
Ages: 18 months-5 years, with caregiver
Join us for a monthly music and movement program! Explore new music and move with shakers, scarves, and ribbon wands. No registration required.

Matinees at BPLD: Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles

Friday, Jan. 24
10-11:30 a.m.
This documentary looks at the origins of Fiddler on the Roof, one of Broadway's best-known musicals. Max Lewkowicz's "Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles" provides an entertaining overview of the unlikely success of Fiddler on the Roof, which on 9 Tonys and is the longest running musical in Broadway history. Refreshments provided. Please visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call 815-234-5107 to register.

Please register for all programs by visiting byron.evanced.info/signup or by calling 815-234-5107.

Moving Up Higher

with
Joyce Meyer



Come to God's table

In Psalm 42:5 (AMP), the psalmist asked, "Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become restless and disturbed within me?" It seems that many people often feel this way. Because of the pressures of everyday life—in our work, finances, our homes or relationships—there is some form of depression, discouragement, or discontentment in almost everyone you see.

But it really doesn't have to be that way. We do not need to live our lives in despair, restless or disturbed. We can be content, encouraged and joyful even in the midst of troubles.

For many years I felt bad about myself because of the abuse I endured for most of my childhood. I felt damaged and ashamed and focused more on what I did wrong than anything else. That is until I came to an understanding of who I am in Christ.

You see, what we *think* of ourselves has a lot to do with how we *feel* about ourselves. And when you give your life to Christ, you don't have to be mad at yourself because you don't do everything right. You can enjoy your life even while you have a problem!

The question is, *can you see yourself the way God sees you—the way He says you are in His Word?* Will you trust the Holy Spirit to work in you until you *can* see it? Don't worry...you don't have to wait until He's done; the work is ongoing. You just need to trust Him.

Come to the Table

In a book I read about shepherds and sheep, it talks about how a shepherd will go to the "table lands," a high plateau that is difficult to reach but where there is good, healthy grass for the sheep to graze. He goes and "prepares" the land by removing any poisonous grasses and flowers that could harm the sheep. In Psalm 23:5 (NIV), David says, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." And 2 Samuel, chapter 9 tells a beautiful story that conveys how welcome we are at the table of the king.

After the deaths of King Saul and his son Jonathan, David began to search for someone from the bloodline of Saul, to whom he could show favor to honor his friend Jonathan (2 Samuel 9:1). He just wanted to be good to someone in Saul and Jonathan's family on Jonathan's behalf.

David found out that Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, was still alive. But he was told that the young man had "issues." His feet were lame. That was no matter to King David, who sent for Mephibosheth to be brought to him.

Mephibosheth came before King David in fear and shame, bowing and asking, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?" (v.8 NIV). Many of us come to God that way because we do not feel good enough or that we deserve God's love and mercy.

I felt this way for a long time, so I understand what it's like. But we don't have to clean ourselves up to come to God, because the truth is we can't make ourselves good enough in our own effort or strength. God wants us to come to Him just as we are, and then He will change the things about us that need to be changed as we grow in our relationship with Him.

David assured Mephibosheth, saying, "Don't be afraid, for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table" (v. 7 NIV).

The last verse of that chapter says, "Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet" (NIV). What a beautiful account of unconditional love, acceptance and redemption!

You Are Always Welcome

This can be our story as well. As Psalm 23:5 says, God's table has been prepared for us in the presence of all our enemies—all our issues and problems. The Lord welcomes us to His table and anoints our heads with oil, a symbol of the Holy Spirit, who refreshes and energizes our hearts. And He continually fills our cup to overflowing!

When we live in God's presence, our "cup"—our life—will overflow with His love, grace, mercy, and every other good thing He has for us. The Lord is a good Shepherd, and there is no reason for you to feel insecure, ashamed or fearful before Him. You are *always* welcome at His table, in the presence of God!

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books. She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

The LIFE office is located at
311 West Washington St., Oregon.

Oregon Library News

Holiday hours

The Oregon Public Library will be closed – Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.

The board of trustees approved to go fine free beginning Jan. 1, 2020

Over the years libraries have charged fines for overdue materials to ensure patrons return the items. In January 2019, the American Library Association issued a resolution that added to their policies “The American Library Association asserts that imposition of monetary library fines creates a barrier to the provision of library and information services”. Since our library is supported by your taxes, we are discovering that fines are unnecessary and can be seen instead as a deterrent to use the library. Of the 2059 registered cards at Oregon, 34% have fines and 17% of these cards cannot check out materials because the amount is over \$5.00. Oregon Public Library strives to make our resources available to the public and our patrons while providing an accessible and less stressful experience. We are lucky to have a historical library filled with a variety of materials manned by knowledgeable and friendly staff and we want to share these resources with you.

How does Fine Free work? Materials will still have due dates, but fines will not be accrued when they are overdue. Renewals can still occur unless there are holds on the materials. Patrons are still responsible for the items they have checked out and if these materials are kept longer than 14 days past the due date, the patron account will be blocked. At 21 days the items will be charged to the account at a replacement value. The account will remain blocked until the items are returned. As of January 1st, 2020 all overdue fines will be waived and moving forward all overdue fines will not accrue. Replacement charges for items that are damaged or lost still apply. If you have outstanding library materials you can return them with no fines. If you have not been in for a while, we’d love to see you again! Please call the Oregon Public Library at (815)732-2724 if you have questions.

New – Computer classes

Need a little extra help with navigating Word, Excel or the Internet, schedule a private session with our staff to assist you. Appointments are available Tuesdays between 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Schedule your time slot today!

Library book clubs

Books on Tap Book Club meets on Thursday, Dec. 26 at 6 p.m. at Cork n Tap to discuss *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. The 2WBC meets Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 12:30 p.m. to discuss *Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 1 p.m. to discuss *Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom.

Adult yoga Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

Family yoga Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

Benefits of yoga include developing a mind-body connection and present centered awareness. Strength, flexibility, stamina/endurance and a sense of calm for both the mind and body will increase with repeated practice over time. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat and water bottle. Mats will be provided to those in need on a first come, first serve basis. Registration required.

Knit and crochet

A friendly and dedicated group meets every Monday evening, 6 p.m. at the Library. These crafty people share their time and energy with anyone who enjoys the delights of the yarn. Working on projects can come to a complete halt if someone has a question or a good story to share.

Oregon Writer’s Group (OWG) – Will not meet in January, See you Feb. 11

Second and Fourth Tuesdays of the Month

The OWG is a gathering of writers or writer-wannabes who meet to support each other and to further their own writing. The purpose of the group is to help and encourage you in your writing. If you need brainstorming ideas, we can help suggest ideas or aid with the creative process. The Oregon Writers Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

Explore more Illinois

Explore More Illinois is a service of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS). RAILS is funded by a grant from the Illinois State Library through the Office of the Secretary of State Jesse White and provides a number of different programs and services for Illinois libraries and library users.

Oregon Public Library now offers Explore More Illinois, a cultural pass program that provides discounts and other offerings from museums, historical societies, performing and visual arts centers, and other attractions across the state of Illinois. The program is free for adults 18 years and older who have a library card from a participating library. Offerings differ by attraction and include free or reduced admission, free parking, discounts at attraction shops, and more.

Explore More Illinois is available 24/7 from any computer, tablet, or smartphone. Visit <https://exploremore.quipugroup.net/?Oregon> and log in using a valid library card number and password to review and reserve offerings by attraction and specific dates.

Current attractions include the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (Springfield), Chicago Children’s Museum, and Discovery Center Museum (Rockford). Visit exploremoreillinois.org to see a complete list. New attractions are added on a regular basis so be sure to check back frequently.

Contact library staff for more information at 815-732-2724 or email us at oregonlibrary@yahoo.com

New releases

Wyoming by J.P. Gritton (Fiction)

The Second Sleep by Robert Harris (Large Print + Regular Print Fiction)

Royal Holiday by Jasmine Guillory (Fiction)

The Lost Causes Of Bleak Creek by Rhett McLaughlin (Fiction)

A Minute To Midnight by David Baldacci (Fiction)

Consumer Reports Buying Guide 2020 (Non-Fiction 640.73 CON 2020)

The Last Train To London by Meg Waite Clayton (Fiction)

Secrets Of The Chocolate House by Paula Brackston (Fiction)

Tom Clancy: Code Of Honor by Marc Cameron (Fiction)

Criss Cross by James Patterson (Fiction)

I Am C-3PO: The Inside Story by Anthony Daniels (Biography BIO DAN)

The Education Of An Idealist: A Memoir by Samantha Power (Biography BIO POW)

A Bookshop In Berlin: The Rediscovered Memoir Of One Woman’s Harrowing Escape fromThe Nazis by Francoise Frenkel (Biography BIO FRE)

A Warning by Anonymous (A Senior Trump Administration Official) (Non-Fiction 973.933 ANO)

Trump vs. China: Facing America’s Greatest Threat by Newt Gingrich (Non-Fiction 327.51 GIN)

Snow: A Scientific And Cultural Exploration by Giles Whittell (Non-Fiction 551.57 WHI)

The Hero by Lee Child (Non-Fiction 398 CHI)

Chilling Effect by Valerie Valdes (Science Fiction)

Fortuna by Kristyn Merbeth (Science Fiction)

All I Want For Christmas Is You by Miranda Liasson (Paperback Romance)

My Fake Rake by Eva Leigh (Paperback Romance)

Forever And A Duke by Grace Burrowes (Paperback Romance)

The Rancher’s Redemption by Kate Pearce (Paperback Romance)

An Alaskan Christmas by Jennifer Snow (Paperback Romance)

Beating About The Bush by M. C. Beaton (Mystery)

The Attempted Murder Of Teddy Roosevelt by Burt Solomon (Mystery)

Brewed Awakening by Cleo Coyle (Mystery)

A Murderous Tangle by Sally Goldenbaum (Mystery)

Thin Ice by Paige Shelton (Mystery)

The Deserter by Nelson McMillan (Large Print Fiction)

Bertolet Library News

Movie Matinee Madness

Thursday, Jan. 2, 2 p.m.

Looking for something to keep the kids busy once the holidays are over? Bring them to the library for an afternoon at the movies, complete with popcorn and drinks! This month's show is a recently released animated film that follows a mischievous girl named Yi and her friends as they help a young yeti find his way home to Mt. Everest. Children and adults will enjoy cheering on Yi and her friends as they discover bravery they didn't know they had in their epic journey across China.

LEGO Club

Monday, Jan. 6, 4 p.m.

Stop in after school for an hour of designing and building with our large assortment of LEGO bricks and figures. Bring a friend for twice the fun!

Mitten Tree

During the month of December, we are collecting hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves for children and adults. Please consider helping out by purchasing any of these items and hanging them on our mitten tree. All items collected will be donated to local food pantries for distribution to their patrons. Thanks for your generosity!

Plastic Recycling

We are still collecting film-type plastic such as shopping bags, sandwich bags, bread wrappers, or any bag-type plastic. Wrap from new furniture (especially mattresses) is also welcome. All plastic must be clean, dry, and free of food residue. Please do not bring hard plastic as that is not allowed in this program. We are located on the south end of Leaf River at 705 Main Street. Thanks for your help!

Holiday Hours

Bertolet Memorial Library will be closed for the Christmas holidays on Dec. 24th and 25th. We will close at 4 p.m. on Dec. 31st for New Year's Eve and remain closed Jan. 1. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

New DVDs include: "Abominable", "Downton Abbey The Motion Picture", and "Overcomer"

Julia Hull Library News

Holiday Closures

The library will be closed the following dates for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays: Dec.24, Dec. 25, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

2020 Winter Reading Challenge

Read a book, complete a review form, and enter to win prizes! Yep, it's that easy. Jan. 2 through Feb. 29. Drawings held weekly. Pick up a flier for more details. Adults only.

Tween Scene: Snow Art

Head to the library Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. for snow much fun! Tweens will create some colorful and chilly art using real snow! But don't worry! We'll have cookies and hot chocolate to warm up with afterwards! Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Winter Critter Tote

What reader doesn't need another book tote? Participants will choose a template of their favorite winter critter, then select from an array of flannel fabrics to design an original patchwork tote—no sewing skills required! Monday, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. All materials supplied. Bring fabric scissors, if available. Adults. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Teen Challenge: Break A World Record

Think you have what it takes to break a world record? You'll need all your speed, flexibility, and strategy to find out! On Friday, Jan. 17 at 2:45 p.m., come compete in a variety of ridiculous tasks to see just how mad your skills are. Ages 13-18. Registration required.

Fun Day Monday: Winter Diorama

School's out for the day, so stop by the library for creative play! From snowmen, to snow covered trees, participants will each create a unique 3D winter wonderland using cardboard boxes, paper, cotton batting and more. Monday, Jan. 20 at 1 p.m. Grades K-5. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Young Critics Book Club (YCBC)

Pick up a copy of Jonah Winter Elvis Is King, then join fellow young critics on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. to discuss and rate the book, and do an activity that goes along with the story! Ages 7-10. Registration required.

Storytime With Elephant & Piggie!

Join us for a hysterically good time featuring the popular books and characters from the Elephant & Piggie series by Mo Willems. On Saturday, Jan. 25 at 10 a.m., we'll read books, sing songs, and make a craft even indecisive Gerald would approve of! Both costumed characters, Gerald & Piggie, will join us for fun and photos. Bring a camera! All ages. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Travel Tips: TSA Precheck, Global Entry & Real ID

Do you dread airport security? There are 3 specific ways to help manage the stress: TSA Precheck, Global Entry and Real ID. Frequent fliers, Joanna & Wayne, will give you the ins and outs of each, then review all the information you need to know before you apply. Monday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Forreston Library News

Interlibrary loans

If there is a book, a DVD, or audio book that you would like to see and the Forreston Public Library does not own it, we may borrow the item from any library within the State of Illinois at no charge. If the item cannot be located within the state, there may be an extra charge for items received elsewhere in the United States.

Story hour

All children are welcome to Pre-school Story Hour for stories, crafts and playtime. Please join us every Wednesday at 9:30 am when school is in session.

Book club

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday evening January 28 at 7:00 p.m. The book selection for January is Two by Two by Nicholas Sparks. Stop by the library and pick up a copy of the book to read and then join the club for lively discussion and light refreshments.

Books added to the shelf in November

Adult Items

Fiction

Temptation's Darling – Johanna Lindsey
Spirit of the Season – Fern Michaels
Blue Moon – Lee Child
This Tender Land – William Krueger
Night Fire – Michael Connell
Kiss the Girls & Make Them Cry – M. Clark
Let It Snow – Nancy Thayer

Christian fiction

Saving Gracie – Kristin Ethridge
Large print
Kiss the Girls & Make Them Cry – M. Clark
Stealth – Stuart Woods
Final Option – Clive Cussler
To the Land of Long Lost Friends – A. Smith
Deserter – Nelson DeMille

Paperback

Meant To Be Yours – Susan Mallery
Audio books
Blue Moon – Lee Child
Night Fire – Michael Connelly
Kiss the Girls... - Mary Higgins Clark
Guardians – John Grisham

Non-fiction

Copypat Restaurant Favorites – Taste of Home
Taste of Home Annual Recipes 2020

Juvenile New Items

Fiction (E)

Field Trip – J.D. Riley
Otter: I Love Books –Sam Garton
Pete the Cat's Trip to the Supermarket –James Dean
Night Before Kindergarten Graduation – N. Wing
Daniel Gets His Hair Cut – Daniel Tiger
Trick or Treat, Little Critter –Mercer Mayer
Frankie Stein Starts School –Lola Schaefer,
Bad Kitty Does Not Like Thanksgiving – N. Bruel
Halloween Forest –Marion Dane Bauer
Pumpkin Countdown – Joan Holub
Five Little Ducklings Go To School – Carol Roth
Stanley's Christmas Adventure –Jeff Brown
Touch & Feel Kitten (board book)
Fiction (J)
Tabby in the Tub –Ben Baglio

Non-fiction

Human Body –Kathleen Zoehfeld
Pearl Harbor –Stephen Krensky
Explorers of North America –Brendan January
Valleys & Canyons –Larry Brimmer
Thunder & Lightning - David Cutts
Spiders & Scorpions –Anna Claybourne

Polo Library News

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and accessible. Please note that some programs require registration.

Library Closed

Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25

Christmas Holiday

Winter Reading Program

Jan. 2nd-Feb. 29th

Something for all ages! Pick up your age appropriate Reading Bingo Card or Reading Log at the Polo Library front desk starting January 2nd and warm up with a good book!

Coffee with a Cop

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join us for refreshments and conversation monthly on the 2nd Wednesday.

Health & Wellness - Massage

Thursday, Jan. 9, 6-7 p.m.

Types of massage and its benefits. Presented by Essential Integrative Healing.

Lifelong Learning

Thursday, Jan. 23, 6-7 p.m.

Monthly on the fourth Thursday University of Illinois Extension, Celebrations and Traditions: Strengthening Family and Community, Karla Belzer Plan to discuss the importance of tradi-

tions, explore ideas for maintaining family traditions or creating new ones, and create a plan for documenting celebrations.

Board @ the Library - Games for Adults 18+

Saturday, Jan. 25, 3-5 p.m.

Monthly on the fourth Saturday

Children's programs Parents or caregivers must remain in the library if their child is under 8.

Tales for Tots

Pre-K/Kindergarten Story Time

Ages 3-5

Saturday, Jan. 11, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Theme: Snowmen

Book: Mouse's First Snow by Lauren Thompson

Parent/guardian/caregiver must stay with child during the program. Call for registration, 815-946-2713

Lego Challenge: Book or Movie Character

Ages 8-14

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Build a character from a favorite book or movie.

Early Out Program

Ages 6-12

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 1-2:30 p.m.

Movie: The Lion King (new release)

Call for registration, 815-946-2713

Pokemon Club

Ages 8-14

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

This club is open to Pokémon card collectors. Join in to play games and trade cards.

Teen programs

Book Subscription Box Pickup

Saturday, Dec. 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pick up your Book Subscription Boxes

Teen Scene

Ages 13-18

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 5:30-7 p.m.

Cookies and Canvas Painting Party. Call for registration, 815-946-2713

Adult programs

Rock River Center representative

Monday, Dec. 23, 10 a.m.-noon.

The Rock River Center provides a case-worker to answer questions about Medicare, insurance, home care and anything else to do with caring for the older population. No appointment necessary.

Yoga

Monday, Jan. 13, 6-7 p.m.

Krystal from ADM Studios in Oregon will be our instructor.

Bring a mat if you have one. Call for registration, 815-946-2713

Euchre

Thursday, Jan. 16, 5:30-7 p.m.

Time to play cards, bring a friend

Knit Happens - Beginner's Knitting Class

Saturday, Jan. 18, 1-3 p.m.

Monthly on the third Saturday

Learn to knit a scarf - The Library will provide the needles, the attendees will bring the yarn of their choice.

Call for registration, 815-946-2713

Book Discussion Groups

Extra books are always available for these discussions. Please check one out and join us.

Afternoon Book Club @ the Library

Monday, Dec. 23, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Selection: Hiddensee by Gregory Maguire

Friday Book Discussion @ the Library

Friday, Dec. 27, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Selection: Seven Days of Us by Francesca Hornak

Mount Morris Library News

Friday, Dec. 27 all day – STEM Day for all ages!

Don't know what to do with the kids for winter break? Send them to the library! On Friday 12/27 we will have a rotation of different STEM toys and activities to keep the kids, and parents, busy.

Friday, Jan. 3 at 11:15 a.m. – Special Story Time for ages 3-8

Nibbles has visited the library. Come find Nibbles the book Monster before he nibbles through all our books! We will be reading about Nibbles and doing special crafts and activities including hunting down this book monster in our books!

Friday, Jan. 3 from 2-4 p.m. – Book Ninja Training for ages 8+

Learn how ninja skills and books go hand in hand. Participate in fun challenges, learn new skills, and burn off some energy over the winter break.

Thursday, Jan. 9 at 5:30 p.m. – Healthy Cents adult program week 1

Learn how to eat healthy on a dime. This will be hands on and interactive class to help adults and their families stay healthy without breaking budget. There will be a taste test of a delicious recipe at each class. This class will be held every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Please call or stop in to sign up.

Sunday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. – Tax Efficiency for adults

Brian from Thrivent financial will be here to help you understand tax efficiency. Learn about where your money goes, what needs taxed, what all these terms mean for you.

Holiday Closings

We will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, 12/24 and 25, closing at 5 p.m. New Years Eve 12/31, New Years Day 1/1.

Drop Of Site for Film Plastic Recycling

You can now recycle your clean and dry film plastic, which is any plastic that can be wadded into a ball, to be turned into a bench! Stop in for more details.

Upcoming Events:

Mini Golf Fundraiser – Our annual mini golf fundraiser will be coming in February! If you would like to sponsor a hole please contact Kaitlyn at the Library.

What is Tri County? – See what things Tri County has to offer, ask questions, be informed!

Reoccurring Programs:

Story Time – Every Wednesday morning at 11:15 a.m. all ages (Upcoming dates 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29)

After School Club – Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. ages 5 and up (Upcoming dates 1/15, 2/5, 2/19)

Lego Club – Every 2nd Monday of the month @5:45pm all ages (Upcoming dates 1/13)

Cookbook Club – Every 3rd Monday of the month @6:00 for adults. Visit the library to choose your recipe. (Upcoming dates 1/20) *The day has changed*

Library Board Meeting – Jan. 15 at 7 p.m.

Children under age 8 must be accompanied by an adult for all programs.

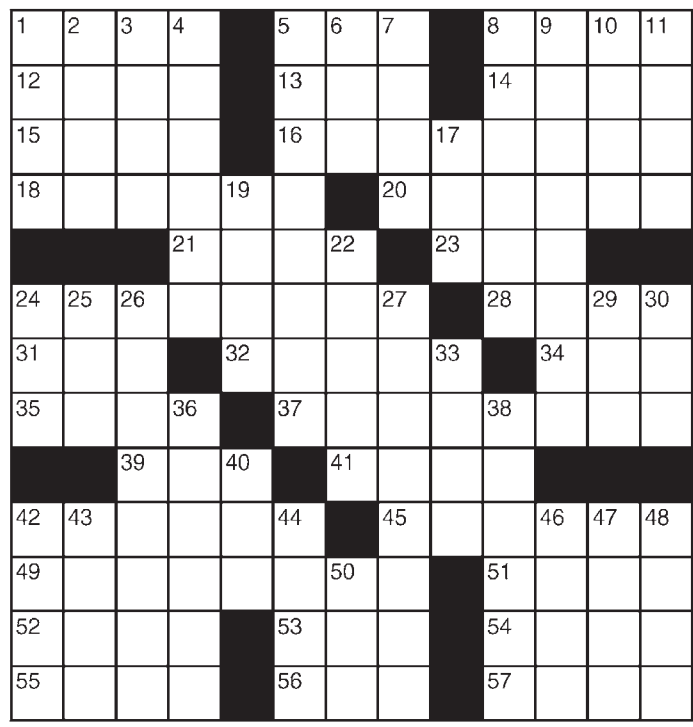
Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

MAGIC MAZE ● — REMOVER

ACROSS

- 1 Variety of lettuce
- 5 "Eureka!"
- 8 Book of prophecies
- 12 Lotion additive
- 13 Chaps
- 14 Toothpaste container
- 15 Anger
- 16 Conventional
- 18 One up?
- 20 Western occurrence
- 21 Leopold's codefendant
- 23 Four qts.
- 24 One of Monopoly's light-blue avenues



- 28 Speech impediment
- 31 Great noise
- 32 Disrobe
- 34 Female deer
- 35 Bird of peace
- 37 Decoration
- 39 Finish
- 41 Ireland
- 42 Secular
- 45 Servile
- 49 Form a union
- 51 Top
- 52 Isn't well
- 53 Calendar abbr.
- 54 Prolonged sleep
- 55 Run away
- 56 Automaton, for short
- 57 Slaughter of baseball
- 9 Flood aftermath, perhaps
- 10 Reed instrument
- 11 Send a naughty message
- 17 Embrace
- 19 Billions of years
- 22 Wilkes- —, Pa.
- 24 Peculiar
- 25 Brazilian tourist mecca
- 26 Lure
- 27 Ache aid
- 29 Junior
- 30 Teacher's —
- 33 Rid of rind
- 36 Put in a box
- 38 Threaten
- 40 Novelist Brown
- 42 Unsliced bread
- 43 Seed coat
- 44 Owl's perch
- 46 PC picture contents
- 47 Magazine
- 48 Meadows
- 50 Menagerie

DOWN

- 1 Zinger
- 2 Pelvic bones
- 3 Nut partner
- 4 Pvt. Bailey
- 5 Cherub, in art
- 6 The girl
- 7 Picnic invaders
- 8 Musically keyless

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

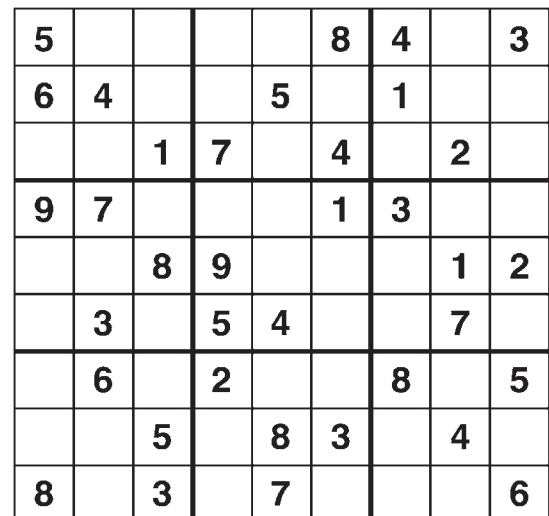
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

- Boot
- Dust
- Eye makeup
- Hair
- Malware
- Nail polish
- Odor
- Paint
- Spot
- Spyware
- Stain
- Staple
- Varnish
- Virus
- Wart

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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.

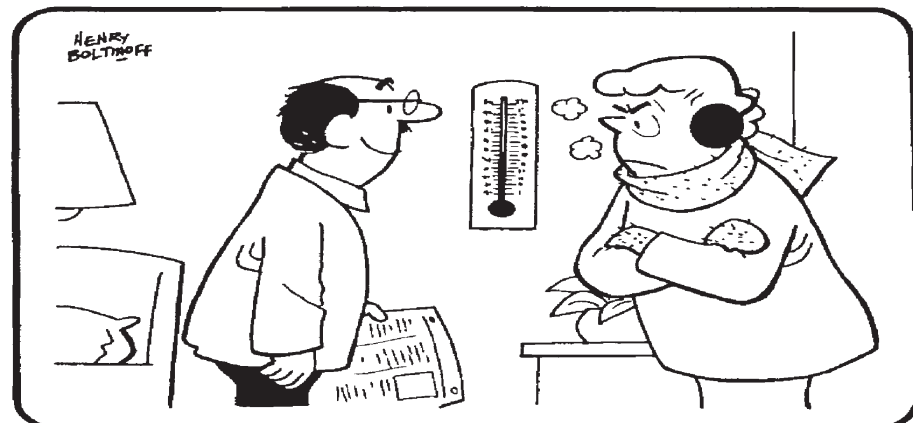
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

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

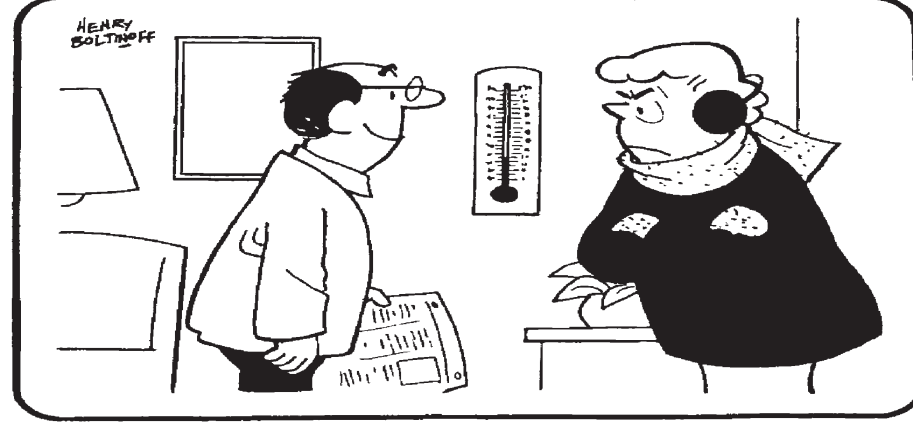
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HOCUS-FOCUS

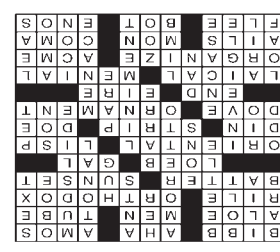
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



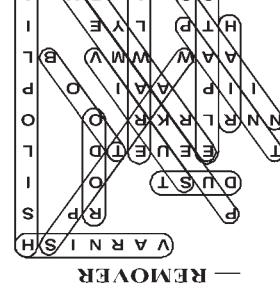
Differences: 1. Blouse is black. 2. Breath "puffs" are gone. 3. Picture has been added. 4. Pillow is missing. 5. Temperature is lower. 6. Moustache is gone.



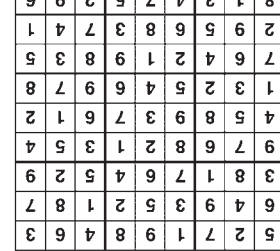
Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



REMOVER



Answer

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Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

RIDDLE SEARCH – DECEMBER 25TH

Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: **What is a wolf's favorite Christmas carol?**

ANGEL	P	D	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	E
CANDLE	A	N	U	F	F	C	P	T	O	E
CANDY CANE	G	S	L	L	I	A	R	Y	T	N
CHIMNEY	E	N	E	Y	R	A	K	A	C	A
CIDER	A	O	T	A	E	H	E	L	O	C
DISPLAY	N	W	D	H	P	N	H	P	C	Y
FIREPLACE	T	E	O	W	L	T	M	S	O	D
FUN	L	E	G	N	A	O	L	I	A	N
HEARTH	R	E	D	I	C	Y	G	D	H	A
HOLIDAY	S	T	R	E	E	L	D	N	A	C
HOT COCOA										
LOG										
NOEL										
PAGEANT										
PARADE										
SNOW										
TOY										
TREE										
YULE										

Riddle answer: _____

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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. Energetic | __ I __ _ _ _ | Attractive | __ O __ _ _ _ |
| 2. Shoulder wrap | __ _ O __ _ | Fix one's hair | __ _ Y __ _ |
| 3. Easily chewed | T __ _ _ _ | Bumper | F __ _ _ _ |
| 4. Review the ledger | __ _ _ _ T | Of the ear | __ _ _ _ O |
| 5. Kick out of school | __ _ P __ _ | Do extremely well | __ _ C __ _ |
| 6. Wobble like gelatin | __ _ G __ _ | Advertiser's tune | __ _ N __ _ |
| 7. "Law and ____" | __ R __ _ | More peculiar | __ D __ _ |
| 8. Paper border | __ _ _ G __ _ | Lee or Gaye | __ _ _ V __ _ |
| 9. Rocket ship sendoff | __ L __ _ _ | Animal | __ E __ _ |
| 10. Relinquish a right | __ _ _ V __ _ | Restaurant server | __ _ _ T __ _ |

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

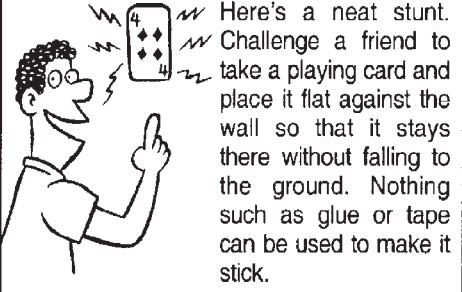


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Plant on mantel is missing. 2. Man has black. 5. Shirt zipper is gone. 6. Earmuff has added band.

PUZZLE CARD



Here's a neat stunt. Challenge a friend to take a playing card and place it flat against the wall so that it stays there without falling to the ground. Nothing such as glue or tape can be used to make it stick.

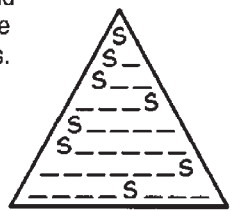
Secret: To make it stick, stand in front of the wall, scuff your feet several times on the carpet, and then slap the card against the wall. Static electricity will cause the card to adhere to the wall.

A PUZZLE FOR THE BIRDS
"Tweet, tweet, tweet, tweet equals tweet-tweet."
This clever bird challenges you to make four 3's equal to 33!

ANSWER: $3 \times 3 \times 3 = 3 \times 11 = 33$

THE "S" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the S's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. Symbol for sulfur.
2. Compass direction.
3. Group of games in tennis.
4. Part of foot.
5. To tend a fire.
6. A bulb holder.
7. Kangaroos have them.
8. Close marching order.

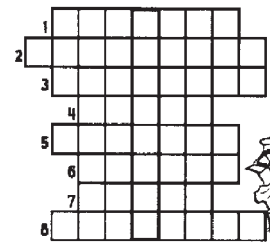


Answers: The words are: S, SE, set, toes, socket, pocket, lockstep.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

CHRISTMAS DAY FUN



Here's a "word" present for you. There's room in the grid on the left for eight words about the holiday season. Here are some hints to light the way:

1. Great for tandem snow fun.
2. This dessert is made with many ingredients.
3. The joyful sound of Christmas.
4. Enjoyed in front of the fire.
5. Mom and Dad need plenty of help with this two-day activity.
6. A type of toy airplane made of balsa wood.
7. Found hanging on the Christmas tree.
8. This is the season for joy and ____.

There's a dark frame around one column of the grid. If you have correctly solved the puzzle, it spells out the name of an important Christmas item

Answers: 1. Bobsled. 2. Fruitcake. 3. Caroling. 4. Cocoa. 5. Cooking. 6. Gilder. 7. Candy. 8. Laughter.

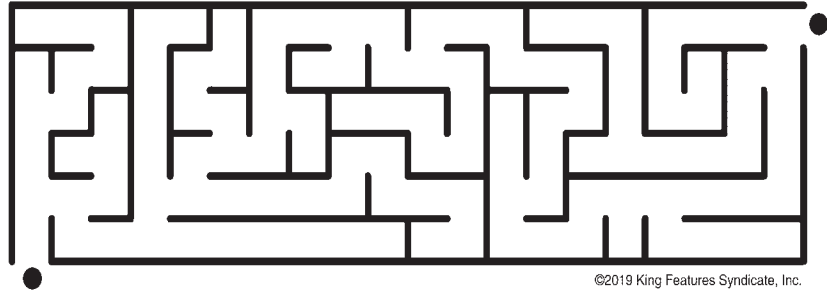
The dark framed column spells "Stocking."



Kids' Maze Solution

- Even Exchange** answers
1. Lively, Lovely
 2. Stole, Style
 3. Tender, Fender
 4. Audit, Audio
 5. Expel, Excel
 6. Jiggle, Jingle
 7. Order, Odder
 8. Margin, Marvin
 9. Blast, Beast
 10. Waiver, Waiter

Kids' Maze



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Riddle Answer:
Deck the Halls.

ANSWER

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

Super Crossword

MIX OF FISH

ACROSS

- 1** Creole cooking pod
- 5** Early Andeans
- 10** Concert stage items
- 14** Disgrace
- 19** Cover thickly
- 20** Declines
- 21** Wrongful act, legally
- 22** Of the ear
- 23** Grabs hold of a fish?
- 25** Give a fish medication?
- 27** Choose (to)
- 28** Baseball stat
- 29** Like spoiled cooking oil
- 30** Clamor
- 31** Fish smeared with black gunk?
- 34** Cheeky
- 37** Have bills
- 38** Mineo of "Giant"
- 39** Suffix for an enzyme
- 40** Not as cruel
- 41** Turn liquid
- 44** Old horse
- 47** Fish drifting about aimlessly?
- 50** Actor Stiller
- 51** Baseball stat
- 53** Hoppy quaff

- 54** Wash. bigwig
- 55** Fish covered with more grit?
- 59** Modifies
- 64** Conceal
- 65** Fake ID
- 66** 1,051, in old Rome
- 68** Larch, e.g.
- 69** Makes a fish more softhearted?
- 71** Honey-colored fish?
- 74** Score — with (impress)
- 75** It's south of Can.
- 76** Eye parts with irises
- 77** Splits
- 78** Triplets of adjacent nucleotides
- 80** Cures a fish by salting and drying?
- 85** Western treaty inits.
- 87** Hide — hair
- 88** Actress Davis of "The Matrix Reloaded"
- 89** Ending for Bronx
- 90** Fish that's a sainted guardian?

- 96** O'er there
- 97** For fear that
- 98** Runner Bolt
- 99** "Botch- —" (Rosemary Clooney hit)
- 100** It precedes Sept.
- 102** Barely obtain, with "out"
- 104** Gratify, as a base instinct
- 106** Accept a Facebook request from a fish?
- 112** Boat in Genesis
- 113** Twilled fabrics
- 115** Old's opposite, in German
- 116** Yellow tropical fruit
- 117** Teach a fish privately?
- 120** Catches a fish in a net?
- 122** Flee to get hitched
- 123** Lance cpl.'s org.
- 124** Free-for-all
- 125** Fair shelter
- 126** Philly's train system
- 127** Light meal
- 128** French river to the Rhone

- 129** Singer Anita or Aubrey
- DOWN**
- 1** Eightsome
 - 2** Aussie critter
 - 3** Leaf-gathering tool user
 - 4** Had to admit an error
 - 5** Theoretical things
 - 6** Unclothed
 - 7** Bow of "It"
 - 8** Holy tables
 - 9** Atlanta-to-Miami dir.
 - 10** Perfumery oil
 - 11** Bards' A.M.
 - 12** On-the-nose
 - 13** Furniture finishers
 - 14** Went unused
 - 15** Palette part
 - 16** Erté's style
 - 17** Seafarer
 - 18** Hyundai compact
 - 24** Crock-Pot meal
 - 26** Grid stats
 - 29** Puts more ammo in
 - 32** AI — (pasta preference)
 - 33** Seafarer
 - 35** Long side up
 - 36** Max. or min.
 - 39** "I'll second that"

- 41** Samantha Bee's station
- 42** Expulsion
- 43** Earthworm, e.g.
- 45** 2009 "Star Trek" director J.J.
- 46** Seepage of methane, e.g.
- 48** Heavyweight great
- 49** Put on TV again
- 51** Suffers
- 52** Dog part
- 56** "I'll second that"
- 57** Informer
- 58** Envoy's building
- 60** Just clear of the bottom, as an anchor
- 61** Boarding school student, informally
- 62** Some china ensembles
- 63** Divinity sch.
- 67** Not as much
- 69** Bud
- 70** Actress Sarandon
- 71** Rd.'s cousin
- 72** No more than
- 73** Cheese type
- 76** Hubbubs
- 79** Not a soul

- 81** As to
- 82** Old man
- 83** Baseball Hall of Famer Ralph
- 84** On Soc. Sec., often
- 86** Operated on smaller than a national level
- 90** Transforms, as larvae
- 91** In general
- 92** Sleeveless casual shirt
- 93** Free (of)
- 94** Lovingly, in music
- 95** Rapa —
- 97** Ushered in
- 101** Music styles
- 103** 53-Across containers
- 105** Q-U queue
- 106** Sell for
- 107** Writer Zora — Hurston
- 108** Super- —
- 109** Got along
- 110** A Trump ex
- 111** Spruced up
- 114** They support teeth roots
- 118** Choose (to)
- 119** Stephen of "Utopia"
- 120** Texter's "Didn't need to hear that!"
- 121** Notice

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18			
19					20						21					22							
23				24							25				26								
27						28					29								30				
31					32				33				34			35	36						
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41	42	43			44	45	46		47		48				49								
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90	91	92	93									94											
98									99					100		101			102	103			
104						105								106			107	108			109	110	111
112							113																
117																							
					118	119																	
122																							
126																							

Soap Opera Update

By Dana Jackson

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Liam continued to urge Steffy to bring Zoe back to Forrester in a ploy to beat Thomas at his own game. As Hope watched in disbelief, Thomas asked another woman to rekindle their romance. Liam asked Wyatt how he knew that Thomas was putting on a big act. Zoe made a mea culpa to Steffy. Later, Hope lashed out at Steffy, furious that she would even consider rehiring Zoe. Knowing that he had a spy in place, Liam gave Hope the greenlight to work with Thomas. Ridge gave Brooke an option to go back to their old lives. Carter questioned Zoe about her relationship with Thomas. Steffy let Brooke in on her plan to use Zoe to find out the truth about Thomas' feelings for Hope. Wait to See: Sally begins designing Steffy's fashion line.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Ciara's mission to find the truth was thwarted by Xander. Eve was cleared when new evidence was discovered. Lani and Kristen hatched a plan to win back what was rightfully theirs.

Julie cared for JJ as he struggled with sobriety. Chad confronted Kate about Stefano. Marlena gave John an ultimatum about "Hope." Rafe attempted to hunt down Rolf. Jack comforted Jennifer. Marlena confided in a guilty Kate. Gina was upset by John's decision. Later, Rafe found Gina in her secret lair. Kate got under Kayla's skin. Victor grew suspicious of Ciara. Evan and Sonny became closer. Roman realized that Kate was hiding someone in her room. Gabi is stunned to receive a call from Kristen. Wait to See: Stefano is tempted to reveal himself to Marlena.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Jax was in for a big surprise. Nina finally learned the truth. Chase confided in Finn. Anna took notice. Elizabeth waited with anticipation. Valentin was delighted. Lulu felt helpless. Peter continued to feel anxious. Ava lay in wait. Kevin offered his insight. Nina cornered Obrecht. Sonny and Carly couldn't see eye-to-eye. Sasha was less than thrilled with Lucy's announcement. Franco was devastated. Jordan showed no mercy. Michael did the best he could. Anna reviewed her notes. Maxie shared her joy. Nelle played it

cool. Anna and Finn have a difference of opinion. Wait to See: Danny visits Santa.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

Sharon sympathized with Chelsea's frustrations about Connor's school and directed her toward Amanda if she was considering legal action. However, Amanda suggested homeschooling or another academy as an alternative. Meanwhile, Nikki was outraged to learn about Connor's expulsion from Walnut Grove. Chance was glad that the fake jewelry heist brought him closer to Abby, and the two shared a passionate kiss. Amanda made a pass at Billy after congratulating him on his new job. Mariah assured Sharon that Faith would be home for Christmas. The Newmans celebrated an early Christmas at the ranch, and a humble Victor thanked Nikki for being there for him as he battled his disease. Wait to See: Michael and Lauren receive a holiday surprise.

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Lawrence Saint-Victor stars as "Carter" on "The Bold and The Beautiful." Photo credit: Gilles Toucal/Bell-Phillip Television Production.

Senior News Line

By Matilda Charles

Taking a Breather in 2020

I think we can agree that 2019 was a long, tough year. We all know why. Is it time to tune out?

Here are some thoughts on how to have a better 2020:

* Turn off the TV now and then, especially those news shows. We've been around long enough to have figured out the political stuff years ago. We don't need to

continually have it thrown at us.

* If we do want to watch TV, we can flip to PBS, or maybe the History channel or Discovery. For those of us with Netflix or Amazon Prime, there are plenty of shows, more than we could ever watch. Check out travel videos: wine country in France, narrowboats on the canals in Britain or the scenery in Iceland.

* Consider loading up on jigsaw puzzles and inviting a few friends over. New puzzles can be expensive, but Goodwill

has them for \$3. Put on tea or coffee, turn on some quiet music in the background and talk about anything but politics while you put puzzles together.

* Vow to have better nutrition in 2020. It doesn't have to be a huge overhaul of your diet, maybe just a few small steps. An extra piece of fruit each day, brown rice instead of white ... it can all add up to better health.

* Winter won't last forever. Eventually spring will arrive and thoughts of planting. Begin now to consider what you might

grow: a few pots of flowers outside the door, vegetables in a community space. Make plans.

* We need to do something for others for our own peace of mind. Consider signing up for an afternoon each week at the food bank, or walk a small dog at the shelter once the weather warms up.

Just turn off the TV.

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To Your Good Health

By Keith Roach, M.D.

Risk of Surrogacy at Advanced Age

DEAR DR. ROACH: Would you please comment on common or uncommon issues that might be expected in a pregnancy at age 57? I am overall very healthy, with no issues other than slightly elevated LDL. I have not gone through menopause. I had four full-term pregnancies, the last at age 35 (after which I had my tubes tied), and no miscarriages. I asked my doctor two years ago if I would have an issue being a surrogate and was told there was no reason I couldn't be, but my current physician told me that it can be very dangerous at my age. I am concerned that the practice is just covering itself against any liability. I realize that this is my decision alone and I would not hold my doctors accountable, but I'd also like the real truth regarding any potential issues I would be likely to encounter. I appreciate your thoughts. -- M.V.

ANSWER: I admire your willingness to consider being a surrogate.

However, the risks of pregnancy in a 57-year-old woman are significant.

A study from the U.K. from 2016 quantified the risks pretty thoroughly; however, of the 233 women studied, only two of them were older than 57, so your risks are probably higher than the average risk for an older mother in the study (which was defined here as 48 years or older at the date of delivery).

Before I go over the risks, let me point out that one major risk for older mothers, Down syndrome, may not apply, since the ovum (egg) you would be carrying would come from another woman and it is her age that determines the risk for the fetus. Older mothers also are more likely to carry twins (or more than two fetuses).

Compared with younger mothers, older mothers have a higher risk for: high blood pressure during pregnancy (15% vs. 5%); pre-eclampsia, also called toxemia (6% vs. 2%); diabetes during pregnancy (18% vs. 4%); hemorrhage after delivery (26% vs. 15%); Cesarean section (78% vs. 33%); preterm delivery (22% vs. 8%); and admission of the baby to the intensive care unit (3% vs. less than 1%). Miscarriage rate (after

11 weeks) in women over 55 is estimated to be about 10%, compared with 1% in younger women. Maternal death is much more likely for older women than younger; however, that risk is small, less than 2 per 1,000 in a separate Swedish study of mothers over 45.

Overall, these risks are not small. You should think through your risks before making a decision. I'm disappointed in the lack of advice you received.

DEAR DR. ROACH: The 71-year-old woman from a recent column who finds sticking her finger to test her blood glucose too painful to be willing to do it likely was never told that while sticking her finger at the tip IS painful, sticking at the side of the end of the finger is barely painful, if at all. I find myself surprised that those who stick fingers for blood at the hospital don't seem to know this either. Shame on them. -- R.S.

ANSWER: There are more nerve endings at the tip of the finger, so that is more painful for most. There often is better blood flow on the sides as well. Thank you for writing with this reminder.

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I loved watching “Supernanny” and was sad -- but happy for her -- when she left to focus on her own family. Did she ever end up having children like she had hoped? -- E.P.

A: Jo Frost, the “Supernanny,” made her debut on ABC 15 years ago but quit after several seasons in order to focus on her personal life, including, hopefully, having children of her own. Now, she’s back with a new “Supernanny” series premiering Jan. 1 at 10 p.m. ET on Lifetime.

According to Lifetime, “The families featured this season are from cities and towns around the country, and they are dealing with diverse issues that span the spectrum of parenting challenges from postpartum depression, ADHD, kids obsessed with electronic devices, blended families struggling with children acting out and military and first responder spouses facing separations, to parents buried in their phones and more.

“Jo will visit one new family each week and use her trusted and proven methods and elevated teachings to help them change their dynamics while focusing on positive reinforcement and connectivity.”

As for her personal life, I couldn’t find any confirmation that she married her fiance, Darrin Jackson, who was the production manager of her original series, or that she has had any children.

Q: Is there really going to be another “Matrix” movie? Will Keanu Reeves be in it, or will there be all new characters? -- R.F.

A: Yes, there will another sequel, “Matrix 4,” but it won’t be released until 2022. The cast will again include Keanu Reeves as Neo, Carrie-Ann

Moss as Trinity and, reportedly, Jada Pinkett Smith as Niobe. New to the cast will be Jonathan Groff, best known as Holden Ford from the Netflix series “Mindhunter” and for voicing the character of Kristoff in the Disney “Frozen” movies.

It’s hard to believe that it’s been more than 15 years since the last “Matrix” film. Reeves was very fortunate to land this franchise. Apparently Brad Pitt and Johnny Depp were first sought after for the lead by the producers and directors. Janet Jackson also was pursued for the role of Trinity, but it went to Carrie-Ann Moss, a relative unknown, when Jackson wasn’t able to work it into her schedule.

Q: Is Bill Cosby in prison, or is he out on bail? How is his health? -- T.L.

A: The disgraced comedian has been serving a three- to 10-year sentence in a Pennsylvania state prison since September 2018. He was recently denied an appeal to overturn his conviction.

Cosby was convicted in 2018 on three counts of aggravated indecent assault against his accuser, Andrea Constand. At the time of his trial, he professed to be totally blind, but many people were skeptical and felt he was looking for pity from the jury. He is living in the general population of the prison and is reportedly quite popular, giving motivational speeches to inmates and working out regularly, losing weight.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Couch Theater

By Amy Anderson

“Downton Abbey” (PG) -- When news that the king and queen of England are coming to Downton Abbey breaks, the Crawleys and staff embark on an exhaustive list of preparations for the royal visit. But the royals show up with their own staff -- cook, butlers, housekeepers, the lot -- and Mr. and Mrs. Bates team with Mrs. Patmore, Mrs. Hughes and even Mr. Carson to take back the house from the arrogant interlopers. Meantime, there’s plenty of intrigue upstairs involving a longstanding disagreement between the dowager countess Violet and a Crawley relative; Tom Branson, who is possibly suspected of still having Irish sympathies; and more of all the much beloved characters.

“Abominable” (PG) -- In a lovely but predictable animated story about found family, an impressively oddball girl named Yi (voiced by Chloe Bennet) lives in Shanghai and one day finds, to her surprise, a Yeti on the roof of her apartment building. And because she’s an impressive oddball, she and her pals befriend the adorably fluffy giant they nickname Everest, and vow to escort the magical beast to the highest mountain

from whence he came. But they need to do it post haste, as the villainous Burnish (Eddie Izzard) is hot on the trail to collect Everest as a personal prize.

“Ad Astra” (PG-13) -- Brad Pitt is at the center of this very cerebral film as astronaut Roy McBride, whose father (Tommy Lee Jones) was a pioneering space traveler who has been missing in the far reaches of our solar system for 16 years. McBride’s mission, among other things, is to reestablish contact, if able. It is a near-future world where space exploration and travel are much more accessible and ordinary, but still -- at least for the outer planets -- a treacherous proposition, evoking much deep internal struggles and self-questioning. The movie is beautiful but very slow in unfolding.

“Rambo: Last Blood” (R) -- In a final (probably, hopefully) wrap-up to the “First Blood” story, we find John Rambo (Sylvester Stallone) on his late father’s horse ranch, quietly enjoying his sunset years with adopted family Maria and her daughter, Gabriella (Yvette Monreal). But the type of demons in the former Green Beret can never be truly exorcised -- and thank god, because when



Gabriella is kidnapped in Mexico while trying to locate her birth father, it’s “Uncle John” who resurrects his special forces background to swoop in with some serious vengeance. There’s no nuanced storylines or plot twists; it’s flamethrower vengeance with

a ton of blood, which is exactly as advertised.

NEW TV RELEASES
 “Fuller House” Complete Fourth Season
 “Killjoys” Season 5
 “Hogan’s Heroes” The Com-

plete Series
 “The Returned” Season 2
 “Bonanza: The Official Tenth Season Vol. 1”

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Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Where are the great films like "Gone with the Wind," "The Wizard of Oz," "Citizen Kane," "Lawrence of Arabia," "The Bridge on the River Kwai" and "My Fair Lady," to name six? IMAX and 3D superhero films can't compare with strong story content and great acting. Elizabeth Banks wrote/produced/directed and co-starred in the recent "Charlie's Angels," which cost \$55 million and earned just \$51.5 million. Yet Universal Pictures has hired her to star and direct the remake of "The Invisible Man," now "The Invisible Woman."

John Cena, a nice guy who does a lot of good for children, is still a wrestler turned actor whose first major film, "Playing With Fire," cost \$30 million and grossed only \$45.6 million. Yet his producer has signed him to star in "Vacation Friends," with "Search Party's" Meredith Hagner. Cena has already completed roles in "Fast & Furious 9" (opening May 22), "Project X-Traction," produced by and co-starring Jackie Chan, for release in 2020, and "The Suicide Squad" (due August 2021). Where are the Gables, the Garlands, the Monroes or even the Streisands?

Not to depress you further, but a "Downton Abbey Movie" sequel isn't likely in the new year. Julian Fellowes, "Downton's" creator/producer/writer, is working on HBO's "The Gilded Age" and complains, "It's taking most of my time. We don't start shooting until March, which may delay me thinking further about the 'Downton Abbey' endeavor. I'd like to think you have two shifts, a day shift where TV work can happen, and a night shift for the writing on the 'Downton' script." He's only too aware that when you work on a big project at HBO there are going to be rewrites, day and night, which leaves no time for "Downton" now.

On a positive note, Fellowes said of "Downton Abbey," "Fortunately it's worked out well, it grossed \$185 million. We all enjoyed it, so hopefully we'll find a way to come back for more."

Sylvester Stallone left Rambo in limbo with an \$87 million gross against a \$50 million cost. He may have a new franchise with "Samaritan," about a young boy out to discover if a mystic superhero who vanished after an incident 20 years earlier is still alive. It's set to open December 2020.

Edward Norton, nominated for Oscars as best supporting actor ("Primal Fear" and "Birdman," and as best actor (for "American History X") has realized his life-long dream to direct and star in the film of his favorite book. "Motherless Brooklyn," with Bruce Willis, Bobby Cannavale, Alec Baldwin and Willem Dafoe, missed the mark (\$26 million cost and \$11.6 million gross). Still, for him and all of us, 2020 offers new opportunities and joys to make our lives more meaningful... Happy New Year!

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Trivia Test

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: What was the name of the main character in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"?
2. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which U.S. president was the nation's first known speleologist?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "tele" mean in English?
4. MUSIC: What was the main title of the 1979 song that is popularly known as "The Pina Colada Song"?
5. PERSONALITIES: Which actress was born Betty Joan Perske?
6. MEDICAL: What is a more common name for the condition known as canities?
7. HISTORY: When did daylight savings time go into effect in the United States?
8. COMICS: Which newspaper did reporter "Brenda Starr" work for?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Mrs. Dalloway"?
10. AD SLOGANS: Which laundry detergent introduced the "ring around the collar" campaign?

Answers

1. Clark Griswold
2. Thomas Jefferson, who visited and mapped caves.
3. Distance
4. "Escape"
5. Lauren Bacall
6. Gray hair
7. 1966
8. The Flash
9. Virginia Woolf
10. Wisk

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Ogle County Farmers Consignment Auction
Jan, 20, 2020 at 9 am
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 \$1000 max commission rate
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Consignments must be onsite in by Jan 10 for internet cataloging
Advertising deadline is Jan 2
 Food/beverage stand
 Contact Sean Janssen 815-677-2781 or email janssenagservices@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/JanssenAgServicesLLC>

FARMLAND AUCTION
Wednesday, January 15th, 2020
at 10:30 A.M
Sale to be held at: CedarStone
610 South Division Ave
Polo, IL 61064
 90 Acres +/- ONE PARCEL:
 Section 28 of Pine Creek Township in Ogle County, IL.
 For complete listing of sale bill, maps, tax info, and terms & conditions, etc. visit www.lennybrysonauctioneer.com
 For Information Contact:
 Lenny Bryson - Auctioneer
 11749 West Judson Road
 Polo, IL 61064
 Ph) 815-946-4120
 Owner, Stan Weber
 Attorney, Tom Suits

FARMLAND AUCTION
Friday, December 27th, 2019
at 10:00 A.M
Sale to be held at:
Mt. Morris Moose Family Center
101 Moose Drive. Mt. Morris, IL 61054
 280 Acres +/- TWO PARCELS:
 Parcel # 1) 160 Acres +/- in Section 17 of Seward Township in Winnebago, IL.
 Parcel # 2) 120 Acres +/- in Section 5 of Leaf River Township in Ogle County, IL.
 For complete listing of sale bill, maps, tax info, and terms & conditions, etc. visit www.lennybrysonauctioneer.com
 For Information Contact:
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103 AUCTIONS

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on November 27, 2019, a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: Trimble Wood & Gardens, 7777 North Crestview Road, Stillman Valley, IL 61084. Dated: November 27, 2019
Laura J. Cook,
Ogle County Clerk
No. 1208 (Dec. 9, 16, 23)

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT OGLE COUNTY PUBLICATION
NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT)
Request of: Theresa Ann Walton
Case No. 2019 MR 000066
There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: Theresa Ann Walton to the new name of: Theresa Ann Watson.

The court date will be held: Jan., 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at 106 S. 5th St., Oregon, Ogle County in Courtroom #202.
Theresa Ann Walton
No. 1210 (Dec. 9, 16, 23)

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE)
MATTER)No.
OF THE)2019
ESTATE)P-91
OF:)
HARVEY H.)
MCCOY,)
deceased.)

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of HARVEY H. MCCOY of Byron, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on November 25, 2019, to DAWN M. HENDRICKSON of Byron, Illinois, whose attorney is David A. Smith, of Smith, Birkholz & O'Brien, P.C. at 129 South Fourth Street, P. O. Box 10, Oregon, Illinois, 61061-0010.
CLAIMS against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 South 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication of this Notice, or within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred.
Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed.
Dawn M. Hendrickson
Independent Executor
Attorney David A. Smith
SMITH, BIRKHOLZ & O'Brien, P.C.
129 South Fourth Street
P. O. Box 10
Oregon, IL 61061-0010
(815)732-6124
No. 1211 (Dec. 9, 16, 23)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on December 4, 2019, a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: Studio on Second, 107 W. 2nd St., Byron, IL 61010. Dated: December 4, 2019
Laura J. Cook,
Ogle County Clerk
No. 1213 (Dec. 9, 16, 23)

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS OGLE COUNTY ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF OGLE PROBATE DIVISION
In the)
Matter)
of the)No.
Estate of)2019
L. HAROLD)P 17
GOLEY,)
Deceased.)

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of L. HAROLD GOLEY. Letters of Office were issued on March 6, 2019, to STEVEN V. GOLEY, 4906 East Ashelford Drive, Byron, IL 61010, who is the Independent Executor of the Estate. The attorney for the Estate is MICHAEL J. SCHAPPERT, HolmstromKennedyPC, 800 North Church Street, Rockford, Illinois 61103. Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before March 9, 2020, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Ogle County Circuit Clerk - Probate Division, at 105 S. 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois 61061, or with the Estate legal representative, or both. Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office - Probate Division must be mailed or delivered to the Estate legal representative and to his attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Dated: Dec. 3, 2019.
STEVEN V. GOLEY, Independent Executor of the Estate of L. HAROLD GOLEY, Deceased
Holmstrom KennedyPC
His Attorneys
No. 1215 (Dec. 9, 16, 23)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sealed bids will be received by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, Illinois until 2:00 P.M. January 10, 2020, for the purchase of the following new equipment with trade ins:
1) Track skid steer,
2) 80 hp tractor,
3) 1/2-Ton extended cab pickup truck,
4) 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. 1220 (Dec. 16, 23, 30)

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE)
MATTER)No.
OF THE)2019
ESTATE)P 99
OF:)
TIMOTHY)
JOHN)
HOUGH,)
Deceased.)

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of Timothy John Hough of Mt. Morris, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on December 6, 2019 to Gerry Hough of Mt. Morris, Illinois, whose attorney is Douglas P. Floski, of Floski Law Office, LLC. at 220 W. Third Street, P. O. Box 1007, Byron, Illinois, 61010-1007.
CLAIMS against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 South 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication of this Notice, or within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred.
Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed.
GERRY HOUGH, Independent Executor No. 1224 (Dec. 23, 30, Jan. 6)

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF OGLE
In the)
Matter)Case
of the)No.
Estate of:)2019
BERNICE A.)P 80
HAGEMANN,)
Deceased.)

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of BERNICE A. HAGEMANN. Letters of Office were issued on October 31, 2019, to Craig Hagemann, William Hagemann and Cindy Timm, as executors, whose attorney of record is David J. Brown, 318 N. First St., Rockford, IL 61107.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Ogle County Circuit Clerk, Probate Division at the Ogle County Courthouse, 106. 5th St., Suite 300, Oregon IL 61061 or with the representative, or both, on or before June 27, 2020, (that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication) or, within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the representative's attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
DATED: 12/17/19
Craig Hagemann, William Hagemann, and Cindy Timm, Executors Estate of Bernice A. Hagemann, deceased
David J. Brown
Attorney at Law
318 N. 1st Street
Rockford, IL 61107
815-968-4474
#6185050
E-MAIL: Djbrownlaw@aol.com
No. 1226 (Dec. 23, 30, Jan. 6)

203 HELP WANTED

Byron CUSD #226 has the following openings:
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Special Education Paraprofessional
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Interested individuals should go to www.byron226.org Under the About Us tab In the Employment Opportunities Section To view additional information and apply online.

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

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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

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301 ANTIQUES

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307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Jack Russell/Rat Terrier Puppies, Born September 22. Call 815-757-0473.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS



The Ogle County Life/Rock Valley Shopper
Monday, December 23, 2019 • Section D



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.



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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 the holidays. Take a deep breath, assess the situation and stay calm through any hiccups.



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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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GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

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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.



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The origins of some of our favorite holiday traditions

Christmastime is here. The presents are being purchased and wrapped. The stockings will soon be hung on the fireplace mantle. Mistletoe is pinned above the front entryway, and poinsettias add rich color to home decor.

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. Origin-

nally, 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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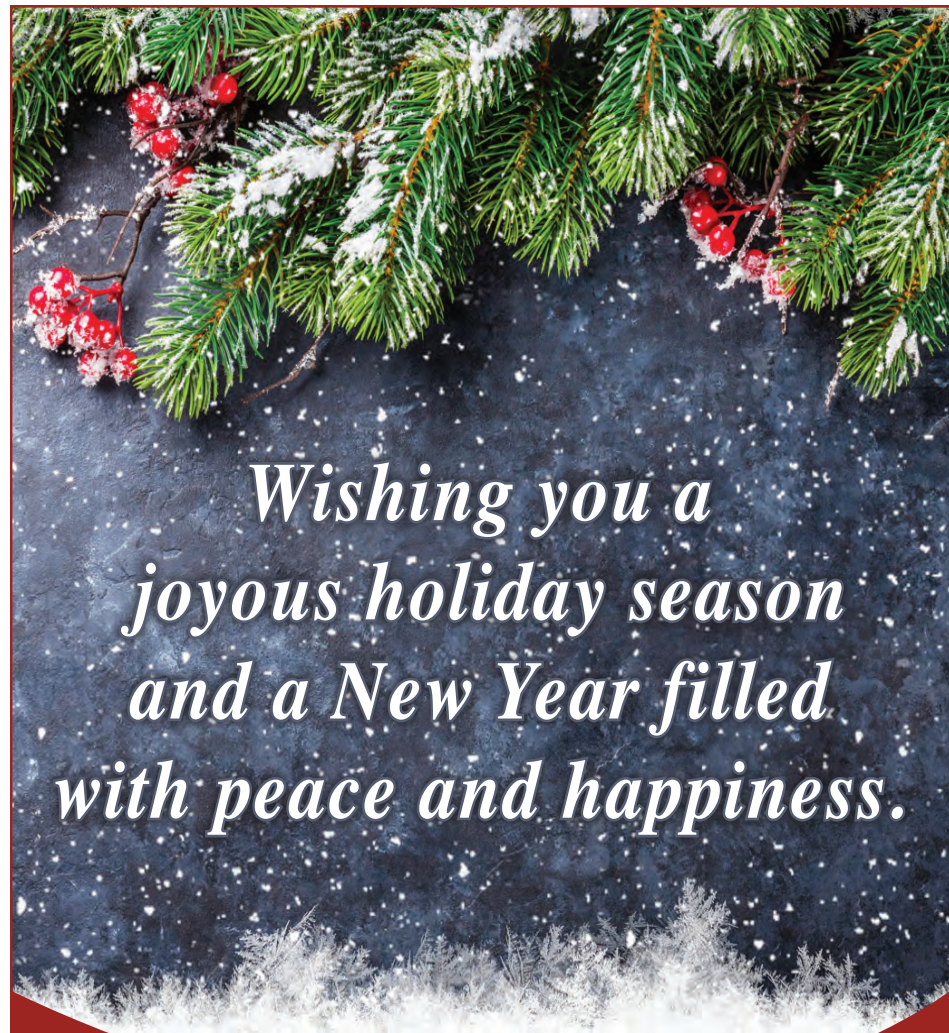
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Baking Make some of that gingerbread goodness

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.



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SEASON'S GREETINGS

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





4 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. Shar-

ing 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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Reduce waste this holiday

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 typi-



cally 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.



Let The Holiday Spirit Ring!

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Keep your natural tree fresh this Christmas

Natural Christmas tree aficionados love the authenticity such trees provide during the holiday season. Natural trees also provide a unique aroma that can make holiday celebrations feel more homey.

When purchasing natural trees, holiday celebrants, especially those who like to buy their trees in early December, may be concerned about keeping their trees fresh throughout the holiday season. The following tips can help trees last until the final present is unwrapped and the last of the egg nog has been consumed.

- Buy a freshly cut tree. Whenever possible, celebrants should cut their own trees. This ensures that the tree they bring home is fresh, increasing the chances it will remain so throughout the season. If it's not possible to cut your own tree, the National Fire Protection

Association notes that fresh trees should have green needles that do not come off when touched. Trees that appear to be dried out or those that shed needles when touched should be avoided.

- Protect trees on the way home. The Tree Care Industry Association advises consumers to protect their Christmas trees as they transport them home. Wrap the tree in a plastic wrap so it makes it home damage-free. A damaged tree might not make it through the holiday season.

- Cut pre-cut trees before leaving the lot. Pre-cut trees can make it through the holiday season looking their best, but buyers should request that employees cut as much as two inches off the bottom of the tree before leaving the lot. Once trees are cut, sap begins to seal their base, making it hard for them to absorb water. By requesting that be-

tween one and two inches be removed from the bottom of the tree at the time of purchase, buyers are ensuring their trees will be able to absorb the water they'll need to make it through the season when they get home.

- Place the tree in water the moment you get home. To prevent the base of the tree from drying out, place it in water the moment you get home. Freshly cut trees may initially need the water in their tree stands filled in the morning and then again in the evening. As the season progresses, trees likely won't need their stands filled more than once per day.

- Place the tree away from heat sources. Placing trees away from heat sources, such as radiators, fireplaces, heating vents, and lights, reduces the likelihood that trees will dry out and also reduces the risk of fire.

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Make the holiday season eco-friendly

With so much to do, it can be easy for people celebrating the holiday season to forget about the environment. But no matter how hectic the holiday season can be, there are always some simple opportunities to make it more eco-friendly.

- Create an eco-friendly party theme. Many holiday parties have themes. For example, “ugly sweater parties” have become so popular that many clothing manufacturers now intentionally produce colorful sweaters that might otherwise draw the ire of fashionistas. Hosts planning to throw an ugly sweater party can easily transform such festivities into something more eco-friendly by encouraging guests to purchase their sweaters from thrift stores. A Christmas tree planting party is another eco-friendly party theme that can benefit the planet and revitalize local forests at a time of year when they might be depleted due to the demand for natural Christmas trees.

- Serve locally sourced foods. Food is often front and center during the holiday season. Whether hosting family and friends at home, dining out or catering an office party, patronize businesses that sell only locally sourced foods. Locally sourced foods are much more eco-friendly than foods that must be shipped from afar before they land on your dinner table, and such foods tend to taste fresh as well. If serving at home, use reusable dishware and cutlery instead of paper plates and plastic utensils.

- Reuse decorations year after year. Decorations need not be discarded once the holiday season ends. Come the new year, inspect holiday decorations and store those that made it through the season unscathed. Doing so benefits the planet and will save you the trouble of shopping for new decorations next holiday season.

- Get rid of your old holiday lights. Still using the same Christmas lights you used in 1995? Such lights are likely incandescent bulbs that are considerably less efficient than today’s LED Christmas lights. The Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy notes that LED lights consume 75 percent less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting. In addition, the OEERE says that LED holiday lights are easier to install and that as many as 25 strings of lights can be connected end-to-end without overloading a wall socket.



May the closeness of friends, the comfort of home, and the miracle of Christmas renew your spirits this holiday season. All of us at Stillman join in wishing you and your family a very blessed Christmas and a happy & healthy New Year.

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