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RCH combating diabetes

Rochelle Community Hospital observed National Diabetes Awareness Month in November. **Page 2**

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
36 25	38 29
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
37 26	44 28
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
50 34	45 38

OBITUARIES

- Betty G. Grubb
 - Linda S. Meyer
 - Rebecca D. Honea-Pate
- See page 4

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Byron County Market
- Polo Foods
- Snyder Pharmacy
- Farm & Fleet

Ogle County schools considering facility sales tax proposal

'If the measure goes on the ballot, our community's voters will decide...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Elementary School District and the Rochelle Township High School District will have an item on their December meeting agendas on whether or not they will support placing a county facility sales tax on the ballot of an upcoming election, Shared Rochelle Schools District Superintendent Jason Harper said in an email Dec. 4.

Both boards heard presentations on the topic at their November meetings. A law passed in 2007 to allow for a county-wide sales tax in Illinois to benefit schools for expenses including facilities, security, mental health services and school resource officers. The sales tax must pass in a county by referendum during an election. That has not taken place in Ogle County, and the measure failed on the ballot locally back in 2013. There are 57 counties in Illinois that have the county schools facilities sales tax.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Rochelle Elementary School District and the Rochelle Township High School District will have an item on their December meeting agendas on whether or not they will support placing a county facility sales tax on the ballot of an upcoming election, Shared Rochelle Schools District Superintendent Jason Harper said in an email Dec. 4.

Harper said at the November meetings that other Ogle County school districts are looking at passing resolutions in support of placing a county schools facilities sales tax refer-

endum on the ballot for a future election. To get onto the ballot, school boards representing more than 50 percent of students must pass support resolutions. The referendum would

have to pass on the ballot county-wide. The sales tax can be a maximum of one percent in quarter-percent increments.

If the Rochelle districts and other county school

districts wanted the sales tax issue on the next election in March, the deadline to pass resolutions of support is Jan. 2.

See TAX page 3

Vander Wyst commended for 20 years of service at Conover Square

OREGON — The Oregon Chamber of Commerce recently congratulated Lou Vander Wyst for his 20 years of service and dedication to helping local small businesses grow and prosper at Conover Square and the Old Piano Factory.

"His leadership, dedication and support to small businesses is what makes Oregon such a great place to live, work and do business!" a press release said.

Conover Square is a 125-year-old piano factory that has been converted into a 50,000 square foot walkable indoor mall full of specialty shops, eateries and novel attractions. Conover has been an incubator for many businesses, with the availability to start small and grow into their full potential.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Oregon Chamber of Commerce recently congratulated Lou Vander Wyst for his 20 years of service and dedication to helping local small businesses grow and prosper at Conover Square and the Old Piano Factory.

See AWARD page 8

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LOCAL NEWS

November was National Diabetes Awareness Month at RCH

Dietician Janelle Stein: 'We can really manage it and have a good quality of life'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — November marked National Diabetes Awareness Month at Rochelle Community Hospital. Locally, the month at RCH included promoting diabetes information on its website and social media regarding diagnosis, types and management in an effort to increase awareness and debunk myths and misinformation.

Over 37 million Americans have type-one or type-two diabetes. An additional 37 million adults have diag-

nosed prediabetes. Around 96 million adults have prediabetes, but roughly 80 percent aren't aware they have the condition.

Type-one diabetes is an autoimmune condition in which the body mistakenly attacks the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas which leads to little-to-no insulin in the body and causes high blood sugar levels. There's no cure for the condition, and if left unmanaged it can lead to serious health complications such as amputations or vision loss.

See RCH page 9



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

November marked National Diabetes Awareness Month at Rochelle Community Hospital. Locally, the month at RCH included promoting diabetes information on its website and social media regarding diagnosis, types and management in an effort to increase awareness and debunk myths and misinformation.

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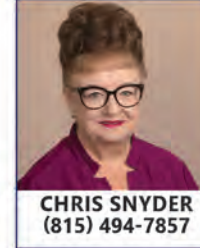
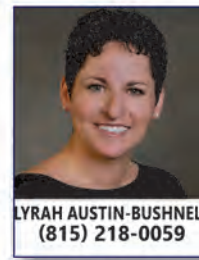
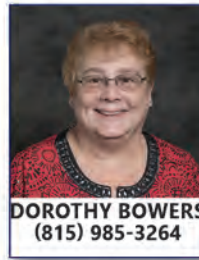
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LOCAL NEWS

TAX: County schools considering facility sales tax proposal

From page 1

The additional sales tax would apply to items that are already taxed, with the exception of vehicles and unprepared food. Based on the most recent numbers, a county schools facility sales tax could net RTHS \$443,491 per year and the elementary district \$813,202 per year. Along with facilities, security, mental health services and school resource officers, the money can be used to abate property taxes and make rates lower for property owners within the district.

“Based on levy data from this year, these revenues represent up to approximately an eight-cent abatement on the high school district’s levy and an almost 21-cent abatement on the elementary district’s tax levy,” Harper said. “Together, the sales tax represents a potential 29-cent property tax offset for Rochelle residents.”

The RTHS district has a high school building that was built 20 years ago, and Harper said last month that the facility need is not present for that district. The elementary school district has seen large expenses recently as it deals with aging buildings. Tilton Elementary School was built in 1949. Central Elementary School was built in 1939 and May Elementary School was built in 1959.

It was said at the Rochelle Elementary School District’s November meeting that it could leverage that hypothetical \$813,000 a year in new sales tax funds into about \$8.8 million in projects.

The elementary district is currently in the



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle Superintendent Jason Harper said at the November meetings that other Ogle County school districts are looking at passing resolutions in support of placing a county schools facilities sales tax referendum on the ballot for a future election. To get onto the ballot, school boards representing more than 50 percent of students must pass support resolutions.

process of starting renovations at Tilton School. The board plans to pursue \$14-16 million worth of needed upgrades at the school after finding in a health life safety evaluation that an estimated \$7.8 million worth of work is required at the school for those issues. The district plans to issue bonds for that money in coming months and wants to utilize an additional \$6-8 million from its reserves for other improvements involving security and spatial concerns including its pickup and drop off areas.

Harper stressed that the school boards’ only decisions will be whether or not to support putting

the county schools facility sales tax on the ballot for the community to vote on.

“Both districts support the voters in our community having a direct voice in determining how our community funds its schools,” Harper said. “If our voters want to stay with our current approach which is based on property taxes, the districts will continue to operate as we have. If the community chooses to include sales tax revenues as a way to help fund schools, both schools will decide how to spend these new revenues on allowable costs which in turn can lower property tax rates.”

Both Rochelle school districts utilize school resource officer programs, which is an allowable use for potential county schools facility sales tax funds.

“And both districts will always have ongoing facility costs,” Harper said. “Both of these costs, plus any costs for mental health support for our students, are allowable uses of these funds. Since both districts have these costs now which we address through property tax levies, the districts could abate future prop-

erty tax levies by using sales tax funds.”

The idea of sales tax helping to fund schools is not the typical approach for communities in Illinois, Harper said. In terms of public schools finance, the burden for funding local schools falls on property owners through property taxes each year. The facility sales tax offers a different way to collect revenues which could offset the typical property tax funding process.

Other Ogle County school districts are

considering resolutions of support to place the county schools facility sales tax on the ballot for voters to decide on, and the support for it among those districts has historically been strong, Harper said.

“Dating back to the first time a county schools facility sales tax initiative was on the ballot in 2013, there has been an ongoing level of support from other county school boards to allow the county’s voters to weigh in on this funding concept again,” Harper said.

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

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In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest, Colonial Flower Shoppe and Hub City Senior Center
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In Dixon at: Shining Star
In Mendota at: The Mendota Reporter/Amboy News office
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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Betty G. Grubb

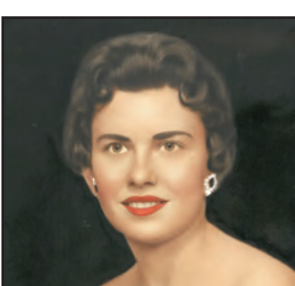
BYRON — Betty G. Grubb, 87, of Byron, IL, passed away on Thursday, November 30, 2023, following a fall that caused multiple complications.

She was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, who cherished time with her family. "Mom" worked for over 50 years in the medical services industry as an X-ray lab technician. She was one of the unsung heroes of the 1967 Belvidere tornado, one of the deadliest tornadoes in Illinois history which took the lives of 24 people, including 13 children. From her home in Byron, she rushed to Belvidere and worked countless hours treating the wounded at what was left of Highland Hospital. Along with her late

husband of 65 years, they enjoyed traveling, sunning in Hawaii, sightseeing in Alaska and traveling the country.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Marie Grubb Byron, IL; sons Gregory (Judy) Bonita Springs, FL and Bradley (Lynn) Omaha, NE; grandchildren Jenna (Alex) Sedlacek Lincoln, NE and Tyler (Sarah) Omaha NE; Shannon (David) Lawlor Virginia Beach, VA and James Grubb Dixon, IL; great-grandchildren Peyton and Ethan Grubb, Michael and Jacob Lawlor, Logan Sedlacek and Abby Grubb. Preceded in death by her husband James, parents and brothers Raymond and Darrell.

The family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks



to the team at Serenity Hospice and Home, Oregon, IL, as well as the dedicated team of professionals at OSF / St. Anthonys Hospital in Rockford, IL.

Due to unforeseen issues, the visitation will be delayed until a later date in 2024. In lieu of flowers, the family would ask that you consider a donation to the Serenity Hospice and Home, Oregon, IL.

Share online memories and condolences at www.fitzgeraldfh.com.

Linda S. Meyer

LEAF RIVER—Linda S. Meyer, 76, of Leaf River, passed away Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, at Generations At Neighbors in Byron, IL. Linda was born April 4, 1947 in Rock Falls, IL, the daughter of Neil and Myrtle Blanch (Snyder) Short. On May 11, 1973 in Oregon, she was united in marriage to Paul "Pete" Meyer and together they celebrated 50 years.

Linda graduated from Sterling High School in 1965. She grew up living in the Coleta area and was in Adeline for 50 years during the marriage of her and husband Pete. Linda worked for a few places but the best job and last job was the Rock River Center driving the senior citizen van in Polo retiring in 2010. Linda attended Crossroads Community Church in Polo and enjoyed walks,

doing puzzles, reading and emailing friends. Her most favorite thing was spending time with her grandchildren. She enjoyed attending all the events that she could, while hearing their laughs and smiles. She enjoyed jokes and sharing stories whenever she could. Linda fought a strong and long courageous battle with Parkinson's disease, with amazing support from her family.

Survivors include her husband Pete; daughters Kim (Scott) Jackson of Forreton, IL, Nicole (Luke) Lilja of Ridott, IL, Chris (Denny Neyens) Witmer of Savanna, IL; 7 Grandchildren; and her best friend Linda Morris. She was preceded in death by a grandson Jory P. Snyder; sister Betty Bowlin; 4 brothers LeRoy, Chuck, Jim and Dave Short.



A memorial visitation will be Friday, December 15, 2023 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Polo Family Funeral Home, 110 E. Dixon St., Polo. The memorial service will be Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 11:00 AM at Adeline Zion Evangelical Church, 9106 N. Cedar St. in Leaf River. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her name. Polo Family Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Visit www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com to send condolences.

POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLO — On Nov. 17 at 11:33 p.m. Connor M. Albrecht, 23, Polo, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Albrecht was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Nov. 20 at 9:28 p.m. Levi Bradford Lauritzen, 31, Polo, was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County Warrant and an outstanding Lee County Warrant. Lauritzen was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

General calls for service for the weeks of Nov. 13-26: Citizen Com-

plaints/Assist: 7. Animal Complaint: 3. Fire/Medical Assist: 5. Alarm/Open Door: 1. 911 Hang Up: 1. Traffic Stops: 15. County Assists: 1. DUI: 1.

On Nov. 22 at 10:10 p.m. Angelina M. Giocomo, 26, Shannon, was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and driving with a suspended registration. Giocomo was released with a notice to appear.

On Nov. 28 at 4:13 p.m. Brian A. Lopez, 19, Polo, was cited for speeding 30 miles per hour in a

40 miles per hour speed zone. Lopez was released with a citation.

On Dec. 1 at 8:44 p.m. Kurtis W. Pilling, 22, Polo, was arrested for aggravated battery. Pilling was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 2 at 7:04 p.m. Andrew C. Lund, 34, Oregon, was cited for speeding 43 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour speed zone. Lund was released with a citation.

Rebecca D. Honea-Pate

DIXON — Rebecca D. Honea-Pate, age 48, passed away Monday, December 4, 2023 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born June 2, 1975 in Rochelle, IL the daughter to Steven Burdette and Mary Meador. Rebecca attended Oregon School District. She worked as a CNA for private home health care and prior to that worked at Quality Metal Finishing in Byron, IL. Rebecca loved being with her family and friends. She loved cooking for her family and going shopping, ride in the side-by-side with her fiancé Chad, attend her step son's wrestling events, and attend her daughter Brynlie's tumbling and

dance recitals.

Rebecca was predeceased by her brother Paul Burdette, maternal grandfather Lloyd Mason, paternal grandmother Audrey Burdette, maternal great grandmother Frances Jones, and uncle Mike Mason. She is survived by her mother Mary Nelson (Ed Powerless) of Mt. Morris, father Steven (Mary Ann) Burdette of Oregon, fiancé Chad Pate of Dixon, son Bryce Honea of Fort Stewart, Georgia, daughter Brynlie Pate Dixon, step-son Hunter Pate of Dixon, sister Rachel Burdette of Morrison, maternal grandmother Ellen Mason of Oregon, paternal grandmother Rosalind Pate of Dixon, and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will



be held 12:00 noon on Saturday, December 9, 2023 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th Street in Oregon, IL with the Pastor Rosa Lee of the Grace United Methodist Church in Dixon officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the funeral Home. Burial will follow the service at Mt. Zion Cemetery near Oregon. A memorial fund is established in Rebecca's name and may be directed to her family.

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nov. 24

At 9:49 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jose M. Pacheco-Ruiz, 33, Oregon, a citation for speeding 51 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

Nov. 25

At 12:07 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the parking lot located at 306 Franklin St. involving a 2022 Honda driven by Lee. W. Haddick, 74, Oregon, and a parked 2015 Chevrolet belonging to Scott R. Mongan, 57, Oregon. No citations were issued.

At 2:48 p.m., Oregon Police issued Sawyer C. Eccles, 20, Byron, a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

Three parking citations and three verbal warnings were issued during the week of Nov. 20-26.

Nov. 27

At 4:59 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 1,100 block of Pines Road involving a 2013 Lincoln driven by Paula K. Warner, 63, Oregon, and a 2007 Toyota driven by Mark A. Lawler, 69, Mt. Morris. Warner was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid

an accident.

Nov. 30

At 6:28 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 500 block of Madison Street involving a 2014 Ford driven by Cheryl L. Wittlock, 53, Oregon, and a 2021 Hyundai driven by James B. Durand, 61, Davis Junction. No citations were issued.

At 3:08 p.m., Oregon Police issued citations to Nicole A. Winterton, 39, Mt. Morris, for operation of a vehicle with an expired registration, no valid driver's license, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 100 block of South 3rd Street.

Dec. 1

At 7:18 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Tristen A. Halverson, 25, Rockford, on an outstanding Ogle County traffic warrant. Halverson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left with jail staff for processing.

At 2:11 p.m., Oregon Police responded to the Oregon Super Value, 204 N. 4th St., for the report of a retail theft. Upon completing the investigation for this incident, Brandon E. Anderson, 34, Mt. Morris, was arrested for retail theft. Anderson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear.

At 5:29 p.m., Oregon Police issued Edwin M. Murillo-Valdez, 29, Rockford, a citation for operation of a vehicle when registration is suspended for non-insurance. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

Dec. 2

At 9:50 a.m., Oregon Police issued Nicholas C. Bausman, 38, Oregon, a citation for operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 300 block of Adams Street.

Dec. 3

At 10:40 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Crystal F. Vegliando, 41, Oregon, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Vegliando was also issued a traffic citation for speeding 79 miles per hour in a 35 miles per hour zone. Vegliando was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear. These violations occurred in the 1,200 block of West Washington Street.

Thirteen verbal warnings were issued during the week of Nov. 27-Dec. 3.

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

Report policy

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

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



(COURTESY PHOTO)

COUNTRY Financial Associate Agent Megan Gunnarsson, Stillman Valley Fire Chief Chad Hoefle and COUNTRY Financial representative Kerry Wickler.

COUNTRY Financial donates to Stillman Valley Fire Department

BYRON—COUNTRY Financial Representatives Kerry Wickler is pleased to support the Stillman Valley Fire Department with a donation of \$1,500. The funds will be used to support the purchase of LED scene lighting. Wickler recently shared the support in a check presentation.

"These local fire departments perform critically important work, yet they

continue to have significant financial needs," Wickler said. "I'm gratified to be able to provide assistance to help firefighters continue in their lifesaving efforts."

COUNTRY Financial has donated more than \$5 million since 2020 to organizations and programs that support first responders, active-duty service members and veterans,

supporting the company's vision to "enrich lives in the communities we serve."

The Operation Helping Heroes program was created in 2015 to support non-profit events and programs that benefit active-duty service members, veterans, and their families. Later, the program expanded to include first responders and teachers.

ADVERTISING DISCLAIMER

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The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

USPS (004-083) ISSN (1045-3059)

Published every Monday by Rochelle Newspapers, Inc. at 211 Hwy. 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068-1183. Subscriptions in our service area are free on a requester basis. Periodicals Postage Rates paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper, P.O. Box 175, Rochelle, IL 61068-9801. The circulation department is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have carrier delivery and your paper fails to arrive by 7 p.m. on Monday, telephone our office at 732-2156, if your paper fails to arrive by mail telephone our circulation office at 562-4171, ext. 112. For subscriptions, call the LIFE office at 815-732-2156.

LOCAL NEWS

'The Nutcracker' takes the stage in Byron Dec. 20-23

BYRON — Returning to the mystical roots of this beloved story, Byron Civic Theatre's performance of the Nutcracker includes a cursed Candy Realm, a dastardly Rat King, real magic on stage, and a young girl at the center of it all with the power to break the curse on her beloved Nutcracker and his family. Performances are Wednesday, Dec. 20; Thursday, Dec. 21 and Friday, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 23 at 2 p.m. at Byron

Middle School Theatre. Tickets are \$15 each and are available at the Byron PE Center Guest Services Desk, www.byronparks.org/byroncivictheatre or at the door beginning one hour prior to show time. The collaborative ballet includes dancers from nine different studios and companies performing together for the first time in the dance and theater communities of this region. The production team includes Creative Director and

Choreographer Andrew Mahan of Gateway Performing Arts, Cultural Arts Manager Jessica Julian of the Byron Park District/Byron Dance Academy, Costume Designer Tammy Long, and Lighting Design and Stage Projection by Brad Hollandsworth. The cast of dancers are joined onstage by Chicago acclaimed actors from Gateway Arts portraying characters throughout the Ballet as well as local ballroom dancers, stu-

dents, and family of the cast for the party scene. Mahan's adaptation takes the story into 1940s London during The Blitz. The Stahlbaum family has retired to the Countryside to escape the war. Inviting all the displaced children to their home for Christmas, they plan a night of fun, games, and a beautifully prepared feast. The night turns even more magical as Marie and Fritz' Godfather Drosselmeyer appears mesmerizing the

children with his magic and giving the gift of a Nutcracker to Marie. As midnight approaches; now Marie's 16th birthday, enchantment envelops the household. The Rat King attacks the child with the magic to undo his curse, Drosselmeyer casts a spell to shrink her down to the size of a toy, Marie awakens her Nutcracker who springs to life to battle the Rat King and end his evil curse. Finally free, the Nutcracker transforms into a prince

and invites Marie on a dreamlike journey to a Land of Candy. The story unfolds through classical choreography, ranging from the ethereal Waltz of the Snowflakes to the virtuosic Cultural dances of the Land of Candy. The choreography culminates with a grand pas de deux performed by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Prince, before the story returns to the Stahlbaum home, leaving Marie to wonder, "Was it all a dream?"

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

OREGON — On Nov. 27 at approximately 11:43 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Milledgeville Road and Wilson Mill Road. After further investigation David Bergeson, 41, of Polo, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended and an outstanding Lee County warrant. Bergeson was also cited for suspended registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Bergeson was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held in lieu of bond on the Lee County warrant. Bergeson was released on a notice to appear on all Ogle County charges.

Route 38 regarding a car in the ditch. After investigation, deputies placed Heather A. Lent, 30, of Rochelle, under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Lent was additionally cited for improper lane usage and failure to reduce speed/too fast for conditions. Lent was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released with a notice to appear.

for driving while license suspended. Kirby was also cited for suspended registration. Kirby was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 2 at approximately 8:30 p.m. deputies located a vehicle parked in the roadway on Third Street near the intersection with Linn Street in Kings. After further investigation Harold Burton, 57, of Compton, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Burton was also cited for illegal parking in the roadway. Burton was transported to the Ogle County Jail and was released with a notice to appear.

On Dec. 3 at approximately 8:21 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of East Illinois Route 64 and Moore Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Vincent J. Robinson, 43, of DeKalb, for driving while license revoked and an outstanding Woodford County warrant. Robinson was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held in lieu of bond on the Woodford County warrant. Robinson was released on a notice to appear on all Ogle County charges.

On Dec. 2 at approximately 5:55 p.m. deputies responded to an address in the 8,000 block of Yosemite Drive in Byron regarding a disturbance. After further investigation Jenny Servent, 36, of Byron, was placed under arrest for domestic battery. Servent was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held pending an appearance before a judge.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

On Dec. 1 at approximately 10:33 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at 328 E. Illinois Route 38. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Jessica S. Parra Villa, 20, of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended. Parra Villa was also cited for expired registration. Parra Villa was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 3 at around 5:39 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of South Sixth Street and Webster Street in Oregon. After a brief investigation, Sarah Kirby, 28, of Paw Paw, was arrested



SVHS Class of 1958 holds 65th reunion
 The Stillman Valley High School Class of 1958 recently held its 65th class reunion at the home of Nancy Gibson. Fourteen members were present, as well as seven spouses. They celebrated with a lunch catered by the Double O of Monroe Center. Standing, left to right: Bill Abbott, RuthAnn Ippen, Audrey (Nagles) Hildebrand, Nancy (Mass) Gale, Nancy (Eshbaugh) Gibson, Joanne (Cave) Baker, Richard Schlaf, Mary Batty, Wilbur Brass, Sharon (Burd) Hildebrand, and Terry Hunley. Seated: Barb (Atichson) Schwarz, Roberta (Friday) Arn, Karen (Foster) Hall-Stade and Judy (Washburn) Jolly.

Thank you!

To all my friends, old and new.
 It was wonderful to be remembered by so many people on my 100th birthday. Thank you for the calls and the cards you sent. It was a grand event with friends, food and a horse drawn carriage with a prince to carry me away. It was a beautiful celebration even if the prince just took me back home. Oh, well!

*Love and Best Wishes,
 Carol Shempert*

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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Conover Square is a 125-year-old piano factory that has been converted into a 50,000 square foot walkable indoor mall full of specialty shops, eateries and novel attractions. Conover has been an incubator for many businesses, with the availability to start small and grow into their full potential.

AWARD: Vander Wyst honored for service

From page 1

Hazel's Cafe started at Conover in 2017 and quickly grew seeking a

larger downtown brick and mortar in 2018. Without Lou's support and nourishment of emerging entrepreneurs, many

would not have the opportunity to pursue their passion and devotion for businesses to grow and prosper.

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

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

Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

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

Education

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

Low Income Housing

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

Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

P.) Box 628
Oregon, IL 61061 732-6855

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

Sexual Assault/Abuse

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

Therapeutic

Pegasus Special Riders 973-3177

Veterans' Services

Rock River Center 732-3252
Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499
Medical Transportation 677-6515

Wellness Services

Ogle County Health Dept
907 Pines Rd, Oregon 562-6976
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle 562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499

Oregon School District achieves outstanding gains in state assessment performance

OREGON – The Illinois State Board of Education released its Illinois Report Card on performance of state school districts, and the Oregon School District #220 scored above the state's average on the Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR) in English Language Arts (ELA).

The Illinois State Board of Education established academic expectations for what all students should know and be able to do in each subject at each grade. The standards emphasize depth over breadth, building upon key concepts as students advance. A

school's score determines if an individual school is meeting the needs of all its students and reflects academic progress.

At the Oregon High School (OHS), students' proficiency in the SAT English Language Arts (ELA) assessment increased by 13 percent.

In the junior high levels, particularly seventh and eighth grades, students demonstrated a 60 percent increase in the Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR) for ELA and a 41 percent increase in IAR Math.

Oregon Elementary School (OES) also displayed growth in the IAR

assessments, with elementary students achieving a 30 percent increase in ELA proficiency and a 27 percent increase in math proficiency.

"We are overjoyed by the impressive progress our students have made in state assessments to meet or exceed state requirements. It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, families and staff. We are committed to maintaining this momentum and fostering an environment where every student can thrive," Dr. Tom Mahoney, superintendent of Oregon School District #220, said.

Northern Illinois Food Bank announces 24th Annual Holiday Meal Box Program

GENEVA – Northern Illinois Food Bank kicks off the season of giving with its 24th annual Holiday Meal Box program to ensure all neighbors can enjoy a special holiday meal with their loved ones. This year, with the support of generous sponsors and volunteers, the food bank will be providing 50,000 Holiday Meal Boxes to neighbors facing hunger across 13 counties in suburban and rural Northern Illinois.

Each Holiday Meal Box serves a family of 6-8 and is packed with traditional trimmings for a complete holiday meal including: Stuffing, turkey gravy, whole kernel corn, green beans, dry pinto beans, dry potatoes, white rice, pears in juice, cranberry sauce, hot cocoa, dessert mix and canned yams. Neighbors will also receive either a turkey, ham, or meatless option — items vary by location.

The holiday meals will be distributed in Novem-

ber and December by local food pantries.

"The food bank's mission is about more than food. It's also about community and connections. Holiday Meal Boxes start with the community," said Julie Yurko, president, and CEO at Northern Illinois Food Bank. "Our donors help to fund them, and our volunteers help put them together! These food boxes are one of the ways we help neighbors feel connected to their community and celebrate holidays, which can be a precious time with family."

Sponsors of the 2023 Holiday Meal Box program include: Jewel-Osco, Nicor, Prinova, Tate & Lyle, Kubota, McDonalds, and individual donors.

The number of families seeking assistance from Northern Illinois Food Bank every day is rapidly increasing, and the holidays add to that number. While many families struggle to make ends meet each week, the

holidays bring additional expenses many simply cannot afford.

"The Food Bank is making every effort to meet the growing need but cannot do it alone. We are extremely grateful for the generous donors and volunteers who are helping neighbors thrive this holiday season," said Maeven Sipes, chief philanthropy officer at Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Northern Illinois Food Bank's network of more than 900 food pantries, soup kitchens and feeding programs, serves on average 500K neighbors a month, and provides 80 million meals a year across our 13-county service area.

Donations are needed now more than ever to help our neighbors facing hunger. For more information about Northern Illinois Food Bank, how to find a local food pantry – to donate, volunteer or get groceries, visit: SolveHungerToday.org.

Ogle County Sheriff's Office releases Thanksgiving enforcement numbers

OREGON — The Ogle County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic safety campaign from Nov. 17-27 reminding motorists to buckle up and drive sober. The "Click It or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" mobilization was conducted by The Ogle County Sheriff's Office and other state and local law enforcement agencies across Illinois to reduce highway fatalities.

During the campaign, deputies issued 71 citations and made six criminal arrests for offenses

including: two arrests for driving under the influence, one arrest for felony drug possession, one arrest for unlawful possession of a weapon, one arrest for an outstanding warrant, three arrests for resisting arrest/fleeing to elude, six arrests for suspended/revoked/no valid driver's licenses, 24 citations for speed-related offenses, 10 citations for registration violations, eight citations for no valid insurance, and 11 citations for other traffic offenses.

"We issue tickets to remind drivers and passengers that seat belt use

isn't a suggestion, it's the law," Sheriff Brian VanVickle said. "This year's campaign was successful in grabbing people's attention with highly visible enforcement methods. As always, our goal is a safe community with safe drivers."

The Thanksgiving enforcement effort is made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation and is part of the statewide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" campaigns.

November 2023 From The Heart Calendar Winners named

Nov. 1 - Lori Kersten, Dixon, \$25
 Nov. 2 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
 Nov. 3 - Lucas Dobson, Davis Junction, \$25
 Nov. 4 - Dana Ptucha, Deer Park, New York, \$25
 Nov. 5 - From the Heart, \$50
 Nov. 6 - Carol Drummet, Freeport, \$25
 Nov. 7 - Jim May, Rochelle, \$25
 Nov. 8 - Elsie Johnson, Rochelle, \$25
 Nov. 9 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
 Nov. 10 - Rochelle Chamber, \$250

Nov. 11 - Hayvin Neale, Rochelle, \$25
 Nov. 12 - Nathan K. Timm, Rochelle, \$50
 Nov. 13 - Deanna Wooten, Rochelle, \$25
 Nov. 14 - Cindy Goldman, Ashton, \$25
 Nov. 15 - Jackson Graber, Rockford, \$25
 Nov. 16 - Paul Mott, Wautoma, Wis., \$25
 Nov. 17 - Shane Waters, Rochelle, \$25
 Nov. 18 - Rita Thompson, Rochelle, \$25
 Nov. 19 - Ed Deets, Dixon, \$50
 Nov. 20 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
 Nov. 21 - Daniel Pine-da, Ashton, \$25

Nov. 22 - Zekelman Employee, \$25
 Nov. 23 - Dustin Shafer, Rochelle, \$500
 Nov. 24 - J'Sondra Veracini, Rochelle, \$25
 Nov. 25 - Willa Wood, Lindenwood, \$25
 Nov. 26 - Heather Bresson, Ashton, \$50
 Nov. 27 - Jessica Curatola, Ashton, \$25
 Nov. 28 - Laurie (Mrs. Dennis) Bearrows, Chana, \$25
 Nov. 29 - Tina Graber, Palatine, \$25
 Nov. 30 - Nick Vilmin, Byron, \$25
 Checks to winners will be mailed out at the end of each month.

LOCAL NEWS

RCH: Hospital observes National Diabetes Awareness Month

From page 2

Type-two diabetes accounts for up to 95 percent of diabetes cases and is mostly the result of obesity and a lack of exercise. But there can be other causes and risk factors that contribute to type-two diabetes. It is characterized by high blood glucose (sugar), insulin resistance, and a relative lack of insulin. Type-two diabetes is generally considered to be a lifestyle-related disease, but family history and genetics also play a major role in its development.

Prediabetes is a precursor to type-two diabetes if interventions are not made. Prediabetes symptoms include excessive hunger or thirst, weight gain, fatigue or frequent urination.

RCH Dietician Janelle Stein is the hospital's point person for diabetes and prediabetes management. She talks with patients with a doctor's order about diabetes and her work is covered by most insurances, except in some cases with prediabetes.

"Prevention is always better," Stein said. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Prevention care is not always as well covered by insurance. It depends on each company. But I'm happy to talk to

people one-on-one about prediabetes and we are trying to get our diabetes prevention program up and going again. We're hoping to have it in the spring. That's a program that we base on the CDC's prevent type-two diabetes program, where it's lifestyle intervention and course correction. People identify that they're at a high risk of developing diabetes and try to change how they eat and lose weight and be more active to prevent that diagnosis from happening or push it down the road a bit."

Stein said that high blood sugar, if gone unrecognized for too long, can put people at risk of developing chronic, long-term health problems in any areas with tiny blood vessels such as the brain with a stroke, the eyes going blind, a heart having a heart attack, kidneys failing and requiring dialysis, and feet and fingers with nerve damage, where amputations can start to be seen.

The goal of diabetes management is to try to keep blood sugar as close to normal as possible to prevent all of those problems.

"Prediabetes is something we used to call borderline diabetes or something along those lines," Stein said. "Pre-di-

abetes was settled on as a name, which is when blood sugars are a little higher than normal, but you're not quite meeting the diagnostic criteria of diabetes. That makes it a great time to identify that things are heading the wrong way and course correct and try to prevent or delay that onset of diabetes."

Stein's work as a dietician plays into diabetes management, and personalized dietary plans are made.

"Back in the day, we just told everyone to eat a certain way," Stein said. "And then life happens, and we have things like holidays and people don't know how to manage it. I try to work very individually with people and their lives for their plans. That balance of nutrients, the carbohydrates, proteins and fats, can really affect the blood sugar. And also how we move our body and how physically active we are can affect the blood sugar, too."

People can live with type-two diabetes undiagnosed for a long time, Stein said. RCH often sees patients come into the hospital for a different health issue and they leave with a diabetes diagnosis after high blood sugar levels are seen. Those patients have noticed less pain and better



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

RCH Dietician Janelle Stein is the hospital's point person for diabetes and prediabetes management. She talks with patients with a doctor's order about diabetes and her work is covered by most insurances, except in some cases with prediabetes.

vision upon regulating their blood sugar.

Stein said diabetes treatment has improved over the years.

"Even 20-30 years ago, we didn't have a lot of options for really managing diabetes," Stein said. "Now we have so many more drugs and continuous glucose monitors and so many more tools to do a better job. We don't hear about so many amputations anymore like we used to. We'd like to prevent those much more expensive problems down the road if we can be aware and course correct earlier."

Stein said diabetes carries a stigma with it and

patients can have a fear of the potential of being diagnosed with it. She wants patients to have that knowledge to put them in more control of their bodies and be proactive, not reactive.

"I've heard people say they're scared of being diagnosed with diabetes, due to things like their older loved ones passing away due to it," Stein said. "We have better tools now. We can manage it by raising awareness and being aware of what your blood sugars are and how the foods you eat and the exercises you do, and your stress and medications all affect you individually.

We can really manage it and have a good quality of life. I know some people are very overwhelmed and scared and it's almost like the stages of grief. And there's the stress of having to manage it every day. So many people, especially with type two diabetes, do have a lot of flexibility. The holidays are coming up. Those traditions are important, and you can analyze what's most important and how it can fit into your health goals. You can enjoy that slice of pie or whatever your holiday treat is, and then go for a walk. And then start again the next day. Usually that helps a lot of people."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Dec. 14: Serenity Hospice & Home's Lunch Group will meet at 11:30 a.m. at Bella's, 317 W. Washington St. Oregon. To register please call 815-732-4111 by 4 p.m. on Dec. 13.

Dec. 14: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1415 10th Ave. in Rochelle, will host a Remembering Loved

Ones During the Holidays program on Dec. 14 from 4-5 p.m. in the overflow room of the church. The program will be a special time of encouragement and support for people who may be missing someone during the holidays. It will be a moment to reflect, and a time to talk and share methods for navigating during holiday

celebrations without a loved one present. For more information, please contact the parish nurse or church office at 815-562-2744 or email stpaul2@rochelle.

Dec. 16: Drop off your gifts and pick them up wrapped! The Byron Museum will host this Byron Women's Club event on Saturday, Dec. 16. Dona-

tions accepted, no fee or admission will be charged. Bring your boxed gifts to the Byron Museum Theater between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., pick them up wrapped by 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. Members of the Byron Women's Club will wrap packages and include a bow for each. Byron Women's Club proudly donates to

13 local charities and supports a women's empowerment scholarship each year for a young woman pursuing further education. The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Collec-

tively, we are Living the Volunteer Spirit. Byron Women's Club members meet monthly September through May for lunch and a program. If you are interested in attending a meeting as a guest or would like information about joining the Byron Women's Club, please email kvavra90@gmail.com with any questions.

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VIEWPOINT

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

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

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Dec. 25, 1868, President Andrew Johnson offered amnesty to all Confederate soldiers with Proclamation 179. It was the fourth order of its kind, with earlier agreements re-establishing legal rights to Confederate soldiers if they signed oaths of loyalty to the United States.

* On Dec. 26, 1991, Jack Ruby's 38-caliber Colt Cobra revolver, which the nightclub owner used to kill J.F.K. assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, sold for \$220,000 in a Las Vegas auction. The original asking price was \$1 million.

* On Dec. 27, 2019, Valerie Sneade and Jason Roy got married at their local Dunkin' Donuts in Worcester, Massachusetts, after ending their relationship at the same shop nearly three decades earlier. The reunited couple attributed their long separation to misunderstandings and "words that didn't come out right."

* On Dec. 28, 1967, American businesswoman Muriel "Mickie" Siebert became the first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. She also became the first female superintendent of banking for New York State. And after her death,

the New York Stock Exchange named Siebert Hall for her, marking the first time a room at the stock exchange was named for a person.

* On Dec. 29, 1852, Emma Snodgrass was arrested in Boston for the crime of ... wearing pants. Mocked by one newspaper as "the foolish girl who goes around in virile togery," she was sent home to her police officer father in New York but went on to repeat the act a number of times.

* On Dec. 30, 1940, California's first freeway, Arroyo Seco Parkway, also known as the Pasadena Freeway, officially opened to traffic. Now considered narrow and outdated, though still in use, it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2011.

* On Dec. 31, 1970, Paul McCartney, after struggling through the summer of that year with the idea of having to bring legal action against his bandmates in order to be released from Apple Records and business manager Allen Klein, filed a lawsuit in London's High Court of Justice to dissolve the Beatles.

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Illinois: Don't swap money bail for digital jails

ILLINOIS has made history. With the implementation of The Pretrial Fairness Act on Sept. 18, it is the first state to fully eliminate cash bond. This means that no one will be held in jail simply because they cannot afford to pay for their freedom. But this historic win for pretrial freedom is in jeopardy.

State court judges and a newly created agency — the Office of State Pretrial Services (OSPS) — are primed to replace the freedom provided for in the Pretrial Fairness Act with GPS-equipped electronic ankle monitoring (EM), a technology that has no proven track record and causes more harm than good. At the end of August, OSPS rolled out plans to substantially expand the use of monitoring in Illinois, setting the state up to have the largest number of people on monitors in the United States. Illinois faces a choice: remain a beacon of hope for pretrial justice reform or provide another example of a failed attempt at change.

To pre-ordain the expanded use of ankle monitors is a mistake. As researchers who study the use of electronic monitoring throughout the United States, we are concerned. No research shows that EM leads to better outcomes as compared to people being released

without a monitor. The evidence from the pretrial EM program in Cook County, one of the largest and most rigorously studied in the United States, is unequivocal: Placing a person on an electronic monitor does not impact their likelihood of committing more crimes or make it more likely they will show up to court.

Instead, research shows that EM, particularly when combined with house arrest, directly undermines a person's stability when it is needed most. In addition to 24/7 location tracking, the rules associated with monitoring and house arrest make it difficult for people to seek or sustain work, keep their housing, visit relatives, attend church, meet with their lawyers, respond to medical emergencies or care for their children, to name just a few examples. Although not confined to a jail cell, monitoring, like jail, limits privacy, restricts liberty and disrupts family and financial security. The Pretrial Fairness Act provides some guaranteed movement for people on monitors, but it is not enough to ensure people can easily care for themselves and others.

The technology is also faulty. The monitors, which are meant to track and record people's movement in real-time, have a history of produc-

ing false alerts. In Cook County, one report noted that 80 percent of alerts from monitors were "false positives." These alerts erroneously placed a person away from their home when they were not. These technological "glitches" often led to rearrest for alleged violation of the rules, leading to more incarceration, the very thing the new law is supposed to decrease.

In a recent interview, an OSPS representative said they are "not encouraging" judges to order electronic monitoring once the new law goes into effect. But by providing widespread access to flawed and ineffective technology, the agency is creating a self-fulfilling prophecy. California offers a cautionary lesson. After the state's bail practices were reformed, the number of people on monitors pretrial in Los Angeles increased dramatically and there was no net decrease in the pretrial jail population. San Francisco saw similar trends, raising concerns that monitoring is being used too much.

To be clear, under the new law, judges are required to release people who are deemed *not* a safety risk and *not* likely to flee. This means that most people released under the new law do not need monitoring because they are neither a safety

or flight risk. Most people released pretrial are successful without any added conditions, and the most effective services a court can provide are simple, non-punitive ones: court reminders, transportation to court, child care assistance, and referrals to voluntary community-based services.

People on pretrial release need support, not surveillance. The state is poised to spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on monitors. These funds would be better spent on mental health services, jobs, affordable housing, and effective treatment for substance use. Rather than incarcerate people in their own homes, Illinois should work to improve people's quality of life and support their social and economic security.



Alicia Virani



Kate Weisburd

poised to spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on monitors. These funds would be better spent on mental health services, jobs, affordable housing, and effective treatment for substance use. Rather than incarcerate people in their own homes, Illinois should work to improve people's quality of life and support their social and economic security.

The Pretrial Fairness Act is a model for other states seeking to eliminate the broken cash bail system. Yet by swapping cash bail for electronic monitoring, Illinois courts and the OSPS risk undermining years of progress and reform.

Kate Weisburd (she/her) is an associate professor of law at George Washington University School of Law. Alicia Virani (she/her) is the Rosaline and Arthur Gilbert Foundation director of the Criminal Justice Program at UCLA Law School.

Lawmakers must find a bipartisan way forward

FOR many years, I have heard that agriculture policy is one of the few areas in Springfield and in Washington, D.C., that is truly bipartisan. Members of both political parties recognize the need for good farm and food policy. It is my hope this continues, but I am increasingly disappointed by the lack of civility and level of disrespect occurring in today's politics.

I'm concerned that party leadership, on both sides of the aisle, is forcing lawmakers to vote exclusively along party lines. Large donors and special interest groups also seek to punish any representatives who stray from the party positions and vote for a bipartisan compromise — even if it's in the best interests of their constituents.

I don't believe this benefits farmers or our country.

Lawmakers must find a bipartisan way forward. Stop the political infighting and work together to better serve all Americans.

Bipartisanship has served Illinois farmers well. As a grassroots,

membership-driven organization, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) has forged strong relationships with our local government officials and state legislators, who in turn help us achieve our farm policy priorities.

IFB's Adopt-A-Legislator program has fostered mutual respect and understanding between farmers and Chicago-area lawmakers. More than 50 Illinois county governing bodies approved pro-agriculture resolutions, solidifying their support for the state's economy's largest industry. These are just a few of the bipartisan efforts our members take to share agriculture's story and how our local, state and federal lawmakers can support our farmers.

I believe elected officials, agency representatives and regulators appreciate the integrity with which IFB operates. We might not always agree on issues, but we are going to be forthright in explaining our position. We listen and show respect to others, even those with

opposing points of view.

Our elected officials have an obligation to work together to find responsible solutions for policy issues. With the expiration of the 2018 farm bill at the end of September, we need our lawmakers more than ever to find ways to work together. In my conversations with fellow farmers, the question I hear the most is "What happens next?"

The farm bill guides U.S. agriculture and food policy over a period of five years and is traditionally rooted in bipartisanship. Congress has passed 18 iterations of the farm bill since its inception in 1933, and the farm bill expired Sept. 30.

Farm organizations have worked collectively for months on a new farm bill, and IFB continues meeting with Illinois House and Senate agriculture committee members to pass a farm bill that meets the needs of all sectors of agriculture.

Failure to take any farm bill action before year's end would cause serious

disruptions: cutting off enrollment in important safety net and conservation programs; pausing research; and reverting back to 1930s farm policy.

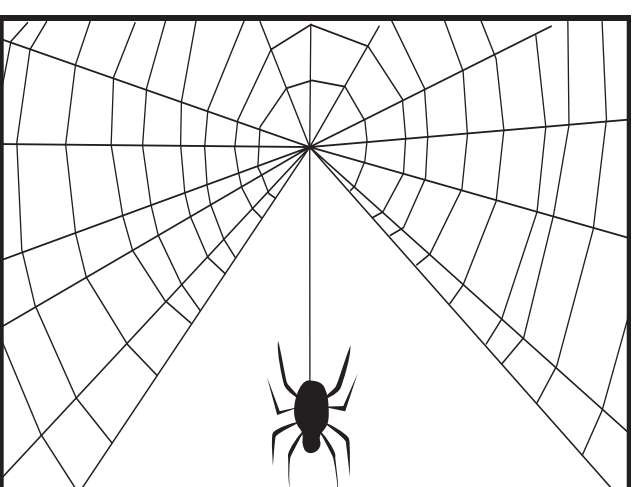
IFB understands the realities of the legislative calendar and recognizes that an extension might be needed to avoid serious disruptions, but we also urge Congress to move forward with a new farm bill. The farm bill has a long tradition of bipartisan support and now, more than ever, it's important for lawmakers to work together to ensure America's farmers can continue to provide the safest, most affordable food supply in the world.

I'm confident that our legislators from Illinois understand the importance of the farm bill and are committed to getting the legislation across the president's desk.

Richard Guebert Jr. is the president of the Illinois Farm Bureau. This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.



Richard Guebert Jr.



An Advertising Proverb

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

OCL Letters to the Editor 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.

CHURCH SERVICES

We will be having a Christmas Eve Candlelight service Sunday, December 24th in the morning **ONLY** at 10:15 am with no service in the evening. Our service will be following through Eugene H. Peterson's book:



Pastor Barry Norris
Valley Evangelical Covenant Church



103 S. Maple St.
Stillman Valley IL 61084
www.valleycov.org | 815-645-8872



Church Services

Christmas Eve WORSHIP

December 24 ~ 10:30 am
Christmas Eve Morning
Traditional Worship Service

December 24 ~ 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service
Candlelight, Carols & Special Music

Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spellious
United Church of Byron, Illinois
Website: unitedchurchofbyron.org

All are invited to join us for our **9th Annual Christmas Eve Service** Dec. 23rd at 6 pm!

The promise that God is with us, Immanuel, resounds for all time that we are never truly alone, our God is with us. We don't need to be anxious because our God is with us. We don't need to fear the future because our God is with us! Experience a life with God this Christmas season! Come out and have your family photo taken by Dakota Dempsey and stick around after service for Christmas desserts!

No Services Dec. 24th and Dec. 31st
Services resume Jan. 7th at 10:45 am



RiverStone Christian Church
609 S. Tenth St. Oregon, IL



Disciples United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services

9:30 am Sunday Morning Worship
4:30 pm & 11 pm Candlelight Service

Communion will be offered at all 3 services.

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www.disciplesumc.org

Advent at Kish

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10am Third week of Advent

December 24: Joy
10am Fourth Week of Advent
10pm Candlelight Service

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www.kishchurch.org

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4:00 and 10:00 pm

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December 24th, 2023

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Green Giant FROZEN VEGETABLES Select Varieties 7-8 oz 89¢	Best Choice WHIPPED TOPPING Select Varieties 8 oz 99¢	Best Choice BUTTER Salted or Unsalted 16 oz 2/\$5	Philadelphia CREAM CHEESE Original or 1/3 Less Fat 8 oz 2/\$4
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To Stay Healthy For the Holidays,

See our Health section on page 2 for tips!



Stillman Valley's Cardinal Christmas held Dec. 3
On Dec. 3, Stillman Valley played host to its annual Cardinal Christmas festivities. The event included Santa arriving by fire truck, a tree decorating contest by Stillman Bank, a tree-lighting ceremony, a craft and vendor fair at Meridian Junior High, and a live nativity scene.



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801-803 Adams Street Oregon \$335,000 Call Erin
New Roof, New Soffits, New Siding...Oh My!! Calling ALL buyers... cash, conventional, FHA or VA! This is an opportunity you don't want to miss. This oversized Oregon duplex has been redone inside and out! From the gleaming hardwood floors to the contemporary light fixtures, every detail has been carefully curated to reflect a commitment to quality and style. This home embodies the perfect blend of classic charm and modern convenience. Upgrades include, flooring (sub and top), plumbing, most electric, new gas lines, windows, light fixtures, appliances (ss fridges after 12/1), granite countertops, soft close cabinets, all mechanicals, water softener, decks, you name it, it's new!! Low, low maintenance and all upgrades contribute to a more sustainable and cost-effective lifestyle!! Whether you want to rent out both 1200 sqft, 3 bed, 1 bath units or live in one and rent the other for the income, you will not find anything better on the market!! Experience the benefits of a home that's not just beautiful but also energy-efficient. Separate utilities and tenants pay all. Close to schools, shopping and all that downtown Oregon, IL has to offer.



000 Orchid Lane Oregon \$42,000 Call Lori
Wooded paradise lot in the Oregon school district. Your chance to own a 1.71 acre lot in Marsh Woods. This subdivision has just ten lots on one street with a community park at the cul de sac. This is a wooded lot. The owners have cleared the center for the perfect building spot. So much of the preparation has been done for you. Best of all, fiber optic is available on Orchid Lane! Call today for your chance to be a part of this community.



458 N Jones Avenue Amboy \$189,900 Call Jenny
You could ring in the New Year in this 3 bedroom 2 bath home in Amboy! This ranch is roomy- with an open floor plan great for entertaining and family time. The kitchen is the focal point of the home and has an abundance of beautiful oak cabinetry and a functional island. Both the family room and living room are spacious and are adjacent to the kitchen. There is a sweet little sunroom that leads to the back patio and large fenced in yard with garden shed. The 2 1/2 car garage has plenty of room for vehicles and hobbies too. There is a main floor laundry and the Master bedroom has a fantastic walk-in closet. There is ample storage throughout. Don't delay- give this home a look today!



105 N Hannah Avenue Mount Morris \$79,900 Call Mark
Looking for Economical, Easy living with No stairs to worry about? This is the place! This 2 bedroom, 1 bath, clean and ready to move into, Lustron ranch home is now available on a quiet Mt. Morris street! Maintenance free steel exterior. 1st floor laundry will be so convenient! Washer, dryer, refrigerator, gas stove, microwave and a/c wall unit will all stay. There is space for a dining room table & chairs for get togethers. 1 car detached garage and back patio area. Covered porch for enjoying the summer months. Great for an elderly or disabled person. No basement.

REDUCED PRICES



2568 E Bourbonnais Place Byron now \$490,000 Call Boone
Looking for the perfect home in a peaceful and serene neighborhood? Look no further! This stunning 5 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home at 2568 E Bourbonnais Place is waiting for you. Step inside and be greeted by the spacious foyer and welcoming living room complete with hardwood flooring and large windows letting in plenty of natural light. The open floor plan flows effortlessly into the kitchen and dining area, featuring beautiful cabinetry, and granite countertops. The home also has a new furnace and windows throughout. With five generous bedrooms, there is plenty of room for everyone in the family. The master suite boasts a huge walk-in closet and luxurious en-suite bathroom with dual sinks, a soaking tub, and a separate shower. Located in a quiet and friendly neighborhood, this home is just a short drive from Byron Forest Preserve, local shops, and restaurants. Easy access to I-39 makes for a quick commute to the Rockford and the greater Chicago area. Don't miss out on the chance to make this stunning home yours. Schedule your showing today!



15820 Patch Road Morrison now \$179,900 Call Jenny
You could be HOME Sweet HOME in this desirable 3 bedroom ranch on the edge of town. There is ample room for entertaining and relaxing, inside and out. Large living room upstairs and massive family room with dry bar and gas fireplace downstairs. The kitchen features an abundance of cabinets, an island, and plenty of countertop space to prepare meals and gather. The home is tastefully decorated throughout with new flooring in the bedrooms and some updated lighting. The basement has been water proofed and has a lifetime warranty as well as a new sump pump system with battery back up. Exterior of the home has a fenced yard, deck, and above ground pool with newer liner and pump. AC is unit is 5 years old.



702 S 4th Street Oregon now \$150,000 Call Rebecca
MOVE RIGHT IN! 2+ bedroom, 2.5 bathroom Home boasts 2 master suites- one on the main floor and one up stairs. Main floor has updated kitchen, spacious living room and large mudroom that is also where you can find the laundry area. All bathrooms have been updated with stunning tile and modern vanities. Tile showers in both master suites. Detached two car garage with fully fenced yard. The following updates have also been done: gutters 2023, roof 2023, furnace 2020, hot water heater 2023, fresh paint throughout, new carpet and some replaced windows. Call for your showing today!



510 S 10th Street Oregon now \$250,000 Call Carla
New Listing Large Four Family Apartments Located in Oregon! Quadruple the opportunity with this unique property sitting on an extra large lot. Located just a few blocks from the Oregon School district, this investment property includes all kitchen appliances, some new updates, newer metal and rubber roofs. All separate utilities, seller pays the water, sewer and garbage. Large garage/workshop area. Always easy to rent with longtime tenants. See Additional Documents for room measurements.



610 S Division Street Polo now \$285,000 Call Rebecca
CEDARSTONE BUILDING IS BEING OFFERED FOR SALE! Opportunity knocks and those opportunities are endless with this property featuring a large banquet hall and commercial kitchen. This property once operated as a bar and reception hall with parking on site for 50+ vehicles and seating for nearly 300. There is a full service banquet area with vaulted ceilings along with a separate area with seating for nearly 40. This space can also be opened up to make one large banquet space. Kitchen equipment and fixtures are all included. Basement has 12 foot ceilings and offers great storage space. Bring your ideas and call for a showing today! Sold As Is.

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HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

Five New Year's resolutions to benefit the brain

RESOLUTIONS made at the start of a new year often focus on personal improvement. Giving up poor habits like smoking or drinking too much alcohol and losing weight through diet and exercise are some popular resolutions.

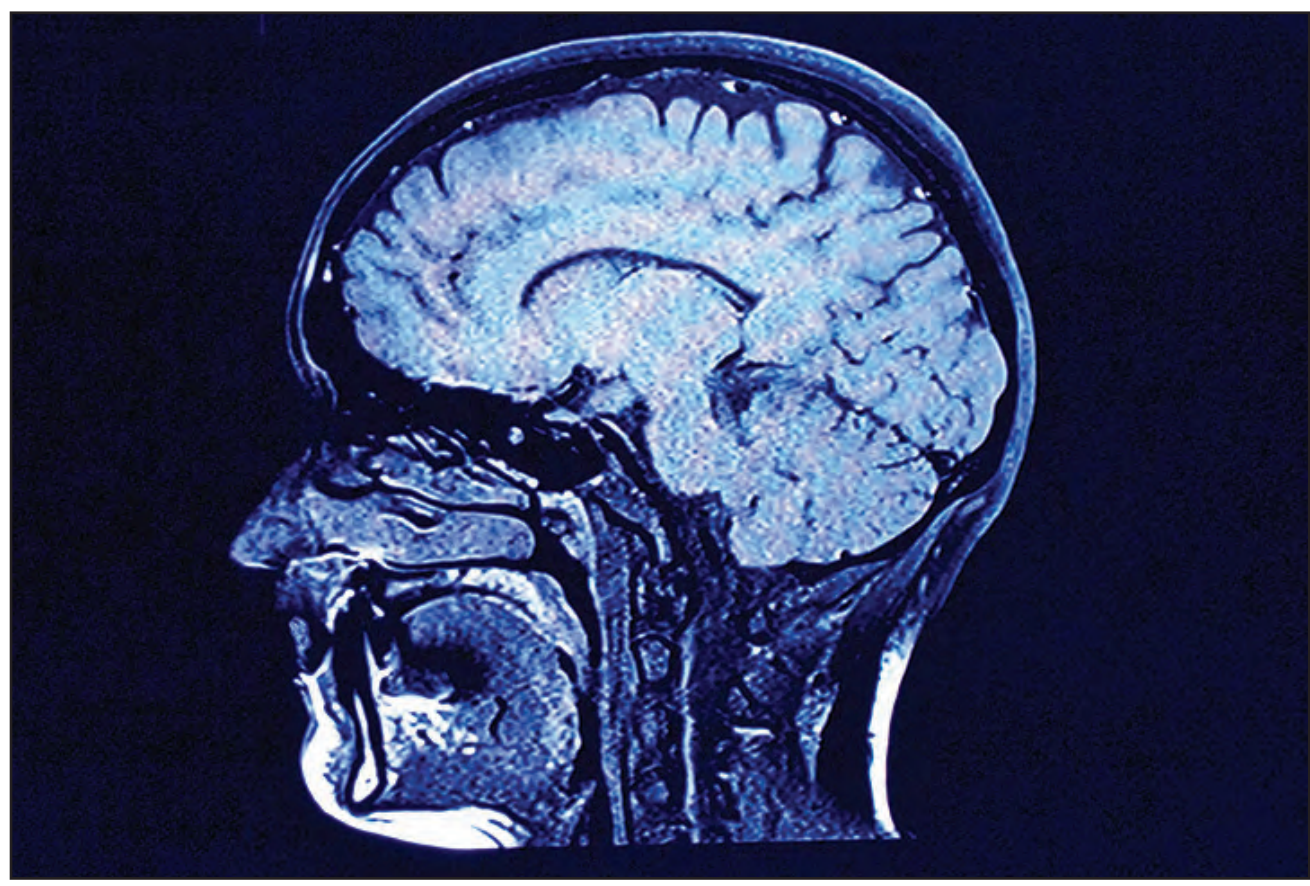
Health and wellness certainly dominates the resolution landscape. Improvement-minded individuals interested in gaining long-term benefits from their resolutions this year may want to consider ways to improve brain health and function. Here are five ideas to consider.

1. Get moving: Exercise does the body good and even positively affects the brain. The American Academy of Neurology has found aerobic exercise may play a significant role in reversing and preventing cognitive decline. Researchers have found that even a little exercise each day can result in improved brain function in less than six months.

Andrew E. Budson, M.D., a professor of neurology at Boston University, also says aerobic exercise releases growth factors in the brain, which can help grow new brain cells.

2. Start a new hobby. When doing the same activities over and over, you eventually learn how to do those activities better. But doctors can't confirm this is actually helping the brain in a meaningful way. Rather, there is evidence that doing new things can be beneficial to the brain. So learning a new hobby, taking a class, or even learning to play a musical instrument can push the brain to improve from a cognitive standpoint, indicates The Healthy, a Reader's Digest brand.

3. Make more time for fun. Repeated stress can have detrimental effects on the body and mind. Harvard Health says stress has been linked to cognitive problems and a higher risk for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Taking time to relax and enjoy oneself can tame



stress, and in turn, alleviate issues affecting memory and cognition.

4. Practice mindfulness more often. Mindfulness is an exercise in paying attention to one's surroundings, senses and more. Too often people

are multi-tasking and never fully devoting their attention to one thing. Mindfulness gives the brain a break and brings a person into the present.

5. Eat a better diet. The benefit of eating healthy foods extends beyond the

waistline. Many of the foods that are good for the heart are important for preventing cognitive decline and dementias. A 2015 systemic review found strong evidence for a protective effect of the Mediterranean diet, ac-

ording to researchers at Deakin University School of Medicine in Australia.

By making brain health a priority when coming up with New Year's resolutions this year, individuals can benefit for years to come.

New Year's resolutions for your social life

NEW Year's resolutions tend to focus heavily on healthy aspirations. Each January, people from all walks of life express a desire to lose weight, exercise more, quit smoking, or get more sleep. However, that doesn't mean that resolutions cannot involve fun with friends.

Resolutions that focus on improving social connections might be something to consider this year. Expanding your social life can prove beneficial, as strong social connections are important to maintaining cognitive health and emotional well-being. The following are some socially-minded resolutions.

- Volunteer. One of the best ways to meet new people is to engage in activities that attract like-minded individuals. Volunteer activities are one avenue to explore. Volunteerism can start in schools, community centers, houses of worship, and elsewhere through the community.

- Change your internal narrative. Sometimes people have a hard time making friends simply because they have preconceived notions or place judgments on those around them. Judging others can be detrimental to establishing relationships.



ships. Changing how you view others can help.

- Join a social app. Whether it is to meet new friends or potential romantic partners, now may be the time to put yourself out there. Apps that promote personal relationships help people vet individuals so they're not walking into

situations completely unaware. Pew Research says 53 percent of people under the age of 30 report having used a dating site or app, and the popular app Meepup boasts 60 million members.

- Try new activities. If you've been meaning to learn how to brew your own beer or create

acrylic art craft projects, now is the time to dive in. Engaging in new hobbies and activities puts you in touch with other people, which can help foster new friendships.

- Practice active listening. Resolving to make established relationships more secure may come down to listening better.

Too often people are harried and rushed and may miss key signals a partner or friend is giving them. By slowing down and listening, while also trying to see the situation through another's eyes, you can strengthen connections.

- Host a gathering. Make time on the calendar

to hang out with others. If you don't make an effort to get together, you can't expect others to want to do the same. Sometimes you have to take the lead to create social situations and gatherings.

Resolutions to revitalize your social life can make for a great start to a new year.

HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

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LOCAL NEWS

Colbert: Tying up loose ends

THE transition from fall to winter sports is underway with much to learn before making assessments on basketball and wrestling teams. Meanwhile, let's tie up some loose ends.

Spending Thanksgiving with an assorted bunch that included a retired Stillman Valley educator, a 1987 Leaf River grad, a 1957 Byron grad and athletic hall-of-famer and a retired Rockford engineer, much of the dinner time conversation settled around high-school sports. Actually, Thanksgiving all over the country is often geared towards sports, with the televised pro football games being the centerpiece.

Growing up in a football environment, I appreciated that. However, the older I get, the more I realize that way too much emphasis is put on football, to the point of being our national religion.

Guilty as charged, as I found myself in a football-induced coma from watching high school and college games non-stop on Friday and Saturday. It was almost like being on a drunken bender.

I needed a break from my channel changer and took respite at the Blackhawk Center, checking out some bad tournament basketball. This early in the year, basketball is always bad.

Getting back to my Thanksgiving social intercourse, I learned that the mighty Byron football program transitioned from six-man and eight-man football in the late 1950s.

Regarding Leaf River, which closed its doors in 1989, I found out they have quite a history of musical greatness. Under the direction of Sid Anderson, LR was IHSA Class D music state champs two years straight in the mid 1970s.

Additionally, the Demons, as they used to be called, had a state champ

in the mile in 1959 with Steve Newcomer; and that was in a one-class system. While verifying this on the IHSA website, I also noticed Mt. Morris had a state mile champ in 1932 with Pete Longman.

Interestingly, Pete's time of 4:25 was a second faster than the 4:26 run by Steve. To this date, the best-ever performances in a one-class system for Ogle County distance running are third and second in the two-mile run by Craig Young of Stillman Valley in 1973 and '74.

Speaking of people with the surname of Young, Larry Young drew a packed house to the

Oregon Depot a couple weeks ago, as he spoke of his experiences umpiring baseball. Larry is a true testament to persistence and diligence to a desired profession, one that the odds are severely stacked against a person.

My favorite story was the one he told of getting into what appears to be a heated argument with manager Gene Lamont in an MLB game stoppage, but in reality it was a discussion between the two friends about going out for dinner after the game.

For us old-timers, Kirkland's Gene Lamont is a story in itself, one of the great athletes to hail from northern Illinois. When you think about Kirkland, all you have is Lamont.

Sure, Polo's Terry Jenkins had a couple of state playoffs appearances in football and a basketball regional title as a coach there in the mid 80s. But Kirkland has never been able to muster anything substantial other than being the home of Lamont.

In the past week, I had two different area wrestling coaches lament to me on the difficulty of the 1A sectional is and the unfairness of really good kids missing out on trips downstate, while those from lesser sectionals make it.

You can't argue that claim. However, in all sports other than football, the IHSA arranges the post season geographically, even using a computerized method for accuracy.

It's just the way it is, and the IHSA will never get into the business of ranking teams, and gerrymandering assignments based upon this. It always been about geography and always will be.

However, there was a variable to this in basketball for several decades. The Chicago Public League, which is as good in basketball as they are bad in football, always received an automatic bid to the state tourney.

Not anymore. With the incorporation of four classes in basketball they are now geographically funneled into regionals/sectionals with suburban schools.

One of my basketball travel plans is to make a trip to Scales Mound to see the state's top small-school attraction on their home gym. Had planned to go last year, but Scales Mound is so far off the beaten path and as you get older, it is easy to talk yourself out of long winter drives.

I did make it to the farthest point northwest in Illinois a few years ago to see Polo play in a sectional at East Dubuque, so a precedent has been set.

One final travel note - one my way to Peoria to cover the state cross country meet last month, I made a slight detour north of Princeton to visit one of the few remaining covered bridges in Illinois. I'm glad I did, as a week later, a truck driver got lost and plowed his 18-wheeler into it.

Listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and 160 years old, it may have to be demolished because of the damage caused.

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



Andy Colbert

AREA SPORTS

Oregon boys bowling hosts Hawk Invitational

The Oregon boys bowling team hosted the annual Hawk Invitational at Plum Hollow Family Center, Dixon and the boys came away with a first-place team finish with a 5,756 six-game total, 63 pins ahead of second-place Dixon.

Oregon was led by second-place individual finisher Gavvin Surmo with a 1,262 series, followed closely by third-place individual finisher Brady Davis with a 1,241 series

and seventh-place individual finisher Matthew Stahl with an 1,162 series. Also contributing to the championship effort was RJ Keene's 1,049 series, Cody Dunbar's 890 series (five games) and Ethan Smice's 152 game.

The two Oregon girls competed as individuals, and both recorded all-time high games. Katy Miller had an 833 series, including a 201 high game and Ahren Howey had an 802 series, with a 221 high game.

Oregon boys bowling defeats

Rockford Lutheran

The Oregon boys bowling team traveled to Park Lanes, Loves Park, to bowl Rockford Lutheran on Dec. 4 and came away with a 3,564-2,357 Big Northern Conference victory. The Hawks were led by Matthew Stahl with a 653 series (213, 202, 238), followed closely by Cody Dunbar with a 643 series (269 match-high game Brady Davis' 627 series, RJ Keene's 607 series, Gavvin Surmo's 567 series and Ethan Smice with a 467 series.

Rock River Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers offers scholarships

DIXON— Highschool seniors looking for ways to help finance their college engineering education can apply for a scholarship available from the Rock River Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers. Applications are available now until the application deadline of Jan. 19, 2024. Applications are available from high school guidance counselors of

all public and private high schools in the Rock River Chapter area which includes Bureau, Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties in northwestern Illinois. Applications for scholarships are judged from national standard test scores, essays, transcripts, and extracurricular activities. Scholarships are available only for students attending an accredited engineering program. In

our 2023-2024 scholarship cycle, the Rock River Chapter will award at least one scholarship of \$1,000. Last year the chapter awarded nine new scholarships. Local scholarships are made possible by the Rock River Chapter through its annual scholarship fundraisers. For more information contact Rock River Scholarship Chairman, Erik Larson, at 815-284-3381.

Leaf River's Heslop is new junior member of American Angus Association

LEAFRIVER—Adalyn Heslop of Leaf River is a new junior member of the American Angus Association®, reports Mark McCully, CEO of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

Junior members of the association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in association-sponsored shows and other national and regional events.

The American Angus Association is the largest beef breed association in the world, with more than 22,000 active adult and junior members. Visit NJAA.info for more information about the National Junior Angus Association.

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LOCAL NEWS

Bertolet Library News

Snow Removal
Bertolet Memorial Library is accepting bids for snow removal from our sidewalks. Following an overnight snowfall, snow will need to be removed by 10:00 AM, and some daytime snow removal may also be necessary. Please submit your written proposal to the library in person or by email to bertolet705@gmail.com. For more information, please contact Linda at (815)738-2742.

Mitten Tree
Mittens to wear; Hats for their hair; Scarves for their neck; Gloves too? Check. Our annual Mitten Tree is now on display through the end of December. Please help decorate our Mitten Tree with thick, warm mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for all ages. Items will be distributed through New Life Community Center

in January.
YOUTH PROGRAMS
Mr. Steve's Ho Ho Ho Christmas Show
Saturday, December 16th, 10:00 AM Mr. Steve returns for a special Christmas program! There will be seasonal songs, special trivia prizes, and candy canes for all!
Drop-In Winter Craft Night
Monday, December 18th, 5-7 PM Kids & Teens: Drop in to the library to make seasonal crafts to take home.

Holiday Movie
Wednesday, December 27th, 3:00 PM In this 2018 remake of a Christmas classic is a grumpy old creature living in a cave on Mt. Crumpet who can't stand to see his neighbors in Whoville enjoying themselves. Things are especially bad at Christmas, when the Whos kick

their merriment into high gear with fantastic celebrations. This year, the Grinch decides to dress up like Santa Claus on Christmas Eve and steal all the Christmas gifts and decorations so the Whos can't enjoy the season. What he finds, however, is that Christmas in Whoville is much more than gifts and decorations, it's a time to celebrate love and friendship.
Grinch BINGO
Tuesday, January 2nd, 4:00 PM Last week, the Grinch learned that Christmas is more than gifts and decorations. This week, celebrate those friendships by bringing your friends to Bertolet Memorial Library for a seasonal edition of Grinch BINGO!
Stories with Stacey
Thursdays at 10:00 AM Join Miss Stacey for fun stories for your toddlers and preschoolers!

No Stories on December 28th or on January 4th.
ADULT PROGRAMS
Holiday Movie
Wednesday, December 27th, 3:00 PM In this 2018 remake of a Christmas classic is a grumpy old creature who can't stand to see his neighbors in Whoville enjoying themselves. This year, the Grinch decides to dress up like Santa Claus on Christmas Eve and steal all the Christmas gifts and decorations so the Whos can't enjoy the season. What he finds, however, is that Christmas in Whoville is much more than gifts and decorations, it's a time to celebrate love and friendship.
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Stories with Stacey
Thursdays at 10:00 AM Join Miss Stacey for fun stories for your toddlers and preschoolers!

transportation will close Friday, December 22 at noon and will reopen Tuesday, January 2. Please schedule all rides for January 2, on or before December 21. Thank you. Have a blessed Christmas from all of us at Rock River Center Transportation.
Senior Information Services Provided By Rock River Center

Do you need help with Benefit Access Application, housing, personal care, homemaking, heating assistance or other things? Rock River Center's Information & Assistance Specialists are available at various locations throughout Ogle County. Effective December 2023, assistance at these locations is available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact Rock River Center at (800) 541-5479 to schedule an appointment. Byron- Jarrett Prairie Center Dec 11 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Forreston-Library Dec 20 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Mt. Morris Senior Center Dec 14 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Rochelle -Hub City Senior Center Dec 13 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Word Basics
Thursday, Dec. 14, 9:30 - 11 a.m. Advance Registration requested.
"Timeless" Christmas Sing-a-long
Monday, Dec. 18 @ 10:00 a.m. Call RRC 815-732-3252 to sign up. Advance Registration requested.
December Transportation Scheduling
Rock River Center

Do you need help with Benefit Access Application, housing, personal care, homemaking, heating assistance or other things? Rock River Center's Information & Assistance Specialists are available at various locations throughout Ogle County. Effective December 2023, assistance at these locations is available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact Rock River Center at (800) 541-5479 to schedule an appointment. Byron- Jarrett Prairie Center Dec 11 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Forreston-Library Dec 20 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Mt. Morris Senior Center Dec 14 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Rochelle -Hub City Senior Center Dec 13 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

December Book of the Month
The Christmas Bookshop by Jenny Colgan: Carmen and Sofia are sisters who do not get along. Carmen begrudgingly moves in with Sofia to help care for her children and be closer to her new job.
As Carmen settles into redesigning an old bookstore and attracting new clients into it, she learns more about herself and people. Can this new perspective on life heal the sisters' relationship? Stop by the circulation desk to pick up your copy.
December Take & Make Craft
Welcome in winter with this pretty star and the options are endless to make it. Stop by the circulation desk to pick up your kit.

Create-a-Card: We will formally resume in the spring, but supplies will be available year round for independent access.
Plastic Recycling
We ask that you make sure plastic is clean with no debris in the donation. *No animal feed bags are allowed* Also please remove any zip-loc-type seals and paper/sticker labels. Thank you for your cooperation.
NEW RELEASES
Adult Books
The Burnout by Sophie Kinsella
A Winter In New York by Josie Silver
Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt
The Debutante's Code by Erica Vetsch
Picture Books
Big Bub, Small Tub by Alastair Heim
Horse & Buggy On Ice by Ethan Long

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 @ 815-732-3252 for assistance with Benefit Access Application for a license plate discount, Medicare, housing, homemaker service, heating assistance or other things. Visit us at www.rockrivercenter.org and like us on Facebook.

Morning Mug Club
Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 9:00 a.m. Gather with new and old friends for coffee and conversation.
Oregon JH Band and Choir
Wednesday, Dec. 13 @ 10:30 a.m. Call RRC 815-732-3252 to sign up. Advance Registration requested.

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Thursday, Dec. 14, 9:30 - 11 a.m. Advance Registration requested.
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Picture Books
Big Bub, Small Tub by Alastair Heim
Horse & Buggy On Ice by Ethan Long

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BYRON

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

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH
205 N. Peru St., Byron 815-234-8737 cornerstonefam.ily.church
Sr. Pastor: Erik Ness, NextGen/ Family Pastor: Collin Nicholls
Children's Ministry Director : Lori Martin
Worship Service on Sundays at 10am with Children 's Worship Service and Nursery Available
Sr High Youth Ministry Sundays at 6:00pm, Jr High Youth Ministry Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Numerous Small Groups Available for All Ages throughout the week .
Please call our Church Office or visit our website for more details .
Office Hours: 8:00am -4:30pm Mondays-Thursdays

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www.saintmaryinbyron.org secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org

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NEW LOCATION! Jarrett Prairie Center 7993 N. River Rd., Byron Phone 963-5216 Rev. Michael Axmark, Pastor. Discover Time 9:30 a.m., Fellowship 10:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 838, Byron, IL 61010

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701 W. Second Street; PO Box 927, Byron IL 61010, 815-234-8777
Email: ucb@comcast.net
Website: unitedchurchofbyron.org
Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spellious
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson
Sunday Schedule & Worship opportunities:
Service of Meditation & Prayer: 8:15am- 8:45am
Adult Sunday School Hour: 9am
Kids Sunday School: (for ages 3 thru 5th grade) 9:30-10:15am
Coffee & fellowship time: 9:30am - 10:30am
Main Worship: 10:30am
Spark Youth Group (for ages 6th grade thru 12th grade) - Sundays, 5pm-7pm
For complete ministry schedule and other activities, please check our website or Facebook page or contact the church office.
Whoever you are or wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
"Building Faith for Life"
6467 N. German Church Rd., Byron, IL - Ph. (815) 246-2685 - beaconhillbyron.org
Pastor: Gary Cortese
Service Times: Sundays at 10AM; Wednesday night Faith-Lift at 6:30PM
Find us on Facebook/Beacon Hill Assembly of God

CHANA

CHANA UNITED METHODIST
Pastor Josh Brown, 606 Main Street, Chana, IL 61015. Church office 815-732-7683. (E-mail address: chanauwc@gmail.com Adult & Children's Education 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month. At Chana Church you will find Open Hearts-Open Minds-Open Doors.

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Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors • "God's Heart in Our Community"
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Fellowship following the Worship Service each Sunday. Communion the first Sunday of the month. Potluck luncheon following Worship every 4th Sunday, except in the summer months of June, July and August. Various small groups meet throughout the month. For more information about the small groups please call 298-2310. AA meets Wednesdays at 5:30pm and Saturdays at 9am. For more information please visit our website WWW.DJUMC.ORG

DIXON

LOST LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Pastor John Trotter 8:00am Sunday School
815-973-5981 9:00am Church Service
90 W. Flagg Road www.lostlakechurch.org
Dixon IL 61021

FORRESTON

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
402 2nd Avenue, Forreston, IL 61030, Phone 815-938-3203 Pastor Scott Ralston
Sunday Worship 9:00 am; Sunday School 10:00 am

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
402 First Ave., Forreston, IL Phone: 815-938-2380
Pastor Sung-Eun Kim
OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS
Worship at 9:00 a.m. (childcare provided) with coffee and fellowship immediately following. Sunday School Age 3-Adult, 10:15 am.
AA meets Mondays, 8:00 AM. Monthly United Methodist Women's meetings.
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LEAF RIVER

ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH
9106 Cedar St. in Adeline, Leaf River, IL 61047 • Ph:815-541-4863 Sunday Services: Sunday School 9:00 am, Worship Service 10:15 am
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Pastor Billy Hardy
Live Sermon Streaming: Sundays at 10:00 AM at www.facebook.com/LEAFRIVERBC/
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9:30 Church Service. Nursery available, 11:00 Sunday school for all ages.
Nursery available
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815-738-2205 leafriverbr@gmail.com

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

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH
101 N Galena st, P.O box 67
Lindenwood IL
815-393-4658
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Coffee Fellowship following service

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

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10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sep. - May)
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815-734-4853 secretary@disciplesumc.org
www.disciplesumc.org
Pastor Marcia Peddicord

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
409 W. Brayton Road, Mt. Morris, IL 61045 Phone 815-734-4573
Pastor-Rodney Caldwell. Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship time and Sunday School. Worship service available online, call for details.
Email: mtmorriscob@gmail.com

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
308 E. Brayton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL Phone: 734-6354 Rev. Josh Ehler
Worship Services: Saturday 5:30 PM; Worship Sunday 9:30 AM. Sunday Church School - follows Worship Service (Sept.-May) Chime Choir
Wednesday 6:00 PM

LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH
409 W Brayton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL 61054 (Church of the Brethren Basement Entrance) Worship Services: 10:00 AM Sunday Morning, 7:00 PM 1st & 3rd Sunday Evening, 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Wednesday Evenings of the Month.
Pastor: Norman Reinford 779-861-3700

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD
East Oregon Chapel Church of God
The Sharing is Caring Church
Pastor Jesse Allen ECCOGministries@gmail.com 107 N Daysville Rd. Oregon, IL Phone: 815-732-2960
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. with Sunday Worship following at 10:30 a.m. Breakfast is served every fifth Sunday beginning at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday evenings both Adults (all year) & Youth (during the school year) meet weekly beginning at 6:30 p.m.
In the event that Oregon Schools are not in session the Youth group does not meet on Wednesdays.
Thursday morning Women's Bible study meets at 10:30 a.m.
We look forward to meeting you!

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH
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3 miles east of Oregon on Rt. #64 then 2 miles north on German Church Rd. • Rev. Josiah Youngquist
www.EBENEZERREFORMED.com • Sunday school 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST
Pastor Dave Rogula 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 lighthouseUMC@yahoo.com
Worship at 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month. Lighthouse will lite up your life!

OREGON CHURCH OF GOD
860 W. Oregon Trail Road Oregon, IL Phone: 732-6847 or 732-2604 Pastor Michael Hoffman; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Morning worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday activities: Adult, Children, and Youth Groups 7 p.m. At the church.

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
505 Hill St. Oregon, IL 61061 Phone: 732-2642
Pastor: David Snow "A Christ-centered, Bible-believing, family-oriented ministry." Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 S. 4th Street, Oregon, IL 61061 | 815-732-2994 | www.oregonumc.org
Pastor Rev. Megan Smick
9:00 am Adult & Youth Bible Study
10 am Worship & Children's Sunday School
In-person or live on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/OregonUMC>
5:30pm Wednesday Night Meal
All are welcome!

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
609 S. 10th Street, Oregon, IL 61061
Pastor Craig Arnold • 812-236-1213
Sunday Service @ 10:45 AM ~ contemporary style worship with coffee and doughnuts in our cafe! Online worship is also available via Facebook. We believe in sharing Communion every Sunday as an act of worship.
RiverKids Service @ 10:45 AM for nursery-6th grade ~ provides a safe and fun environment where kids can learn about who God is and who they are because of Him.
Encounter Youth Ministry for kids in 7th-12th grade meets on Sunday afternoons. Please see our Facebook page for scheduled dates and times.
For complete ministry info and events, visit us online at RiverStonecc.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/RiverStoneChristianChurch

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

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

POLO

ST. MARY CHURCH
Rector/Office: 211 North Franklin Ave., Polo, IL 61064
PHONE: 815-946-2535 • Rev. Joseph P. Nail
Masses: Sun 10:30am, Tuesday Mass 8 a.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation: First Sunday of each month after 10:30 mass
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
www.stmarypolo.org

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

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

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

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8195 Kishwaukee Road, Stillman Valley, IL 61084 • 815-965-1940
Rev. Nick Garner, Pastor
www.kishchurch.org
Sunday Morning 9am "Gather" for learning & conversation, 10:15am Worship both onsite and online at facebook.com/VCECFISV
Home of Valley Covenant Preschool 815-645-8882 Director Jill Huber
Bible Studies, Youth Group, Bread of Life Food Pantry
Please visit website for more information or contact the church office MF 9am-2pm

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

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

WINNEBAGO

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

LOCAL NEWS

Byron Public Library



Patrons enjoyed the evening creating festive mason jars by decouping them with holiday-themed napkins.

Special Hours

The Byron Public Library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday, and Dec. 31, 2023 and Jan. 1, 2024 in observance of New Year's Day. We wish all of our patrons a safe and happy holiday season!

Did you know

That you can get your CDs, DVDs, and video game discs cleaned at the Byron Library? For

a fee of \$1.00 per disc, our special disc cleaning machine can wipe away smudges and buff out most scratches. If you have a disc that won't play correctly, bring it to the library and we'll make it good as new!

Creative Studio Open

Our Creative Studio is now open on Sunday afternoons and two evenings a week, so stop by for monthly crafts and to use our maker space

equipment! Crafts out on the tables are free of charge, while some other projects will incur a cost depending on materials. Middle school and high school youth can use some of the materials while with an adult, or during Teen Time. Creative Studio hours: Sunday 1-5:00 pm, Monday 9:00 am-1:00 pm & 5-8:00 pm, Tuesday 9 am - 1:00 pm & 5-8:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

am - 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

Check out Our Mobile App

Did you know that there is an easy way to use the library from your phone? Just download the PrairieCat app to your phone or mobile device and log in with your library card number and PIN! You'll be able to view your checkouts and holds, renew renewable materials, and search the

library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!

Curbside Delivery

The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside service! Place your holds online at byronlibrary.org or call us at 815-234-5107. Not sure what you want? Call us for help! We will call or email you with a confirmation when your holds are ready to be picked up. Call us when

you arrive at the library, and we will bring your items out to you, already checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

Visit the Byron Library Facebook page, or subscribe to our newsletters at byronlibrary.org, to keep up to date on library news and programs! Be sure to also check out the Byron Library and Byron Library Teen Instagram pages!

Julia Hull District Library News



Last week, patrons gathered at Julia Hull District Library to shop the Friends of the Library Bazaar and participate in the library's annual Holiday Festival.

Storytime at the Library

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

Holiday Storytime

Join us in your jammies for a special evening full of festive good cheer. We'll read "How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney?" by Mac Barnett, play games

and create a craft sure to make the season merry and bright. Thursday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. Ages 4-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Winter Reading Challenge: Read on the Quiet Side

Embrace the solitude of the season with our Winter Reading Challenge! When you take a "Read on the Quiet Side, you can win big in one, two, or THREE

ways...just for doing the thing you love to do. So, grab a book and put your feet up: you deserve it! To get started: download the Beanstack app! This year's Winter Reading Challenge begins Jan. 1, 2024.

Tween Scene: Family Feud

It's time to play Family Feud! Complete against other tweens to see if you can guess the most popular answers to survey

questions about a range of topics. Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 6 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Toddler Time: Winter Sensory Bins

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them. Join us for some tactile play using a variety of sensory bins with a festive winter twist! Friday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required:

815-645-8611.

Introduction to Ancestry and Genealogy Basics

Are you a newbie to genealogy research? This class is intended for you. Join us for a very basic introduction to family history and using Ancestry Library Edition. Monday, Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Young Critics Book Club

On Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 pm. Bring a snack and join us at the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center.

Enjoy a Game of Trivia?

On Thursday, December 21st at 6:00 pm join us for Trivia & Tacos. Trivia is \$2.00 and Tacos are \$2.00 each.

Join us for a discussion and hands-on craft/activity all about the graphic novel "Bird & Squirrel On Ice" by James Burks. Tuesday, Jan. 16, 6 p.m. Ages 7-9. Copies of the reading available to borrow. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Holiday Hours

The library will be closed Dec. 23-25 and Dec. 30 - Jan. 1 for the holidays.

Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center

The following events are happening at the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center!

Christmas Gift Drive

The Mt. Morris Senior &

Community Center, along with Allure of Pinecrest, is happy to be helping to organize gifts for our local nursing home residents. If you would like to purchase

a gift for a resident (or a couple) please call the office at 815-734-6335 as soon as possible. We would love for you to be able to serve some long-time members of our

community and help them to feel the Christmas spirit. All gifts will need to be delivered to Allure by December 18th. Call us with any questions.

Join Us For Euchre!

On Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 pm. Bring a snack and join us at the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center.

Enjoy a Game of Trivia?

On Thursday, December 21st at 6:00 pm join us for Trivia & Tacos. Trivia is \$2.00 and Tacos are \$2.00 each.

Oregon Public Library

New Face to the Library Catalog Service Online

You may have noticed that searching the library catalog seems a little different. This is because the Library has officially changed over from Encore to the new Vega Discover interface. Starting on Monday, December 4th, users will no longer be able to create or save lists in Encore. All lists and any reading history associated with your account are waiting for you in Vega. Please note: your reading history will only be available if you already opted into that previously through Encore. If you did not opt in earlier and would like to see your reading history going forward, you are in luck. You can still opt in through your profile in Vega. Click your name in the top right corner to access your profile. The reading history opt-in checkbox is the last item in your patron profile. Questions? Just call the Library at 815-732-2724.

StoryWalk I Spy Contest

Now through Decem-

ber 20th (Oregon Library cardholders only). Come by the Library and pick up an entry form, walk the Story Walk at Oregon Park West and answer questions about the story. Once completed, turn in the form no later than December 20. Individual with the most correct answers will receive a gift card from an Oregon business.

December Distraction- It's Back!

Monday, December 4 through Monday, December 18, when Oregon Public Library District cardholders check out reading material, they may receive a scratch-off ticket for every 3 reading material items for a chance to win some readable prizes. Scratch off your ticket and see if you win! Winning ticket holders may select one of the prize packages that are now on display at the Library. Ask one of our librarians for more info

Holiday Movie Binge Boxes

Registration ends December 18th. Holiday Movie Night Binge Boxes are back! Inside each box are

DVDs hand-picked for you by our librarians plus a festive treat and gift. Call (815) 732-2724 or visit our website to complete your registration for your box. Once your box is ready, you will be notified to pick it up at the Library. Must be an Oregon Library Card holder.

HOLIDAY TRIVIA at Cork N Tap

Thursday, December 14th at 6:30pm. Get in the holiday spirit by joining us for an evening of Holiday Trivia. Great prizes, holiday snacks, treats and drinks. All ages welcome. Register required, register your team of 6 at (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, December 18th at 6:00pm. Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and are thinking about them. All designs include beautiful colored cardstock, gorgeous designer series paper, detailed stamped images, die cut pieces, matching ink, ribbon, and embel-

ishments. All cards come with matching envelopes. Whether you're a new card maker or a seasoned pro, our kits are suited to every skill level. Don't wait! Sign up today to reserve your spot. Oregon Patrons only. Registration required (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, December 19th at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your time slot). Macrame Christmas Key Chains—Learn to macramé a key chain for yourself or it makes an easy homemade gift! All supplies are provided. Registration required, (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Story Time

(18 months-6 yrs.) Mondays, 10 am. Story Time is on Mondays, through December 18, with stories, activities, and fun! Go online or call to register for this session.

Book Clubs

The 2WBC Book Club meets December 13, at 12:30 pm to discuss A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. The Afternoon Book Club meets

Wednesday, December 20 at 1 pm to discuss Comfort and Joy by Kristin Hannah. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet on December 19 at the Library to discuss The Unbroken by C.L. Clarke. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, December 28 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss A Slow Fire Burning by Paula Hawkins.

Yoga

Wednesdays, 9:30 am Functional Yin-Yasa - This class is a hybrid of yang (active yoga) with yin (passive yoga). We will use fundamental yoga postures combined with functional movements to build strength and warmth followed by passive, long held poses to help with flexibility and mobility of the joints and soft tissues. A yoga mat and blocks will be useful props for this class! All levels welcome." Oregon Library Patrons only. Registration required, this class fills quickly. Please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Oregon Writers Group

Meets the 2nd Tuesday

of the month at 10:00am. The OWG is a gathering of writers or writer-wannabes who meet to support each other and 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.

Passport Services

The Oregon Public Library offers Passport Application Processing. Patrons seeking Passport Services should call the Library prior to their visit to ensure that an official processor is available at that time and for a checklist of items, you will need for the appointment.

OPLD Dial-A-Story & Oregon Public Library StoryWalk @ Oregon Park West

Call 815-732-2724, follow the prompts and presto...a story! Current story-The Littlest Christmas Tree by Janie Jasin. New story at the StoryWalk is I Spy Christmas: A Book of Picture Riddles by Walter Wick. Call for info about the StoryWalk I Spy Contest!

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS,
CIRCUIT COURT,
OGLE COUNTY

Request of Brian P. Higgins
Case Number 2023MR40
Filed November 15, 2023.
There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from Brian Paul Higgins to the new name of Breanna Paula Higgins.
The court date will be held on January 3, 2024 at 9:00am at 106 5th St., Oregon, Ogle County, in Courtroom #304.
No. 1125
(Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and 11, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Public Hearing to approve a proposed Tax Levy increase for Lynville Township Road District Funds, for Lynville Township in Ogle County, Illinois will be held on December 18, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lynville Township Building in Lindenwood, Illinois.

Ali Harms
Lynville Township
Clerk
No. 1209
(Dec. 11, 2023)

NOTICE

Taylor Township meeting schedule 2024
Taylor Township 2024 regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.
Annual township meeting – April 9, 7 pm to be followed by the regular meeting.

The meetings are held at the Taylor Township building at 280 West Flagg Road.

For questions, contact Melody Jackovich, Clerk Taylor Township 630-886-3351.

Meeting dates are as follows: January 9, February 13, March 12, April 9 (immediately following annual township meeting), May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10.

No. 1210
(Dec. 11, 2023)

NOTICE

The Byron Park District will be holding a public hearing on December 19, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

The hearing will be held at the District Offices located at 500 North Colfax Street, Byron, IL 61010.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow testimony in regards to the District's FY 2024 proposed operating budget and annual appropriation ordinance.

No. 1213
(December 11, 2023)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for

101 LEGAL NOTICE

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING, JUNE 30, 2023

REVENUE	
Balance at the beginning of year July 1, 2022	\$72,500.41
Property Taxes	98,741.62
Rent	6,360.00
Book fines, etc	126.09
Interest Income	9.98
Memorials	14,497.25
USPO & Stamps	2,959.67
Per Capita	2,129.90
Transfers	30,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	854.25
Totals Revenues	\$155,678.76
EXPENDITURES	
Salaries over \$25,000.00	\$34,136.37
Salaries under \$25,000.00	\$37,419.31
Union Savings Bank, Payroll taxes	2,253.20
Fifth Third Bank Credit Cards, books, supplies, etc	4,692.54
Union Savings - Trust	5,407.47
Mobil Beacon	1,200.00
Country Financial Ins Co., Insurance	5,994.00
Nicor, natural gas	5,140.66
Com Ed, electric	4,255.08
Fischer's Inc	1,810.48
IL Department of Revenue	3,465.57
Baker & Taylor	3,110.33
LR Communications	1,568.62
Zac Seal Coat	7,725.00
American	3,059.25
Village of Leaf River	1,561.44
Prairie Cat	4,695.00
Dan Flanagan	2,346.85
Ardis Kump	1,096.59
Nick Heiderreich	1,274.00
Jason	1,665.00
Others not exceeding \$1,000.	15,101.05
Totals Expenditures	\$148,977.81
Balance at the end of the year, June 30, 2023	\$79,201.36

ARDIS KUMP, TREASURER

No. 1215
(December 11, 2023)

AM I OKAY TO DRIVE?

BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING

NHTSA ad COUNCIL

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."

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION

NEW, USED SCRATCH & DENT

- Refrigerators • Freezers
- Washers/Dryers • Stoves

We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

6331 11th Street, Rockford
815-262-3900

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

FURMAN'S Lawn Care and Tree Work. Mowing, bushes, spring clean up, weeding and much more. Call Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please leave a message will return call ASAP. Fully insured, in business since 1999. Servicing Rochelle and surrounding areas.

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

301 ANTIQUES

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

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin &

GET HIRED

Full-Time & Part-Time Openings Available Now
Check out the Help Wanted section of the Classifieds

Start earning now!

ASK ABOUT OUR **Print & Web Ad Bundle Rates**



"La detección temprana nos permitió tomar control de la situación y poder planificar juntos."

Si notan cambios, podría ser Alzheimer. Visiten un médico juntos.

ALZ.org/Tiempo



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- SLIP IT**
- CUFF IT**
- CHECK IT**

Check it every day. Self-monitoring is power.

ad COUNCIL American Heart Association AMA AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Visit: ManageYourBP.org

Or scan code for more.

103 AUCTIONS

AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

A&T Auction Services, LLC
Travis Cunningham
(815) 297-4595
Located in Forreston, IL

Lenny Bryson
Sales Of All Kinds
815-946-4120

Chana 64 Auctions
620 S. Stone Hill Rd., Chana
815-830-3898
• Pick Up Service Available
"UWANNASELLITCALLUS"

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

Remmer Schuetz Auction Service
Case Tractor Collector
5936 S. Watertown Rd.
Ashton, IL
847-878-1491

PUBLIC AUCTION

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

OREGON/MT. MORRIS
Newer 1, 2 & 3 BR APTS. Water, sewer, garbage inc. w/most units. HOUSES some w/garages, all in like new condition. Starting at \$425/mo. 815-734-4348 815-590-2302

511 STORAGE UNITS

K&P SELF STORAGE
1563 Kysor Drive, Byron (next to D&W Garage) 815-247-8518
OUTSIDE STORAGE NOW AVAILABLE
Storage Unit Sizes: 5' x 10' 10' x 10' 10' x 15' 10' x 20' 10' x 30'

H.O.P.E
For Free Help or Information Call 815-562-8890 24 Hours

All Calls Are Confidential.

Support, Advocacy, Referral Services, Shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children. HOPE of Ogle County

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

103 AUCTIONS

HOME AUCTION

1.02 AC± | 1 TRACT WHITESIDE CO, IL
AUCTION: ONLINE AT RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM
TIMED ONLINE ONLY
BIDDING ENDS: 12/14/23 AT 3:00 PM
OPEN HOUSE: 11/28 | 2 - 6 PM & 12/9 | 11 AM - 3 PM
23120 ORCHARD LN, ROCK FALLS, IL
BIDS STARTING AT ONLY \$700,000!
IN COOPERATION WITH WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE, LLC
TODD HENRY, AGENT: 815.997.2256
RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM

Jolly Estate Sales Chana Estate Sale

House with Barn: Books, Canoes, Fishing, Lure making, Furniture, Vintage Pyrex, Kitchenware, Tools, Adjustable bed, Twin trundle bed, desks, tons of great t-shirts, Knicknacks, household items and much more!

Find JOLLY ESTATE SALES on google for more information.
FIRM SALE HOURS - NO PRESALES
4585 Chana Rd.,
Chana, Illinois 61015

PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION
BETTY SWANSON ESTATE
312 W. MASON STREET, POLO, IL 61064
Thursday, December 14th 8AM to Sunday, December 17th 5pm
This is an Online Auction.
Please visit <https://aandtauctionservices.hibid.com/> for full sale viewing beginning 12/13/2023. Pictures will be uploaded prior to that date as they are available.
Personal Property: Lots of household items; decor pieces; some memorabilia; antique & modern furniture; lots of pottery & glassware items, including fenton and pink depression; collectibles; knick knacks; vintage quilts & afghans; antique singer sewing machine; sewing & quilting items; antique range/stove & chest freezer; christmas decor; linens, doilies, etc.; vintage organ & piano; lots of miscellaneous items—too much to list! Large collection of items from a multi-generational home.
Item Viewing: Items will be available for online viewing beginning @ 8am on 12/13/2023. If you wish for more information on an item or an appointment to view an item, please contact A & T Auction Services directly.
Item Pick-up: Pick up will be held on Wednesday, December 20th from 4:30-7:00pm at the sale site listed above.
Terms & Conditions: This is an absolute sale. There will be a 10% Buyer's Premium added to all items sold. Items can be purchased with cash, GOOD check, or credit card. There will be a 3.5% fee added to any credit card transaction.
Follow A & T Auction Services on Facebook for the Online Sale Link and additional sale information, including pictures, how to register for online bidding, and complete sale terms and conditions.
Travis Cunningham, Auctioneer IL Lic. # 441.002600
A & T Auction Services, LLC
atauctionservices@gmail.com
815-297-4595

FIND Your New Home!

In The Classifieds!

203 HELP WANTED

Join the Hawk Family!

Oregon CUSD #220 Transportation Dept. is actively looking for new drivers. \$1,000 Sign On Bonus 6 Hour a day Minimum Medical, Vision, and Dental Benefits Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund \$20/Hour Candidates with certification are preferred but not necessary. Training available AM & PM Route Field Trips Sport Trips Bring your child to work with you!

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