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VALLEY SHOPPER

MONDAY
Dec. 18, 2023

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VOLUME 35, ISSUE 40

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Inside today!

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
34 18	38 24
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
45 30	44 29
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
38 26	42 57

OBITUARIES

- Reuben Barnhart III
 - Jamie Evans (Ray)
 - Barbara Fay
 - Deborah Siebken
 - Donna Wells
- See page A4

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Polo Fresh Food
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- Snyder Pharmacy

Mobel Furnishings in Oregon is a must-see visit

Store officially opened Nov. 24:
'We are encouraged so far with the response'

BY GEORGE HOWE
CORRESPONDENT

OREGON — Did you ever have a burning desire deep inside you that you wanted to make a reality but for whatever reason it just never manifested itself? Husband and wife Mark and Anne Nehr Korn had an inspiration strolling around the Oregon Candlelight Walk a year ago and have now made this collaborative dream come to fruition.

Mobel Furnishings, pronounced (moe-bell), which means furniture in German, is located at 118 N. 3rd St. in Oregon across from City Hall and features custom hand-made items such as coffee and end-table sets, floating and regular shelving, mantels and industrial style dining room tables with clean lines using one of many different kinds of wood including German Beech, White Oak, and old reclaimed pine from right here in Northern Illinois.



Mobel Furnishings is located at 118 N. 3rd St. in Oregon across from City Hall and features custom hand-made items. It is owned by Mark and Anne Nehr Korn.

The store, which officially opened on Nov. 24, has a very homey, warm, and inviting feeling as you walk through the doors and experience the exposed timber ceiling, tasteful home décor, fireplace, and couches that invite you in for a unique experience.

"We wanted our small boutique with a sitting

area something that you would find in someone's home that's relaxing," Mark said.

The space most recently housed a pet store and needed a full gut and renovation that started last February with TIF and a façade grant funding from the local city government.

See STORE page 3



RCH creates gratitude tree for National Gratitude Month

'An attitude of gratitude really does have physiological benefits'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — In honor of National Gratitude Month in November, Rochelle Community Hospital created a gratitude tree.

RCH utilized its existing Standards Tree decal in its basement and decorated it with colorful leaf post-it notes featuring what employees are thankful for. By the end of the month, it looked like a fall tree with its leaves turning.

RCH Marketing & Public Relations Specialist Kirby Heward also distributed information to employees and the community about the health and social benefits of gratefulness in November.

"Our brains are hardwired to sort of problem solve and progress," Heward said. "That often can be us looking for a problem, because we want to elevate our lives and progress from there. Sometimes from the opposite end of the spectrum, we also need to sit and reflect and be grateful for the things that we do have in order to have a more balanced life. I think it was a small initiative with things people can take for granted. I think if they start small, they can realize how much bigger of an effect it can have on their lives."

See RCH page 2

Feltes officially retires as general manager/publisher, Greenfield takes helm

Greenfield has 27 years of experience at News Media Corporation

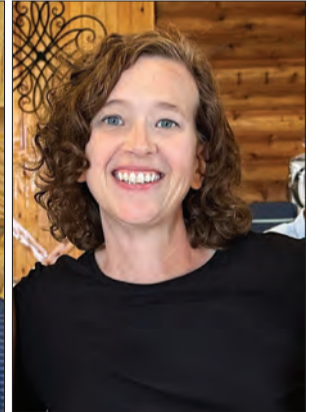
ROCHELLE — On Dec. 12, Mike Feltes officially retired as general manager/publisher of the Rochelle News-Leader and Ogle County Life newspapers after 24 years at News Media Corporation, the parent company of both papers.

"It has been my pleasure to work with both those in our office and in the community over the past 24 years," Feltes said. "News Media Corporation has been very good to me. Small town



Feltes

newspapers continue to strive to bring local news to the people in



Greenfield

their communities and I have no doubt that that will continue. After my

column ran that I was retiring, many people have reached out to me complimenting the paper. Which speaks volumes to the work our staff across the board puts in on a daily basis. I feel good about leaving my position knowing that it won't miss a beat with Tonja Greenfield taking over."

Greenfield has been named group publisher and will fill the void left by Feltes. She will now oversee the Amboy News, The

Mendota Reporter, the Ogle County Life and the Rochelle News-Leader.

Greenfield started with News Media Corporation in 1996 as a reporter for The Mendota Reporter. She worked in Mendota for one year before being transferred to the Rochelle News-Leader office where she worked as a reporter. She then transitioned to reporter for the Ogle County Life, and then was named editor.

See HELM page 2

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LOCAL NEWS

HELM: Greenfield ready for position

From page 1

In 2007, she accepted a position as editor for Tucson West Publishing and moved to Marana, Ariz. Before leaving Marana, she was named general manager of the Tucson West Publishing papers. In 2014, she was offered the position of publisher of the Lake Powell Chronicle in Page, Ariz., where she worked for two years.

As an only child, she was concerned about her parents' health, and she left Arizona to move back to Illinois in spring of 2016 and took a role as general manager of the Amboy News.

"I am glad I moved back when I did. I was very lucky and was able to spend a few months with my mom before she

passed away," Greenfield said.

From general manager, she was named publisher of the Amboy News and The Mendota Reporter, and will continue in that role in addition to taking the reins at the Rochelle News-Leader and the Ogle County Life.

"I feel like I've come full circle with the company," Greenfield said. "My first job I applied for was for a reporter position at the Rochelle News-Leader. I didn't get that job. Instead, they offered me the position of reporter at The Mendota Reporter. I'm inheriting a solid team in the staff of the Ogle County Life and Rochelle News-Leader. We will continue to provide the top-notch publications our subscribers have grown to appreciate."

RCH: Gratitude tree way to show gratefulness for family, health, jobs and spouses

From page 1

As a community hospital, Heward said RCH's "north star" is investing in the community and making sure its health is taken care of. Being grateful and thinking positively are aspects of health that aren't always considered, she said.

"It does have effects on your health in ways that you wouldn't normally expect or realize," Heward said. "We're compassionate and we're taking care of our neighbors and everybody in our community. We would also appreciate having that investment

back and people can donate through our foundation. We want the community to invest in us so we can continue to take care of the community and invest in its health. The gratitude tree is a small thing, but we wanted to show people that it feels nice to be grateful and maybe people did a little more research and thinking themselves."

RCH employees' responses that adorned the tree included gratefulness for family, health, jobs and spouses.

"I think those are things that we tend to kind of take for granted because they're

always there," Heward said. "And then one day something could happen and you wish you had been more positive. It's something to think about."

RCH Dietician Janelle Stein spoke about the physical health benefits of gratefulness.

"An attitude of gratitude really does have physiological benefits," Stein said. "It decreases inflammation. Just changing your mindset and attitude towards the positive and dwelling more on the positive really does have physiological benefits. There is no negative side effect."

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

We extend our congratulations to

Sandy Kunce

as she retires after over 22 years with Stillman Bank!



Sandy started with Stillman Bank in October 2001 as a Customer Service Representative (CSR)/Receptionist. She served as HR Assistant from April 2003 to October 2019 and is currently a CSR/Administrative Assistant in our Stillman Valley office.

If you would like to send well wishes to Sandy, please feel free to drop off a card at any of our locations or mail to 101 East Main Street; P.O. Box 150; Stillman Valley, IL 61084

Best Wishes Sandy!

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LOCAL NEWS

STORE: Couple opens shop in downtown Oregon

From page 1

“We needed to put in ADA-compliant front doors, and new concrete,” Mark said. “Mayor Ken Williams, City Manager Darin DeHaan, and the city council members were very supportive and generous, and we appreciate all of their efforts to help us transform this space.”

DeHaan shared how pleased they were when the Nehrorns pitched their intentions.

“The location of Möbel was one of the last few spaces downtown that needed to be filled, and we had been strategizing how to do that,” DeHaan said. “We were delighted when Mark brought his business concept to us. This began a great partnership to help the Nehrorns and the city meet the true potential of that space. Möbel brings a beautiful upscale retail experience to Oregon and has added another fantastic destination for shoppers in our region.”

Mark has had the good fortune of traveling to Europe over the last 10 years, extensively in Germany where he fell in love with his heritage and the style of furniture.

“My great, great grandfather August Heinrich Nehrorn was a carpenter and emigrated to my hometown of Savanna, Illinois in 1882 and had a farm that he passed down to my family,” Mark said. “During my travels, I visited a lot of shops to get ideas which inspired and nudged me along the way. As a result, I feel connected and want that style to creep into what I want to establish and accomplish.”

Nehrorn attributes his natural carpentry skills due to his bloodline that he first realized 40 years ago.

“Right out of college with my first job and paycheck I bought a table saw and built my first coffee table,” he said with a laugh recounting that memory.

Most spaces need a woman’s keen eye and sense of style. Mark credits Anne for such a talent. “Her love of furnishings and décor helps pull everything together,” he said. “She



envisioned what a room might look like in someone’s home and coordinates the kind of furniture that would go with it, and we create that setting. We have really good synergy,” Anne agreed.

“I’ve always enjoyed decorating my own living spaces, and I’m excited for the opportunity to help select furnishings that bring joy into their homes,” Anne said.

The shotgun-style layout of the long and narrow building allowed the Nehrorns to house the retail, offices and workshop right onsite giving customers the chance to view the setup.

“It’s nice to be housed all in one location,” Mark said. “The raw wood comes

in one end and furniture and furnishings go out the front door.”

Mark has a CNC machine center in the workshop and although it’s an ongoing process, there are unique handmade Christmas items like centerpieces, candleholders and decorative drink coasters, along with elegant home décor items.

“We also have a local artist Mary Howe who has graced us with her wonderful paintings that everyone should come out and see,” Mark said.

The community has been supportive of their efforts with more than 200 patrons shopping on the opening weekend.

“We are encouraged

so far with the response,” added Mark. “We invite everyone to come in and let us design a special piece that they will hopefully treasure.”



Carlos joins Stillman Bank as retail office manager

STILLMAN VALLEY – Stillman Bank is pleased to welcome Kelly Carlos as retail office manager, according to Thomas Hughes, president & CEO.

With over six years in the banking industry, Kelly has served in a variety of roles throughout her career including teller, personal banker and assistant manager. She is also bilingual.

In her position, she will assume daily management responsibilities of the bank’s Stillman Valley office located at 101 E. Main St.

“We are thrilled to have Kelly join our team,” Kathy Yocum, Stillman Bank vice president - retail banking, said. “Her commitment to customer service and expertise in numerous areas of banking will be a great asset to our Stillman Valley office, its customers, and the surrounding community.”

Originally from the Rockford area, Carlos graduated from Honeogah High School. Outside of the workplace, she volunteers with Philanthropaws,



Carlos

LLC, a not-for-profit animal rescue. She also enjoys spending time with her husband, traveling, trying new restaurants, and running.

For more information on Carlos or to find out more about Stillman Bank’s products and services, please contact (815) 645-2266.

Stillman Bank is an independently owned community bank founded in 1882.

The bank has approximately \$580 million in assets and operates full-service banking offices in Byron, Oregon, Rochelle, Rockford, Roscoe/Rockton and Stillman Valley.

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Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for Leaf River Township Road District

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Leaf River Township Road District for 2023 will be held on December 18, 2023 at 6:45 p.m. at 12 Main Street, Leaf River, IL.
Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Janet Cunningham, Clerk, 12 Main Street, Leaf River, via email at LRtownship@gmail.com.
- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$74,010.
The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$81,542. This represents a 10.1% increase over the previous year.
- III. The Property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$0.
The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 are \$0. This represents a 0% increase/decrease over the previous year.
- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$122,428.
The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$134,618. This represents a 9.95% increase over the previous year.

What do you want for Christmas?

This question is going through many minds at this time of the year. Maybe we think that the bigger the gift, the happier we’d be! But often, the more we demand, the unhappier we are. Why? Because the best things in life are free.

“Really?”

“Yes. True happiness cannot be bought. Yet it is available.”

“Where?”

“Through the plan of Christmas. God gave the first Christmas gift. He sent Jesus Christ as a baby many years ago so that He could provide salvation.”

“What is salvation?”

“Salvation is God’s plan for forgiving sins. We all have sinned and feel guilty about it. Nothing that we can do can remove this guilty feeling. But when we ask God to forgive our sins, he gives us His salvation which totally removes our sins and gives us a completely different outlook on life. We feel free and optimistic about life again.”

“That sounds wonderful. But how do I get salvation?”

“Kneel down and pray to God to give it to you.”

“But that sounds too easy.”

“I know it’s hard to believe. But if you have faith that God can forgive your sins, He will forgive your sins when you ask Him to.”

“How do you know?”

“Because He gave me salvation at Christmas time years ago. I want to let you know that salvation was the best gift that I ever received, and I want you to have the same blessing that I have. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

“This sounds very interesting. Where can I learn more?”

“Well, the Holy Bible is God’s message of salvation to all people. Start reading in the Gospels.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John each tell the story of Jesus coming to earth to bring peace to our hearts. You are also welcome to attend our church, and worship God and study the Bible with us!”

(We are meeting in the basement of the Mt Morris Church of the Brethren)

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Reuben H. Barnhart III

FAIRHOPE, Ala. — Reuben H. Barnhart, Ill, 76, passed away Saturday, December 9, 2023 in Fairhope, Alabama surrounded by his loving family. He was born September 24, 1947 in Oregon, Illinois the son of Reuben and Delores (Boyden) Barnhart, Jr. He graduated from Oregon High School in 1965 where he met his wife-to-be, Mary F. Dirksen. They were married March 19, 1966 in Oregon, IL.



Reuben worked for Quaker Oats/Golden Grain for most of his working life, and as a journeyman electrician. After retiring, Mary and Reuben moved back to their hometown of Oregon, Illinois, after moving away for his career.

When he was younger, Reuben's hobbies included being a volunteer fireman, hunting and fishing. Later in life he enjoyed woodworking and golfing. His family was always his first priority. His grandchildren were his and Mary's greatest pride and joy.

He is predeceased by his parents Reuben and Delores Barnhart, Jr., and his loving wife Mary.

He is survived by his 3 children Lisa (David) Boehle of Oregon, IL; Reuben "Andy" & Kathy Wilkinson (fiancé) of

Robertsdale, AL; Diana (Chris) Weber of Clearwater, FL.; grandchildren: Megan (Adam) Bettner; Nik, Hunter and Andrew Barnhart; Allison and Katelyn Weber; great-grandson Tate Bettner; honorary grandchildren Bre Wilson and Kaylee Howard; brother Tim (Lisa) Barnhart of Golf Shores, Alabama; sister Beth (Steve) DuBois of Eldridge, Iowa; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Funeral service will be held 10:00 AM, Saturday, December 16, 2023 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th Street, Oregon, Illinois with the Pastor Nathan Massie officiating. The Oregon Fire Protection District will have the Ringing of the Bell service immediately following the funeral service. Visitation will be held Friday evening from 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM at the funeral home. Burial will follow the service at Riverview Cemetery with the Oregon VFW providing Military Honors. A memorial fund is established in Reuben's name for the Oregon Fire Protection District and the Oregon VFW Post 8739. Visit www.farrellhollandgale.com to leave a condolence or memory of Reuben.

Deborah Kay Siebken

Deborah Kay Siebken, aged 72, passed away on December 9, 2023.

Born on a pleasant autumn day, September 15, 1951, in Rockford, Illinois, to John and Sadie Siebken, Deb's life was a beautiful blend of laughter, compassion, and a variety of interests.

She is lovingly remembered by her children, Carrie Tinsman (Rob) of Anthem, Arizona; and Brett Burke of Daytona Beach, Florida; her daughter-in-law, Tracey Burke, of Oregon, Illinois, mother of her grandchildren; her adored grandchildren, Cole (Sarah) and Dylan Burke, of Oregon, Illinois; and her great-grandchild, Lane, born to Cole and Sarah.

Deb was well-known and admired for her infectious laughter, generosity, and positive spirit, qualities that left a lasting impression on everyone she met.

Holding a master's degree in nursing, Deb devoted 25 years to her career as an E.R. nurse, characterized by her heartfelt sincerity and the joy she brought to both patients and colleagues alike.

Her compassionate nature extended beyond her professional life, as she often contributed to charitable causes, particularly those related to animals, reflecting her deep love and concern for their welfare.

Deb's affection for warm climates led her to Phoenix, Arizona, where she continued to embrace life's pleasures with nearby family and friends. She had a special fondness for dogs, enjoying the companionship and joy they brought into her life.

Deb had a special place in her heart for Door County, Wisconsin, where she cherished time spent with friends and

the area's beautiful scenic views. Her curiosity about the world was further satisfied through her appreciation for National Geographic magazine.

She loved watching sports and cheering for her favorite teams with close friends, especially with tortilla chips and guacamole or a bowl of popcorn. Another of her favorite foods was grilled salmon, and she considered it especially "tasty" when prepared by someone who knew what they were doing!

She loved playing card games and was a fierce Scrabble player. Known for her easygoing nature, Deb had a remarkable ability to make friends wherever she went, whether it was through shared interests or casual conversations.

She expressed great appreciation for those who helped provide care for her in her last days.

Preceded in death by her father, John Siebken, her mother, Sadie Siebken, and her brother-in-law, Ken, Deb is also survived by her loving sister, Marsha Nelson, of Wonder Lake, Illinois.

We love and miss you, especially your smile.

An online memorial has been established and family and friends are welcomed and encouraged to share stories and wishes there. <https://memorialsources.com/memorial/deborah-kay-siebken>

Cremation services are planned.

In lieu of cards and flowers, the family requests a donation be made to Rusty's Angels Sanctuary, a small, local charity specializing in helping senior dogs spend their last days in comfort. rustyangelssanctuary.org



Jamie N. Evans (Ray)

SOUTH BELOIT — Jamie N. Evans (Ray), aged 47, of South Beloit, IL, passed away on Friday, December 8, 2023 surrounded by her loving family. She was a 1994 graduate of Byron High School and received her BS from Kaplan University.



Jamie joined the police force as an officer for the Roscoe Police Department in 1998 and advanced within the field, landing her a position as the first female Chief of Police in Winnebago County. Under her leadership, the Roscoe PD earned its accreditation

through the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. The building has since been named the "Jamie Ray-Evans Public Safety Building" in her honor.

Jamie devoted her time and talents to the many causes near and dear to her. She taught mental health first-aid to first responders in the Stateline area and raised funds in support of the Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation as well as cancer awareness organizations. She enjoyed horseback riding and spending her free-time at BraveHearts Therapeutic

Riding and Educational Center.

Jamie loved all holidays, chocolate cake with real icing, watching movies and listening to music from the 80's, and being outdoors.

Jamie is survived by her husband, Brian; daughter, Kaitlyn; parents, Jim and Linda Ray; and sister, Lori (Troy) Carlson.

Funeral service will take place at 1:00 PM on Monday, December 18, 2023, at Roscoe United Methodist Church, 10816 Main St., Roscoe, IL 61073. There will be a formal police procession to Honquest Family Funeral Home with Crematory-Loves Park Chapel at the conclusion of the service. Visitation will be held on Sunday, December 17, 2023, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM also at Roscoe United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate any desired donations to be made out to Justice for a Cure (<https://justiceforcure.org>) or the Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation (<https://tommycorralmemorialfoundation.com>). To share a memory or express condolences, visit honquestfh.com.

Donna M. Wells

LEAF RIVER — Donna M. Wells, age 89, passed away on Thursday December 7, 2023 in Allure of Pinecrest, Mt. Morris, IL. Donna was born on August 19, 1934 in Rockford, IL; the daughter of Teno and Elizabeth (Johnson) Encerti. She graduated from East High School class of 1952, Rockford, IL. Donna married John S. "Pap" Wells on September 5, 1962 in Dixon, IL; and he preceded her in death on February 10, 2003.

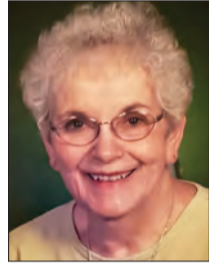
Donna was employed at Pinecrest Community Center as a certified dietary manager. She was a member of the Leaf River United Methodist Church and of the Dietary Manager Association. Her grandchildren were the joys of her life.

Donna is survived by her son: J.T. (Diane) Wells, Mt. Morris, IL; daughters: Lynn (Lee) Miller, German Valley, IL, Sandra (Larry) Wells, Forreston, IL, Tena (Dennis) Krueger, Leaf River, IL, 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild and sister: Dolores (Norman) Abbott, Omaha, NE.

She is preceded in death by her parents, and husband: "Pap".

Private family funeral services will be held on Tuesday December 12, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. in Finch Funeral Home, 405 East Hitt, Mt. Morris, IL; with Rev. Rodney Caldwell officiating. Burial will be in Egan Cemetery, Egan, IL. Visitation will be held on Tuesday December 12, 2023 from 10:00 A.M. until service time in Finch Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers memorials will be established.



Barbara J. Fay

MT. MORRIS — Barbara J. Fay, went home to Jesus on Wednesday December 13, 2023 after a very long illness. She was 90. Barb was born to Pete and Ann (O'Neil) Pisman on November 13, 1933 in Port Byron, IL. She was a dedicated loving mother, grandmother and friend. She loved crafting and woodworking, gardening and camping with the love of her life Floyd, and any other activities that included family. She was very active in her community and St. Mary's Church. In her youth Barb wanted to go to Alleman Catholic High School so she worked cleaning the school and at Whitey's Ice Cream to help pay for her tuition. She was also an alternate stock car driver with her sister Ella May (Pisman) Winger. This was not a surprise to many as she had a lead foot that she passed on to many of her kids and grandkids.

Barb met her husband Floyd while out dancing with friends. After a short courtship, they married May 15, 1954 and went on to have seven children. They were married 54 years when Floyd passed in 2008.

Survivors include children; Mike Fay, Larry (Marty) Fay, Terry (Teresa Adams) Fay, Mark (Deb) Fay, Kay (Tim) Teeter, Paula (Jeff) Black-

burn, and Becky (Dan Diehl) Fay. Grandchildren; Joel (Andrea) Fay, Melissa Fay, Alex Fay, Wesley (Erin) Fay, Lori Beth Ward, Nicholas (Mandy) Fay, Josh Fay, Andrea (Joseph) Schinke, Christopher (Cindy) Teeter, Tanya Teeter, Ashli (Colin) Buck, Mackenzie (Anibal Peralta) Sweeney, Carson (Natalie Schmit) Sweeney and 17 great grandchildren. Barb joins her husband Floyd, parents Pete and Ann, her sisters; Rosemary Marion, Ella May and brother John in heaven.

Exodus 23:10
"See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you. Along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared."

Visitation will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 10:00am-11:00am at Finch Funeral Home in Mt. Morris. Funeral service will be held on December 16, 2023 at 11:00am at Finch Funeral Home in Mt. Morris, IL with Rev. Joseph Naill officiating. Burial will be immediately following the service at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Oregon. Memorials can be made to the family to be established at a later date.

Arrangements were entrusted to Finch Funeral Home 405 E. Hitt St. Mt. Morris, IL 61054 815-734-6156.



A Celebration of Life and Remembrance for Father & Son

Donald "Don" E. Ebens
09-29-1933 to 12-30-2020

Gregory "Greg" E. Ebens
06-30-1959 to 07-15-2023

On Saturday, January 6, 2024 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
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Report policy

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

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

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LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

Man arrested for driving while license revoked

OREGON — On Dec. 5 at approximately 12:26 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After an investigation, deputies placed Rolando Cruz, 60, of Hillcrest under arrest for driving while license revoked. Cruz was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was issued his citations for driving while license revoked, no insurance and suspended registration. Cruz was booked in the jail and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Dec. 5 at 8:01 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 19,000 block of East Illinois Route 38. As a result, Hazem D. Algomai, 30, of Spartanburg, South Carolina was arrested for driving while license suspended. Algomai was additionally issued a citation for speeding. Algomai was released on a notice to appear with a return court date.

On Dec. 5 at 11:25 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on East Illinois Route 64 at First Street in the town of Kings. As a result, deputies arrested Antonio M. Martinez, 31, of Rochelle for no valid driver's license. Martinez was additionally issued citations for expired registration and illegal transportation/possession of alcohol in a motor vehicle/driver. Martinez was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 7 at approximately 10:58 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Woodlawn Road and Welty Road for a registration violation. After

a brief investigation, deputies arrested Daniel Rabago, 41, of Carpentersville, for driving while license suspended. Rabago was additionally cited for no front plate and no insurance. Rabago was released on a notice to appear. All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.



On Dec. 7 at approximately 3:41 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 16,000 block of East Lindenwood Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Yesenia Pasillas, 46, of Davis Junction, for driving while license suspended. Pasillas was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 7 at approximately 5:42 p.m. deputies with the assistance of the Oregon Fire Department, responded to a single-vehicle crash in the 500 block of West Pines Road, in Oregon. After a brief investigation, it was determined that a Mack Anthem semi-truck and trailer driven by Arthur K. Guernsey, 56, of Sterling, failed to negotiate a curve while traveling eastbound on West Pines Road, causing the semi to leave the roadway and overturn. Guernsey was transported to Mercy Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

On Dec. 8 at approximately 9:10 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 88 at mile marker 76 on a blue Honda Pilot. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Marlon Exequiel Matute-Martinez, 24, of Mason City, Iowa for no driver's license. Matute-Martinez

was taken into custody without incident and released on a notice to appear. Matute-Martinez was additionally cited for improper turn signal.

On Dec. 10 at approximately 10:34 a.m. deputies responded to 104 3rd St. at the Leaf River Methodist Church in reference to a battery. After investigation, deputies placed Silvia Rogers, 56, of Leaf River under arrest for battery. Rogers was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on notice to appear with a future court date.

On Dec. 10 at approximately 1:27 p.m. deputies responded to 115 Main St. in Leaf River in reference to a criminal damage to property complaint. After investigation, deputies placed Silvia Rogers, 56, of Leaf River under arrest for criminal damage to property and criminal trespass to property. Rogers was again taken to the Ogle County Jail for the second time in the same day for a crime against the same victim and was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge. All suspects are presumed innocent.

On Dec. 11 at 10:36 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of South Mulford Road and East Illinois Route 38. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Anna Allison, 32, of DeKalb, for driving while license suspended. Allison was also issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and suspended registration. Allison was released with a notice to appear.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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LOCAL NEWS

POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Woman arrested on outstanding warrant

POLO—On Dec. 6 at 7:36 p.m. Sydney J. Gunder, 22, Polo, was arrested for an outstanding Whiteside County warrant. Gunder was transported to the Ogle County Jail for processing.

On Dec. 7 at 4:34 p.m. Steven L. Foss, 56, Mt. Morris, was cited for speeding 41 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour speed zone. Foss was released with a citation.

On Dec. 8 at 4:39 p.m. Kyle J. Roberts, 22, Morrison, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration. Roberts was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 8 at 5:41 p.m. Patrick M. Quinlan, 40, Polo, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with an expired Registration and no valid driver's license. Quinlan was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 8 at 11:47 p.m. Zachary N. Koltunchik, 26, Polo, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, operation of an uninsured motor vehicle and no rear registration plate light. Koltunchik was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 10 at 7:50 p.m. Elizabeth Jackson, 34, Wheaton, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration. Jackson was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 10 at 8:23 p.m. Brian Lee Albee, 36, Polo, was cited for possession of adult-use cannabis in a motor vehicle by a passenger. Albee was released on a notice to appear.

General calls for service for the weeks of Nov. 27-Dec. 11 - Citizen complaints/assists: nine. Juvenile: two. Animal complaint: one. Disturbance/domestic: two. Alarm: two. Lock outs: four. Traffic: 28. Driving under the influence: one.

Sisson joins Stillman Bank as vice president and commercial loan officer

ROCKFORD – Stillman Bank is pleased to welcome Jennifer Sisson as vice president and commercial loan officer, according to Thomas R. Hughes, president & CEO. In her position, Jen will primarily be involved with new business development and commercial lending. She will work from the Rockford office at 8492 E. State St.

Jen has 25 years of experience in the banking industry with 20 of those years in commercial banking services. She is also a graduate of Commercial Lending School through the Illinois



Bankers Association and holds her Real Estate Broker License in the state of Illinois. "We are pleased to welcome Jen to our team," Hughes said. "Her extensive knowledge and background in commercial lending will further strengthen our ability

to assist our business customers and help them meet their goals. Additionally, Jen's community involvement aligns with our longstanding history of making our communities a better place to live and work."

A lifelong resident of Boone County, Jen currently serves as a board member and treasurer for Boone County CASA, Women of Today's Manufacturing, and the Belvidere District #100 Charitable Foundation. She is also a past board member of the Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Cosmopol-

itan Club of Belvidere and the Rockford Network of Professional Women.

Sisson can be reached directly at 815-332-8845 or jens@stillmanbank.com. To find out more about Stillman Bank's products and services, please visit www.stillmanbank.com.

Stillman Bank is an independently owned community bank founded in 1882. The bank has approximately \$580 million in assets and operates full-service banking offices in Byron,

Oregon, Rochelle, Rockford, Roscoe/Rockton and Stillman Valley.



Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County Stud-a-thon kicks off for the holidays

OGLE COUNTY — Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County is excited to announce the kick-off of its First Annual Stud-a-thon to help raise funds for the next home the affiliate will be building in Ogle County in 2024. Stud-a-thon is an opportunity for businesses, families, clubs, etc. to sponsor a stud for the next home that will be built in partnership with a family in need of decent, affordable

housing, who otherwise would not have the chance to achieve the dream of homeownership without the support of Habitat.

Sponsors can make their own personal mark on the home by painting their stud, putting a logo on it, or writing messages to the future family. Stud sponsorships start at \$200 for one stud, \$500 for three, or \$1,000 for six. Sponsors will be invited to a "Stud-Finder" event once

the home is framed, so they can see where their stud has been placed in the home. Stud-a-thon will continue into the new year as Habitat works toward its goal of securing 150 stud sponsors.

As Gail Tuttle, president, states, "Stud-a-thon is an opportunity for members of the community to help build a home without picking up a hammer. Funds raised will help us partner with another family in achieving their dream of homeownership. As we continue to receive calls daily from individuals and families in need of housing solutions, this fundraiser will help us take the next critical step forward for our very important work in 2024!" For more information go to habitatoglecounty.org or call 815-222-8869.

The mission of Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County is to seek to put God's love into action, by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Since 2002 Habitat has built 14 houses in Ogle County along with countless critical home repairs and mobility projects. For more information go to <https://habitatoglecounty.org>

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 Medical Transportation 732-2499
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

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Casondra Rowley
 Casondra Advisor
 315 W Washington Street
 Oregon, IL 61061
 815-732-4377

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LOCAL NEWS

HOPE of Ogle County receives holiday season support

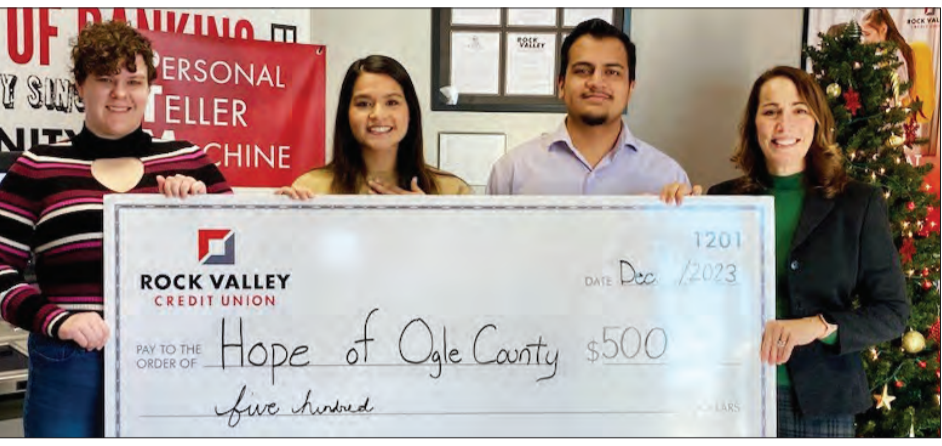
ROCHELLE — HOPE of Ogle County is so very grateful for the community support they have received this holiday season. It received generous donations to assist survivors of domestic abuse and their children including turkey donations, gas cards, comfort and toiletry items for survivors staying in shelter, as well as folks who adopted families and individuals for the holidays.

“The employees at HOPE are so touched that so many giving and caring

folks support our clients and help spread the word about our services,” Ruth Carter, HOPE of Ogle County executive director, said. “Generous donations provided by individuals, service clubs, businesses and family groups, from the smaller donations to larger and ongoing donations, keep our services to survivors moving forward and warm the hearts of our employees. Thank you to the many who support peace, kindness and a safe home for all. Have a safe and peaceful holiday season.



SVHS Environmental Club earns 3rd recycled bench
The Stillman Valley High School Environmental Club has been actively collecting and recycling soft plastic for three years. Last year, they won a nationwide competition between 608 schools of similar size by collecting 1,955 pounds of plastic. The award was a recycled plastic bench for the school grounds. This year instead of a competition, TREX, the company that sponsors the recycling efforts, decided to just have a set goal of 1,000 pounds to be collected to earn a bench. After collecting the 1,000 pounds needed the SVHS Environmental Club has now earned a third recycled bench for their school. Recycling efforts will continue throughout the year and be added to the total to earn yet another bench for next year. Pictured are members of the Stillman Valley High School Environmental Club.



Rock Valley Credit Union employees present a donation to HOPE of Ogle County Executive Director Ruth Carter.



Above, Oregon Women's Club representatives present a donation to HOPE of Ogle County. At left, the Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently presented a donation to HOPE of Ogle County. Pictured are Marissa Belmonte (HOPE staff), Debby Katzman (DAR) and Bailey Stover (HOPE staff).

Oregon School District Foundation searching for new board member

OREGON – The Oregon School District Foundation board is searching for a new board member to join the board of directors. Interested parents, grandparents and community members are invited to apply to fill the open seat in the organization. Directors of the board meet six Mondays throughout the year to manage foundation business including fundraising, grantee selection and distribution, and overseeing scholarships.

“Our foundation is dedicated to the success the district by providing supply grants, scholarships, and needed equipment,” Erin Folk, foundation president, said. “It’s through the collaborative efforts of our volunteer board members that we can positively impact the lives of students and teachers, creating lasting change.”

Since 2018, the founda-

“The Oregon School District Foundation consistently contributes to enhancing educational opportunities and support for our students and teachers of OCUSD.”

Dr. Tom Mahoney

tion raised \$115,000 through fundraising events, financial donations and charitable giving, resulting in \$87,000 given out in scholarships, classroom grants and school equipment and technology.

The school foundation also manages the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Fund, raising over \$75,000 from local businesses, families, and foundations to recruit new teachers to the district and help with their student loan payments.

“The Oregon School District Foundation consistently contributes to enhancing

educational opportunities and support for our students and teachers of OCUSD,” Dr. Tom Mahoney, OCUSD superintendent, said. “We are thankful for their commitment and efforts to our ongoing mission of supporting student success and academic growth.”

The Oregon School District Foundation is also actively looking for individuals interested in volunteering for future events.

Those interested in joining the board or volunteering can send an email to Folk at erin@oregonpark.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Dec. 19
December, like every other month, can be hard. With all the “merry and bright” it can feel like there is not space for sorrow, loneliness, grief, mourning, or a myriad of other less than joyful feelings. For those in a dark season or

just feeling weighed down or worn, consider joining Reverend Megan Smick and Dana Cox, as they come together with Serenity Hospice and Home for a Blue Christmas. The holidays are a happy, joyous time for family gatherings and celebrating, but for those who are grieving it is

a reminder of what they have lost. Community Blue Christmas will be held at the Oregon United Methodist Church, 200 S. 4th St. in Oregon, Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome, come as you are. There will be light refreshments after the service.

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LOCAL NEWS

MT. MORRIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Man arrested for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

MT. MORRIS — On Nov. 25 at approximately 10:45 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of East Brayton Road for traffic violation. The stop resulted in the arrest of Robert D. Vandyke, 42, Mt. Morris, for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. Vandyke was cited on scene and released.

On Nov. 27 at approximately 3 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 3,000 block of West Illinois Route 64. The driver, Curtis J. Johnson, 30, Rochelle, was arrested for driving while license suspended/revoked. Johnson was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released with a notice to appear.

On Nov. 27 at approximately 5:15 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of West Illinois Route 64. As a result of the stop, the driver, Javier Aguirre-Cano, 49, Rochelle, was arrested for no valid driver's license. Aguirre-Cano was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

The Mt. Morris Police Department received a report of a domestic battery that had occurred on Nov. 23 in the 400 block

of North Hannah Avenue. On Nov. 29 after an investigation, Cory J. Love, 46, Mt. Morris, was located, arrested and charged with aggravated domestic battery. Love was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held without bond.

On Dec. 1 at approximately 11 a.m. Mt. Morris Police located a male subject in the 200 block of North Wesley Avenue. The subject, Andrew J. Swift, 37, Mt. Morris, was arrested on Lee County warrant for contempt of court. Swift was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Dec. 1 at approximately 10 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to the 400 block of West Lincoln Street for the report of a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, a 16-year-old juvenile was taken into limited custody and charged with domestic battery. The juvenile was released to a guardian, and a report was sent to the Ogle County Juvenile/Probation Department.

On Dec. 4 at approximately 9:45 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of East Brayton Road. As a result of the stop, Sarah J. Schwartz, 37, Oregon, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended/

revoked. Schwartz was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was released with a notice to appear.

On Dec. 5 at approximately 6:30 a.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to the 10 block of West Lincoln Street for the report of a wanted subject. Mt. Morris Police located Trisha E. Dempewolf, 37, Mt. Morris, who had an Ogle County warrant for failure to appear on a previous charge. Dempewolf was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Dec. 5 at approximately 9:15 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of East Illinois Route 64. During the traffic stop investigation, the driver, Timothy M. Simpson, 33, Savanna, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended/revoked and violation of FOIA Act/no FOIA after a firearm was located in the vehicle. The passenger, Stephen W. Lawson Jr., 38, Savanna, was arrested on a DeKalb County warrant for failure to appear on a traffic violation. Lawson and Simpson were transported to the Ogle County Jail.

These charges are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

BYRON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officers make arrest for criminal trespass to residence, resisting officer

BYRON — On Nov. 18, Remaiya R. Marshall, 26, of Rockford was arrested for criminal trespassing to residence and resisting or obstructing a police officer.

On Nov. 18, Destiny M. Harris, 23, of Cherry Valley was issued a citation for speeding.

On Nov. 21, Shannon D. Zellers, 60, of Byron was arrested on an active warrant. Zellers was transported to Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Nov. 22, Scott C. Crain, 39, of Byron was arrested for aggravated battery-strangulation, aggravated domestic battery, and theft. Crain was transported to Ogle County Jail.

On Nov. 22, Christopher D. Harmon, 51, of Byron was issued a citation for no valid driver's license.

On Nov. 23, Gentille Niyonsenga, 22, of Rockford was issued citations for operating a vehicle with no proof of valid insurance,

operating a vehicle with expired registration, and operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

On Nov. 24, Audra I. Smith, 35, of Winnebago was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with no proof of valid insurance and disregarding an official traffic control device.

On Nov. 24, Jeanette A. Rose, 30, of Omaha, Nebraska was issued a citation for speeding.

On Nov. 28, Miranda M. Coblente, 44, of Mt. Morris was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration.

On Nov. 29, Christopher A. Joseph Jr., 22, of Streamwood was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

On Nov. 29, Megan C. Koser, 26, of Forreton was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

On Dec. 4, Felipe Obil-Quiala, 41, of Pala-

tine was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 6, Juan M. Arreguin-Lopez, 48, of Elgin was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 8, Matthew W. Tuttle, 48, of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

On Dec. 8, Angel G. Galva, 29, of Rockford was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

On Dec. 11, Creed J. Hamar, 29, of Byron was issued a citation for operating a vehicle while license is suspended.

On Dec. 12, Robert L. Jones was issued a citation operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

On Dec. 12, Madison F. Moser, 18, of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

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

OCSWMD releases holiday information

OREGON — Thanksgiving has just passed and the holiday season has officially arrived, so the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) has tips and suggestions for waste reduction and recycling during the holiday season and beyond.

Typical holiday seasons see a dramatic increase in residential waste generation, and 2023 is shaping up to be very similar. With additional purchases, food preparation, entertaining, gift wraps, and packaging, it is no wonder that residents produce more waste this time of year.

While planning meals this season, plan portions accordingly by checking what you already have at home and by purchasing just what is required for your needs. Utilize reusable shopping bags, if possible, when shopping and have a plan to use leftovers in a timely fashion. If you have a backyard compost pile, use it for those fruit and veggie trimmings, eggshells, coffee grounds, and other plant-based wastes from your kitchen.

Be sure to utilize reusable plates, silverware, cups, napkins, and tablecloths. Avoid disposable options when setting the table this holiday season.

For gift-giving consider gift cards or gift certificates, especially from your local restaurants and shops, or consider the gift of an experience such as a day at the spa or a weekend experience or trip of some kind. These sorts of gifts will eliminate packaging that will need to be disposed of later and can create special memories for those on the receiving end. Also considering sending an electronic greeting card or something through social media to family and friends to avoid paper use and the waste of an old greeting card, and avoid wrapping paper if possible, by using re-usable gift bags.

With more and more shopping being done on-line, try to have your items shipped together if possible to avoid excess packaging. Flatten cardboard boxes for pick-up if you have recycling service. Plastic bags and wrap are not generally recyclable, but can be dropped off at the OCSWMD at 909 Pines Road in Oregon and some local retailers will also accept them for recycling.

If you have curbside pick-up of recyclables, please remember to recycle right by only placing what is accepted into your bins. Items such as newspapers, magazines,

junk mail, flattened cardboard and paperboard boxes, beverage cartons, greeting cards, non-foil gift wrap, aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic containers #1-5 and #7 are all accepted in your curbside recycling service. Items such as Styrofoam, plastic bags and bubble packaging, pizza boxes, plastic utensils and straws, and other trash are not recyclable and diminish overall recycling efforts when mixed in with recyclables.

There are two county drop off recycling stations as well, with one in Oregon on Pines Road at the Farm Bureau lot and in Byron at the Forest Preserve maintenance lot. The above guidelines also apply for these drop off locations for your recyclables. Please do not leave items on the deck or parking lots as these hosts have been gracious enough to allow the use of their property for community recycling.

The next Ogle County residential electronic recycling drop-off event will be until Jan. 26, 2024, by permit only, at the County Annex building at 909 Pines Road in Oregon. Register for this event by calling at 815-732-4020 or email the OCSWMD at solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov.

However, if you have old holiday light strands that need to be recycled there are drop-off bins at the Ogle County Court House, the County Annex building, fire stations in Rochelle, Byron, Stillman Valley, and Mt. Morris, and village halls in Davis Junction, Polo, Creston, and Forreton. Please only holiday light strands and extension cords; no decorations, garland, metal stands, or other electronics. Remove light strands from packaging and no plastic bags are accepted.

The annual Christmas tree recycling program will continue as well for 2023-2024. The drop-off points remain the same with drop-offs in Byron, Forreton, Leaf River, Monroe Center, Oregon, Polo, and Rochelle. Local FFA groups will also be collecting trees at the curb in and around Oregon, Byron, Polo, and Forreton on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024. Please have bare trees out at the curb by 8 a.m. that day for pick up. Contact the OCSWMD for specific program locations. The drop-off program starts Dec. 26. Artificial trees, garland, wreaths, metal stands or other decorations are not accepted. Please remove trees from bags as well.



From left to right: Durriyyah Kemp, assistant director; Kelli Morrow (Boone County), Amy Miller (Ogle County), and Lydia Nickels (former DeKalb County; now 4-H program coordinator). Not pictured are Jenny Kvamme and Teresa Schwarz (both Ogle County).

Local U of I Extension staff honored with awards at annual conference

OREGON - Ten local University of Illinois Extension staff members were honored at Illinois Extension's Annual Conference held on Nov. 15-16. The Extension Excellence Awards celebrated the outstanding achievement and exceptional teamwork displayed by talented staff members, from leading innovative projects to leadership in diversity, equity and inclusion. Other staff members implemented a program, Hometown Leaders, which was also selected to be presented to others in a workshop setting during the conference.

Inclusive Excellence Award (Individual)

Judy Hodge, a Program Coordinator in Boone County, initiated a partnership in 2021 in Boone County to enhance the inclusivity of Boone, DeKalb and Ogle Counties Master Gardeners' work and collaborate with the Belvidere Park District, which is part of the Northlands Association for Special Recreation (NASR), whose programs are open to any individual with disability-related special needs. Judy organized monthly Zoom nature meetings for NASR's adult day program, and in 2022, the program moved to the Boone County Health Department's Community Garden. This is where the Master Gardeners taught gardening to NASR participants. Judy facilitated the return of the program to the NASR facility in 2023 with the help of a grant for raised garden beds. This program initiative has positively impacted the participants' confidence and life skills, fostering a sense of pride and learning through gardening and community service. Judy's leadership has been crucial to the success of the program.

Excellence in Innovation Office Support (Team)

The Office Support team serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties has

excelled in innovative collaboration and coordination. This team of five included Jenny Kvamme, Ogle County; Amy Miller, Ogle County; Kelli Morrow, Boone County; Lydia Nickels, former DeKalb County, now 4-H Program Coordinator; and Teresa Schwarz, Ogle County. The team established monthly virtual meetings that strengthened their connection within their offices and beyond, which allowed them to share knowledge, collaborate on projects, and support each other. They have recognized each member's strengths in different areas, which benefits all the offices. This collaborative approach has empowered the team and improved their engagement with tasks, commitment to their jobs, and teamwork. The team's initiative has fostered a stronger bond and understanding among them, enabling them to address common issues and make their offices more efficient and conducive to work spaces. Their proactive approach has made team members feel valued and heard.

Hometown Leaders

Program Presentation

Staff members Kathy Dombek, 4-H program coordinator; Heather Coyle, county director; Mike Delany, community and economic development educator; and Melissa Irwin, 4-H program coordinator, presented a workshop about the Hometown Leaders program implemented with 4-H youth and our partners, the Boone County Board and Boone County Government. This program is targeted to help the younger generation become more familiar with local government functions, learn more about the political roles and career paths reflected in local government, and encourage them to become involved in local government. The staff shared how the program was organized and how it could be implemented in other counties.

★ Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent through the CLASSIFIEDS ★

Christmas Church Services

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.



102 Maple Ave. | Mt. Morris
815-734-4853
www.disciplesumc.org



12112023

Advent at Kish

The prophet Isaiah gives God's people Good News about the coming Messiah who would redeem them. The truth of Isaiah's words are still Good News for us today.

Join us to find out more:

December 17: Light
10am Third week of Advent

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

Kishwaukee Community Church
8195 Kishwaukee Rd.
815-965-1940
www.kishchurch.org

Christmas Eve

Please Join Us

Candlelight Service at
4:00 and 10:00 pm



TRINITY
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 E. Brayton Rd., Mt. Morris
815-734-6354

www.trinitymmil.net



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

12112023

Immanuel

God With Us



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Join us on
Christmas Eve!

December 24th, 2023

* Musical Christmas Prelude at 5PM

* Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service at 5:30PM

114 S. 5th Street, Oregon
815-732-2367



12112023



Believe

Sunday, December 24th
10am Worship

4pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Oregon United Methodist Church

We are a multi-generational Christian community that welcomes all to join us in our mission to be hope, love, and light to our neighbors!

IN-PERSON OR LIVE ON
FACEBOOK
[@facebook.com/OregonUMC](https://www.facebook.com/OregonUMC)

200 S. 4th Street | Oregon, IL
815-732-2994 | www.oregonumc.org

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



12112023

Valley
Covenant Church

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



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

LOCAL NEWS

Your One Stop Shop for Your Last-Minute Shopping!



Merlin's
The Other Side Boutique
& Hagemann
Horticulture

35% OFF

silk arrangements, giftware, & candles

20% OFF*

storewide

* some exclusions apply

Gift Certificates
Available!



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300 Mix St, Oregon, IL • 815-732-2969

Holiday Hours:
Closed Monday, Dec. 25th
Closed Jan. 1st & Jan. 2nd



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SULLIVANS FOODS Merry Christmas

2 WEEKS OF SAVINGS!

Sullivan's Gift Cards
The Perfect Gift

Angus by any other name isn't the same.
There's Angus, Then there's the Certified Angus Beef® brand

Certified Angus Beef® brand
BONELESS TOP ROUND ROAST
4.99/lb

Prices Effective: Wednesday, December 13 thru Tuesday, December 26, 2023
ALL ITEMS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO RAIN CHECKS | NO RETURNS | NO EXCHANGES
CHRISTMAS EVE STORES CLOSE AT 5PM | CHRISTMAS DAY STORE HOURS ARE 8AM-NOON

SULLIVANS FOODS PREMADE OR MADE TO ORDER

Gift Baskets

SULLIVANS FOODS Merry Christmas

2 WEEKS OF SAVINGS!

HOLIDAY DEALS!!

Prices Effective: Wednesday, December 13 thru Tuesday, December 26, 2023
ALL ITEMS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO RAIN CHECKS | NO RETURNS | NO EXCHANGES
CHRISTMAS EVE STORES CLOSE AT 5PM | CHRISTMAS DAY STORE HOURS ARE 8AM-NOON

4.99/lb MEAT MASTER'S BLEND BONELESS SMOKED WHOLE HAM	2.49/lb Cook's SMOKED BONE-IN WHOLE HAM	1.69/lb Cook's SMOKED BUTT PORTION HAM	2.49/lb Bear Choice SPIRAL SLICED BONE-IN HAM	4.49/lb Kentucky Legend SMOKED BONELESS WHOLE HAM	4.99/lb Kentucky Legend SMOKED BONELESS HALF HAM
1.49 Cook's SMOKED SHANK PORTION HAM	2.29/lb Frick's PREMIUM SHANK PORTION HAM	2.49/lb Frick's PREMIUM BUTT PORTION HAM	4.99/lb Kentucky Legend SMOKED BONELESS WHOLE HAM	4.99/lb Kentucky Legend SMOKED BONELESS WHOLE HAM	4.99/lb Kentucky Legend SMOKED BONELESS WHOLE HAM

\$3.00 OFF
Kentucky Legend WHOLE OR HALF HAM

Holiday Heat at Home
LASAGNA MEAL
Lasagna Family Meal for 6-8

Italian Lasagna with Meat, Garlic Loaf, Garden Salad, Santa Cake

\$64.99

Order by December 22, 2023!
Available for pick-up COLD on Saturday, December 23 or Sunday, December 24 anytime during store business hours.
All Sullivan's Foods Stores close at 5pm December 24, 2023.
Meal Requires Reheating.

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

2/\$7 Welch's Sparkling Juice Select Varieties 25.4 oz	2/\$5 Gold Medal FLOUR All Purpose or Unbleached 5 lb	2/\$7 Hillshire Farm LIT'L SMOKIES Select Varieties 12-14 oz	2/\$5 General Mills CHEX CEREAL Select Varieties 12-14 oz
89¢ Green Giant FROZEN VEGETABLES Select Varieties 7-8 oz	99¢ Best Choice WHIPPED TOPPING Select Varieties 8 oz	2/\$5 Best Choice BUTTER Salted or Unsalted 16 oz	2/\$4 Philadelphia CREAM CHEESE Original or 1/3 Less Fat 8 oz
6.99 Best Choice FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP RING 10 oz	12.99/lb USDA Choice BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE ROAST Perfect for your Holiday Prime Rib Dinner	3.99 PUMPKIN PIE 8 inch	6.99 Deli Fresh WHOLE ROTISSERIE CHICKEN

Holiday Heat at Home
The Miracle of Christmas
HAM DINNER for 8

Boneless Pit Ham Sliced, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Bean Casserole, Whole Kernel Corn, Candied Yams, Dinner Rolls, Apple Pie

\$139.99

Order by December 22, 2023!
Available for pick-up COLD on Saturday, December 23 or Sunday, December 24 anytime during store business hours.
All Sullivan's Foods Stores close at 5pm December 24, 2023.
Meal Requires Reheating.

www.sullivansfoods.net
Available at all 11 Sullivans Foods including: 101 E HWY 64, MT. MORRIS 815.734.6868
OPEN 6:30AM TO 9PM 7 DAYS A WEEK



Oregon boys bowling sets records in Cavalier Classic win

Surmo bowls 300 game, third in Oregon's history

OREGON — The Oregon Hawks boys bowling team competed at the LaSalle-Peru Cavalier Classic at IV Super Bowl in Peru on Dec. 9 and came away with their second consecutive tournament championship, with junior Gavvin Surmo setting several Oregon school records.

In the second game of the day Surmo recorded a 300 game, the third such game in Oregon's 21-year history. In addition, Gavvin started the day with a 256 game and followed the 300 with a 245 game for an 802 three-game total, the highest three-game total in history. At one point he rolled 29 of 30 possible strikes.

Lastly following the three afternoon games, his six-game total of 1,404 also established a school record. His performance was not the only high point in the day, Senior Brady Davis shot a 1,256 series — including games of 246 and 256, good enough for a medal and fifth place on the day. Davis was followed closely by Matthew Stahl with a 1,215 series — a seventh-place finish and RJ Keene with an 1,149 series — 13th place. Also bowling three games each were Ethan Smice (503 series) and Codey Dunbar (488 series). The team score of 6,015 is the highest team score since the 2016 season.

This was the second consecutive tournament where Oregon took the lead in the first game and never relinquished it.

Oregon's two girls bowled as individuals in the event and Ahren Howy had a 743 series and Katy Miller a 689 series.



RE/MAX of Rock Valley



*From all of us at
ReMax of Rock Valley!*


NEW LISTING



109 N Hannah Ave., Mt Morris
\$99,000 Call Lori

Sweet 2 bedroom house ready and waiting just for you. All the big items are already updated! The roof and new vinyl siding were just put on this fall. The gas water heater is 2 years old. The furnace and central air are less than 10 years old. The windows are all replacement Thermopane. Bedrooms have hardwood flooring. The bathroom has a newer step-in shower. A few more touches and this affordable house is just what you have been looking for. There is a patio in the back of the house and a large garden shed in the back yard. Sold "As Is"


NEW LISTING



1108 Arland Street, Rock Falls
\$64,900 Call JD

Affordable ranch living on the edge of town! Located in the East Coloma school district, this 2 bedroom home offers a space to make your own, with tons of potential. Featuring a new roof in 2022, plus a detached garage and spacious yard that offers additional value. Whether it may be serve as your new home, or a great addition to your rental portfolio, this home has plenty of possibility! Make it yours today.

NEW PRICE



1112 E 3rd Street, Sterling
NOW \$54,900 Call JD

Calling all investors! Bring in immediate cash flow with the opportunity to add tons of long term equity... This two unit residence has lots of potential and is priced to sell. Both units are currently occupied. Seller pays all utilities.



403 Birch Lane, Dixon
\$229,900 Call Taylor

The seller is offering a \$5000 flooring allowance given to the buyer at closing. Welcome to 403 Birch Lane located just outside of Dixon. This home is nestled in the gated Lost Lake community with a stunning view of the 88 acre lake. This community also includes access to tennis/basketball courts as well as an 18 hole golf course. This home features 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 bathrooms. Both full bathrooms are freshly updated with tile tub and shower surrounds. The large backyard boasts a fenced in patio area with an in-ground pool and pool shed that includes a bathroom. The in-ground pool features a deep end of 9 feet and a newer liner. Enjoy your morning coffee out on the front porch as you watch the beautiful sunrise over the lake. This home includes the convenience of first floor laundry with a newer washer. The full basement has been completely waterproofed, with a transferable warranty from Dry Otter Waterproofing. Don't miss the opportunity to make this elegant home yours, call today!



401 Lillemor Lane, Oregon
\$950,000 Call Rebecca

ONE OF A KIND! Custom built with no expense spared, this remarkable 2x6 stucco construction home is the true definition of luxury. Boasting tremendous curb appeal, you will be amazed the moment you pull onto the paver brick driveway at all this property has to offer. Featuring over 5,000 square feet of living space on the main floor with additional square footage in the basement, this home offers plenty of fabulous space indoors and out. Open concept living space with grand kitchen featuring custom cherry cabinets, dining area with custom built ins and living room with gas fireplace. Oversized windows and sliding doors with custom blinds and grand views of your own private oasis. Artico porcelain tile and crown molding can be found throughout the main floor. Dedicated master suite with large walk in closet, en-suite bathroom, exercise room and heated, outdoor shower for year round use! Grand four season room with tall ceilings and views of the professional landscaping done by Crimson Valley. No longer worry about snow removal or mowing the yard as this yard is entirely permeable and the entire driveway is heated! There is also a heated garage and workshop. Two staircases lead to the basement also has 2 framed in bedrooms and additional bathroom along with a full bathroom, laundry area and ample storage. Call for a full amenity list and your private showing today!




3542 Main Street, Polo
\$285,000 Call Merri

Welcome Home to this charming 4 (potentially 5) bedroom ranch in a little country subdivision just north of Polo. This property gives you the opportunity to enjoy country living while still having a sense of community. It sits on approximately 3/4 of an acre lot and features a peaceful front and back patio areas. As you enter the home, you are welcomed into the open layout of the dining room, living room and kitchen which boasts a generously sized granite island and all updated appliances. Enjoy relaxing in the living room with the gas fireplace or while the sun beams in through the skylights. The office on the main floor is perfect to work from home or as a 3rd bedroom on the main level. The lower level features a great space for entertaining with the rec room and wet bar all set up and ready for use. There are two additional bedrooms with other oversized bathroom. Don't forget about the attached 3-car garage with oversized bay and the additional detached 1-car garage perfect for additional storage. This home has it all! Solar Panels- 2019, 11,000 watt Generac Generator 2019. Furnace and Water heater replaced in 2018.




710 E Oregon Street, Polo
\$259,900 Call Carla

Check out this one-of-a-kind listing located on the edge of Polo! This 3.3 acre property includes a unique, fully remodeled 50ft diameter Monolithic dome home, a 28 x 20 hay barn, a 32 x 14 horse barn with three stalls, fenced pastures, 24x30 Wick pole building with concrete floor, lovely park like front yard including a seasonal pond with goldfish and frogs, and even a treehouse! Fall in love with this rustic, cozy home that features all main floor living with an enclosed loft area. Entering the home you are greeted with a warm great room featuring space for living and dining with an open floor plan into a kitchen and live edge bar with hand hewn Pine posts. This home includes 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, a great room, a beautiful spacious kitchen, an office room, and a recreational room upstairs with an additional bonus room. Masterful rustic touches include Ponderosa Pine ceilings and solid wood doors. The primary bath offers a walk-in slate tile shower, while the guest bath features a soaking tub, double vanities, and tons of counter space. The laundry room has a pet bath, and there is also a built-in kennel under the stairs. This home provides custom storage areas throughout, giving you space to store without clutter. Newer mechanicals have been installed such as an instant hot water heater and water softener (2017), entire ventilation system including ductwork, A/C, furnace and HRV (2022), and it has the option of in-floor propane heating. All appliances will be staying including washer and dryer. Located blocks from Polo Schools, outdoor public pool, and the 5 mile long Joe Stengel Trail for horseback or UTV use.



2452 Ill Route 26, Polo
\$398,000 Call Lori

Boundless opportunities await with this rural set real estate and business. Located on the intersection of two highways, Rte 26 and Rte 64, smack dab between Forreston, Polo, and a stone's throw from Mt. Morris, there's plenty of traffic from bikers to truckers, to from the Rock River to the Mississippi. You can forget city regulations and have creative freedom to make this a music venue, biker bar, heck, you could make it a biker dance hall! There's TONS of room inside for pool tables, slots, a stage, you name it. There's a fully functional kitchen, lots of basement storage, and 3 residential rental units on the second floor as well. The lot itself has plenty of room to expand as you wish. With 3.21 acres to work with, you could have a beer garden, dining patio, outdoor stage, and more!



00 River Road, Oregon
\$413,154 Call Carla

32.79 acre parcel is offered as buildable with Ag zoning and with RIVER FRONTAGE!! Dock at your own property! This wooded wonderland offers privacy and seclusion like no other property available on the Rock River. Wooded timber with easement access from River Rd.



1107 E Ill Route 64, Oregon
\$450,000 Call Rebecca

NEW ROOF WITH 50 YEAR SHINGLES, GUTTERS AND SOME FRESH EXTERIOR PAINTING AT THIS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WITH OVER 9,000 SQUARE FEET OF FINISHED SPACE ON A 1.36 ACRE LOT! Prime real estate location located on Route 64 just east of beautiful, downtown Oregon. Currently used as a retail space, this property has fresh neutral paint and epoxy coated flooring throughout. The main floor is open and has a great deal of square footage along with a his and hers bathroom. There is a finished loft area that previously served as office space. Partial basement with a half bathroom and egress windows. There is a large parking lot with plenty of parking spaces along with additional land for expansion of the building or parking area. Currently well & septic with city water/sewer at the lot line. Bring your ideas as the possibilities are endless with this building and location!



606 E Washington St., Oregon, IL
815-732-9100

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Each office is independently owned & operated.

SPORTS NEWS

Looking to the Forreton tournament

WALKING to the Las Vegas airport to catch a flight, I ran across a few members of the Indiana Pacers. Ironically, we both had basketball on our minds, as they were in Vegas to play the Lakers in the championship of a new-fangled NBA tournament, while I was on my way to Utah to see my granddaughters play.

The only reason our paths crossed is that most of the roads near the airport were shut to transportation because of a shooting at nearby UNLV. I imagine they were on their way to the T-Mobile Arena for practice or maybe back to a hotel.

Besides the million-dollar salaries, the Pacers had a chance to earn another \$500,000 individually if they beat the Lakers. Even with a loss, they would take home a hefty cash prize, but that is nature of things when you are the best in the world in such a lucrative craft as basketball.

Unlike basketball at its highest form, I was on my way to see a bunch of 10-year-olds in their first game ever after one practice. But home is where your heart is, and my heart wasn't on watching the NBA. It was on seeing loved ones double-dribbling, traveling, throwing air balls up and fortunately, refs at that level let overlook most of it.

So, while the Pacers and Lakers went at it in a sold-out arena and in front of millions on TV, I sat among a sparse crowd in a

grade-school gym enjoying myself more than if I was courtside in Vegas.

This upcoming week offers me a happy medium between the two with the Forreton boys tournament. One of the longest-running events in the state at over 60 years, the tourney is a nice blend of NUIC and BNC.



Andy Colbert

It also may be the most stable holiday tourney in the state with virtually the same teams every year. Once you get into Forreton, you don't give up your seat. Centrally located to most entrants, it's like having a yearly family reunion with so many familiar faces among players, coaches, fans and officials.

Credit to Forreton for being the host with the most for these many decades.

Here's an idea for a coffee table book — a pictorial of iconic Illinois high-school gyms, of which there are many. Most are in downstate, where the sport reigns supreme.

Compare that with suburban cookie-cutter types with comfort, but no character. Another difference between downstate basketball versus elsewhere is that those gyms still have season ticket holders. Season ticket holders for basketball are a dying breed, as the popularity has waned.

Sure, some schools around here offer

it, but not like the old days when it was a sought-after ticket, with some families keeping the same seats for generations.

Wherever you are watching your boys and girls basketball tournaments over the holidays, encourage not just your team, but also the officials.

Don't be a crybaby like Patrick Mahomes, who threw his helmet to the ground and went into a tirade about a call in Kansas City's loss to Buffalo. With a minute left, KC scored a potentially winning touchdown, but it was called back for offsides.

Mahomes, who is generally considered a nice guy, went berserk on the sidelines afterwards. It was an ugly scene and set a poor example.

When a star like Mahomes does this, impressionable young people may believe they should model their behavior after him, as well. I wonder if Mahomes realizes the damage he does to officiating at all levels?

Oddly, the call made by the official was correct and there was no reason to have a beef over it. Even it was a blown call, how about extending some grace for the much-maligned refs.

None of us can be 100 percent perfect.

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

AREA SPORTS

Oregon boys bowling defeats Sterling

The Oregon boys bowling team hosted Sterling at Town & Country Lanes in Mt. Morris on Dec. 6 and raised its season record to 7-2 with a 3,509-3,115 non-conference victory. In another well-rounded performance, the Hawks were led by Gavvin Surmo with a 627 series (203, 247, 177), followed closely by Brady Davis' 610 series, Matthew Stahl's 592 series, Cody Dunbar's 572 series, Caleb Ehrler's 557 series and RJ Keene's 551 series. The JV kept its undefeated season going (7-0) and was led by Aiden Currier with a 519 series. The JV2 was led by Landon Bailey with a 446 series.

See **SPORTS** page 3

Oregon Park District Winter/Spring guide releases Friday, December 22nd at www.oregonpark.org.



As 2023 comes to a close, the Oregon Park District is excited to look towards 2024 and the many exciting opportunities ahead.

In preparation for 2024, staff will begin to roll out the 2024-2027 strategic plan. Our team has developed and approved a new Strategic Plan, accompanied by an updated Mission, Vision and Values. Throughout this process, our passionate staff worked together to identify our current culture and the values we plan to pass along to our community. Together, with an impressive range of skillsets, our team is driven to deliver meaningful recreation experiences and events to our patrons which exhibit our abilities to be caring, creative and community-focused.

Other exciting opportunities are also on the horizon. The District applied for an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant in 2023 to assist with park improvements at Park East. We expect to be notified in January if we receive this important funding. If approved, the OSLAD program would provide up to \$600,000 in grant funding for Park East.

Engineering work will continue in 2024 to complete the bike path connecting Route 64 to Lowden State Park. The District has been awarded \$3,000,000 in Illinois Transportation Enhancement Funds to complete the bike path and connect our community with one of our beloved State Parks. Keep an eye out for construction to begin in 2025.

I am pleased to report the District continues to be fiscally responsible and will exceed our year end fund balance goals. This is achieved year after year through a well thought out tax levy, careful consideration for our expected expenses, a rolling capital improvement plan and proper long-range planning.

Lastly, a special thank you to the Oregon Park District team. Our community is truly blessed to be served by an amazing group who are caring, creative and community-focused. Collectively, our team has served more than 17,000 program participants, 49,000 facility users and tens of thousands of park visitors in 2023.

I look forward to our continued success in 2024 and invite you to join us on our journey to bring you caring, creative and community-focused opportunities.

Sincerely,

Erin Folk, CPRE
Executive Director

CARING. CREATIVE.
COMMUNITY-FOCUSED.



Registration
opens Jan. 8
for members
Jan. 9 for
everyone

LOCAL NEWS

SPORTS: Area sports scores

From page 2

Oregon boys bowling hosts South Beloit

The Oregon boys bowling team bowled South Beloit at Town & Country Lanes in Mt. Morris on Dec. 12 and came away with a 3,494-2,841 conference victory. Oregon was led by Matthew Stahl with a 692 series (223, 235, 234), followed by Codey Dunbar's 626 series, Gavvin Surmo's 602 series, Brady Davis' 542 series, Caleb Ehrler's 519 series and RJ Keene's 513 series. The win raised the season record to 8-2. The Oregon JV boys won in convincing fashion 3,310-1,980, raising their record to 8-0. The JV was led by Ethan Smice with a 610 series, followed closely by Caleb Brooks with a 593 series. The JV2 was led by Landon Bailey with a 521 series and bowled unopposed.

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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 the library has craft projects for adults? During open hours in the Creative Studio adults are welcome to come in and make a free seasonal card or craft from the material available on the studio tables. Please note that table crafts are not available during Teen Time or other library programs in the Studio. Stop by the Creative Studio to indulge in your craftier side!

Creative Studio

Our Creative Studio is 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



The Byron Library teen volunteers ran an amazing Reading Buddies program in which they read and made a craft with children. The kids loved the one-on-one attention they received from their teen buddies!

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 1-5:00pm, Monday 9:00 am-1:00 pm & 5-8:00 pm, Tuesday 9 am - 1:00 pm & 5 - 8:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00am-1:00pm, Thursday 9:00 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!

FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book Sale

December 7th through December 30th. Still looking for Christmas gifts or a book to enjoy in the new year? Stop by our book sale anytime the library is open through December 30th! We have new and gently used books and DVDs for all ages and interests.

Toddler/Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Bring your favorite toddler or preschooler for a time

of Christmas stories, songs, crafts, and fun! This relaxed program is a great way for little ones to meet new friends and discover the joy of reading. There will be no Storytime on December 27th and January 3rd.

Community Room

Looking for a place to hold your event? Our community room (with a small kitchenette) is available for meetings, parties, showers, family

reunions, and more. Please call the library at (815)938-2624 for additional information.

Soft Plastic Recycling

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

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LOCAL NEWS

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Holiday Hours

Bertolet Memorial Library will be closed Friday December 29th through Monday, December 25th. We will also be closed Monday, January 1st.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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 ziploc-type seals and paper/sticker labels. Thank you for your cooperation.

NEW RELEASES

Adult Books

Marshaling Her Heart by Mary Connealy

The Oceans and the Stars by Mark Helprin

The Ball at Versailles by Danielle Steel

POLO LIBRARY NEWS

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Tot Time Tuesdays

Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m., for ages 1 to 3, social time for the littles and grown ups, many hands-on activities, arts and music, and of course, storytime & snack!!

Maker Baker Monday

3rd Mondays monthly, Maker Baker Monday, December 18th, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., in our library downstairs kitchen area, put your personal holiday touch to cookies, open to ages 10 & up, registration is required & space is limited.

ADULT MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Book to movie

3rd Thursday, December 21st at the Polo Library, join the group for January's book to movie, read "Agatha Raisin and the Quiche of Death #1" by M.C. Beaton and watch "Agatha Raisin - Season One". If you like to join this group, please stop in to get your copy of the book and movie.

Book discussion

4th Monday, December 18th at 1:00 p.m. at the Polo Library, book discussion of "Wake Up With Purpose!" by Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt. January's book will be "Black Cake" by Charmaine Wilkerson.

DNA Genealogy Assistance

1st Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 3rd Saturdays monthly, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (December 6th & December 16th), Donna Baumann will be here to help you with genealogy questions, DNA questions or just help research your genealogy with any resources she has access to.

Yoga with Becca is back!!

Wednesday, December 27th, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., downstairs children's library area. Encouraged to bring your own yoga mat. Registration is required, space is limited. Yoga will be held on the last Wednesdays, monthly.

Library of Things

Check out our Library of Things for hands-on activities, board games, Playaway learning tablets, educational books with learning materials, STEAM type kits, and more for ALL AGES!!!

Reminder

Visit polo.library.org to access the online catalog, to see what programs and services we offer, and for the latest public events held here at the library. Call us at 815-946-2713 for more information.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

624 Luther Drive, Byron IL 61010 815-234-5277
Pastor: Janet Wold
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 cornerstonefamilychurch.org
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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226 E. 2nd St, Byron, IL 61010 - Phone 815-234-7431 - Fr. Richard Rosinski.
Weekday Masses: Tuesday - Friday 7:30am, Weekend Masses: Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 8:00 am and 9:30 am, Reconciliation: Fri. 8:00 am - 8:30 am; Sat. 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm or by app. Eucharist Adoration Fri. 8-9am
www.saintmaryinbyron.org secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org

SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

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

UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON

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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.
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Pastor: Garry 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: chanauum@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.

DAVIS JUNCTION

DAVIS JUNCTION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors • "God's Heart in Our Community" Located in town on Rt. 72 • Our Pastor is Rev. Keith Kelsey-Powell
Sunday Services: Worship 10:30am, Children's time during Worship Service.
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. God is Good, All the Time, All the Time, God is Good!

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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/
Archived Sermons on our YouTube channel: Leaf River Baptist Church (Until further notice)
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815-738-2205 leafriverbc@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 Rosebrack
pastor@immanuel-lindenwood.org

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101 N Galena st, P.O box 67, Lindenwood IL 815-985-7054
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KINGS

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Website: www.goelimchurch.org
Sunday morning worship 10:00 am

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10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sep. - May)
102 N. Maple Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054
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 BROTHERS

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: mimorrisob@gmail.com

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 E. Brayton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL Phone: 734-6354 Rev. Josh Ehrler
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 ECCOCDministry@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!

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LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Dave Rogula 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 lighthouseumc@yahoo.com
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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>
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Meal
All are welcome!

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

609 S. 10th Street, Oregon, IL 61061
Pastor Craig Arnold ~ 812-236-1213
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
Website: 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. Naill
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
Creve 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, IL 615-45-2526 | www.theredbrickchurch.org
Sunday: Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am. Sunday School at 9:00 am.
Wednesday: AWANA (Sept - April) from 6:00 to 7:30 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 Schedule: Discipleship Hour 9:00 AM, Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM
Gathered Worship 10:00 AM
For complete ministry schedule check out our website or call the church office.

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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/VECCISV
Home of Valley Covenant Preschool 815-645-8882 Director Jill Huber
Bible Studies, Youth Group, Bread of Life Food Pantry
Please visit website for more information or contact the church office M-F 9am-2pm

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

Pastor Brad Pittman

LOCAL NEWS

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Closings

Mount Morris Library will be closed on Monday, 12/25, to allow staff to celebrate Christmas with loved ones. The library will also be closed on Monday, 1/1, to celebrate the New Year! Happy Holidays to Everyone!

Story Time!

We will be reading books and the children will create a craft this Wednesday, 12/20. Story time is every Wednesday @11:15, bring your little ones to enjoy stories and a craft at the Mount Morris Library!

Take-n-Make

Stop by any time this week to grab the new craft kit for the holiday! It is a Santa Candy Cane holder. This is a great craft for any age and you can take it home to make it when you are ready! Available while supplies last!

Christmas Chain

We are building a great chain all around our Christmas tree! Drop in to create your chain to add to our tree! We would love to have it loop around the tree over and over and over and over...

Lego Club This Week!!!

Lego night is the third Thursday of each month. Stop by on December 21st, from 6-7pm! Bring a friend and build some fun with Lego bricks! All children and parents are invited every third Thursday of the month. Children under 8 need to bring a parent with them.

Cookie Decorating!

School's out and that means it's a great time to visit the library and give those kids something to do! Stop by on Saturday, December 23 between 11:30am-1:30pm to decorate cookies!!! We will have premade cut-out cookies and all the frosting and sprinkles needed to make a gorgeous

cookie! Kids will get to take their cookie home with them to eat-or leave out for Santa!

Board Game Extravaganza!

The library always has LOTS of games but let's get them out and really have a great time! Families can stop by on Thursday, December 28, anytime between 2-6pm to play some awesome board games! We will have popcorn and juice to keep you going!

School's Out!

Stop by the library daily for activities for the kids! We will have a variety of different craft projects, activities, and coloring sheets. Not to mention our assortment of games and toys that can keep them occupied! Let us help find an interesting book or movie to take home, too!

Axis360 is changing to BOUNDLESS

Your library's Axis 360 digital service has been upgraded to Boundless. The library can provide you with information about the transition to Boundless. All your user info and history, including holds position, bookmarks, notes, and other saved data will be seamlessly transitioned to the new Boundless platform.

Adult Book Club

The December book is "A Christmas Memory" by Richard Paul Evans. Described as "From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Christmas Box and the Noel Collection comes A Christmas Memory, a poignant, deeply felt novel about loss, grief, the healing power of forgiveness, and the true meaning of the holiday season." Everyone is welcome to join this book club group! Copies of the book are available at the library. Contact the library for more information about when this group meets.

Cookbook Club Next Meeting!

Join us as we explore The Cookbook Club! Wonderful

recipes combined with friendship creates something both beautiful and delicious! Stop by to choose your recipe from this month's book and bring your dish to pass at our next meeting! Join us on January 9th this month, 6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!

Ink with a Friend: Card Making at the Library

The holidays are here and we know what a great time it is to make some lovely home-made cards to send to family and friends. We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Thursday, January 11th from 5-7! You will get all the materials to make two beautiful cards to take home. Stop by to see the samples, fees are by donation. Registration is limited so call the library or stop by to save your spot before January 4th!

Display Case Showings

We have a new display just for the holidays! Stop by to see the gorgeous holiday showcase of a wintery town and a beautiful creche! We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to share their treasures in our display cases. If you are interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

Explore More Illinois

Explore More Illinois is easy to use with your library card. Visit the library's website to browse attractions. You can find the information on our website, www.mtmorris-il.org under the resources page.

Adult Programming

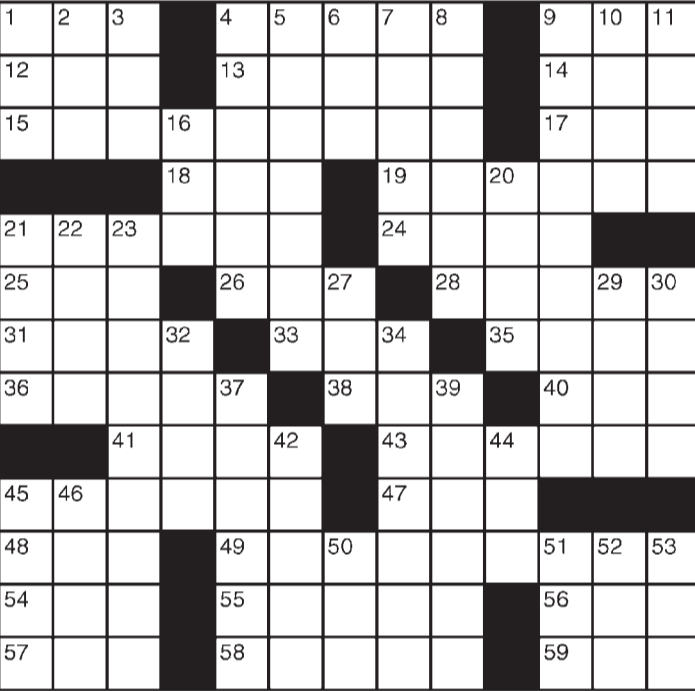
We are trying to get back into the swing of offering monthly programs for adults. We would love to hear from you. Do evenings or weekends work better? Do you have any program ideas? Do you have a program you would like to share? Contact Mary Cheatwood at the library through email at mmlib@mtmorris-il.org or call 815-734-4927.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 TiVo precursor
- 4 Wide
- 9 America's uncle
- 12 Consume
- 13 Heart line
- 14 La-la lead-in
- 15 Gym machine
- 17 And so on (Abbr.)
- 18 Nabokov novel
- 19 Bowling lanes
- 21 Packs tightly
- 24 Go yachting
- 25 Yale grad
- 26 Author Umberto
- 28 Aegean island
- 31 Building wings
- 33 Farm female
- 35 Steakhouse order
- 36 Rice recipe
- 38 PC key
- 40 Chaney of horror films
- 41 First lady of scat
- 43 Bistro furniture
- 45 Telepathic
- 47 Sushi choice
- 48 Hostel
- 49 Heavy burden
- 54 Memo letters
- 55 Deadly virus



- 56 Schlep
- 57 Air safety org.
- 58 Philly hoopster
- 59 Director Lee
- 10 Bohemian
- 11 Apple computers
- 16 Small batteries
- 20 Tale teller
- 21 Army transport
- 22 "That's — need to know"
- 23 1,000-year spans
- 27 Have debts
- 29 Bassoon's kin
- 30 Taxpayer IDs
- 32 Pretzel topper
- 34 Getty of "The Golden Girls"
- 37 Fireplace flickerers
- 39 Salad type
- 42 Suspect's excuse
- 44 Crunchy sandwich
- 45 Peeve
- 46 "May It Be" singer
- 50 Bagel topper
- 51 Slangy suffix
- 52 Sister
- 53 Silly Putty container

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MAGIC MAZE ● — POWER

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

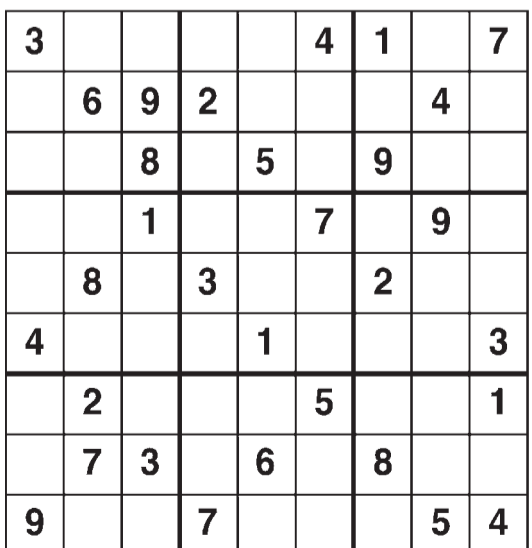
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: YOUR TRUSTY STEED

- Atomic
- Magical
- Rocket
- Super
- Balance of
- Nuclear
- Solar
- Will
- Flower
- People in
- Star
- World
- Hydroelectric
- Pulling
- Staying

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

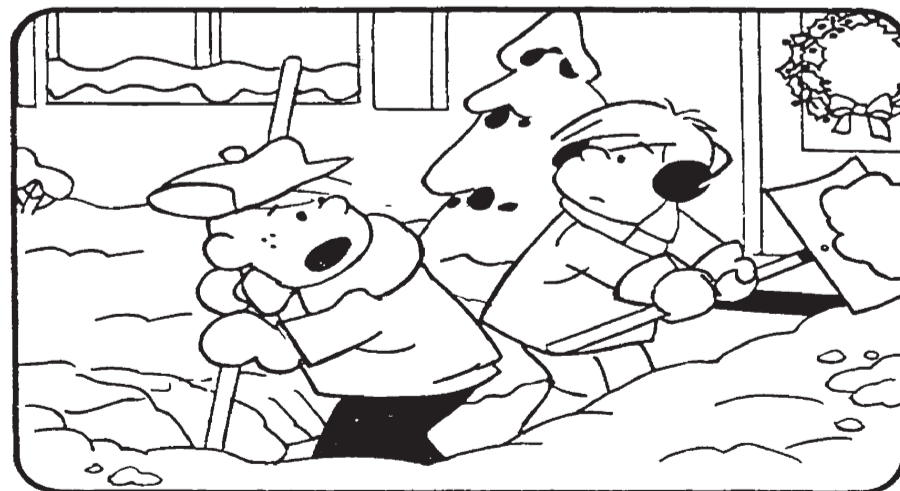
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

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

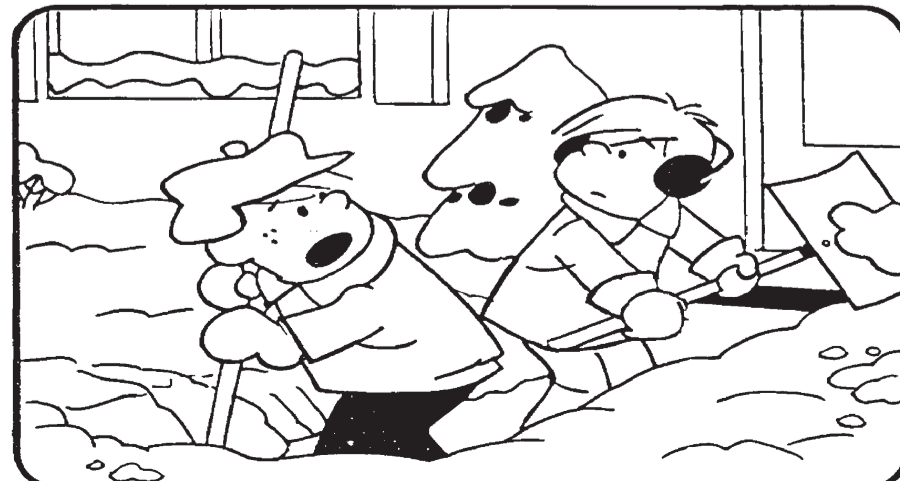
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HOCUS-FOCUS

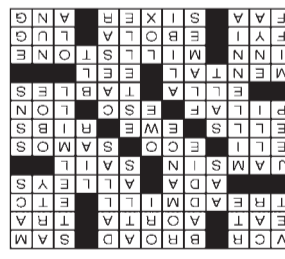
BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



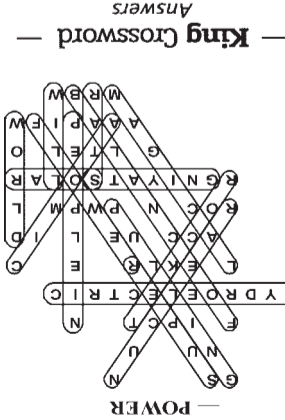
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Ear flap is moved. 2. Collar is smaller. 3. Tree is smaller. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Wreath is missing. 6. Shovel full of snow is smaller.



Solution time: 22 mins.



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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

FURMAN'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 & 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 (120623MR)

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.

203 HELP WANTED

Byron School Transportation Open Positions

• **Bus Drivers**

Call Barb at x 4400
815-234-5491 or apply online:
www.byron226.org
Click the 'About Us' tab, then Employment Opportunities tab

Seeking Village Clerk and Utility Billing/Assistant Clerk

The Village of Forreston is seeking a professional to fulfill the requirements of Village Clerk and Utility Billing/Assistant Clerk.

Applicants would be preferred to be residents of the Village of Forreston and seeking an active role in the daily operations of village hall.

For position duties, requirements and how to apply, see:
<https://www.forreston.municipalimpact.com> for more details

Byron CUSD #226 Job Posting

IT SPECIALIST
(Anticipated)

Additional information and application process Found at www.byron226.org "About Us" Tab Employment Opportunities - Technology Category

Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent through the CLASSIFIEDS

Byron School District Openings:

Lunchroom Supervisor 2.75 hours
Full-time Custodians – 2nd/3rd shift
Special Education Paraprofessional
HS Boys Head Track Coach

Please apply online at www.byron226.org
Under the About Us tab
Employment Opportunities Section

Class-A CDL Drivers Wanted
\$500 Sign on bonus
Earn up to \$33/per hour
Local Trucking Company seeking full time, year- round driver to haul grain.
815-938-3644
Please leave message.
09052022



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815-590-2302

511 STORAGE UNITS

K&P SELF STORAGE
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OUTSIDE STORAGE NOW AVAILABLE
Storage Unit Sizes:
5' x 10' 10' x 10'
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His first football season, Isaiah told us, 'Wear a jersey with my name on it. I want everyone to know you're here for me.'

Darnell and Denna, adopted 16-year-old Isaiah

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Travis Cunningham
(815) 297-4595
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04092023

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."

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12/11/2023

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Celestial Sun Wellnes Spa Boutique & Tanning
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11202023

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Merry Christmas from The Rink!

Winter Hours:
Friday 7-10PM
Saturday 1-4PM and 7-11PM
Sunday 1-4PM

Special Holiday Hours:
December 23rd 7-10PM
December 24th and 25th CLOSED
December 26th 1-4PM
December 27th 6-9PM
December 28th 6-9PM
December 29th 1-4PM and 7-10PM
December 30th 1-4PM

Kara's Byron Barber Shop

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Men • Boys

Hours:
Mon, Tue, Thurs, and Fri 9AM - 5PM
Sat 9AM - 1PM • Closed on Wed.

Appointments & Walk-Ins Welcome

CUTS & Style

\$4 OFF Any Service
Offer good with coupon. Expires 12/31/23

Kara's Byron Barber Shop
238 Blackhawk Dr. Byron
815-315-2119

11202023

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Sunday 6:30 - 8:00 am & 5 - 6:30 pm

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Stateline Nurses Network

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