



David Lloyd
NMLS #1609858
Franklin Grove

Chas Cross
NMLS #1846547
Monroe Center

Todd Muur
NMLS #591637
Dixon

Sarah Wiersema
NMLS #2041883
Amboy

Susan Gomez
NMLS #449810
Amboy

The First National Bank in Amboy

Amboy - Dixon - Franklin Grove - Monroe Center

815-857-3625 Ext 5306 - fnbamboy.com

OGLE COUNTY LIFE

VALLEY SHOPPER



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 41

MONDAY
Dec. 25, 2023

FREE

Visit www.oglecountylife.com

Ogle County's most widely read weekly newspaper!

KNOW IT TODAY



Sales tax item on March ballot

A county facilities sales tax item will appear on the upcoming March ballot. **Page 2**

WEATHER

 MONDAY HIGH LOW 53 49	 TUESDAY HIGH LOW 50 41
 WEDNESDAY HIGH LOW 41 35	 THURSDAY HIGH LOW 39 31
 FRIDAY HIGH LOW 34 27	 SATURDAY HIGH LOW 33 24

OBITUARIES

- Rose Marie Eglund (Diehl)
- Thomas L. Goble
- Jim Charles Mickey
- Veronica M. Loan
- Gordon 'Marty' Martin Lenox Jr.
- Susan 'Sue' Jane Tasso
- Harold (Sam) Wilbur McMichael
- Frederic (Fred) Ransom Bushnell Jr.
- Garner D. Stevens III

See pages 4-6

INSERTS

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

New wind and solar siting and operating ordinances approved

Planning & zoning fee schedule amended during Ogle County Board meeting

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board voted to rescind its previous commercial solar and wind energy facilities siting and operating ordinances and to replace them with new ordinances to meet a recent state senate bill (SB 1699) that included trailer bill language for the renewable energy project siting bill.

House Bill 4412 came into play near the start of 2023, and removed local control such as at the county level on whether or not wind and solar projects could be built. Back in early 2019, the Ogle County Board approved a solar resolution providing conditions for a special use permit for solar farms. That resolution was repealed in May to meet HB 4412 requirements.

Back in January, the board unanimously passed a resolution opposing HB 4412, due to its desire to keep local control. At its February meeting, the



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board voted to rescind its previous commercial solar and wind energy facilities siting and operating ordinances and to replace them with new ordinances to meet a recent state senate bill (SB 1699) that included trailer bill language for the renewable energy project siting bill.

board heard comments from multiple county residents that were against more wind and solar power in the county, especially on a large scale near homes and farms. The Ogle County Board established an ad-hoc committee to work on the solar and wind issue to meet state statutes. Their work included establishing the county's first wind ordinance.

See OGLE page 11

ONAA acquires 14-acre parcel along Rock River

Press release: Grant funding covers 80 percent of acquisition cost

BYRON – The Ogle Natural Areas Alliance (ONAA) is pleased to announce the successful acquisition of a 14-acre parcel along the picturesque Rock River, marking a significant milestone in the organization's ongoing commitment to environmental conservation and public land preservation.

This acquisition was made possible through the support of an 80 percent grant, demonstrating the collaborative efforts to protect and enhance our region's natural resources.

The recently acquired parcel serves as a vital link, connecting two existing public land parcels owned by the Byron Park District (Johnson Riverfront Park) and Byron Forest Preserve District (Mill Creek Wetland Preserve).



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Ogle Natural Areas Alliance (ONAA) is pleased to announce the successful acquisition of a 14-acre parcel along the picturesque Rock River, marking a significant milestone in the organization's ongoing commitment to environmental conservation and public land preservation.

See ONAA page 10



Stillman BANK
Make Next Christmas Even Merrier with a Christmas Club Savings Account!
Only a \$1.00 minimum opening deposit
Byron • Oregon • Rochelle • Rockford • Roscoe/Rockton • Stillman Valley



Holcomb Bank Member FDIC
Where Relationships Matter
On behalf of our Holcomb Bank employees & Board of Directors, we'd like to wish a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays & Happy New Year to all!
May 2024 be filled with health & happiness!



HURST HEATING & COOLING
Sales • Service • Installation
815-757-4383
WE'RE YOUR HVAC PROFESSIONALS FOR SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION



Happy Holidays
This season is a time of joy, reflection, and gratitude. We are incredibly thankful for the trust and support you show us throughout the year.
Byron Bank Member FDIC

LOCAL NEWS

County schools facilities sales tax to be on March ballot

‘What we’d like to do is just offer the referendum to the taxpayers to make a decision’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Dec. 18, the Rochelle Township High School District Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution in support of placing a county facilities sales tax on the March 19 election ballot.

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

Shared Rochelle School Districts Superintendent Jason Harper said that

there has been enough support from school boards county wide for the referendum to be placed on the ballot. To get onto the ballot, school boards representing more than 50 percent of students must pass support resolutions.

The referendum would have to pass on the ballot county-wide. The sales tax can be a maximum of one percent in quarter-percent increments. The Rochelle Elementary School District Board of Education passed a resolution to support the item being placed on the ballot at its Dec. 12 meeting.

The additional sales tax would apply to items that are already taxed, with the exception of vehicles and unprepared food. Based on the most recent numbers, a county facility sales tax could net RTHS \$443,491 per year. Along with facilities, security, mental health services and school resource officers, the mon-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Dec. 18, the Rochelle Township High School District Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution in support of placing a county facilities sales tax on the March 19 election ballot.

ey can be used to abate property taxes and make rates lower for property owners within the district.

Board members stressed Dec. 18 that the resolution was only to give the choice to voters, and not in support of the tax itself.

“What we’d like to do

is just offer the referendum to the taxpayers to make a decision,” Board President Tom Huddleston said. “If it should pass, as far as our district is concerned, we can then consider abating all that money towards real estate taxes if the board wishes or make any other decision.

Any other district can do that as well. Tonight’s proposal is just to put it on the referendum.”

Harper said there hasn’t been unanimous approval among county school districts, but there was enough support to get it on the ballot as of Dec. 18. “It’s support for our

community voters so they can go to the ballot box and vote on whether or not they want to continue with what we’ve been doing historically in terms of property taxes funding the local portion of schools, or offset that to some degree by a sales tax initiative,” Harper said.

Locals perform in Augustana’s Sankta Lucia Festival on Dec. 4

ROCK ISLAND — More than 45 Augustana College students participated in the annual celebration of the Festival of Sankta Lucia on Dec. 4 at the college’s Ascension Chapel.

The celebration, held at Augustana’s Ascension Chapel, commemorated the Sankta Lucia Festival with traditional Scandinavian Christmas carols, lessons and poetry.

Sankta Lucia is a cherished tradition of the Advent season in all the Nordic countries. A candlelight procession of singers is led by a young woman robed in white with a crown of candles on her head, to commemorate the martyred St.

Lucy (d. 304 AD).

Each year, an Augustana student is chosen to portray Lucia during the event. This year, Lucia was played by Madeline Kusar, a senior from Chicago, majoring in Scandinavian studies and German studies.

Music in the program was drawn from the Advent and Christmas traditions of the historic Augustana Lutheran Church and the other Swedish-American denominations in the United States.

Featured music included the Ascension Ringers, directed by Ben Holmes, singing from Swedish students, and music by organist Chris

Nelson.

The celebration was hosted by Augustana’s Scandinavian Studies Program, together with the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, the American Scandinavian Association at Augustana, and Campus Ministries.

Participating students included:

McKenna Alcock, a first year majoring in Augie Ages from Monroe Center, Cera Denton, a first year majoring in Augie Ages from Davis Junction, Emily Guz, a first year majoring in Augie Ages from Mt. Morris, and Olivia James, a first year majoring in Augie Ages from Oregon.

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!

Stillman

BANK

Member FDIC

SERVICE CALL SPECIAL

\$29⁹⁵ ANY BRAND

We Service All Makes & Models. Test & check. Over 30 Years Experience.

AFFORDABLE WATER

815-625-3426

Toll Free: 877-353-7638

ANDERSON
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Water Heaters, Water Softeners,
Drinking Water Systems, Iron Filters,
Sewer Rodding & Jetting & More!



Since 1976

621 First Ave., Rochelle
(815) 562-8784

dickersonnieman.com

homes

BYRON
220 W. 3rd St.
(815)234-5133

OREGON
113 S. 4th St.
(815)732-3365

Ogle County’s Real Estate Market Leader!



705 W. Blackhawk Drive, Byron



\$649,900 dickersonnieman.com/39090191

FORMER SAM’S DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT! Owner retiring. Price includes equipment. This restaurant building contains 2,452 SF & the canopy w/20 drive-up ordering stations contains 1,860 SF. 2 single stall restrooms, a basement for storage, & seating for 48-76 people. 180’ of road frontage on Blackhawk/Route 2 and 182’ on Colfax. Located on lighted intersection. Zoned highway front business. Kitchen already certified with OCHD as commissary kitchen.

TRACY EASTMAN
(815) 979-4926

905 Madison Street, Oregon



\$139,900 dickersonnieman.com/202303157

MOVE IN READY! Remodeled 3 bed, 2 bath in the heart of Oregon. Walking distance to schools, bike path & parks. This 1.5 story home boasts a classy design & ample privacy in the fully fenced backyard. 25x55 garage with heated floors. This home has it all with new plumbing, floors, kitchen & more!

TIFFANY CRAVATTA
(815) 988-4388

000 Harvest Drive, Byron



Starting at \$69,000 dickersonnieman.com/201701914

BEAUTIFUL BYRON SUBDIVISION! Large lots, city water & sewer. No Impact fees. Building packages open to all builders. Builder assistance available. Developer approval required. Remaining lots are either full or partial exposure.

CHRIS SNYDER
(815) 494-7857



MAYDELL LESSEN
DESIGNATED MANAGING BROKER
(815) 622-4619



BRAD AUKER
(815) 978-0018



DOROTHY BOWERS
(815) 985-3264



SHARON BOWERS
(815) 757-7462



LYRAH AUSTIN-BUSHNELL
(815) 218-0059



TIFFANY CRAVATTA
(815) 988-4388



RANDY CRIDDLE
(815) 871-4004



DANA DAUB
(815) 440-2835



KAYLA HESLOP
(815) 222-9771



SEAN HOSSEINI
(815) 200-8490



MIKE LONG
(815) 761-4741



CHRIS SNYDER
(815) 494-7857

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

OREGON — On Dec. 12 at approximately 9:33 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 2 and Cultra Road. After a brief investigation, Refugio Hernandez-Molina, 34, of Rockford, was arrested for no valid driver's license. Hernandez was additionally cited for registration violations and no insurance. Hernandez was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 12 at 3:57 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Powers Road and Illinois Route 251. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Rafael Mancinas Jr., 24, of Rochelle, for driving while license revoked. Mancinas was transported to the Ogle County Jail, processed, and released with a notice to appear. Mancinas was also issued citations for loud muffler and expired registration.

On Dec. 12 at approximately 9:36 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of North Stillman Road. After an investigation, Philip R. Futrell, 28, of Stillman Valley, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Futrell was also cited for speeding, operating

an uninsured motor vehicle, and operating a vehicle with expired registration. Futrell was released from the scene on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 13 at approximately 9:48 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of 4th Street and Adams Street in Oregon. After investigation, deputies placed Sean Callaway, 28, of Dixon, under arrest for driving while license suspended and an active contempt of court Lee County warrant. Callaway was additionally issued citations for expired registration, operating an uninsured vehicle, and operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Callaway was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear on all of the traffic violations and held on the Lee County warrant.

On Dec. 14 at approximately 3:40 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 251 and Oak Avenue in Hillcrest. After investigation, deputies placed Rueben Burgess, 33, of Rochelle under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Burgess was also issued a citation

for speeding. Burgess was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was later released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On Dec. 14 at approximately 11:17 a.m. deputies responded to the 6,300 block of North Illinois Route 251 for the report of an accident with injuries involving a semi-truck and a passenger car. After investigation, deputies determined that a maroon Chevrolet Equinox, being driven by 87-year-old Sally Knutson of Davis Junction, was traveling southbound on Illinois Route 251 before striking an International semi-truck. The driver of the semi-truck, Angelo J. Mora-Vega, 32, of Belvidere, was attempting to reverse into a driveway for a delivery before Knutson struck the passenger side of the cab. Knutson sustained non-life threatening injuries, and was transported to Swedish American Hospital. Deputies were assisted by the New Milford Fire Protection District and Blackhawk Fire Protection District. The accident remains under investigation.

On Dec. 14 at 10:05 p.m. deputies conducted

a traffic stop at Fair Street and North Illinois Route 2 in the town of Oregon. As a result, William W. Clark II, 44, of Mt. Morris was arrested for possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting/obstructing a peace officer resulting in injury, and no valid driver's license. Clark was additionally issued citations for expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Clark was transported to the Ogle County Jail and issued a notice to appear with a future court date. Additionally, Clark was detained on an Illinois Department of Corrections Warrant.

On Dec. 15 at approximately 7:35 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After an investigation, Armando Del Carmen, 32, of Beloit, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Del Carmen was also cited for speeding, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and a child restraint violation. Del Carmen was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 16 at approximately 2:51 a.m. Deputies conducted a traffic stop in

the 16,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After an investigation, Omar M Alam, 28, of Bolingbrook, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Alam was also cited for speeding, disregarding an official traffic control device, and illegal transportation of alcohol as a driver. Alam was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was later released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 16 at approximately 12:10 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop within the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies placed Shanda N. Bubolz, 38, of Winnebago, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Bubolz was additionally cited for no insurance. Bubolz was released from the scene with a notice to appear in court at a later date.

On Dec. 17 at approximately 10:33 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of North Illinois Route 26. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Giovanni Guzman-Miranda, 23, of Thomasville, North Carolina, for driving while license

suspended. Guzman-Miranda was also cited for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. Guzman-Miranda was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 18 at approximately 3:03 p.m. deputies responded to the 100 block of Main Street in reference to a disturbance. After an investigation, deputies placed Silvia Rogers, 56, of Leaf River, under arrest for disorderly conduct. This was the third time Rogers was arrested against the same victim in the last eight days. Rogers was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was released on a notice to appear since it didn't fit the new bail reform act requirements to hold Rogers.

On Dec. 18 at approximately 11:21 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 39 southbound at mile marker 97. After further investigation deputies arrested a 16-year-old male juvenile from Florida, for no valid license. The juvenile was released on scene to a parent with a notice to appear and a future court date given.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dec. 2: At 6:41 p.m., Oregon Police issued Bradley C. Hertzner, 48, Oregon, a citation for disobeying a traffic control device. This violation occurred at the intersection of 4th and Washington Streets.

Dec. 5: At 4:09 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Morgan M. McCulloh, 28, Oregon, for criminal trespass to real property and resisting/obstructing a peace officer. McCulloh was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

At 6:48 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Boston S. Rink, 26, Oregon, for driving while license suspended.

to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 300 block of Jefferson Street.

Dec. 6: At 9:19 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Holly B. Woods, 58, Rockford, for no valid driver's license. Woods was also issued citations for speeding 40 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone and illegal transportation of alcohol as a driver. Woods was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear. These violations occurred in the 500 block of Gale Street.

Dec. 9: At 6:52 p.m., Oregon Police arrested

Warner G. Hinrichs, 22, Sycamore, for driving while license suspended. Hinrichs also had an outstanding Kane County warrant for failure to appear on a driving while license suspended charge. Hinrichs was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear and a new notice to appear for the Kane County warrant. These violations occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

Dec. 11: At 7:14 a.m. Oregon Police issued Korey C. Pepper, 33, Oregon, a citation for disobeying a stop sign. This violation

occurred at the Jefferson and South 5th Street inter-

section.

Dec. 13: At 1:54 p.m., Oregon Police issued Trenten G. Bettner, 20, Oregon, a citation for operating a vehicle with a tinted windshield. This violation occurred in the 1,200 block of West Washington Street.

Dec. 14: At 8:56 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Casandra E. Smith, 34, Oregon, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant for driving while license suspended. Smith was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was left in the custody of the corrections officers.

Dec. 15: At 4:53 p.m., Oregon Police responded to

a car vs. deer traffic crash in the 1,700 block of West Washington Street where a 2016 Subaru driven by Brian L. Cuningham, 59, Leaf River, struck a deer. No citations were issued.

Dec. 17: At 7:51 a.m., Oregon Police issued Gregory L. Greer, II, 30, Dixon, a citation for failure to wear a seat belt as a driver. This violation occurred in the 500 block of North 4th Street.

At 11:31 a.m., Oregon Police issued Lydia A. Burd, 23, of Moline, a citation for speeding 53 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation

occurred in the 700 block of North 4th Street.

At 10:23 p.m., Oregon Police issued Guadalupe Moyotl-Nayotl, 36, of Aurora, a citation for disobeying a traffic control device. This violation occurred at the Oregon Trail Road and West Washington Street intersection.

Twenty verbal warnings and one parking citation were issued during the week of Dec. 4-17.

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

RALPHIE & LULU'S

**New Years Eve
Sunday Dec. 31st**

Bar opens at 3 p.m.

Dinner Served 4 - 7 p.m.

Prime Rib, Sweet Potato, Shrimp, Fish, Chicken,
Ralphie Full Salad Bar, & Soup

Homemade Grass Hoppers, Owens
Expresso & Martini Mix Specialty Drinks

**Serving dinner Wednesday 5 - 8 p.m.
Friday and Saturday 5 - 8 p.m.**

812 Main St. - Ashton

Edward Jones



Save the Date!

Learn how to simplify your spending and saving strategies

Join us for our presentation
Simplify Your Spending and Saving Strategies
Take control of your financial future.
Learn more about the basics of budgeting and the importance of managing credit and debt.

Hosted by
Casandra Rowley

When
January 11, 2024
6 pm
RSVP to casandra.rowley@edwardjones.com or 815-732-4377 by Jan 5th

Where
Cork and Tap Gallery Upstairs
305 W Washington Street
Oregon, IL 61061

Sandwiches will be served.



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

MKD-3965G-A-PI EXP OCT 2024
©2023 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
AECSPD 20480594

The 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

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

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



\$20

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

Here are 3 Ways to Purchase Your 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

- **ONLINE:** Go to <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org> and click on **CASH CALENDARS**. Once the calendar is purchased we will mail it out to you! Shipping and processing fees will be added to cost.
- **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:
 - In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest, Colonial Flower Shoppe and Hub City Senior Center
 - In Oregon at: Merlin's
 - In Dixon at: Shining Star
 - In Mendota at: The Mendota Reporter/Amboy News office
- **BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

YES! Send me my 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

(Please Print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF CALENDARS: _____

Clip and mail this form along with \$23
(\$20 per calendar plus \$3 per calendar postage) to:
Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Rose Marie Eglund (Diehl)

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — In loving memory of Rose Marie Eglund (Diehl) born January 29, 1928 in Mt. Morris, Illinois and passed peacefully at the age of 95 on October 25, 2023 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She was married to Alvin Hardy Eglund for 40 years and they had two sons; Terry Lee Eglund (1/1/47) and Gary (Gee) Alan Eglund (4/22/48-4/21/78).

Rosie was an absolute hard worker; many times carrying multiple jobs at the same time. When Gary opened his own bar "The Garage" in Rochelle you can bet she was right there cooking away and handling the catering side of the business. She was a phenomenal cook!



She was a leader and inspiration to many including her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She had a tremendous appreciation for traveling the world which began in her 40's traveling with her friend and companion May Hill. They took trips around the world including Norway, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Hawaii, Thailand, Alaska and much more.

Unfortunately, her memory started declining and we are all grateful for what she did document in her earlier years. After retirement Rose moved out West to California to join Terry and Barb and their girls Aimee and Emily. She enjoyed a care free life living simply at membership campgrounds soaking up the sun at the pool and volunteering. She taught her grandchildren many life lessons those years.

She was proud to share the cultures she experienced abroad and found great joy and pride in returning to the United States. She went on to travel around the US twice. You couldn't hold Rosie back from new adventures. At the ripe age of 87 she wanted to try zip lining! Which she did of course. Some of her adventures in addition to traveling were sky diving, skiing, bungee jumping and elephants walking over her. Rosie had a passion for genealogy also.

She would teach them swimming, miniature golfing, bingo, fishing, card games, dancing and of course crafts. She loved Halloween and dressing up. She was so proud to win multiple contests for her exceptional costumes shocking most with her sly sense of humor. Happy hour was her favorite; Sweet Red Wine with a few ice cubes and anything sweet to eat, some good country music and dancing.

She spent endless hours researching our history and outlining it for the younger generation. While traveling she was strategic visiting areas where she could connect to family and gain more knowledge of the family history. When she moved to Idaho to join family in (2012) she brought along her photos and books to work on more history.

She was one Classy lady and will be terribly missed. She made a lasting impression with many; we are better people for knowing and loving her. She was proud of taking Latin in High School and her favorite take away was "Amo Te" (I Love You). She was a Daughter, Sister, Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Aunt, Caretaker and Leader. What more can anyone ask for?

Rose graduated from High School from Mt Morris HS Class of 1945. She worked at Del Monte Corporation in Rochelle as the switchboard operator for 25 years. She enjoyed this job and you could hear the smile in her voice as she answered those call. She also spent many years waitressing at the Rochelle Country Club where she created many friendships in the community.

Rose was preceded in death by Alvin Eglund and son Gary Alan Eglund. She left behind son Terry and wife Barb (Lang) Eglund of Carmel, CA, Grandaughter's Aimee Gerome (Eglund) & Anthony of Coeur d'Alene, ID; Emily Mangano (Eglund) & Gino of Clark, MO. and Grandson Gary (Garrett) Eglund; Great Grandchildren: Brandon Gerome, Alexandra Combs (Gerome), Cassandra Gerome, Stephen Mangano and Lillian Mangano.

**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
At Oregon VFW Post 8739
Light Lunch Provided & Cash Bar

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.

ADVERTISING DISCLAIMER

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

The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

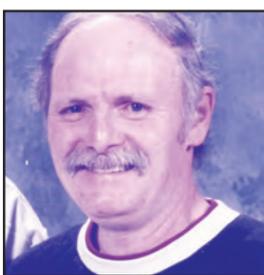
USPS (004-083) ISSN (1045-3059)

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

Thomas L. Goble

OREGON — Thomas L. Goble, loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend passed away on December 12, 2023 at his home with family by his side. He was born to Guy and Bessie "Wanda" (Hicks) Goble in Osceola, Arkansas on August 1, 1950. Thomas faithfully served in the US Army.

sun's warmth and feeling the gentle breeze against his face. He especially liked feeling the wind on his face when he would go out on the open road on his Harley Davidson motorcycle. When he was not outside; he liked to watch classic westerns and old television shows on tv with a Budweiser in hand.



He worked for many years for Kaiser and met the love of his life while working there. He married Mary Hitchcock on April 16, 1994 and they spent 29 years building a life together. Thomas was known for his love for the great outdoors. Whether it was fishing in serene lakes or embarking on camping trips and bon fires with his loved ones, he found solace in being surrounded by nature's beauty.

While he preferred the classics, he never missed an episode of Survivor or a New York Yankees game. He was also an avid reader. But, the most important thing to Thomas was his family. He loved spending time with them and making sure they knew they were important and loved.

His spirit was nourished by basking in the

He is preceded in death by his parents, siblings, and daughter Nikki Hitchcock.

He is survived and missed by his wife, Mary Goble of Oregon; children,

Dawn (William) Bearrows of Highland Village, TX, Shelia (Ricky Wolfe) Goble of Loves Park, and D.C. Robert Hitchcock of Oregon; grandchildren, Ashley Bearrows, Katrina (Dustin) Peck, Jillian Wolfe, Claudia Wolfe, Jessica (Nik) Hess, Brandon Hitchcock, and Anaya Hitchcock; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, great grandchildren, and friends. A celebration of his well lived life will be held at a later date. To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

Gordon 'Marty' Martin Lenox Jr.

BYRON — Gordon "Marty" Martin Lenox Jr., age 61, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by his family, in his home on Friday, December 15, 2023. Marty was born on February 1, 1962 at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford, IL the son of Gordon Sr. & Eva (Haight) Lenox.

entertained and made them laugh as the parents watched or ate quietly and cherished a moment of peace. He never hesitated to get down on the floor at the kids and the grandbabies level and play, color, just chatter and there was always a bit of a lesson... colors, numbers, how something works.



These last ten years have defined Marty's life...a war, not just a battle...with a cancer called Chordoma. When we learned about this bone cancer I remember two things: it is diagnosed in 1 in every million people; a rare cancer for which there were no treatment options except surgery and radiation. The second thing I remember was an average survival of 7 years. If you know Marty, this now became a challenge...he was going to beat this and survive much longer. Many challenging surgeries, a lot of radiation, a non-healing wound, some trial drugs. And now, here we are.

Remember his jokes and stories...he was very good at embellishing the tale, and the next time you heard it the punch line was the same but the story a little different. His goal while hospitalized was to tell each person coming in the room a different joke...we had to remind him to check his audience...because if you know Marty the language wasn't always what he used at church! He loved to spend time in the Shop. His own space, full of his life and his tools and family and friends just gathering to have Marty's guidance while fixing their vehicle, have graduation parties and holiday celebrations or simply sit and share and ponder life.

Remember the challenge he took on with his cancer...but let that memory take on its own meaning that was more than cancer. He fought hard, fought long and endured so much pain. But he is whole again and heaven opened its gates for him. We will miss him but he will always be all around us.

Please take a pause. Please choose to know and remember Marty NOT by these last years, but also those before cancer.

Remember the man who could make or fix anything. He was so physically strong, had knowledge over a lifetime, all the tools and more than one of some, common sense, great helpers. He and his dad built farm equipment, created furniture and did woodworking, metal work and there is a lot of repair work when one farms. Whatever creations they made they left their mark with the painted initials they shared, GML, along with the date.

Marty is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived and dearly missed by his wife Marjorie of Byron, IL; children Amanda (Marcus Blocker) Archer of Winnebago, IL, Nicholas (Angie) Severson of Harrison, IL, Carissa (Doug) Johnson of Stafford, VA, Kylie Lenox of Byron, IL; siblings Cynthia Lenox of Winnebago, IL, Mindy (John) Stadel of Rockford, IL, Matthew (Amy) Lenox of Pecatonica, IL, Mark Lenox of Winnebago, IL, grandchildren, Kennedy (Jacob), Alyssa, Owen, Olivia, Miley, and Jessie; nephews, Gacob (Hannah) Lenox and Elijah (Becca) Lenox; and his dog and shop buddy, Remmi.

Remember just his physical presence in the room. Broad shoulders, all that dark hair and those tinted glasses, a very quiet or a very commanding voice, all muscle and stronger in so many ways than all of us.

Remember his love for children...not just his own, but all of them. We had times when eating at a restaurant or while out shopping that he

There was a visitation held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Byron, IL. Another visitation took place just prior to the funeral services on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at Middle Creek Church from 11:00 am to the time of the service at 12:00pm. Funeral services were held in his honor on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 12:00pm at Middle Creek Church in Winnebago, IL. Marty's earthly remains were laid to rest in Winnebago Cemetery.

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

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

NEW WINTER HOURS
Bar and Kitchen
Monday - Thursday 4 - 8PM
Friday 4 - 9PM

Public is Welcome!

Public is Welcome!

VFW EVENTS
Monday Lighting @ 5:30pm
Wednesday Bingo @ 5:30pm
Thursday Trivia Night @ 5:30pm
Fridays @ 7pm 1st Fridays, Karaoke, Live music (different Fridays)
Every Friday our Fish, Chicken, Shrimp Dinners
We do Carry Outs
Try out the hot slots every weekday!

J&J Gaming

Memorials are established for the Chordoma Foundation for continuing research or in his name to be used for a scholarship for a Byron High School student who is part of the band. To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Susan 'Sue' Jane Tasso

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Susan "Sue" Jane Tasso, 69, passed away after a sudden illness on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at the University of Minnesota Fairview Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN while surrounded by her family.

Sue was born on May 3, 1954, to Harold and Florence (Maas) Fruin in Oregon, Illinois. She grew up in Stillman Valley, IL, as the youngest of five children in a farming focused household which helped foster her sense of toughness, hard-working character, and deep fear of spiders.

Sue graduated from Stillman Valley High School (Class of 1972) where she met her future husband, James "Bo" Tasso. They were married on May 4, 1973. Together they had three children – Amber, Thad, and Branden. Bo and Sue became grandparents for the first time in 2002 and ultimately would become the proud and loving grandparents of seven grandchildren in total. Sue was an intensely family-focused person who made a profoundly positive impact on those around her by exemplifying kindness, unselfishness, and integrity. Outside of work, she loved spending time with

her children and grandchildren or visiting with her siblings, parents, and friends in the area.

In April 2017, Sue became a Certified Veterinary Practice Manager (CVPM) through Veterinary Hospital Managers Association (VHMA). After an illustrious 36-year career at Blackhawk Veterinary Services, Ltd. in Byron, IL, Sue retired in July 2023. Shortly after her retirement, she moved to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area to live with her youngest son, Branden, and his family. In short time, Sue turned into an avid reader and continued her hobbies of quilting and sewing. She was looking forward to starting a garden next summer. She was a lifelong member of Elim Reformed Church in Kings, IL having served as a Sunday School teacher and more recently as a Consistory Board member.

Sue is survived by her children Amber (Weslee) McClendon of Stillman Valley, IL; Thad (Allison) Tasso of Norfolk, VA; and Branden (Leah) Tasso of Lakeville, MN; siblings Ronald (Kim) Fruin of Green Bay, WI; Sandra (Nicholas) Bell of Stillman Valley, IL; Randy (Donna) Fruin of Stillman Valley, IL; grandchildren Grant, Kylie, Jackson, Virginia, Braxton, Theo,



and Trey. Sue was predeceased by her husband Bo (2020), her sister Betty Russian (2013), her mother Florence (2014), and father Harold (2015).

Sue was a wonderful person that will be remembered fondly by all those lucky enough to know her. She will be missed immensely.

A visitation will be held at Kishwaukee Community Evangelical Presbyterian Church from 4:00pm to 7:00pm on Friday, December 29, 2023. A memorial service will be held in her honor at 10:30am on Saturday, December 30, 2023, at Kishwaukee Community Evangelical Presbyterian Church with Pastor Marvin Jacobs officiating. Sue will be laid to rest near her parents in White Rock Cemetery of Kings, IL. Memorial donations may be made in her name to the Rockford Rescue Mission or PAWS Humane Society. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in her memory please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

Jim Charles Mickey

ROCHELLE — Jim Charles Mickey died December 14, 2023, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Jim was born May 18, 1943, to Sheldon and Betty Mickey. He graduated from RTHS and received degrees from Northern Illinois University and Oregon Bible College. After years of working in the field of accounting and manufacturing, he retired in 2005 as CFO of O'Cedar.

He was an avid baseball fan who spent many years coaching Little League and Senior League in Rochelle and Dixon, and loved traveling the country visiting major league baseball parks. Jim was also the creator of Fast Break, a basketball game

that had an international following, as well as being the commissioner of a tabletop baseball league for over 50 years.

Jim served the community as pastor and youth leader for the Flagg Center Community Church and also was the Treasurer for the Village of Progress for many years. He also enjoyed delivering Meals on Wheels while he was still able.

He was a very loving and supportive father and husband. He leaves behind a loving family including his wife, Mary, of 59 years, children: Monty, Randee (Steve) Boll, Toby and Julie (Andrew) Rose; grandchildren: Graham (Kayla) and Kelsey Boll, Madeline, Elizabeth, Jes-



sica and Justin Mickey, and great grandchildren: Everleigh, Emmett and Jubilee Boll, and sister Bonnie Seebach.

Visitation will be held at Unger Funeral Home on Thursday, December 21st at 10:00 am followed at 11:00 by the memorial service with a luncheon to follow. Memorials may be made in Jim's memory to your favorite charity. Guest book at www.UngerHorner.com

Veronica M. Loan

ROCHELLE — Veronica M. Loan, also known as Vicky Loan, passed away peacefully on December 17, 2023, in Rochelle, IL, at the age of 77. She was born on July 2, 1946, in Shabbona, IL, to the late George and Ella Mihm. Veronica moved to Oregon, Illinois in 1979 and was happy living there the rest of her days. Veronica was preceded in death by her husband, Michael F. Loan, her father George, her mother Ella, her brother Merrill Mihm, and her sister Janice Conn.

Veronica, known for her hard work and fun-loving nature, dedicated many years of her life to her career. She served as a Group Leader at Caron, International in Rochelle, IL, and also worked as a Tool Maker at Gates Co. in Rockford, IL. Her commitment and dedication to her work

were truly admirable.

Outside of her professional life, Veronica had a wide range of hobbies and interests. She enjoyed 4-wheeling, crocheting, sewing, and reading thrilling and suspenseful novels. Veronica was also an avid pet lover, with a special fondness for Labrador Retrievers and cats.

Veronica will be deeply missed by her surviving family members, including her son Duane E. O'Dell of Parsons, TN, her daughter Tina M. Bettner and her spouse Ed Bettner of Oregon, IL, her daughter Tammy J. Loan of Oregon, IL, her granddaughter Randi R. VanHorn and her spouse Chris VanHorn, her grandsons Dave Bettner and Adam Bettner, and his spouse Megan Bettner respectively. She was also a loving great-grandmother to Dane C. VanHorn and



Tate J. Bettner.

In lieu of services, Veronica's family has chosen to spread her ashes at a private location. For those who wish to make a contribution in her memory, donations can be made to the Dementia Society of America through their website: <https://www.dementiasociety.org/>.

Veronica M. Loan will be remembered for her hard work, loving nature, and zest for life. Her presence will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Harold (Sam) Wilbur McMichael

OREGON — Harold (Sam) Wilbur McMichael was born April 18, 1939 in Eads, CO to Charles & Donna (Jefferies) McMichael. He departed this life at his home in Oregon, IL on December 12, 2023 at the age of 84.

Harold (Sam) was raised in Southeast Colorado and has many fond memories of that time and the people there. He joined the Navy his senior year of high school and was stationed in California and Hawaii during his service. After the Navy, he got a job at the Gainesville Daily Sun in Florida and launched his career in the newspaper printing business.

The industry was moving towards using photo typesetting and offset printing equipment. His experience and expertise took him to many newspa-

pers around the Midwest. After retiring, he settled in Oregon, IL. He enjoyed taking his grandchildren on the quad around his property whenever they came to visit. He loved tinkering with his tractors and other toys. He loved the area and taking anyone who came to visit around to see the Eagle's nests. He was a good friend to his neighbors and loved ones.

He was preceded in death by his parents, ex-wife but lifelong friend Mary McMichael (Moulder), his brothers Dallas and Bob, brothers-in-laws Dick Moore and Robert Hopkins. Harold is survived by his daughter, Carrie McMichael, son-in-law Lance Snider and his two grandchildren, Brie Snider and Dru Snider. He is survived by sisters Marilyn



Hopkins, Shirley Moore (Ken Specht), and Sherill Hofmeister. He is also survived by nephews Rodney McMichael and Michael Hopkins and nieces Cindy Cordova, Donna Mae-stas, Tina Leggett, Michele Hopkins-Ibarra and Stephanie Hofmeister as well as several cousins, great and great-great nieces and nephews.

A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date in his hometown of Brandon, Co.

To leave an online condolence visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

Garner D. Stevens III

MT. MORRIS — Garner D. Stevens III 55, passed away unexpectedly at Delnor Hospital in Geneva, IL. Garner was born on June 13, 1968, in Rockford, IL and was the son of Sharon (VanVelzer) Wallace and Garner Stevens Jr.

Garner worked for Woods Equipment and Quality Metal for many years. He was an avid lover of music and cooking.

He is survived by his children; Nathan (Saman-

tha) Stevens, Christopher (Kendra) Stevens, and Mariah Stevens. Grandchildren; Alexander and Coral Stevens, Alexis, Nathan Jr., Oswald, Cleopatra, Solomon, Charlotte, and Richard Jr. Parents; Garner (Kelly) Stevens Jr. and Sharon (David) Wallace. Siblings; Renae (Mark) Stevens, Amy (Kapu) Aluli, step-siblings; Kellie (Rob) Gardner, Vicki DiPrima, and Daniel Wallace.



Private graveside services will be held at a later date. Arrangements were entrusted to Finch Funeral Home 405 E. Hitt St. Mt. Morris, IL 61054 815-734-6156.

ISP Troop 1 announces November activity

STERLING—Illinois State Police Troop 1 Captain Joseph Blanchette recently announced enforcement figures and activity for the month of November.

Illinois State Police Troop 1 issued 1,502 citations, 1,573 written

warnings, and made 37 criminal arrests during the month of November. Troopers issued 595 citations for speeding, 78 citations for distracted driving violations and 128 citations for occupant restraint violations.

Troopers investigat-

ed 54 traffic crashes, assisted 153 motorists, and conducted 400 commercial motor vehicle inspections, 50 of which were placed out-of-service for safety reasons. There were 15 arrests made for driving under the influence.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR POLO COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 222

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy for the Polo Community School District #222 for 2023 was held on December 18, 2023 at 6:00pm at Centennial Elementary School in the community room at 308 S. Pleasant Avenue, Polo, IL 61064.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the tax district may contact Dr. Kelly Mandrell, Superintendent, Polo Community School District #222, 100 S. Union Avenue, Polo, IL 61064 at 815-946-3815.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended for 2022 were \$4,343,017. The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$4,585,114. This represents a 5.57% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debit services and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$898,315. The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commissions lease for 2023 is \$928,706.10. This represents a 3.38% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended for 2022 were \$5,241,332.43.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$5,513,820. This represents a 4.67% increase over the previous year.

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Frederic (Fred) Ransom Bushnell Jr.

OREGON—Frederic (Fred) Ransom Bushnell, Jr., 93, died at Shepherd Premier Senior Living in Oregon, Illinois on December 14, 2023. Born in Joliet, Illinois on November 19, 1930 to Frederic R. and Ione Elizabeth (Steigle) Bushnell, Fred grew up in Rochelle, Illinois, graduated from Flagg Township High School and attended Iowa State University where he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity. An animal science major in the College of Agriculture, Fred graduated with honors in 1952. He married Mary Margaret (Meg) Bock in Garner, Iowa on January 17, 1953.

which continues to this day through the farming practices of his sons Cade and Ned, and his grandson Ross. Fred also served as a volunteer with the USAID program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture where he traveled to share best practices with farmers in Russia and the Philippines.



As Fred shifted into retirement, he and Meg spent more of their time wintering at their home in Fort Myers Beach, FL, where he returned to an earlier passion in his life and resumed painting in watercolors. Fred painted with various artists in Florida and Illinois and continued his study of art with travel in both the U.S. and Europe. He was also a member of the Fort Myers Beach Art Association and participated in various art shows where his artwork gained recognition.

(Jud), and his brother Malcolm. Fred is survived by his wife of 70 years, Meg, his sons; Frederick/Rick (Clarence) of Pasadena, CA, John (Christine) of Helena, MT, Cade (Mari Lyn) of Stillman Valley, IL, and Edwin/Ned (Lyrah) of Stillman Valley, IL, and five grandchildren; Grace (Andrew Smith), Ross, Thomas (Claire), Benjamin, and Matthew. Fred lived out his final days with Meg by his side, and the family is grateful to Shepherd Premier Senior Living and Serenity Hospice & Home for the loving care they showed to him during his final days. The family plans to celebrate Fred's life at a later time.

Fred and Meg moved to Stillman Valley and began farming in 1955, raised four sons, and started a family farm named for Walnut Creek that runs through land they farmed. He was an early adopter of soil conservation through reduced tillage,

Fred is predeceased by his parents, Fred and Ione, his sister Georgia Collins



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Distinguished alumni award winners from left to right: Benjamin Huber, Terry Camplain, Kristin Rademaker, Steven Kenneke, Drew Groezinger.

Davis Junction's Camplain honored by HCC Foundation as distinguished alumni

FREEPORT — On Nov. 16, the Highland Community College Foundation recognized five Distinguished Alumni at the Freeport Club.

This is the 27th year the foundation has recognized individuals who made their start at Highland Community College, have shown community leadership, and believe in the mission of higher education. To date, Highland has named more than 160 individuals as Distinguished Alumni.

ments, they have not only carved their own success stories but continue to inspire and elevate Highland Community College and Northwest Illinois. Starting at Highland, these outstanding individuals embody the spirit of innovation, leadership, and service."

Education Center, a therapeutic day school of the Ogle County Educational Cooperative. This program focuses on the social and emotional growth of students. Camplain has been recognized as the Illinois School Psychologist of the Year and Focus House Volunteer of the Year. He is also a member of the Ogle County Juvenile Justice Council and a Certified Trainer for Trauma Informed School Approaches. Since 2008, he has been sharing his experience as a speaker for the Highland First Year Experience class and works with HCC education majors.

Terry Camplain of Davis Junction was among those honored as distinguished alumni. He was nominated by Vicki Schulz.

Camplain began his path to his psychology career with an Associate Degree from Highland in 1986, going on to advanced education and a successful career as a school psychologist and for the past 19 years as principal of Chana

For more on the Highland Community College Foundation, visit highland.edu/foundation.

POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLO — On Dec. 13 at 3:10 p.m. Roman Garcia-Velazquez, 35, Freeport, was cited for unlaw-

ful use of a cell phone and operating an uninsured vehicle. Garcia-Velazquez was released on a notice

to appear. All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



BHS names October 2023 Students of the Month

Byron High School Students of the Month for October 2023 were recently named. Pictured from left to right are: BHS Assistant Principal Ken Franchi, Macyn Burris (ninth grade), Tim Starwalt (10th grade), Jackson Norris (11th grade), Phoenix Dillard (12th grade) and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Renae Stevens. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement.



BHS names November 2023 Students of the Month

Byron High School Students of the Month for November 2023 were recently named. Pictured from left to right are: BHS Principal Andrew Donaldson, Caleigh Rybicki, Braiden Hammes, Matthew Perkins and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Renae Stevens. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement.

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

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

Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

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

Education

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

Low Income Housing

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

Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

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

Mental Health

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

Senior Citizens Services

Hub City Senior Center 562-5050
Mt Morris Senior Center 734-6335
Polo Senior Center 946-3818
Rock River Center 732-3252
Oregon, IL 800-541-5479

Sexual Assault/Abuse

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

Therapeutic

Pegasus Special Riders 973-3177

Veterans' Services

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

Wellness Services

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

LOCAL NEWS

Ogle County Sheriff's Office launches holiday campaign

OREGON — The holidays are a time for caring and sharing, which is why the Ogle County Sheriff's Office is partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation to spread the word about the dangers of impaired driving with a "Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Drive High. Get a DUI." enforcement campaign. From Dec. 15 through Jan. 2, law enforcement across Illinois will show zero tolerance for alcohol- and drug-impaired driving to keep our roads safe and help ensure a happy holiday season.

"If you'll be celebrating with festive drinks or other impairing substances, make a plan for a safe ride home before you leave for the party," Sheriff Brain VanVickle said. "Driving impaired is simply unac-

ceptable. That's why we make zero exceptions and arrest all impaired drivers. There are no excuses."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, in the United States in 2021, a total of 13,384 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver. On average, more than 10,000 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes each year from 2017 to 2021, with one person killed in a drunk-driving crash approximately every 45 minutes. These fatalities are preventable, and drivers must remember that driving impaired — by alcohol, cannabis or any other substance, whether legal or not — is potentially deadly and illegal behavior.

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office recommends these safe alternatives to drinking and driving:

Designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride-sharing service.

If you see an impaired driver on the road, pull over and contact the Sheriff's Office at 815-732-2136 or call 911 to report the vehicle.

Have a friend who is about to drive impaired? Take their keys and make arrangements to get them home safely. They'll thank you later.

Remember to buckle up! The holiday enforcement campaign is administered by IDOT with federal highway safety funds managed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Fire Prevention Week presentation made at Forreston Grade School

The Forreston Valley School District recently thanked all the first responders from the Forreston and Leaf River Fire Departments for coming to teach the Forreston Grade School students about fire prevention and fire safety. Firefighters spent the morning teaching about the importance of smoke detectors, what to do in case of a fire, and when you should call 911. Students rotated to different stations and had the opportunity to practice escaping a fire using a smokehouse, participate in an obstacle course while dragging fire hoses, to see a boom truck, fire trucks and an ambulance and to learn about all the equipment on each vehicle. "Thank you very much to both the Forreston and Leaf River Fire Departments for making Fire Prevention Week such a great experience for our students here at Forreston Grade School!" a press release said.

MJHS recognized as U.S. News Best Middle School in Illinois

STILLMAN VALLEY — Meridian Junior High School proudly announces its recognition as one of the top-performing middle schools in Illinois by U.S. News & World Report. The school has been honored with the prestigious title of a U.S. News Best Middle School, ranking within the top 40 percent of middle schools in the nation.

This acknowledgment by U.S. News & World Report showcases Meridian Junior High School's commitment to academic excellence, innovative teaching practices, and the dedication of its educators, staff, and students.

"We are thrilled and honored to be recognized among the best middle schools in

Illinois," Mrs. Jen Speakes, principal of Meridian Junior High School, said. "This achievement reflects the hard work, passion, and dedication of our entire school community — teachers, staff, students, and parents — who strive for excellence every day. We truly live our vision of small-town values and world-class results."

As a U.S. News Best Middle School, Meridian Junior High School continues to set high standards and remains dedicated

to preparing students for future success, both academically and personally. Meridian Junior High School joins Stillman Valley High School as a U.S. News and World Report Best School.

"I am incredibly proud of the work that our staff and students have put in at MJHS and I believe that this is a sign of what is to come from our schools," Dr. Joe Mullikin, assistant superintendent, said. "This is also a reflection of the leadership of Mrs. Jill Davis, Mrs. Jen Speakes, and Dr. Caposey over the past decade, and I can't wait to see what is to come."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Dec. 30: On Saturday, Dec. 30 from 10 a.m. to noon, the Oregon Depot Museum will have a holiday open house. Since it's not a program, you can come anytime, early, late or sometime in between. We'll have coffee, hot cocoa, cookies and other goodies to

share. We'll celebrate the steady progress being made in restoring the 1947 Silver View zephyr train car. We'll look back at all the excellent "Those Were The Days" programs we've had in 2023. We'll look forward to 2024 and ask people programs people would like to see in

the new year. Everyone is welcome! For more information about the depot and past or future programs, call Roger Cain 815-757-9715, Chris Martin 815-742-8471 or Otto Dick 815-440-0639.

Jan. 7: Disciples United Methodist Church will hold its potato bar events

in the first Sunday of each month through April. Dates are as follows: Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 3, and April 7. Events will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No registration is needed. Donations are accepted. Proceeds will be used towards the missions of the church.

The events will take place at 102 Maple Ave. in Mt. Morris. 815-734-4853
Disiplesumc.org
Jan. 10: Serenity Hospice and Home will be hosting a free six-week class entitled, "Understanding Your Grief" based on the book by Dr. Alan Wolfelt. Each

participant will receive a book. This class starts Jan. 10 and ends on Feb. 14. The group will meet Wednesdays at The Serenity Shed (131 N. 3rd St. in downtown Oregon) from 2:30-4 p.m. Call Cathy or Denise at 815-732-2499 for more information or to register.

Brought to you by these sponsors:

Stan's Performance
FULL SERVICE GARAGE

Computer Diagnostic • Brakes • Tires
Oil Change • Transmission Care

We Do It All - Give Us A Try!
-Emergency- 815-734-4838

409 E. Hitt St. • Mt. Morris
815-734-4272

Maggie's
100% HOLE HOUR

"The Best Little Bar Around" Mt. Morris, IL

Burgers-Wings Appetizers-& More
115 S. Wesley Ave 815-734-4110
www.maggiesonline.com

Scott Stephens, Agent
500 Gale St
Oregon, IL 61061
Bus: 815-732-6690
www.scottstephens.com

State Farm
For All Your Insurance Needs.

JONES FUNERAL HOMES
Ask us about our guaranteed prearrangement contracts.

DIXON 204 S. Ottawa Ave. 288-2241
AMBOY 303 E. Main St. 857-2611

Patrick R. Jones, Jr. www.thejonesfh.com

Travis Cunningham
Owner/Auctioneer

815-297-4595
atauctionservices@gmail.com
Forreston, IL

Auction Services
A&T
FORRESTON, IL

Vintage Chicks & Feed

COMPLETE FEED & RUSTIC RELICS

700 IL Route 72 E • Leaf River • 815-973-2432
Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 9am-5pm

HILLIKER ELECTRIC
LICENSED, BONDED, & INSURED

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WIRING

Call 815-441-8207 for a free quote or to schedule service today!

HILLIKER.ELECTRIC@GMAIL.COM • FRANKLIN GROVE, IL

ReRuns
THE CONSIGNMENT STORE
CLOTHING AND MORE
LET US DO THE WORK FOR YOU!

Store Hours
Sun 10-2
Mon 10-6
Tue 10-3
Wed Closed
Thu 10-7
Fri 10-5
Sat 9-3

120 W 2nd St, Byron IL • 815-406-8060

CENTRAL ILLINOIS LOAN

Loans For All Your Needs
* Auto * Home Improvement * Vacations
Give Us A Call - 815★561★4035!

310 Eagle Drive, Rochelle
All loans subject to our normal credit requirements and policies.

Rochelle Community Hospital
Your Local Healthcare Resource.

815-561-2181
900 N. 2nd St., Rochelle
www.rochellehospital.com

A Furry AffHair-Primp Your Pet Grooming Salon

815-677-3356
Arlette Howerton, Owner

Like us on Facebook 3926 W. IL Rt. 64
Afurryaffhair@gmail.com Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054

Mobile Electronics

2-Way Radio Communication
We are an authorized dealer of Icom & Kenwood radio equipment

Forreston, IL • 815-938-2586

VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Tonja Greenfield, Publisher
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

The Ogle County Life is a division of
News Media Corporation.

Harp: God, country and Donald Trump

A portrait of Donald Trump and Jesus Christ, sitting side by side in a courtroom, has apparently made the rounds on social media. Their faces were skillfully drawn to portray a mixture of sadness and determination. It's a look you might attribute to Jesus as he faced Pontius Pilate.

The image illustrates how loyalty to the former president and to God have become one and the same for many conservative Christians. This worshipful reverence is part of a belief system, known as Christian nationalism, that will play a prominent role in a second Donald Trump administration. What that might mean for America came into focus in a survey published by the Public Religion Research Institute last February.

The survey identified supporters of Christian

nationalism based on how strongly they agreed with five statements:

"The U.S. government should declare America a Christian Nation."

"U.S. laws should be based on Christian values."

"If the U.S. moves away from our Christian foundations, we will not have a country anymore."

"Being a Christian is an important part of being truly American."

"God has called Christians to exercise dominion over all areas of American society."

Ten percent of the participants agreed strongly with those statements, and another 19 percent with them. Those responders tended to share other opinions and attitudes about hot-button conservative issues like immigration, race, Jews and Muslims.

A related belief, called

Christian Zionism, was a pillar of the former president's foreign policy. It holds that the United States and Israel have been ordained by God to help bring about Biblical prophecies of the final battle against the forces of Satan, Judgement Day, and Christ's reign on earth.

The contempt that Christian nationalists hold for compromise in politics becomes understandable when you inhabit this web of Bible-based certainties. Opposing ideas are by definition evil. You don't compromise with evil.

That's probably why they were more likely than the other participants in the survey to agree that "because things have gotten so far off track in this country, we need a leader who is willing to break some rules if that's

what it takes to set things right." And why they were more likely to express support for violence in the pursuit of political goals.

Christian nationalism would produce profound changes within America if it were in control. Its implications for foreign policy in an unstable world infested with nuclear weapons are frightening. Underlying it all is a willingness to abandon democratic practices when they don't produce a desired result.

Christian nationalism isn't popular. Most of the survey participants who had heard of it viewed it unfavorably. A large majority expressed a preference for America to be home to many faiths. A poll published by the Pew Research Center on Oct. 27, 2022 likewise found

that most participants opposed it, if they knew about it at all. Subjects in that study agreed by a wide margin that churches should stay out of politics.

Christian nationalism's power is significant nevertheless. Small, but highly-motivated groups can enjoy an influence beyond their numbers in the United States, where deeply embedded institutions favor minorities and enable them to attain positions of authority.

This is how a Christian nationalist, Michael Johnson, has risen to the powerful position of Speaker of the House of Representatives, in spite of his unpopular beliefs. Others with the same world view inhabit Congress and the rest of our government. Christian nationalism's most prominent advocate, Donald Trump, will, should he win in 2024, re-enter the White

House with a promise to enact its agenda.

He and his supporters say that the founders of our nation intended for religion to be at the core our government. Others, quoting Thomas Jefferson, insist that the First Amendment erected a wall between religion and politics.

America has in fact always been a hybrid creature, with both instincts coursing through its veins. This messy contradiction, with all its turmoil, is part of what makes America a democracy. A government-sponsored religion is not.

Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who served school districts in Ogle County. His column runs monthly in The Ogle County Life.

For previous articles, you can follow him on Facebook at <http://fb.me/lowellharp>.



Lowell Harp

Ron Kern: Christmas memories

AS I write it is Christmas Day. Mine and my family's best to you and yours for a glorious Christmas and may the Good Lord bring you bountiful blessings as we celebrate the birth of his son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I grew up in a family that celebrated Christmas in a big way. There wasn't a shelf, tabletop, hook or inch of floor space that Mom didn't decorate, mostly with handmade crafts she meticulously made. Meals on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were spent with the entire family.

Aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. At least 30, if not more enjoying the feast. Fresh ham, scalloped potatoes, butter noodles, casseroles (too many to count) and of course cookies and peanut brittle, along with a pie, or two, or three, or four; you get the picture.

For me the highlight

was my grandma's oatmeal raisin cookies. I could eat a dozen at a time. Long after she passed my aunt tried replicating her recipe over the years, but it just never quite met the muster.

And every Christmas Eve the family would gather in the living room around the tree to sing Silent Night. It was my granny's favorite Christmas tune; still is mine today.

Sometimes we would embark on midnight mass, others we would make the 5:30 a.m. mass on Christmas Day. The church nativity was set out in all its glory, evergreen fronds hung from the beams and of course plenty of poinsettias to decorate the area around the altar. And yes, it was the one time I actually sang at church. Mostly because everyone else sang too so I had no fear they could pinpoint my off-key musings.

Those were days that

have passed me by.

Christmas for me now is spent at home with Ruth and Will, celebrating a much more quiet and less chaotic holiday. The tree is small, as there's not much room in our house for anything over three feet. A fire is usually burning in the wood stove adding warmth and atmosphere to a cold evening.

To her credit Ruth does decorate around the house, much like my mother used to do, only a little less of it. Our Christmas feast usually migrates towards Italian cuisine like lasagna, manicotti or stuffed shells. A few Christmas cookies cover platters in the kitchen, and I might add Ruth is a mighty fine baker. I just wish I could get her to attempt those oatmeal cookies I crave.

And of course, since there are just a few of us the gifts around the tree

rarely achieve heights greater than two to a pile.

This is the full circle of Christmas my life has taken me to date. Regardless of where I was at any time within that circle I always remember – It's Christmas; and is there any other time like it. So...enjoy!

Peace on Earth

Twice the night before Christmas and Santa's wreck... How to live in a world that's politically correct? His workers no longer would answer to "Elves", "Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves. And labor conditions at the North Pole, were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety, released to the wilds, by the Humane Society. The runners had



Ron Kern

Union workers make the holiday happen

WITH every holiday party we attend, every last-minute package we receive, every holiday moment made a little more special with our friends and family – chances are, we have union workers to thank for helping make it happen.

In Chicago, Unite Here Local 1 bartenders go home in the early-morning hours when our fun has long ended. SEIU janitors spend late-night hours cleaning up the office after we have celebrated heartily.

SEIU doormen staff our residential and office buildings, and Operating Engineers 399 members maintain them to keep everyone safe. There are no days off or holidays for

them. And safety is always a concern, as evidenced by a troubling uptick in assaults and robberies.

When we need to grab that last-minute food tray or drinks for our latest gathering, dedicated people like Kim Stewart of the United Food and Commercial Workers are working at Jewel-Osco in Melrose Park.

For the Thanksgiving rush, Kim began her days at 5 a.m. to commute to the store nearly an hour away. The computer system crashed, but she and her team didn't panic as calls and customers rushed in. She spent her day fulfilling orders, answering customer questions, and

trying to put a smile on someone's face. "We live in an age where people are glued to their screens and smart devices," she says. "Human interaction is becoming an anomaly, and I enjoy helping people remember the joy of interacting with one another and building relationships."

She considers herself lucky to be able to spend the holidays with her family, and thanks her union for stepping up when she was terminated for taking an extended maternity leave. She was later reinstated.

Just about everywhere we turn this time of year, we can see the positive impact of union workers

like Kim Stewart. Live entertainment workers and performers are putting on our holiday favorites like "The Nutcracker." Firefighters, paramedics, EMTs and other paramedics are on the streets keeping our homes and families safe. The union protects them so they can protect us.

Aviation workers such as flight attendants and mechanics keep our flights running safely and get us where we need to be. Transit workers keep trains and buses running at all hours. Grocery, retail, hotel and restaurant workers keep the shelves stocked, our plates full, and make sure our heads have comfort-

able beds – even when stress is high and they are busier than usual.

Delivery drivers and postal workers deserve an extra special mention because of the determination they show to get our gifts

to our loved ones, no matter how close we cut it to the special days.

Brighter, better holidays and special moments are possible because union representation makes it happen. Collective bargaining agreements, state law and even the Illinois Constitution provide workers' rights to earn a good living wage, receive overtime and holiday pay and paid leave, especially

timely as we get ready for

the new Paid Leave for All law to take effect on Jan. 1. Unions help workers fight back at unfair working conditions and untimely closures – and to stand up for the right to better serve all of us.

As we enjoy each other's fellowship and say thanks for all that we have, please take a minute to think about all our union siblings who are selflessly working extra hard during these holidays to make it more special for us. A quick thank you to these union workers goes a long way to show them we recognize the extra magic they help provide each holiday season.

Tim Drea is president and Pat Devaney is secretary-treasurer of Illinois AFL-CIO in Springfield.



Tim Drea



Pat Devaney

Ogle County Life — Letters to the Editor Policy

Concise letters are most likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of management.

All letters must be signed or they will not be considered for publication. During election times, no letters written by the candidates endorsing themselves will be considered for publication. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. Writers are urged to use discretion and refrain from sarcasm or personal attacks. Criticism of individuals or organizations that is not broached tactfully will jeopardize the publication of a letter. Letters will be published in the order that they are received, unless there is a time factor involved, space permitting.

VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Tonja Greenfield, Publisher
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

The Ogle County Life is a division of
News Media Corporation.

Don't let FISA provision expire; reform it

IN the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, gaps were identified in the law that explained how the federal government failed to recognize threats to the U.S. homeland posed by foreign terrorists overseas.

In 2008, Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act was enacted into law to address these gaps, and it authorizes the federal government to acquire foreign intelligence information of non-U.S. citizens who are reasonably believed to be outside the U.S.

Since 2008, Section 702 has become an essential tool to collect intelligence about our foreign adversaries' plans to harm Americans and allow the U.S. government to rapidly act on that intelligence to disrupt attempts to attack the homeland or our citizens.

As a former assistant U.S. attorney and chief terrorism prosecutor in Las Vegas, I've witnessed the impact of Section 702 firsthand. From protecting U.S.

diplomats and military personnel from attacks overseas to thwarting foreign terrorist plots to attack our homeland, Section 702 has produced immeasurable results to safeguard American lives.

Beyond just terrorism, Section 702 has allowed the government to collect intelligence about other malign plots from our foreign adversaries.

For example, Section 702 facilitates the collection of actionable intelligence to disrupt malicious hackers from Russia and Iran who target critical U.S. infrastructure, such as hospitals and power companies.

Section 702 facilitates the collection of actionable intelligence to disrupt drug traffickers from smuggling chemicals from China to create and traffic illicit fentanyl and methamphetamine across the southern border.

But unfortunately, this tool, which has done so much to protect Americans, has also been abused by those who

swore to support and defend their fellow citizens. In particular, the FBI has neglected to treat Section 702 authority with the respect it deserves.

Among other abuses, the FBI abused Section 702 authority by conducting searches, or "queries," of its database for information about U.S. citizens without a legitimate reason. I've witnessed this firsthand, as I believe I was the subject of an improper query by the FBI as a sitting member of Congress, and I confronted the FBI director about it earlier this year.

While at times the FBI may have legitimate reasons, the bureau has for far too long abused its discretion and queried for information about American citizens with impunity and for illegitimate purposes outside the scope of the law. We cannot allow this to continue.

While some in Congress would say we should let Section 702

lapse at the end of the year because of these repeated abuses, I don't believe this is a logical or productive solution to the problems that have festered at the FBI.

Over the last year, my colleagues on the House Intelligence Committee and I have committed to the difficult task of developing substantial and meaningful reforms to Section 702. We have sought the input of former Trump administration officials and other national security experts who have experience with both the benefits and abuses of Section 702.

The result of our hard work is a package of legislative reforms to FISA that would safeguard the privacy and civil rights of Americans without taking away Section 702's effectiveness in protecting Americans against terror threats.

Our FISA reform package reduces the number of FBI agents who can authorize a FISA query on a

U.S. person by more than 90%. This means fewer FISA queries involving Americans and ensures that those queries that are approved are within the bounds of the law.

The FISA reform package goes beyond Section 702 to create enhanced criminal penalties for those who violate FISA, leak FISA applications or lie to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, give the court the authority to hold individuals in contempt, and prohibit using news reports or political opposition research as a basis of a FISA surveillance order.

These necessary reforms will help prevent a future abuse of the FISA authority like we saw when it was weaponized against Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and Trump aide Carter Page.

Finally, the FISA reform package opens the FISA court to more thorough and transparent oversight by assigning court-appointed counsel to scrutinize surveillance applications with

American subjects, preventing prosecutors from shopping for FISA court judges, and requiring that hearings be transcribed and the transcripts made available to Congress.

These are just a few of dozens of meaningful reforms to FISA I have authored with my colleagues.

Americans deserve protection from both governmental overreach and security and terrorism threats. Section 702 must be reauthorized to protect us, but it must also be reformed to protect us from political overreach and privacy violations. This FISA reform package will do just that.

Congressman Darin LaHood proudly serves the constituents of Illinois' 16th Congressional District, consisting of more than 725,000 constituents across 21 counties throughout central and northwestern Illinois. Darin was born and raised in Central Illinois and currently resides in the Peoria area with his wife, Kristen, and their three children.



Darin LaHood

Chesney: My legislative resolutions for 2024

CHRISTMAS is right around the corner, and once the hectic pace of the holidays subsides, Illinoisans will reflect and also look forward with hope as they make resolutions for the new year. Everyone's slate is clean on January 1. New stories can be written based on decisions people make each day.

If you could place Illinois on a better path, what changes would you resolve to make?

I dream of an Illinois where people can afford to support their families without the continuous worry of higher taxes, and of an Illinois where families can make their own decisions about where their children should attend school.

I also dream of a safer Illinois, where criminals are held to account, and of a state where government takes care of its own

before catering to those in this country illegally.

I have great hope for our state. Here are my legislative resolutions for 2024:

Lower Taxes
The U.S. Census data is clear. People are leaving Illinois in droves. The outmigration comes from business owners that are taking their businesses and jobs to other states, and from families that have had enough of their state government continually raising taxes.

State government cannot and should not be everything to everyone. When a legitimate need arises, why is the solution always new taxes rather than a reordering of spending priorities? In 2024, I resolve to push for a comprehensive audit of spending, so lawmakers can ensure taxpayer resources are being channeled only toward essential services

for vulnerable citizen populations, including seniors, veterans, and those living with disabilities.

Expanding School Choice Opportunities
Simply put, a child's opportunities for educational success should not be determined by their zip code. Parents deserve choices if their child's school is not meeting their needs, and if they cannot afford private school tuition, programs should be available to help lift these kids out of schools that are failing them.

The Invest In Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program was an immensely successful program that did just that. Through private donations that did not impact the state's education budget, low-income families were able

to apply for full-tuition scholarships that allowed their kids to enter a learning environment that addressed their needs and helped them thrive. Sadly, Democrats killed that program this year. I resolve to continue working in 2024 for the reinstatement of Invest in Kids as a permanent tax credit scholarship program.

Reinstitute a Cash Bail System
In 2023, Illinois became the first state in the nation to completely eliminate cash bail. We are already seeing the negative consequences of this policy, as those who should remain behind bars pending trial no longer meet the criteria for pre-trial detention. This turnstile brand of criminal justice emboldens criminals because they know that more

likely than not, they'll be back on the streets within a few hours if they get caught committing a crime. In 2024, I resolve to continue advocating for a criminal justice system that prioritizes crime victims and Illinois families over criminals, and truly holds criminals accountable for their actions.

Ban Health Care for Illegal Immigrants
Low-income Illinois citizens who require assistance from their government should not have to accept sub-par health care while hundreds of millions in taxpayer funds are being channeled toward programs for illegal immigrants. Illinois' program that provides free health care for illegal aliens has exceeded cost estimates at every turn, and could cost \$1 billion this fiscal year. We must stop prioritizing non-citizens

over those who live here lawfully. I resolve to be a fierce voice in 2024 when it comes to budgeting money for essential services, so budget dollars are channeled first and foremost to qualifying citizens who rely on state government for essential services.

These wishes are achievable, but they begin with every legislator taking a good, hard look in the mirror. Lawmakers must decide if their job is to improve the lives of the residents that elected them, or simply to enrich themselves.

I am ready to go to work on these and other initiatives that will change Illinois' trajectory and will work with any lawmaker, Republican or Democrat, who has a similar list of resolutions for the new year.

Andrew Chesney is the Illinois State Senator for the 45th District.



Andrew Chesney

Ron Kern: Turning to winter, and training

IT reaches to the fence, It wraps it, rail by rail, Till it is lost in fleeces; It flings a crystal veil On stump and stack and stem, — The summer's empty room, Acres of seams where harvests were, Recordless, but for them...

-Emily Dickinson
As I gaze across the countryside, I see the fields barren from harvest to be renewed in vigorous growth next spring. But spring will have to be a distant thought now that the cold winds of winter fall upon us.

As a kid I enjoyed winter. Building snow forts, snowball fights with friends and family, making snow angels, hunting and yes, even helping my dad shovel snow. As I've grown older every time I look at the snow shovel I begin to curse.

I never really took up the passion for winter activities like my brother-in-law, John. His docket this time of year includes ice fishing, downhill skiing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and about any other thing you can do in the snow. Me, my winter activity twixt shoveling and splitting wood is sitting in front of a warm fire, drink in hand and falling asleep in my easy chair.

So regardless of which path to take, his or mine, choose wisely.

CLMT
The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), along with the University of Illinois Extension, is hosting the Certified Livestock Manager Training (CLMT). There will be two training options this year: eight in-person workshops and an online training, which will provide Illinois livestock producers

the manure management training they need to meet the requirements of the state's Livestock Management Facilities Act.

To attend an in-person workshop, registration is required at go.illinois.edu/CLMT. Registration will open Dec. 1, 2023, and class size is limited in some locations. Cost for the training is \$70.

The 2024 workshop dates and locations in our area are:

Jan. 30, Bank of Springfield Center, Springfield

Jan. 31, Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau Building, Monmouth

Feb. 1, Grundy County Farm Bureau Building, Morris

Feb. 2, Stephenson County Farm Bureau Building, Freeport

Workshops will all begin at 9 a.m. and will last

3.5 hours. The training manual used will be the "Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship Curriculum." It is available at go.illinois.edu/manual. After the workshop, those with over 1,000 Animal Units (AU) will be required to take a paper exam.

Producers also have the option of taking online training that consists of nine modules of 10-20-minute videos that can be viewed at an individual's own pace via an online learning platform, Moodle. The online training can be accessed through the CLMT webpage at go.illinois.edu/CLMT. Producers who prefer to complete the online training will have access to enrichment content (optional videos) for three months.

Those who have more

than 1,000 animal units may take the exam online and will remain available all year around. Multiple attempts on the online exam are allowed. Producers with less than 1,000 AUs will work through the lessons only. Having more than 1,000 AU requires completing the lessons and passing the online exam.

Exams will be offered in both English and Spanish, for both the in-person and online options. The certification for the 2024 season will be 50 questions on both the paper-based and online exams. An individual must answer 70% of the questions correctly to pass.

The Livestock Management Facilities Act of 1997 requires:

Facilities with 300 or more animal units to have at least one employee certified in proper manure handling procedures.

Facilities with 300 to 999 animal units, the employee either must complete online CLM training or workshop or pass the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Certified Livestock Manager online exam. The employee of facilities with more than 1,000 or more units must complete one of the training options and pass the Certified Livestock Manager online exam to achieve certification.

Any questions relating to the Certified Livestock Manager Training program can be directed to the University of Illinois Extension at (815) 235-4125 or by emailing Stanley Solomon at jssolomon@illinois.edu.

"Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart." -Washington Irving

Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.



Ron Kern

LOCAL NEWS

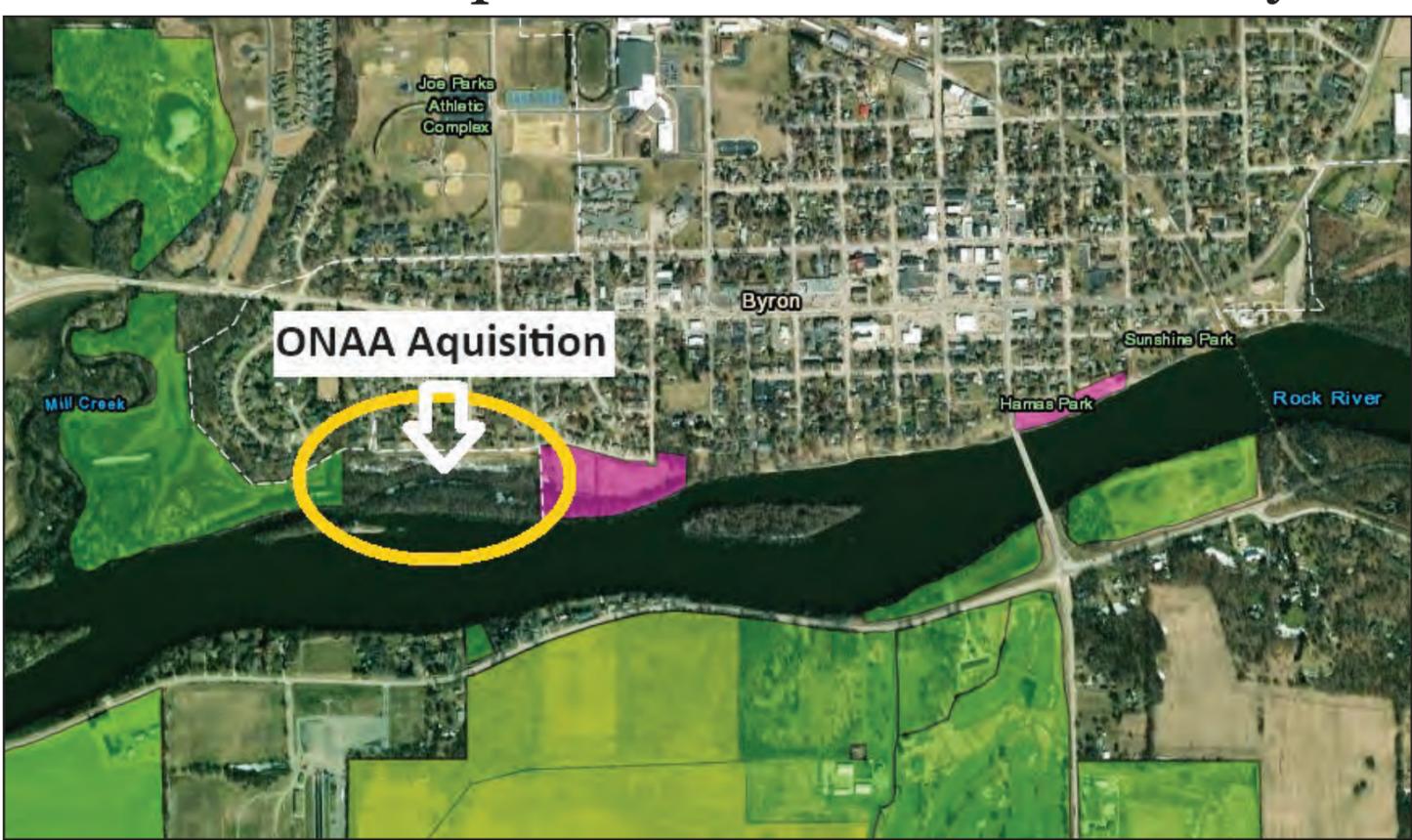
ONAA: Parcel of land acquired near Rock River in Byron

From page 1

This strategic addition not only expands the footprint of protected natural areas but also fosters the creation of a contiguous and accessible space for the public to enjoy. This includes up to three miles of hiking trails and nearly one mile of Rock River front protection.

“The Ogle Natural Areas Alliance is thrilled to announce the successful acquisition of this 14-acre parcel along the Rock River,” Trevor Hogan, president at ONAA, said. “This accomplishment underscores our dedication to preserving the beauty and biodiversity of our natural landscapes while providing the community with expanded opportunities for recreation and environmental education.”

The grant funding, which covered 80 percent of the acquisition cost, was secured through a collaborative effort between ONAA and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. This partnership exemplifies the importance of public and private entities working together to achieve shared environmental goals and ensure the longevity of our natural heritage.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The grant funding, which covered 80 percent of the acquisition cost, was secured through a collaborative effort between ONAA and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. This partnership exemplifies the importance of public and private entities working together to achieve shared environmental goals and ensure the longevity of our natural heritage.

The newly-acquired parcel will contribute to the overall health and resilience of the local ecosystem, providing habitats for native flora and fauna, and supporting the broader goals of sustainable land management. Additionally,

the connectivity it establishes between existing public land parcels will create a seamless and inviting environment for residents and visitors alike.

As we celebrate this achievement, the Ogle Natural Areas Alliance extends

its gratitude to all partners, stakeholders, and community members who have contributed to the success of this project. This collaboration exemplifies the power of collective action in safeguarding our natural treasures for generations to

come. The Ogle Natural Areas Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and conservation of natural areas in Ogle County. Through strategic partnerships, community engagement, and sound en-

vironmental stewardship, ONAA works to ensure the protection and enhancement of our region's diverse ecosystems for current and future generations.

Learn more at www.oglenaturalareasalliance.org

Waste management department 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 online, 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 Forreston. 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, Forreston, 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 Forreston 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.

Please contact the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020, go to www.oglecounty.org, via email at solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov, or visit on Facebook for options and ideas for recycling, waste-reduction, composting, household hazardous waste, scrap metal and appliances, electronics, prescription drug take-backs, and much more.

Antiques & Collectibles

Belvidere Collectible Coins
www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com
 We Pay Highest Prices For Gold, Silver, Platinum, Jewelry, Coins, Flatware, Dental & Bullion
10% More For Jewelry With This Ad!
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-5:00pm • Sat. 10:30am-2pm
 ~ Call For Directions ~ (815) 547-7111
 880 Belvidere Road • Belvidere, IL

THIS & THAT Collectibles
 NOW in our new location!
 520 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL
 815.909.1069
 Open 7 days a week
 Antiques, MCM, Primitives & Vintage
 Dixie Belle Paint Company Elite Retailer
 Redesign with Prima Retailer

SYCAMORE ANTIQUES
 JAMES AND ANN TUCKER, PROPRIETORS
 321 WEST STATE STREET
 SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS
 OPEN
 WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
 10:00 AM TO 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM FRIDAY
 815-895-4720

Be included in the Antiques & Collectibles spotlight!

Call:
Andrew Heiserman 815-561-2123
Christel Ackland 815-561-2153
Chris Grimm 815-561-2125

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE: County Board approves new zoning board fee schedule

From page 1
The board voted 22-2 on Tuesday in favor of the new wind siting and operation ordinance, and 19-5 in favor of the new solar siting and operating ordinance.

For commercial heavy/corporate, the fee is now three percent on the commercial value of the project (capped at \$150,000 maximum fee per project). Commercial heavy/corporate is defined as "new major corporate business exceeding \$4 million in commercial value with large traffic/large volume impacts for the county."

For the commercial medium category, no changes were made. The fee is .5 percent on the commercial value of a project. Commercial medium is defined as "county local or existing county business exceeding \$2 million in commercial value with medium-scale traffic/volume impacts for the county."

For the commercial light category, no changes were made. The minimum fee is \$500 or .25 percent on everything over \$200,000 in commercial value. Commercial light is defined as "Ogle County resident and small commercial or local business and less than \$2 million in commercial value." Board Vice Chairwoman Pat Nordman (R, District 2, Oregon) said the smaller two categories did



At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board approved a new fee schedule for its planning and zoning department by a vote of 17-7 during the meeting. (PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

not change due to them encompassing the bulk of the businesses in the county. "I feel that this is in the best interest of the majority of the people in the county to have something in writing so the cost doesn't get passed

along," Board Member John "Skip" Kenney (R, District 4, Rochelle) said.

ARPA

The board unanimously approved the use of federal American Rescue Plan Act Funds for three uses: Training for its zoning

department (\$250), three years of maintenance expenses for its buildings & grounds department (\$40,398) and parking lot work (\$1,039).

Road & bridge

The board approved road & bridge appropri-

ations for the coming year including \$1.707 million in motor fuel tax funds for county roadway maintenance and \$74,841 of motor fuel tax funds for its half of the county engineer's salary. The other half will be paid with federal funds.

Waste management department's tree recycling program set

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will once again partner with units of local government and certain high school Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters to conduct the annual Christmas tree collection and recycling program. Since the program began in 1999, there have

been over 16,550 trees collected, with trees averaging around 50 pounds each, that equates to approximately 414 tons of trees which were all turned into usable mulch. Starting on Dec. 26, the cities and villages that will have drop-off points include: Oregon: Park District Maintenance Dept., 507

Hill St. Byron: Byron boat launch lot, East Blackhawk Drive (Illinois Route 2) Forrester: 407 N. Locust St. Leaf River: 208 Railroad St. Rochelle: Atwood Park, 10th Avenue and 20th Street. Monroe Center: Lichty's Landscaping,

309 Pacific St. Polo: Southwest corner of East Colden Street and South Green Avenue. On Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, local FFA chapters will provide curbside pick-up for trees. Remove all decorations, lights, plastic bags and place your tree at your curb by 8 a.m. This pick-up service will be offered in Byron, For-

reston, Leaf River, Mount Morris, Oregon and Polo. For Rochelle residents, the Rochelle Street Department will mulch trees at the curb during the first two weeks of January, weather permitting. All trees should be free of light strands, garland and other decorations, no wreaths or other designs with wire backings, no

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

Happy New Year SAVINGS

Frozen, Wild Caught LOBSTER TAILS
5-6 oz
10.99 ea

PITAITR WITH OUR BEEF TENDERLOIN FOR SURF N TURF!

Certified Angus Beef® brand BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN FILET 6 oz
9.99 ea

Prices Effective: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 thru Tuesday, January 2, 2024
ALL ITEMS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO RAIN CHECKS | NO RETURNS | NO EXCHANGES
ALL STORES CLOSE AT 7PM NEW YEAR'S EVE AND 6 PM ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

Frito-Lay LAY'S POTATO CHIPS
Select Varieties 5-8 oz
2/\$5

Nabisco OREO
Select Varieties 7.5-14.3 oz
3.99

Hickory Biskit
Original
3.99

Cake of the Week
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION LAYER CAKE
White or Chocolate 8 inch round
7.99

Idaho POTATOES
5 lb bag
1.99

BABY CARROTS
1 lb
99¢

Bellatoria ULTRA THIN PIZZA
Select Varieties 12.76-21.71 oz
2/\$8

SEAFOOD SALE



Stop By These Businesses and see why they were

VOTED #1 in Ogle County!

VOTED BEST

AUTO DETAILING & CAR DETAILER

A1 HOT BODY DETAILING

Voted Best 3 years in a row!

Affordable prices for all your detailing needs!

Open Monday-Friday 6:30am to 4:00pm

401 2nd Ave, Rochelle 815-562-6393

Cleaning ~ Detailing Waxing ~ Ceramic Coating

FOLLOW US ON **FACEBOOK**

VOTED BEST

HVAC COMPANY & PLUMBING COMPANY

ANDERSON PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

LENNOX
HOME COMFORT SYSTEMS
Innovation never felt so good.™

815.562.8784
email: aphc621@yahoo.com

621 1st Ave. • Rochelle, IL 61068

Lic. No. 058-08789-1

VOTED BEST

TAX SERVICES & TAX PROFESSIONAL

Brown's Tax Service
Carolyn Brown

Our combined 50+ years of service means great service for you. Make an appointment today for Tax Preparation, Payroll and/or Book-keeping Services!

361 IL Route 38 | Rochelle, IL 815-440-1224 | 815-561-6861 | carolyn@brownstaxoffice.com

VOTED BEST

CARPET CLEANING

ChemDry
Drier. Cleaner. Healthier.™

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
209 Powers Road
Rochelle, IL 61068
815-762-7555
cdkishwaukee.com

VOTED BEST

INSURANCE OFFICE & INSURANCE PROFESSIONAL

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | HEALTH
COMMERCIAL | INVESTMENTS
BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

countryfinancial.com/joshmessenger
josh.messenger@countryfinancial.com

Josh Messenger
Helping You Protect What Matters Most

501 N 6th St., Rochelle, IL • (815) 562-8164

VOTED BEST

FAMILY PRACTICE & DOCTOR

Davis Family Health LLC

Kelly Ann Tonielli Davis
DNP, APRN, FNP-BC-CME

Veteran Owned and Operated
Most insurances accepted

We Fix Boo Boos

1212 Currency Court, Rochelle, IL • 815-561-8500
1201 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL • 815-538-1800

Primary Care, Physicals, Weight Loss, Dermal Fillers, Botox Injections, Suboxone Program

VOTED BEST

FURNITURE STORE, FLOORING STORE & SALES PEOPLE

MEYERS FURNITURE & FLOORING

M-F 9-5 • Sat 10-5 • Sun Closed

209 Powers Road, Hwy 251 N
Rochelle, IL
meyersfurniture.com
(815) 562-8792

VOTED BEST

BANK, FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES, MORTGAGE LENDING SERVICES & CUSTOMER SERVICE PEOPLE

Stillman BANK

2023 BEST OF OGLE COUNTY

- Best Bank
- Best Financial Planning Services
- Best Mortgage Lending Services
- Best Customer Service

Thank You!

Member FDIC www.stillmanbank.com



LOCAL

Support LOCAL Business



ISAC congratulates 11 SVHS students as Illinois State Scholars

STILLMAN VALLEY – Stillman Valley High School Principal Leslie Showers recently announced that 11 students from the SVHS graduating class of 2024 have been designated as Illinois State Scholars.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the state's college access and financial aid agency, presents this important recognition of academic achievement to exceptional Illinois high school students annually.

The following students were named 2024-25 Illinois State Scholars: Anna Bradle, KJ Chavers, Charlie Drake, Braden Engel, Parker Gensler, Ada Haner, Haley Jones, Joshua Reisinger, Holland Reynolds, Jacob Rhodes, and Braden Rogers.

The State Scholar Program publicly and personally identifies graduating high school seniors who possess superior academic potential. Students from nearly every high school in Illinois compete in the program. State Scholars can be found on the campuses of nearly 200 public and private institutions of higher education in Illinois. The combination of

students' exemplary college entrance examination scores and record high school achievement indicate an especially high potential for success in college. To be named an Illinois State Scholar is an outstanding accomplishment that will be a highlight of the recipient's academic record.

The Illinois State Scholar program is awarded to high school seniors based on ACT or SAT test scores and the sixth semester* class size and unweighted average rank and Grade Point Average (GPA).

ISAC gathers student data during one academic year that is used in making student awards for the following academic year (e.g., data gathered during the current academic year is used in making awards for the following academic year). Test scores are gathered from the testing companies for the ACT and SAT exams taken during the student's third and fourth semester prior to graduation.

ISAC supports high schools and students statewide, offering free assistance with college and career exploration, and in completing financial aid



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Stillman Valley High School Principal Leslie Showers recently announced that 11 students from the SVHS graduating class of 2024 have been designated as Illinois State Scholars.

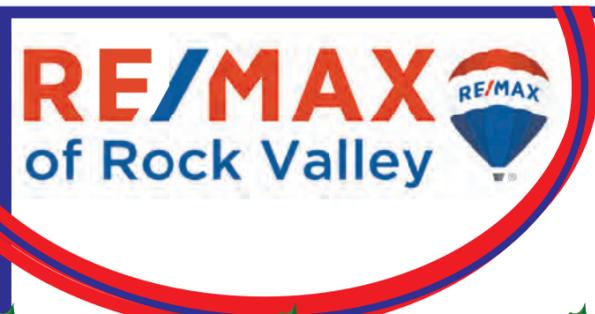
forms and college applications. Local ISAC Corps members, who are recent college graduates expertly trained to serve as near-peer

mentors to assist high school students and their families in navigating education after high school and the financial aid process, offer

free in-person and virtual workshops, as well as direct one-on-one assistance in communities statewide.

"It is an honor to recog-

nize such an outstanding group of high performing scholars; we are so proud of their academic success," Showers said.



From all of us at
ReMax of Rock Valley!

<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>209 Hudson Drive Rock Falls \$79,900 Call Mark Looking for Super AFFORDABLE living close to Shopping and Move in Ready?! This 3 bedroom, 2 full bath, 1.5 story Rock Falls home is available now! Kitchen has double stainless steel sink, newer counter tops, beautiful tile flooring & oak cabinets. 1 year old (refrigerator), dishwasher & stove will stay. Separate dining area close by. Huge master bedroom with possibility of very large attached walk in closet! 1st floor laundry will make life a breeze! Washer & dryer will stay. Fresh paint throughout, newer doors, new carpet in upper bedroom, new wiring in nearly entire house. Lower level bedroom has new carpeting and its own full bath! Gas forced furnace & central air. Small deck, garden shed and cement patio off the back. Fenced yard for the critters and much more! Being sold "As Is".</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>332 S Canal Drive Dixon \$75,000 Call Stephanie Make this 3 bedroom, 1 bath ranch yours today. Home sits on a lot with approximately 70 feet of river frontage. So much potential, being sold AS IS (Estate).</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>216 Smith Drive Oregon \$28,000 Call Lori This lot is just what you want if you are looking for; views and potential for walk out basement. Highest lot in the subdivision with views of the cupola of the Ogle County Courthouse. More than 3/4 of an acre site with city water and city sewer already stubbed into the property. Low traffic location has it all.</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>400 N 6th Street Oregon \$179,900 Call Carla New Listing in the North end of Oregon! This sweet offering on North 6th Street in Oregon offers small town living located on a corner lot! Three Bedrooms, 1.5 baths. All gorgeous natural woodwork throughout will steal your heart's desire!! Beautiful open staircase to upper level, Pocket doors between the living room and formal dining room captivate the old world word charm on yesteryear! All three bedrooms are on the upper level with a full bath. The main floor laundry with a half bathroom is just off of the kitchen that offers loads of this eat-in kitchen cabinets and counter space with all of the appliances staying!! The enclosed screened in front porch is ideal for summertime afternoons. New roof 2023! The detached 2 car garage offers ample storage. Don't delay, call today on this awesome family home in Oregon!</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>2497 Lorraine Lane Rockford \$139,000 Call Mark New Listing in Rochelle! Located in the heart of Rochelle...you'll fall in love w this adorable 2-3 bedroom bungalow. This spacious home offers formal dining room, large living room with brick fireplace. 2 bedrooms on the main level w additional 2 rooms in the upper level for bedroom or office. Loads of kitchen cabinets with ample counter space. All appliances stay. Central air, large backyard w 2+car detached garage with privacy fenced yard. Conveniently located close to schools and downtown shopping.</p>	<p>NEW PRICE</p> <p>312 N 12th Street Rochelle NOW \$143,000 Call Carla New Listing in Rochelle! Located in the heart of Rochelle...you'll fall in love w this adorable 2-3 bedroom bungalow. This spacious home offers formal dining room, large living room with brick fireplace. 2 bedrooms on the main level w additional 2 rooms in the upper level for bedroom or office. Loads of kitchen cabinets with ample counter space. All appliances stay. Central air, large backyard w 2+car detached garage with privacy fenced yard. Conveniently located close to schools and downtown shopping.</p>
<p>1204 Fargo Avenue Dixon \$77,500 Call Ashley REMODELED and READY!!! Come take a look at this 2 bedroom and 1 bath home! Several modern updates have been completed so you can move right in. Take joy in the desirable main floor living. This home is sun filled with new windows and an abundance of beautifully placed lighting. Ease your mind with a new roof, water heater, electrical, drywall, cabinets, flooring, bathroom, light fixtures, plumbing drains, and R-15 insulation. Plumbing to the street was replaced in 2022. All appliances stay. Perks of owning a smaller home include less area to heat/cool, clean, and maintain. You'll definitely want to entertain your family and friends here! Seller will offer specified credit amount at closing if buyer wants the option to choose their preference of kitchen countertops, cabinet hardware, and sink.</p>	<p>409 W Brayton Road Mount Morris \$250,000 Call Lori Masonry church building, very well maintained, with 22,780 square feet more or less available for purchase. 3 level building with the main level at street grade at the front, the lower level at street grade to the rear. Full kitchen in the lower level plus a large room 40 by 74 with additional stage area. Bathrooms on each level. Functional building with large spaces including an 84 x 40 sanctuary and typical classroom and office size spaces. Metal roof and modernized, zoned hot water heating system. Multiple stairways between levels. The building's layout will accommodate multiple uses and users.</p>	<p>118 Main Street Leaf River \$75,000 Call Boone Introducing the perfect opportunity to own a prime 1600 sq ft commercial property in the heart of downtown Leaf River. Located at 118 Main St, this timeless brick building offers an ideal location for any business looking to establish its presence in this bustling community. With a spacious frontage, large windows that allow for natural light to flood in, attached 2 car garage, and a highly visible location right on Main St, this property provides excellent exposure and endless potential. The interior offers plenty of versatile space to customize to your specific needs, with high ceilings, and an open floor plan providing plenty of room for creative modifications. This building is zoned for commercial use, making it an excellent option for a wide range of businesses such as offices, retail shops, cafes, and much more. Join the ranks of entrepreneurs in this thriving small town that's strategically located just 20 minutes from Rockford and 1 hour from Chicago. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to own a commercial property in an unbeatable location. Book your showing today!</p>	<p>310 E Center Street Street Mount Morris \$129,900 Call Carla New Listing in Mt Morris! This is a perfect starter or retirement home conveniently located close to downtown Mt Morris! 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, Large living room plus eat in kitchen. All kitchen appliances and washer and dryer stay. Second kitchen in the basement. The beauty of this home is it is all main floor living!! New central air conditioning plus much more! Oversized one car garage. Deck is off the back of the house overlooking the nice sized backyard.</p>	<p>7701 Highlands Drive Winnebago \$24,900 Call Becky Beautiful 1/2 acre lot in this country subdivision with a rural setting! Winnebago schools yet minutes to Bypass 20 exit to Rockford. Close to Severson Dells Forest Preserve. Partial Out lot (green space) behind this property that can't be built on. Build your dream home now or later, building packages available if interested. Well and city sewer required. Agent owned.</p>	<p>702 S 4th Street Oregon \$150,000 Call Rebecca MOVE RIGHT IN! 2+ bedroom, 2.5 bathroom home located near downtown Oregon. Home boasts 2 master suites-one on the main floor and one up stairs. Main floor has updated kitchen, spacious living room and large mudroom that is also where you can find the laundry area. All bathrooms have been updated with stunning tile and modern vanities. Tile showers in both master suites. Detached two car garage with fully fenced yard. The following updates have also been done: gutters 2023, roof 2023, furnace 2020, hot water heater 2023, fresh paint throughout, new carpet and some replaced windows. Call for your showing today!</p>

 Rebecca Hazard 815-509-8432	 Carla Benesh 815-985-6235	 Mark True 815-631-1699	 Lori Peterson 815-973-2180	 JD Gieson 815-677-1873	 Boone Lockard 815-970-3506	 Carrie Rowland 815-677-8656	 Jenny Kirchner 815-440-2145	 Josie Kuss 815-994-1079	
 Taylor Miller 815-731-8943	 Merri Cruz 815-731-7947	 Casey Cline 217-840-8855	 Jamie Pendergrass 815-243-4310	 Ashley Peterson 815-291-6388	 Erin Spence 815-985-5555	 Stephanie Wendt 815-985-2055	 Jenn Goley 630-732-6838	 Becky Adams 815-509-5837	 Kierra Moore 815-238-3902

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

RockValleyProperties.com
Each office is independently owned & operated.

WINTER SURVIVAL

How to prepare your car for winter

SUMMER and fall can stake their claim as road trip season, and even devoted drivers may admit that winter is generally a less desirable time to take to the open road. The elements factor heavily into that reputation, as fewer hours of daylight, snow and ice are just some of the variables that can make it less enjoyable, and potentially more dangerous, to drive in winter.

In anticipation of adverse driving conditions, vehicle owners can take various steps to prepare their cars and trucks for winter.

- Upgrade your wiper blades. Perhaps nothing is compromised more than visibility when driving in winter compared to other times of year. Snow makes it hard to see when driving, but fewer hours of daylight also can affect visibility. In fact, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that approximately half of all fatal crashes occur between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., even though the number of drivers on the road during those hours is considerably

lower than it is during the daytime. The difficulty of driving at night is even more significant when wiper blades are not up to the task of keeping rain and snow off drivers' windshields. Prior to winter, inspect wiper blades and upgrade them, if necessary. Streaks left on a windshield are a telltale sign that blades need to be replaced.

- Purchase winter tires. Winter tires may not be necessary in regions with relatively mild winters. However, drivers accustomed to winters marked by heavy snowfall and/or icy roads should consider replacing their existing tires with winter tires. Many newer vehicles are now equipped with all-season tires, which the tire experts at Bridgestone note provide great performance but are not designed to handle extreme winter conditions like snow and ice. Winter tires are specially designed to handle such conditions, making them a worthy investment for drivers who live in regions where it's not unusual to encounter snow and ice throughout the winter.



- Study up on your engine oil. Some vehicle manufacturers recommend different grades of oil depending on the range of temperatures a car or truck will be driven in. The owner's manual will likely indicate if the manufacturer recommends using a differ-

ent type of engine oil in especially cold temperatures. Even if the manual does not include such a suggestion, drivers can seek the advice of a local mechanic.

- Schedule a pre-winter tuneup. Even if a vehicle is not due for a tuneup, it can be wise to have it looked

over by a local mechanic before the arrival of harsh winter weather. A mechanic can check the radiator, hoses and other components that could be affected by especially cold weather in the months to come. If any issues are found, address them immediately. After

all, it's better to be proactive than leave yourself vulnerable to breakdowns or other issues once the mercury drops.

As fall gives way to winter, drivers can take steps to keep their cars running strong and safe in the months ahead.

Four factors to consider to maintain winter safety

MANY changes are to be expected as fall gives way to winter. Temperatures drop for much of the country, and depending on where one lives, snow, wind and ice are to be expected.

As beautiful as snow-covered landscapes can be, winter presents unique hazards, notably slippery roads and sur-

face. Chilly temperatures also can put people at risk if they spend prolonged periods outdoors unprotected.

According to the insurance company Carsurance, more than 156,000 crashes occur annually due to icy roads. Roughly 17 percent of all vehicle crashes happen in winter conditions. Winter hazards are not exclusive to

driving, however. That means winter safety involves a consideration of a host of factors.

1. Changing visibility

While slippery surfaces may contribute to some accidents, visibility can quickly change with winter weather. Blowing snow can contribute to whiteout conditions. In addition, fog can be hazardous to drivers, aviators and

mariners and contributes to thousands of travel accidents every year, advises the National Weather Service. It's important to slow down, leave plenty of distance, use your low-beam headlights, and recognize when it may be safest to pull over, such as when visibility is significantly compromised.

2. Snow removal

Shoveling snow or us-

ing a snowblower are common wintertime activities. Yet strenuous levels of activity in cold temperatures could put people at risk of heart attack, particularly if they are not acclimated to physical activity. Always warm up prior to shoveling snow to prepare the body for exercise. Go slowly and take frequent breaks. Avoid twisting and tossing snow over your shoulder, which can contribute to back injuries.

3. Carbon monoxide poisoning

Winter weather means turning up the heat or doing more indoor cooking. Carbon monoxide is produced through the burning of fuel in various forms, including stoves, engines, gas ranges, portable gen-

erators, and grills. The National Safety Council says carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can go undetected as it builds up in enclosed spaces. Never warm up the car inside of a contained garage. Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors, and have furnaces, water heaters and other fuel-burning appliances checked and serviced by a qualified technician annually. Be sure that carbon monoxide alarms are on every floor of the home, and take it seriously if the alarm goes off.

4. Black ice

Black ice is a common winter foe.

See page 3

Bundle home & auto. It's easy.
Call me for a quote today

State Farm

Terri Schaefer, Agent
Schaefer Ins and Fin Svcs Inc
603 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, IL 61068-1646
Bus: 815-562-7063
terri.schaefer.115n@statefarm.com
statefarm.com/agent/us/il/rochelle

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Full-Service Auto Repair & Maintenance

From factory-scheduled maintenance to emergency repairs and towing, we offer trusted service and great rates for unbeatable value.

Blake Automotive
3678 IL 64, Mt. Morris
815-734-7228

HANK'S REPAIR
Hank Kaiser, Owner

- General Automotive
- Tires
- Install Jasper Engines & Transmissions
- A.S.E. Certified

Car Sick?

54 Stephenson St.
German Valley
815-362-3451

Snow days are no problem with Hormel® Foods. Stock up & be prepared for the unexpected weather this winter with Hormel® Compleats® Microwaveable Meals, Hormel® Black Label® Bacon & Hormel® Deli Ham.

Hormel Foods

Rochelle Foods
1001 S. Main Street | Rochelle
815-562-4141 | rochellefoodsjobs.com

TORO.com **TORO**

New snowblowers available at...

DEKALB LAWN & EQUIPMENT COMPANY INC
219 N 7th Street, DeKalb
815-756-5722

And don't forget, winter is a good time to think about used zero turn mowers. We get a lot on trade-in around this time of year and they go quickly!

Hours: Monday - Friday 8-5, Saturday 8-12, Sunday Closed
Check for both winter and holiday hours.

WINTER SURVIVAL

Simple maintenance strategies that can keep cars running longer

THE last few years have not proven the most advantageous times for new car buyers. According to the Consumer Price Index Summary from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, buyers paid 12.2 percent more for new vehicles in January 2022 than they had in January 2021. Faced with such a significant increase in price, many drivers understandably want to keep their current cars longer than they might have initially planned.

Data released by S&P Global Mobility in early 2022 indicated that the average vehicle on the road is 12 years and two months old, which marked the highest number in the 20-plus years such information was tracked. A host of variables affect how long drivers keep their cars, but the rising cost of new vehicles has undoubtedly compelled many drivers to aspire to keep their cars for longer periods of time.

Aging cars may require a little more TLC than vehicles that are right off the dealership lot. But the following are three simple tips that can help drivers keep their cars running longer.

1. Become a more careful driver. A careful

approach when behind the wheel is safer than aggressive driving and beneficial for your vehicle. When starting, avoid revving the engine, which needlessly wears it down. When out on the road, avoid rapid accelerations, which also contributes to needless wear and tear. Even excessive idling can adversely affect the engine, so keep winter warm-ups to around 30 seconds to prevent damage to engine components.

2. Know when and how to fill up. Every driver has likely visited a filling station when an oil tanker is busily filling the tanks. That's traditionally been considered a less than ideal time to fill up, as the theory is that filling the tanks stirs up sediment that could then find its way into consumers' gas tanks, adversely affecting their vehicles. However, that's often dependent on the station itself and how much its owners prioritize maintenance of the tank and filtration systems. Drivers who trust their local station owners can likely fill up when the tankers are present without worry. In addition, avoid topping off once the nozzle clicks when filling up. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes that topping off is harmful to

the planet and the vehicle, as gasoline needs room to expand. When you top off, the extra gas may damage the vapor collection system and cause the vehicle to run less efficiently.

3. Change oil more frequently as the vehicle ages. It's true that modern vehicles no longer require oil changes for every 3,000 miles driven. However, as vehicles age, drivers and their vehicles' engines may benefit from more frequent oil changes than the owner's manual



necessarily recommends. Oil changes remove dirt and metal particles from the engine, potentially contributing to a longer life expectancy. More frequent changes can be especially beneficial for vehicles that are routinely driven in stop-and-go traffic.

Rising vehicle costs have compelled many drivers to keep their cars longer than they initially planned. Some simple strategies can help drivers achieve that goal.

8. Exercise caution with space heaters and other supplemental heating devices. Turn them off when you leave the room, and do not leave them on overnight while you are sleeping.

Eight tips for winter safety

1. Winterize your home to keep interior temperatures comfortable and prevent weather-related damage. Winterizing includes insulating water lines that run along exterior walls, cleaning out gutters, installing weather stripping, and replenishing insulation.

2. Exercise in cold temperatures can put many people at risk of heart attack—especially those who are typically inactive. If you must exercise in cold weather, remember to stretch beforehand. Take breaks when shoveling or ask for help.

3. Check carbon monoxide alarms to see if they are working properly. Every year in the United States, more than 400 people die from and 50,000 are treated for carbon monoxide poisoning. Exhaust from improperly vented heating appliances can contribute to car-

bon monoxide sickness.

4. Prepare a winter emergency kit and keep it in your car in case you are stranded in inclement weather. The kit can include food, water, blankets, first-aid supplies, flares, and booster cables, among other items.

5. Wear appropriate clothing for the temperature and precipitation. Layers can be added or removed as needed.

6. Sprinkle sand or cat litter on icy patches of walkways to improve traction. Sand or cat litter is easier on the environment than some chemical ice melt products.

7. Consider a whole-house generator as an emergency backup if the power goes out in winter. Generators can keep the heat running and the refrigerator humming along until power is

restored.

8. Exercise caution with space heaters and other supplemental heating devices. Turn them off when you leave the room, and do not leave them on overnight while you are sleeping.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

Bushman's Service

On Farm Tire Service

Milledgeville, IL

815-225-7411



DAN'S AUTO REPAIR

Complete Auto & Truck Services

Locally Owned & Operated for 30 Years

Time to get your vehicles ready for Fall & Winter!

- Minor to Major • Brakes
- Oil Change • Complete Diagnostics
- Engine/Transmission
- Domestic & Most Foreign Cars

815-734-6267

4377 E. Rt. 64

Dan Raney

Mt. Morris, IL

Owner/Operator

Happy Holidays from all of us at R&R!



815-406-8345

To say **THANK YOU** we are giving **25% off** all alignments thru the month of **January!!** *
Schedule your appointment today!!

*when you mention this ad



BARB CITY AUTOMOTIVE

Complete Automotive Repair - Foreign & Domestic

John Volkert & Bobby Leon of Rochelle - Owners

1150 S. 4th St. DeKalb

756-3898

11272023

Hub City CAR WASH

Wintertime is essential to keep a clean vehicle to voice any unwanted damage from all the salt

- New Super Bay!
- OPEN 24/7
- Touchless Car Wash
- Pet Wash
- Turbo Vac
- Rain-X repel

Now With Dryers!

VISA MasterCard FLEET Gift

1185 N 7th St., Rochelle • 815-562-2611
www.hubcitycarwash.com

12252023

Here's Our Card

Whatever you're looking for, these local businesses ask you to consider them first.

ACCOUNTING

Jeanette Heesaker, CPA
Masters in Business Administration and Finance

Certified Managerial Accountant
Accounting and Tax Services
For Business/Individual/Partnership
132 W. Second St., Suite 1 • Byron, IL 61010
(815) 234-8100

AIR CONDITIONING

HEATING AIR CONDITIONING

Carrier
Turn to the experts

GAUL'S CLIMATE CONTROL
815-734-7314

Randy Gaul 815-946-2386 604 N. Division Polo, Illinois 61046

AUTO REPAIR

Hank's Repair
Hank Kaiser-Owner
ASE Certified
P.O. Box 31
54 Stephenson St.
German Valley, IL 61039

Bus. ph. 815-362-3451 Cell ph. 815-238-5144
Fax ph. 815-362-2316

AUTO REPAIR

ILLINOIS AUTO REPAIR & TIRE SERVICE

Tony Kurzac
107 E. Washington St.
Route 64
Oregon, IL 61061
815-312-7089

Sell New & Used Tires/Rims
All Makes & Models
Cars/Truck Service

Trailer Repair
Auto Repair
Lowest Price Around

AUTO REPAIR

Lloyd's Automotive Repair LLC

Lloyd Duncan
309 N Wesley Ave
Mt Morris IL 61054
779-340-0794

CABINETS

ValleyCraft Custom Cabinet LLC

Handcrafted quality to last a lifetime

◆ Kitchen - Bath - Laundry - Office - and more!
◆ Fully Custom, From Design to Installation
◆ Free Estimates, Friendly Local Service

Contact Eric 815.973.9951
Fax 815.900.2090

Come visit our showroom
2477 E. IL Hwy 64
Oregon, IL 61061
Appointments Appreciated

CANNABIS CONSULTING

VALDIVIESO'S MEDICAL CANNABIS CONSULTING LLC

Get Real About Medical Cannabis
Christopher Valdivieso
valdiconsulting.com

To Book a Phone Consultation, Call Today!
Call: 815-973-2086 or Email: christophervaldivieso719@gmail.com

CONCRETE

NW CONCRETE INC.

Neil Wills
President / Owner
Flatwork / Foundations

815.978.6073

741 Oaks Lane
Byron, IL 61010

Free Estimates
Fully Insured

CONCRETE

Yoder Concrete Construction LLC

How can we help you?

- Patios
- Floors
- Walkways
- Driveways
- Resealing
- Decorative

Jerold Yoder
815.202.8787

FREE ESTIMATES
jerry@yoderconcrete.us

CONSTRUCTION

Mark Miller Construction
For All Your Building Needs!

Commercial/Residential Work
SERVING OGLE COUNTY FOR OVER 30 YEARS

- New Construction
- Roofing
- Windows
- Additions
- Complete Remodeling
- Siding
- Painting
- Interior/Exterior
- Drywall
- Flooring
- Decks

Free Estimates • Lead Certified

815-761-1626

CONSTRUCTION

NAVARRO & SONS Construction Company

Free Estimates ***** Sr. Citizen Discount

Ceramic Tile • Wood Floors • Painting • Siding-
Basements • Room Additions • Baths • Kitchens
Over 25 yrs. exp. Custom touch No job too big or too small

FRANK NAVARRO • OREGON / BYRON
PHONE: 815-234-7588 FAX: 815-234-7568

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FIVE ALARM FIREWORKS CO.

PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS

PHIL GIUFFRE 773-415-4277 OREGON, ILLINOIS
WWW.5ALARMFIREWORKS.COM
FESTIVALS, CONCERTS, WEDDING HOMECOMINGS, CORPORATE EVENTS

FENCING

PRAIRIE FENCE LLC

Dixon, IL
815-677-1402

Agircultural - Residential - Commercial

- Hi-tensile electric
- Vinyl fencing
- Woven wire
- Chain link
- Board rail
- Split rail
- Horse fence
- Privacy

FREE ESTIMATES!

FIREWOOD

AT'S FIREWOOD

815-751-2255

ALL HARDWOODS, SEASONED,
DELIVERED, STACKED

GARAGE DOORS

Illinois DOORMASTERS LLC

990 W Pines Rd. Oregon, IL 61061
815-440-9827
office@illinoisdoormasters.com

Servicing and Installing Garage doors

GUTTERS

A.R. Services

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES
5" & 6" Seamless Gutters

815.406.8172
arservices15@yahoo.com

GUTTER GUARDS & GUTTER CLEANING

HAIR CARE

Leaf River Kutz

122 Main Street <Leaf River II

Men, Women, Kids
HAIR CUTS 815-738-6122

HANDYMAN

C.J. HOME MAINTENANCE and REPAIR

We fix almost anything in and around the home!
20 Plus Years Experience
Regular and Emergency Service 24 Hours A Day
7 Days A Week

Phone 1-815-234-4511 Byron, Oregon,
Cell 1-815-222-6239 Mt. Morris Areas

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Insured **FREE ESTIMATES**

INTEGRITY HOME IMPROVEMENT & RENOVATION, LLC

New Construction • Complete Remodels • Additions • Windows
Doors • Sunrooms • Kitchens • Basements • Baths • Garages

Dan Houston 815.871.5748 • Craig Kosch 815.566.7424

www.integrityhomeimp.com

LAWNCARE

"Your prescription for a healthy yard!"

TURF OF ILLINOIS

Fully Licensed
Lawn Treatments
Tree & Ornamental Care
General Pest Control
Mosquito Suppression
Over 15 Years Experience

Toby Behmer
Owner/Applicator
Stillman Valley, IL
815-393-6471
toby@turfxil.com

PAINTING

WALLPAPER PAINTING STAINING

K & J DECORATING, INC.

Specializing in painting or staining kitchen cabinets or woodwork.

Insured Over 40 Years Experience

Ken NO JOB TOO SMALL! Cell (815) 353-5754
Stillman Valley, IL

PAINTING

Tennison Painting

Specializing in:
New Construction
Commercial & Residential
Interior & Exterior - Painting & Staining
Wall & Ceiling Repair - Texturing Walls & Ceilings - Insured

Ph: (815) 501-2893
Email: jimtennison@gmail.com
www.TennisonPainting.com

PET GROOMING

by **Dun Wright Grooming**

MOBILE GROOMING

- Pets Groomed at Your Home
- Less Stress on Yourself and Your Pet
- No More "Separation" Anxiety
- No More Day-Long Waits for Pets
- Cut of Your Choice (depends on coat condition)
- Specialty/Flea Baths Available
- Bath/Hand Blow-Drying/Toe Nails Clipped

Contact person: 815-440-4779 Pam Wright

STORAGE SHEDS

Rocky Ridge Structures

FREE Sales Rep. Evaluation At Your Site We Deliver! From Our Lot To Your Site

We Specialize in Portable/Quality Built Storage Sheds

- Stock & Custom Design
- Many Options Available
- Competitive Pricing
- Site Preparation Available

See Displays at 3500 S. Chana Rd. Chana IL 61015
Call Norm or Albert for Free Literature packet
779.861.3542

TREE CARE

HOOVER Horticulture

Serving Ogle County Since 1996

"Your Trees Deserve a Certified Arborist!"

- Trimming & Removals
- Climbing Specialists
- Insect & Disease Control
- Planting Service
- Arborist Consulting

Fully Licensed & Insured

732-4710

TREE SERVICE

High Top Tree Service LLC
Byron, IL

- Tree removal/trimming
- Storm damage
- Stump grinding
- Climbing specialist

Call or Text: 815-980-0678

TREE REMOVAL

PINE VIEW TREE SERVICE

Tree Trimming
Removal
Stump Grinding
Storm Clean Up

Gabriel Mack
P: 779-251-0254
F: 815-946-4372

WATER SOFTENER

SERVICE CALL SPECIAL

\$29.95 ANY BRAND

Offer Expires 4/30/20
We Service All Makes & Models. Test & check.
Over 30 Years Experience.
AFFORDABLE WATER

815-625-3426
Toll Free: 877-353-7638

WHEELS

Alloy Wheel Repair Specialists

GRANT DEVRIES
Certified Technician
Call 815-632-7777
Office: 815-632-9999
greggdevries@awrswheelrepair.com

A FULL SERVICE ALLOY WHEEL REPAIR & REPLACEMENT COMPANY

WWW.AWRSWHEELREPAIR.COM/NWILLINOIS

Wouldn't you like your business card seen by 28,500 people?

CALL 815-732-2156

LOCAL NEWS

Andy Colbert: Forecasting winter sports

THE IHSA announced winter sports assignments and there will be some tough roads to follow in northwest Illinois for boys and girls basketball.

The toughest of all will be in 1A girls basketball, with five of the top six ranked teams contending for a berth downstate. Here's the breakdown:

No. 1 Galena, who also won the state volleyball crown, should advance out of one sub-sectional. In the other sub-sectional, No. 3 Orangeville and No. 6 Aquin will likely move on, but Pecatonica is also in that group.

Only one of those schools will make it to the Brimfield super-sectional. Awaiting them will likely be either No. 4 Annawan or No. 5 Elmwood.

Finally, whoever emerges from that scrum will be among the Final

Four 1A teams headed to CEFCU Arena in Normal, site of the state championship. Last year, Okawville won 1A and is ranked No. 2 this year, with a much, much easier road to Normal.

Another tough sub-sectional is in 1A boys, with No. 2 Pecatonica, No. 5 Scales Mound and No. 13 South Beloit in the same sub-sectional. One of those highly-touted teams will be odd man out at the regional.

Scales Mound and Pec have shown the moxie it takes to win under pressure.

Other than a super talented senior class in 2002-03 and the remarkable Perry Range from the 1970s, the culture at South Beloit hasn't been conducive for athletics. Can that change come March Madness time?

The other sub-sectional has No. 10 Fulton, so

certainly a worthy representative will find their way to the super-sectional at Northern Illinois University. Scales Mound is hoping to make it three straight super-sectional wins, an accomplishment that belies its enrollment of 80.

In 2A, Byron is ranked No. 9, but has two buzz saws in the sub-sectional with Rockford Christian and Lutheran. Like the 1A boys, one of those deserving teams won't win a regional.

The Byron girls are defending state runner-ups, but aren't ranked in 2A. Stillman Valley and the Tigers appear to be the best in their sub-sectional. Unlike 1A, it isn't a particularly daunting post-season gauntlet, though No. 6 Rock Island Alleman is

in the other sub-sectional.

With some new personnel, credit to Byron for beating Stillman Valley in a much-anticipated match up last Friday.

In wrestling, it is business as usual with much of the 1A power centered around northwest Illinois. One big change is Polo bumped up to 2A because it co-ops with other schools that increases the actual enrollment.

Oregon lost several key seniors, but proved its mettle with a win at the Stillman Valley Tournament last week.

This is a program on the rise with some promising young kids coming up through the ranks.

How about the performance by Gavvin Surmo of Oregon at the LaSalle-Peru bowling invite? Not only did the Hawk

junior bowl a 300 game, but was the individual champ.

Under long-time coach Al Nordman, the Hawks are once again proving to be one of the elite among small schools in Illinois. They are ranked 17th in the state in a one-class system, with most of the schools above them much larger.

At L-P, Oregon also claimed the team title with a nearly 300-pin advantage over rival Dixon. With 20 boys out, bowling provides a significant outlet for those not into basketball or wrestling.

Finally, congratulations to friend Brian Reusch of WCCI radio in Savanna for being selected by the IHSA as a Distinguished Media Service Award winner, one of four such recipients for 2023-24.

Reusch summed up the IHSA award saying: "It

means the world to me, as it indicates that I have made an impact on the lives of others, especially the young people whose events I have covered over the years."

What Reusch has done for over 30 years at the mic is a testament to small-town radio and the impact it has on the fiber of the local community. With print coverage of high school coverage declining, it is refreshing to see radio still gets out to cover games.

For example, at the 2A state championship football game between Wilmington and Athens, six different stations were providing local coverage. Around these parts, it is as strong as ever too.

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

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS

Oregon bowlers defeat Harvard

The Oregon boys bowling team hosted Harvard Dec. 14th at Town & Country Lanes, Mt. Morris. Harvard entered the match as the 20th-ranked team in the state by the state bowling coaches ranking site, but it was the Hawks who came

away with a 3,502-3,159 non-conference victory. Oregon was led by Matthew Stahl with a 664 series (196, 277, 191) and Gavvin Surmo with a 660 series (236, 201, 223). In addition, Brady Davis had 598 series, RJ Keene a 569 series, Codey Dunbar a 525 series, Ethan Smice a 289 series (two games)

and Caleb Ehrler a 197 game. The Hawks took a 72-pin lead after the first game, added an additional 75 pins to the lead after the second game and then had their high game of the day (1,226) taking the match by 343 pins. The win raised their season record to 9-2.

The JV boys continued their dominant undefeated

season (9-0) with a 3,279-2,088 victory. The JV score was more than 100 pin ahead of Harvard's varsity score. The JV was led by Caleb Brooks with a 603 series (181, 184, 238).

Oregon boys bowling wins over Christian Life

The Oregon Boys bowling team traveled to Park Lanes, Loves Park to bowl

Christian Life in an NIBC Conference match. The Hawks can away with a 3,473-2,364 victory. Oregon was led by Matthew Stahl with a 647 series (236,200, 211) followed by RJ Keene's 606 series, Gavvin Surmo's 596 series, Brady Davis' 578 series, Caleb Ehrler's 533 series and Codey Dunbar's

513 series. The win raised the season record to 10-2.

The JV continued its domination with a 3,128 score over a short-manned Christian Life team. The JV was led by Aiden Currier with a 560 series and had five bowlers with a 500 or higher series.

See page 6

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

624 Luther Drive, Byron IL 61010 815-234-5277
 Pastor: Janet Wolf
 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; quilts 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
 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

BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

"Building Faith for Life"
 6467 N. German Church Rd., Byron, IL - Ph. (815) 246-2685 - beaconhillbyron.org
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 448, Byron, IL 61010
 Pastor: Gary Cortese
 Service Times: Sundays at 10AM; Wednesday night Faith-Lift at 6:30PM
 Find us on Facebook/Beacon Hill Assembly of God

CHANA

CHANA UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Josh Brown, 606 Main Street, Chana, IL 61015. Church office 815-732-7683. (E-mail address: chanaumc@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, Childrens 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!

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Karen Stew
 West Grove Rd. At Columbine Rd.
 Worship Service 10:30 am. Communion is served every Sunday.
 "Singing the Song of Christian Faith in Worship, Service, Learning, Outreach and Welcome" in a beautiful rural setting.
 Everyone is cordially invited to be with us.

LEAF RIVER

ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

9106 Cedar St. in Adeline, Leaf River, IL 61047 • Ph:815-541-4863 Sunday Services: Sunday School 9:00 am, Worship Service 10:15 am
 VISITORS WELCOME

LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

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)
 9:30 Church Service. Nursery available, 11:00 Sunday school for all ages.
 Nursery available
 6941 N Mt Morris Rd, Leaf River, IL 61047
 815-738-2205 leafriverbc@gmail.com

LINDENWOOD

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS

immanuel-lindenwood.org (for sermons, events, etc.)
 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 Rosebrook
 pastor@immanuel-lindenwood.org

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

101 N Galena st, P.O box 67, Lindenwood IL 815-985-7054
 Regular worship service Sundays at 10:00am with fellowship following. Tuesdays 10:00 am Sr Exercise! Lunch afterwards. Thursdays 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Library time. Snacks and coffee. For more information call 815-985-7054. Everyone is welcome!

KINGS

ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

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

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"By God's grace in Christ, we LIVE, LOVE, and SERVE"
 All are welcome here!
 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship with Communion open to all, followed by fellowship hour
 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 BRETHERN

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

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 E. Brayton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL Phone: 734-6354 Rev. Josh Ehrler
Worship Services: Saturdays 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 Shoring is Caring Church
 Pastor Jesse Allen EOCOCministries@gmail.com 107 N Daysville Rd. Oregon, IL Phone: 815-732-2960
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. with Sunday Worship following at 10:30 a.m.
 Breakfast is served every fifth Sunday beginning at 9:30 a.m.
 Wednesday evenings both Adults (all year) & Youth (during the school year) meet weekly beginning at 6:30 p.m.
 In the event that Oregon schools are not in session the Youth group does not meet on Wednesdays.
 Thursday morning Women's Bible study meets at 10:30 a.m.
 We look forward to meeting you!

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

2997 N. German Church Rd., 815-732-6313
 3 miles east of Oregon on Rt. #64 then 2 miles north on German Church Rd. • Rev. Josiah Youngquist
 www.EBENEZERREFORMED.com • Sunday school 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

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

OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

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

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 Highway 64, West (Hwy 64 W & Mangan Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon • 732-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George
 Webpage: saintbrides.org • E-mail: saintbride.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

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

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY
 Pastor Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns | Associate Pastor David Bogner
 207 W Roosevelt Road (Rte 72), Stillman Valley.
 815-645-2526 | www.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 Norris
 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/VECCSV
 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 www.graceisforyou.com
 10479 E. High Rd., Stillman Valley, IL 61084 • 815-973-1369
Worship Service: Saturday at 5pm

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

LOCAL NEWS

From page 5

The win kept their undefeated season streak to 10 straight wins. The JV2 was led by Landon Bailey with a 508 series.

Oregon boys bowling competes in Freepoint

The Oregon boys bowling team went to Freepoint to bowl in the Freepoint Sport Shot tournament on Dec. 16. The Hawks varsity finished in 10th place out of 20 teams in this more-challenging lane pattern condition. Oregon was led by Gavvin Surmo with a 1,048 six-game series, followed by RJ Keene's

997 series, Brady Davis' 990 series, Matthew Stahl's 977 series, Codey Dunbar's 556 series (four games) and Caleb Ehrler 310 series (two games). The JV team finished in fifth place out of 17 teams, earning medals. Seven different bowlers contributed to the team effort with Aiden Currier leading the pack with an 891 series and the only person to bowl all six games. Zakk West had a 720 series (five-games), Caleb Brooks had a 703 series (five games), Ethan Smice's 538 series (four games), Isaac Kramer's 524 series (four games),

Immanuel Arellano's 454 series (three games) and Landon Bailey's 431 (three games).

Oregon bowlers win in Peru

The Oregon boys bowling team traveled to IV Super Bowl, Peru on Dec. 18 and came away with a 3,308-2,912 non-conference victory. The Hawks were led by RJ Keene with a 637 series (212, 193, 232) followed by Matthew Stahl's 570 series, Brady Davis' 541 series, Gavvin Surmo & Caleb Ehrler's 531 series and Codey Dunbar's 498 series. The win raised their season re-

cord to 11-2. The JV won by forfeit and once again bowled well led by Caleb Brooks with a 585 series (221, 224, 140). The JV is 11-0 on the season. Also bowling for the girls was Ahren Howey with a 310 series.

Oregon boys bowling hosts Rockford Christian

The Oregon boys bowling team hosted Rockford Christian in an NIBC Conference match at Town & Country Lanes in Mt. Morris on Dec. 19. Oregon came away with a season-high 3,629-3,209 match victory, raising its season record to 12-

2. In a night of very high scores, Oregon's Gavvin Surmo led the field with a 759 series (248, 289, 222) – the eighth-highest series in school history – coming 10 days after setting the school record of 804 in the LaSalle-Peru tournament. The highlight of the night was during the second game when both Surmo and Brady Davis each rolled the first 10 strikes in a row, Davis finishing with a 288 game and Surmo a 289 game – the fifth and fourth-highest individual game scores in school history. Davis was second high in series with a 658 followed

by Matthew Stahl's 631 series, RJ Keene's 554 series, Codey Dunbar's 529 series and Caleb Ehrler's 498 series. High scores not reserved for just the varsity. The JV was led by Immanuel Arellano with a 626 series (223, 234, 169), followed by Caleb Brooks' 564 series, Zakk West's 558 series, Isaac Kramer's 550 series (243 game), Aiden Currier's 510 series and Landon Bailey's 426 series. The JV team once again scored higher than the visiting team's varsity (3,209) with a 3,234 team series and raised their record to 12-0.

BERTOLET LIBRARY NEWS

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 Decem-

ber. Please help decorate our Mitten Tree with thick, warm mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for all ages. Items will be distributed through New Life Community Center in January.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Holiday Movie

Wednesday, December 27th, 3:00 PM In this 2018 remake of a Christmas classic is a grumpy old

creature living in a cave on Mt. Crumpet who can't stand to see his neighbors in Whoville enjoying themselves. Things are especially bad at Christmas, when the Whos kick their merriment into high gear with fantastic celebrations. This year, the Grinch decides to dress up like Santa Claus on Christmas Eve and steal all the Christmas gifts and decorations so

the Whos can't enjoy the season. What he finds, however, is that Christmas in Whoville is much more than gifts and decorations, it's a time to celebrate love and friendship.

Grinch BINGO

Tuesday, January 2nd, 4:00 PM Last week, the Grinch learned that Christmas is more than gifts and decorations. This week, celebrate those friendships

by bringing your friends to Bertolet Memorial Library for a seasonal edition of Grinch BINGO!

Stories with Stacey

Thursdays at 10:00 AM Join Miss Stacey for fun stories for your toddlers and preschoolers! No stories on December 28th or on January 4th.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Holiday Movie

Wednesday, December

27th, 3:00 PM In this 2018 remake of a Christmas classic is a grumpy old creature who can't stand to see his neighbors in Whoville enjoying themselves. This year, the Grinch decides to dress up like Santa Claus on Christmas Eve and steal all the Christmas gifts and decorations so the Whos can't enjoy the season.

See page 7

MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

THE following events are happening at the Mt. Morris Senior & Commu-

nity Center!

Jam Session

On the fourth Wednesdays join us for music by

local musicians and lunch for only \$5.00. December 27th and January 24th.

Happy Noon Year's!

Join us on Friday, December 29th (correction from the newsletter article stating it was the 28th) at

11:30 am at the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center for an appetizer and desert potluck. We

will ring in the noon year together at NOON. No need to RSVP, just come and have some fun with us!

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ACROSS	1 Jog										
5 Cry					13			14			
8 Goblet feature				16				17			
12 Stead			18				19	20			
13 Spanish aunt	21	22	23				24				
14 Tortoise's opponent	25				26				27	28	29
15 Ride-sharing arrangements	30				31				32		
17 Work units	33		34					35			
18 Sixth sense											
19 Forbidden acts			36					37			
21 Stylish wrap	38	39	40				41				
24 Flintstones' pet	42				43	44			45	46	47
25 Comic strip possum	48				49			50			
26 "Yellow" band	51				52			53			
30 Where Lux. is											
31 Primitive	49 Snaky fish				7 Historic			"Panic Room"			
32 Brit. record label	50 Jazzy Fitzgerald				8 French prison			28 Book after Joel			
33 Slapstick missile	51 Maintained				9 Cyndi Lauper hit			29 Shriek barks			
35 Perched on	52 Lay down the lawn				10 Poi base			31 Send forth			
36 Evergreens	53 Deli loaves				11 Thus			34 Off course			
37 Icky					12 Disarray			35 Sagittarius			
38 Where Gauguin painted					16 Sugary suffix			37 USO audience			
41 Pen name	DOWN				20 Murray			38 Dash gauge			
42 Out of the storm	1 Pampering, for short				21 Detail, briefly			39 Skin soother			
43 Temporary lodging	2 Estuary				22 Go sightseeing			40 Make well			
48 Furnace fuel	3 Not 'neath				23 Shrek, for one			41 Hardly hirsute			
	4 Elvis' birth-place				24 Writer Lessing			44 Old Olds			
	5 Halt				26 Whims			45 Layer			
	6 Texas tea				27 Jared of			46 Pub order			
								47 "— Kapital"			

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ● ENDING IN "AGE"

Q N K H E B Y W E T R O L J G

E B Y W U R P G G E N K I G D

B Z E **B R E A K A G E** X E V E

S Q B G O M M K D A G I G G E

G E E C A A Y V A L A W A U G

S Q V D P B N O L F R T R J A

H F E E C A B Y Y U T X R V R

U S R Q P E G A C O I N A G E

N M A K J H F G C M B E B C V

B Z G S T A G E G A R E P M A

Y X E G A B B I R C A V U T R

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: **A Liquid Suitable for Drinking**

Adage	Barrage	Camouflage	Damage
Amperage	Breakage	Coinage	Stage
Arbitrage	Cabbage	Cottage	Voyage
Average	Cage	Cribbage	

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Picture is missing. 2. Toothbrush is missing. 3. Body is slimmer. 4. Hat is smaller. 5. Corsage is missing. 6. Suitcase is missing.

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

— King Crossword —

ENDING IN "AGE"

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

Answer

— Weekly SUDOKU —

LOCAL NEWS

From page 6

What he finds, however, is that Christmas in Whoville is much more than gifts and decorations, it's a time to celebrate love and friendship.

Grinch BINGO

Tuesday, January 2nd, 4:00 PM Last week, the Grinch learned that Christmas is more than gifts and decorations. This week, celebrate those friendships by bringing your friends to

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Special Hours

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

Did you know

That you can now order 3D print projects from the Byron Library? The library's Creative Studio is home to two 3D printers that are available for making 3D prints for learning and entertainment purposes. 3D prints cost \$.10 per gram PLA, and will be available for pickup within 7-10 business days. Please visit www.byronlibrary.org/creativestudio for more information on how to submit your 3D print idea.

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 projects will incur a cost depending on materials. Middle school and high school youth can use some of the materials while with

Bertolet Memorial Library for a seasonal edition of Grinch BINGO!

A to Z Reading Challenge

Join us in the new year with a new reading challenge. The goal is to read 26 books, each book starting with a different letter of the alphabet by December 31, 2024. The challenge is open to 5th graders thru adults.

Be sure to keep your reading log up to date as

there will be chances to earn prizes along the way. Stop at the circulation desk to register.

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

- Brooklyn Crime Novel by Jonathan Lethem
- Inheritance by Nora Roberts
- Chapter Book**
- Farther Than the Moon by Lindsay Lackey
- Picture Books**
- If I Was a Horse by Sophie Blackall
- How To Teach Your Cat a Trick by Nicola Winstanley
- DVD**
- Sound of Freedom

Winter Blood Drive with RRVBC

Tuesday, Jan. 2. 1 - 6:00 pm. Join us as we host a community blood drive in partnership with the Rock River Valley Blood Center. Register for an appointment by calling the library at 815-234-5107 or visiting https://donor.rrvbc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/55448. Walk-ins are also welcome! Prospective donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 lbs. It is recommended that donors eat a meal within 3-4 hours before donating and drink plenty of fluids.

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!



Children had a chance to make holiday ornaments last week, that are sure to become family keepsakes! Patrons spent the evening assembling a simple essential oil diffuser to add holiday scented oils to fragrance their home.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

phone or mobile device and log in with your library card number and PIN! You'll be able to view your checkouts and holds, renew renewable materials, and search the library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!

Curbside Delivery

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

with a confirmation when your holds are ready to be picked up. Call us when you arrive at the library, and we will bring your items out to you, already checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

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

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY NEWS

Storytime at the Library

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

Winter Reading Challenge: Read on the Quiet Side

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

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

Tween Scene: Family Feud

It's time to play Family Feud! Complete against other tweens to see if you can guess the most popular answers to survey questions about a range of topics. Tuesday, Jan.

2 at 6 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Toddler Time: Winter Sensory Bins

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them. Join us for some tactile play using a variety of sensory bins with a festive winter twist! Friday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Introduction to Ancestry and Genealogy Basics

Are you a newbie to

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

Young Critics Book Club

Join us for a discussion and hands-on craft/activity all about the graphic novel "Bird & Squirrel On Ice" by James Burks. Tuesday, Jan. 16, 6 p.m. Ages 7-9. Copies

of the reading available to borrow. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Teen Crafternoon: Collage Art

Let your stress and winter blues drift away as you rip, snip and crumple paper to make your own unique collage. Chat with friends and enjoy snacks while you craft. Thursday, Jan. 18, 3 p.m. Ages 13-18. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Costume Character Storytime: The Pigeon

Get ready to party

with the coolest bird in town, PIGEON, from the bestselling series by Mo Willems! We'll dive into his hilarious books, croon some catchy tunes and cut up a craft masterpiece. Plus, Pigeon himself will make an appearance for snaps and giggles! Saturday, Jan. 27, 10 a.m. All Ages. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Holiday Hours

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

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

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 cancelled

for 12/27

We won't be reading books this Wednesday, 12/27. We will be having activities and a Lego Challenge! Story time will resume Wednesday, 1/3 @11:15, bring your little ones to enjoy stories and a craft at the Mount Morris Library!

Take-n-Make

Stop by any time starting Wednesday 11/27 to grab another new craft kit for the New Year! It is a Countdown Clock. 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!

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!

Lego Challenge!

Stop by between 11-5pm to compete with other brick builders! Our theme will be "New Years Par-tay!!". Create a scene depicting how you think Lego char-

acters celebrate the New Year! Then leave it here to display and patrons will vote on the most creative and interesting scene! Winners will be announced Tuesday, Jan 10!

Board Game Extraganza!

See page 8

NIU BASKETBALL SINGLE GAME TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

**MEN'S BASKETBALL
PRICES START AT**

\$8

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
PRICES START AT**

\$6

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
815-753-7225 | NIUHUSKIES.COM

LOCAL NEWS

From page 7

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!

New Year Scavenger Hunt

Come into the library this week to learn about how other countries around the world celebrate the New Year! Find all 20 clues to answer the questions and win a prize! Scavenger hunt will be open all week, Jan 2-6. This activity is open to all ages, children under 7 will need an adult to help.

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!

Lego Club

Lego night is the third Thursday of each month. Stop by on January 18th, 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.

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.

Memorial Gifts

Give a gift that lasts, brings joy to many, and doubles in value. Your memorial gift to the library is matched by the Mt. Morris Library Foundation, doubling your generosity! Many thanks to all who gave memorial gifts in 2023.

Newspaper Available!

We will now be receiving the Dixon Telegraph daily! We receive the Ogle County Life, Sauk Valley, and Mt. Morris Times. If you want to keep up with the local news-stop on by!

Curbside Service is available!

We want to remind everyone that you still have

the option of having your materials delivered to your vehicle. If you have holds waiting for you, call us to tell us you are on your way, and we will bring them out to your vehicle when you arrive. Call us if you need more information.

Additional Services Offered

We make copies (\$0.25 per black and white page). We fax (\$2 for the first page and \$0.50 each additional page). We can scan a document and send it to email (\$2 per document).

You can use a computer without a library card for \$1.00. Resume software is available on our computers. Come visit us and let us help you!

Monthly board meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the library unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend.

The Mount Morris Public Library is located at 105 S. McKendrie Ave. Mt. Morris IL 61054-815-734-4927 Fax-815-734-6035 www.mtmorris-il.org

ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

Rock River Center is a resource center located at 810 S. 10th Street, Oregon. Our activities and trips are open to all ages. Call our office @ 815-732-3252 for assistance with Benefit Access Application for a license plate discount, Medicare, housing, homemaker service, heating assistance or other things. Visit us at

www.rockrivercenter.org and like us on Facebook.

RRC Christmas / New Year Holiday Hours

Rock River Center will close from 12:00 noon on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023 through Monday, Jan. 1, 2024. No activities/programs, services, or transportation will take place during this time. We will

reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Thank you. Have a blessed Christmas from all of us at Rock River Center.

Crocheting & Knitting Club

Thursday, Jan. 4 & 18, 9:00 - 11 a.m.

Sunshine Club

Friday, Jan. 5, 9:00 - 11 a.m.

January Yoga Classes @ RRC

Yoga: 10:00 - 11:00 am
Chair Yoga: 11:15 - 12:00 noon. When: Friday, Jan. 5, 12, and 19. Cost: \$5 per session

Fraud Protection

Mon., Jan. 8, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Morning Mug Club

Tuesday, Jan. 9; 9:00 -

10:30 a.m. SUPPORT GROUPS @ ROCK RIVER CENTER

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 3 R D Tuesday of month. Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 1st Wednesday

of the month. Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

LOW VISION GROUP

Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month. Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. For more information on any of our Support Groups, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 or 1-800-541-5479.

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Holiday Closures

The Library will be CLOSED on Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day), Saturday, December 30 (New Year's Eve observance) and Monday, January 1.

Story Time

(18 months-6 yrs.) Mondays, 10 am- New Session begins Monday, January 8th. Story Time is on Mondays at 10 am with stories, activities, and fun! Go online or call to register.

Find A Character Ticket!

Begins January 8. What is a Character Ticket? A character Ticket represents an image of a character from that specific book. Character Tickets will be hidden in various books in the children/youth book collection. After you check out a book and find a character ticket in the book, you may adopt that character doll and take it home. Open to Oregon Public Library cardholders only. May adopt only once.

Cricut Design Space 101

Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00pm. This class will teach you the basics of creating in Cricut Design Space. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Illinois Library Presents

Thursday, January 11th at 7:00pm- Speculating about Our AI Future with Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells. Join us for a panel discussion featuring three best-selling science fiction writers, Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells. They will discuss the promise, perils, and possible impacts that AI will have on our future, as well as AI in contemporary and future science fiction writing. This event is virtual, register at bit.ly/ILP_DoctorowLiuWells. Registration required. This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP),

a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Winter Blues Bundle

BEGINNING JANUARY 15th through February 15th. Register for a winter blues bundle beginning January 10th. Not sure what to read, do, or need something to keep you busy during these cold winter months? Winter Blues Bundle! Each bundle will have a hand-picked book, magazine, DVD and some fun activities. Complete the registration form online at www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or stop in the library to complete one. Oregon Library patrons only.

Lego Club

New Day, New Time! Tuesday, January 23, 6 pm (2nd grade & up). The club is designed to provide an enjoyable activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence. Registration required

Book Clubs

Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, December 28 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss A Slow Fire Burning by Paula Hawkins. The 2WBC Book Club meets January 10, at 12:30 pm to discuss The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, January 14th at 2:00pm. Pick up your book to find out where and what! The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, January 17 at 1 pm to discuss Have You Seen Luis Velez? by Catherine Ryan Hyde. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet in January at the Library to discuss The Stardust Thief by Chelsea

Abdullah. Yoga

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

New Face to the Library Catalog Service Online

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

Oregon Writers Group

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00am. The OWG is a gathering of writers or writer-wannabes who meet to support each other and further their own writing. The purpose of the group is to help and encourage you

in your writing. If you need brainstorming ideas, we can help suggest ideas or aid with the creative process.

Passport Services

The Oregon Public Library offers Passport Application Processing. Patrons seeking Passport

Services should call the Library prior to their visit to ensure that an official processor is available at that time and for a checklist of items, you will need for the appointment.

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

Oregon Park West

Call 815-732-2724, follow the prompts and presto...a story! Current story-The Littlest Christmas Tree by Janie Jasin.

New story at the Story-Walk is I Spy Christmas: A Book of Picture Riddles by Walter Wick.

TIS' THE SEASON TO Save!!!

75% OFF Labor

Call Today for Your FREE Estimate!

Leafguard
Get it today. Protected for life.

- LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
- MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM.
- SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH

SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE

815-673-7499

*All participants who attend an estimated 60-90-minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by Leafguard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company In-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Except in the states of MD, NY and DC, where the gift card offer is limited to \$25. Offer not available in the states of CA, IL, PA and MI. Expires 12/31/23.

LOCAL NEWS



Chana Education Center (CEC) is located in Chana and offers two valuable programs for schools of Ogle and Lee counties. Our special education program provides highly-specialized programming for students in K-12th grade that need extra support in behavioral and emotional regulation.

Things are happening at Chana Education Center

CHANA — Chana Education Center (CEC) is located in Chana and offers two valuable programs for schools of Ogle and Lee counties. Our special education program provides highly-specialized programming for students in K-12th grade that need extra support in behavioral and emotional regulation. Our Challenge program is a program run through Illinois State Board of Education's grant-funded Regional Safe Schools Program. This program is for students in grades six through 12.

Our 12 member districts may utilize one of our CEC programs if they find that a student is significantly struggling to find success in their home district schools.

Goals for both of our programs include helping students learn and grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. Our programs emphasize learning skills to encourage self-awareness, self-man-

agement, social awareness, positive relationships, and responsible decision making. We encourage a balance between compassion and understanding with learning to handle accountability and consequences.

The first quarter of school proved to be a busy one for the students and staff of CEC. Students were welcomed back to a freshened up gym space with new mats and sound absorbing panels provided through grants by the Etnyre Foundation. This area is the hub of our building and serves not only as our gym space, but our cafeteria and whole school assembly area.

Once a month our students and staff join together for a building-wide "Gathering" celebration to recognize positive student achievements, listen to community speakers, and join in group learning activities. Our most recent gathering featured Veteran Brandon Dettman who

spoke to students about his time serving our country in the Army. He shared with students some of the highs and lows of his military career and emphasized the importance of being good citizens of our country.

Service learning is an important component of our CEC program. In the first quarter, multiple classrooms engaged in a variety of service-learning activities. Community Volunteer Jeff Winterland led a group of students on various experiences including clean-up efforts on our CEC and local community properties. Mr. Winterland provides valuable insights on the importance of giving back and being willing to "get a little dirty" for a good cause. Student Kyson has thrived while working with Mr. Winterland, and has learned a variety of skills that will help him in the next chapter of his life after high school. Other service learning projects have included our middle



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

school program handing out treats at the Oregon Elementary School Kindergarten Trunk-or-Treat. As relayed afterwards by student Jacob, "It actually felt good to be the one to GIVE the candy."

Helping establish a sense of community is also a foundation of learning at CEC. Students grow in their understanding of how a community benefits overall from the contributions of all of its members. They witnessed this in first person with the donation of no-longer-needed soccer goals from the Oregon Park District for our school grounds. Students love playing soccer during PE and time outside. The soccer goals are also able to be used respectfully by the greater Chana community.

Shell Gas Station of Oregon recently and unexpectedly contributed a donation to our Chana program from their Giving Pump Initiative. These funds will be used to help

support the new weekly Chana House program. In the House program, our students and staff have been randomly sorted onto teams to participate in fun challenges throughout the year to earn bragging rights and a chance to hold onto the House Cup.

House programs are used to develop unity, collaboration and cooperative group skills using fun competition. So far teams have spent time growing as a group and participating in challenges like paper tower making, "Dress like a Teacher" day, and a bracket paper plate grab game.

In the academic realm, students completed their fall Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) tests. These assessments help our teachers identify the instructional level of the students, as well as determine progress in the areas of reading/language arts and math. As compared to the Fall 2022-2023 assessment, our students

this fall demonstrated progress in both the areas of reading and math, and met their targeted goals.

Other academic highlights include student Jaxon discovering a specialized talent for basic coding through the use of Touring Tumblers mechanical computers, students Immanuel and Hayden unlocking a variety of mental challenges in our BreakoutEdu learning series, and our elementary and middle school students producing creative essays to lure readers to visiting their uniquely created haunted houses for Halloween.

In the first part of this school year, it's clear that Chana Education Center has been a hub of activity, fostering not only academic growth, but also a strong sense of community and creativity. With more events and accomplishments to come, the school year is shaping up to be our best one yet!

(COURTESY PHOTO)



McKinstry's 80th birthday celebration is Jan. 13

Come help us celebrate Byron McKinstry's 80th birthday. It will be held Jan. 13 from 4-8 p.m. at the River's Edge Experience, 103 S. First St., Oregon. Food will be provided. Bar will be open to purchase drinks.

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



OES names October 2023 Students of the Month

Oregon Elementary School recently named its 2023 October Students of the Month, including Zaiden Gonzalez, Karter Blume, Chance Elmendorf, Iris Nichols, Odin Torres, Elizabeth Hatheway, Nova Valdivia, Brea Sager, Lilah Bunch, Alessandra Venezia, Ryker Groh, Eva Burke, Sophia Swanson, Bostyn Millard, Presley Oliver, Bryce Webb, Paisley Marti, Maddie Cain, Axel Carlson, Maverick Pope, Ruby Cozzi, Teagan Strohecker, Autumn Drew, Melanie Canada, Wyatt Blumenthal, Trinie Tran, Marshall Crosby, Graham Kaskavage, Ethan Johnson, Cade Suter, Kassidy Hoversten, Kaileena Pham, Leah Kaufman, Jayden Gordy, Aiden Phelps, Lucia Wells, Mykaela Arnold and Cori Daniels.



OES names November 2023 Students of the Month

Oregon Elementary School recently named its November 2023 Students of the Month. They include: Melody Pepper, Jett Patterson, Rowen Sutton, Liam Jenkins, Brynlea Stuckey, Calan Zshornack, Miles Hallock, Talia Pope, Wyatt Hendricks, Jayden Lawnicki, Austin Zahr, Jacob Graf, Wallace Meiners, Oliver Groh, Hudson Albrecht, Sadie Palmer, Annabelle Drozd, Landon Hafer, Addilyn Kilmer, Elizabeth Newcomer, Mim Guinn, Nora Martin, Adalynn Blumeyer, Zachary Folk, Max Graf, Caroline Caposey, Tessa Ingersoll, Wyatt Chisamore, Isabelle Quintana, Sophia Ebert, Parker Cain, Jaryn Newberry, Bri West, Brielle Martin, Marley Smith, Kaylee Disch, Dalton Diehl, Elyse Thomas, Zach Elmore and Hailey Kohler.

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COMMUNITY STATE BANK OF ROCK FALLS, Plaintiff, v. JOSEPH D. SMITH, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.)))
Property Address: 11773 W. Henry Road, Polo, Illinois 61064 2023FC80
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:
Part of the West Half (1/2) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 27, Township 23 North, Range 8 East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Ogle County, Illinois, described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of said West Half (1/2) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 27, and running thence South 1 degree 24 minutes 58 seconds West (assumed bearing) on the East line of said West Half (1/2) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 27, a distance of 300feet; thence South 89 degrees 17 minutes 23 seconds West, parallel with the North line of said Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 27, a distance of 300.00 feet to the North line of said Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 27; thence North 89 degrees 17 minutes 23 seconds East on said North line, a distance of 150.00 feet to the Point of Beginning; situated in the Township of Buffalo, County of Ogle and State of Illinois. PIN: 14-27-100-002
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 11773 W. Henry Road, Polo, Illinois 61064

and which said Mortgage was made by: Joseph D. Smith, Mortgagor, to Community State Bank of Rock Falls, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Ogle County, Illinois, as Document No. 201906492 and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.
NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the

Clerk of this Court: Clerk of the Circuit Court Ogle County Courthouse 106 S. 5th Street Oregon, Illinois 61061
On or before January 22, 2024, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGEMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.
Dated: 12/15/2023
Kimberly A. Stahl, Clerk of the Circuit Court Ogle County, Illinois Courtney E Kennedy (6322625)
Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Considine, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 114 E. Everett Street, Suite 300 Dixon, IL 61021 (815) 288-4949 (815) 288-3068 (FAX) kennedy@egbcclaw.com
NOTE: This law firm is deemed to be a debt collector.
No. 1225 (Dec. 25, 2023 and Jan. 1 and 8, 2024)

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

Public Notice is hereby given that on December 15, 2023 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:
C&M Services 5955 N. Hales Corner Road Stillman Valley, IL 61084
Dated: December 15, 2023
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk No. 1228 (Dec. 25, 2023 and Jan. 1 and 8, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT OGLE COUNTY

PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT)
Case Number 2023MR43
Request of: Emily Michelle Rasmussen
There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from Emily Michelle Rasmussen to the new name of Levi Gold Rasmussen. The court date will be held on Feb. 7, 2024 at 9:00 am at 106 S 5th St., Oregon, Ogle County, in Courtroom #304.
No. 1230 (Dec. 25, 2023 and Jan. 1 and 8, 2024)

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.

203 HELP WANTED

81 Year old Man and his 54 year old daughter need some help on a small farm, live in. 779-251-0161. Please send resumes to PO Box 46, Drawer 2, Rochelle, IL 61068. (OCL 122523)

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

Grass Hay \$5 per Bale, Small Bales average 60 lbs, 200 Available. Hay has been kept off of the ground & in a dry loft since cutting. Bruce 815-234-3099 (RNL01032024)

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

511 STORAGE UNITS

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

203 HELP WANTED

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



203 HELP WANTED

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

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

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



103 AUCTIONS

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION
hacksauction.hibid.com
Premiere Firearms, Military, Sportsman Auction
BIDDING OPENS: FRI., DEC. 29th @ 8 A.M.
PREVIEW DATES: FRI., DEC. 29th and SAT., DEC. 30th – 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Hack's Auction Antique Center – 400 W. Third St., Pecatonica, IL 61063
Large Firearms & Collectors Auction! Featuring Antique & Modern Rifles-Shotguns-Pistols-Revolvers; Fine Winchester & Marlin Lever Action Rifles; Commemorative; Remington, Colt, Browning, Ruger, Smith & Wesson, Sig Sauer, Uberti, Savage, Beretta, Weatherby, High Power, US Military, Springfield Amory M1 Garands, Eddystone, German & Russian Rifles; Black Powder, Trap & Skeet; Reload Equipment & Ammunition; Knives & Edged Weapons; Bayonets. Advertisement; Many Related Items. 13% Buyer/Online Fee. All State & Federal Firearm Laws Apply. FFL#3-36-201-01-4J-03526. Please log-on or call for complete details & further information.

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION

NEW, USED SCRATCH & DENT
• Refrigerators • Freezers
• Washers/Dryers • Stoves

We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.
6331 11th Street, Rockford
815-262-3900

AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

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

Lenny Bryson
Sales Of All Kinds
815-946-4120

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

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

PUBLIC AUCTION

VIRTUAL ONLINE

LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}

328.75 ACRES± (SUBJECT TO SURVEY) • 3 TRACTS

The Shultz farm is located just southeast of Harmon, IL or 10 miles southeast of Sterling/Rock Falls, IL. The land is further described as being located in Sections 14, 23 & 24, T20N-R8E, Harmon Township, Lee County, Illinois.

Farmers & investors, take advantage of this opportunity to purchase a large acreage with quality soils, located close to excellent grain market outlets.

THE ROBERT H. SHULTZ JR. REVOCABLE TRUST
ROBERT H. SHULTZ JR. - TRUSTEE
MERRIAM SHULTZ SHARE

Representing Attorney: Timothy W. Kirk, Shareholder
Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, P.C. | (309) 677-9519
300 Hamilton Boulevard, Peoria, Illinois 61601

Auction Managers: Isaac Taber (309) 335-8081 & Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

BigIron
(844) 847-2161 | www.SullivanAuctioneers.com

SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS
a BigIron company

With Our Thanks,
Happy Holidays!

The greatest gifts are the people who bring warmth to our hearts and smiles to our faces. Thank you for brightening our days with your visits. We hope the holiday season and the coming year deliver all of the wonderful things you deserve. Best wishes from all of us!

Ogle County Life

NEW YEAR'S SAFETY

Tips for having a fun and safe New Year's Eve

NEW Year's Eve is one of the most festive nights of the year. Despite its reputation for revelry, New Year's Eve also can be dangerous, which underscores the need to celebrate responsibly when bringing in a new year.

American Addiction Centers surveyed 1,000 Americans regarding their alcohol consumption habits on certain holidays. The survey found that the average person consumes 4.4 alcoholic drinks on New Year's Eve, making the holiday second only to Mardi Gras in terms of drinks consumed.

Alcohol lowers individuals' inhibitions and adversely affects their judgment, which could make them vulnerable to criminals and more likely to make bad decisions, including driving after a few drinks. In fact, the National Safety Council estimates that 427 people may die on U.S. roads during the 2022 New Year's holiday period.

A new year is worthy of celebration, and the festivities can be even more enjoyable when individuals take these safety tips to heart.

- Recognize the risks. Recognition of the potentially serious threats that can be lurking on New Year's Eve is vital to celebrating safely. In 2016, leaked documents indicated that more than 1,200 women were sexually assaulted on New Year's Eve in various German cities. A 2011 report from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research in the United States noted a significant spike in the rate of assaults, murders, sexual assaults, and robberies on New Year's Eve, linking that increase to higher levels of alcohol consumption. Individuals who recognize how vulnerable overconsumption of alcohol can make them may be less inclined to overdo it this year.

- Avoid the roads.

Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicates that 68 percent of drunk driving traffic fatalities on New Year's 2016 involved drivers with a high blood alcohol concentration. One of the safest things individuals can do on New Year's Eve is to avoid the roads. Consider celebrating at home or staying in a hotel or the home of a loved one. If you must be on the road, call a cab or book an Uber when you need to get to and from a party.

- Be careful even if you're hosting. New Year's Eve celebrants also must be vigilant if they're hosting a gathering at home. Laws vary, but social host liability laws generally hold hosts who serve alcohol responsible for the actions of their guests after they leave their homes. So hosts could conceivably be vulnerable to criminal or civil proceedings if they serve alcohol to guests who are then involved in traffic accidents or other incidents after they leave hosts' homes.

New Year's Eve is a time for celebration. Taking steps to ensure celebrations are safe can make the night even more fun.

Party Pointers

As individuals count down the days until New Year's Eve festivities, these planning tips can make the celebrations occasions to remember.

1. Consider a theme. Everyone who is anyone is having or attending a NYE party. Let your event stand out from the throngs of others with a theme. Guests can come dressed as dynamic duos (like Mario and Luigi) or the party can evoke a bygone era, such as the roaring 1920s. Let guests know what they can do to play the part.

2. Start late. You do not want guests wiped out by the time midnight arrives.



Therefore, start the party at around 9 or 10 p.m. and anticipate it lasting into the wee hours of the morning.

3. Tailor drinks to the season. Utilize seasonal ingredients when crafting drinks, or serve drinks that are expected this time of year, such as a boozy eggnog or cranberry Moscow mules.

4. Provide various activities. Plan fun activities during the party. Offer card games or board games to give guests something to do. Karaoke or group activities like trivia also can spread out the fun.

5. Beverages should be accessible. Unless you are hiring a bartender who will be on call to pour drinks, having drinks ready to go is a smart idea. In addition to cans/bottles of beer or malt beverages, have ready-to-go mixed drinks available by selecting a signature drink and preparing a bulk batch.

6. Curate a winning playlist. Ask guests to submit a list of their favorite tunes so you can create a collection of songs that will ebb and flow with the evening's events. Be sure to include some sing-along favorites like "Don't Stop Believin'" or "Tiny

Dancer."

7. Offer self-serve foods. Much like having drinks ready to go, make foods accessible as well. Finger foods and bite-sized morsels will not require guests to carry plates, reducing the chances for spillage. Sliders, miniature quiches and

dessert shooters should suffice.

8. Tie decorations into the theme. Classic New Year's Eve decorations include balloons, streamers and confetti. Think about a very festive balloon arch or backdrop that also can serve as a place to pose for photo opportunities.

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

RERUNS

120 W 2nd St, Byron, IL • (815) 406-8060

Closed 12/24/23 - 12/26/23;
12/31/23 & 1/1/24

12252023

Here's to a **SAFE &**

Happy **2024**

NEW YEAR

Thank You For Visiting Us!

With our sincere gratitude for your loyal patronage at this special time of year. We enjoyed every minute of serving you and look forward to your continued support.

**Oregon Soap Shoppe
& Green Art Etc.**
866-411-6614

91 C.S. Daysville Rd. • Oregon www.oregonsoapshoppe.com
NEW HOURS: Wednesday Thursday Friday and Saturday 10 AM till 5:30,
Wednesday and Saturday, 10 to 7:30 On Thursday and Friday.

12252023

HAPPY
New Year!

2024

**FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT
ORTHOPEDIC REHAB SPECIALISTS**

**THANK YOU TO OUR PATIENTS
FOR CHOOSING ORS FOR
YOUR PT/OT NEEDS!
YOU HURT.... WE HELP!**

ORS
PHYSICAL THERAPY
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

www.ORSPT.COM

HAPPY
New Year

MAY YOUR NEW YEAR BE FILLED
WITH NEW ADVENTURES AND
GOOD FORTUNES!

Dorothy Bowers, Broker
815-985-3264

I have been in the Real Estate Business for over 20 years. I specialize in Residential Real Estate in all areas of Northern Illinois including short sales and foreclosures. You can turn to me for all of your Real Estate Needs.

**Dickerson
& Nieman**
REALTORS

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year!

WOODEN FRITZ'S NICKEL
RESTAURANT & BAR
EST. 1991

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

Happy
New
Year

ROCK RIVER CENTER, INC.
RESOURCES FOR YOUR GENERATION

Serving Older Adults and Their Families Throughout Ogle County

www.rockrivercenter.org
810 South 10th St., Oregon
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(815) 732-3252
(800) 541-5479

United Way
Community Partner

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year

**Full-Service
Auto Repair
& Maintenance**

From factory-scheduled maintenance to emergency repairs and towing, we offer trusted service and great rates for unbeatable value.

Blake Automotive
3678 IL 64, Mt. Morris
815-734-7228

**Rochelle
Community Hospital**

Happy
New Year

Start your New Year off right...

**Have a safe
New Year's
Eve**

ROCHELLEHOSPITAL.COM - 815-562-2181

NEW YEAR'S SAFETY

How to rebound after a fun New Year's Eve

NEW Year's Eve is a popular night to go out on the town. It's customary to usher in a new year with friends and family members, and such gatherings tend to run late as celebrants anxiously await the stroke of midnight.

The later a New Year's Eve celebration goes, the more likely revelers may have to battle a little fatigue on the first of January. With that in mind, celebrants can consider these ways to rebound after a fun New Year's Eve.

- Make a concerted effort to rehydrate. Though it may be best to avoid or limit alcohol consumption, many people throw such caution to the wind on New Year's Eve. If you went a little overboard in your New Year's Eve revelry, make a concerted and consistent effort to rehydrate upon waking up on January 1. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism notes that mild dehydration is one of the contributing factors to a hangover. The NIAAA notes that alcohol suppresses the release of a hormone called vasopressin, which sends signals to the kidneys causing them to retain fluid. When a person is drinking alcohol, they tend to urinate frequently and, as a result, experience an excess loss of fluids. Rehydrating the following day can help the body begin to heal.

- Do not consume more alcohol. Most people have heard of the phrase "hair of the dog that bit you," which refers to drinking more alcohol after waking up the morning after overindulging. Though the NIAAA notes that this can provide temporary hangover relief, it also may prolong the hangover, the symptoms of which will return once the "hair of the dog" wears off.

- Engage in some light exercise. Various sources advise against sweating out a hangover, an approach that typically calls for individuals to engage in high-intensity, potentially lengthy exercise. Such exercise can exacerbate feelings of dehydration. A low-intensity workout can help, however. Such workouts, which may in-

clude light jogging, can still release endorphins, which can help to improve mood and increase oxygen flow to the brain.

- Take a nap. Alcohol consumption adversely affects sleep quality. According to the Sleep Foundation, though alcohol can have a sedative-like quality that induces sleepiness, excessive alcohol consumption has been linked to poor sleep quality and duration. In essence, the sleepiness associated with overconsumption of alcohol can quickly wear off, interrupting sleep overnight. A New Year's Day nap can have a restorative effect.

It's unwise but not uncommon to overdo it when celebrating on New Year's Eve. Though it's always best to avoid overconsumption of alcohol, regardless of the occasion, some simple strategies can help people feel better come New Year's Day.

Winter storms

Winter arrives with fanfare as Christmas, Chanukah and New Year's Eve all take place within days of the first day of the season. Parties and shopping may distract people from the weather around them, but after resolutions are made and the decorations are packed away, it's not long before it's time to confront winter's wrath.

Storms are commonplace in January and February in many parts of the world, and even March



storms are not unheard of. Knowing how to prepare for storms can keep people safer and prevent home damage.

- Charge a mobile phone and other electronic devices to full battery in advance of the storm in case power goes out.
- Stock the home with extra batteries for flashlights and battery-powered devices, such as a portable radio.
- Invest in a car charger to charge devices if the power is out for some time.
- Keep a supply of canned or boxed nonperishable items, as well as convenience foods that do not need to be cooked, like

granola bars.

- Periodically check to ensure that the first aid kit is stocked with items that have not expired.
- Refill medications so that they are on hand in the event weather makes it challenging to get to the store.
- Keep emergency supplies of bottled water. If you forget this, fill the bathtub up with fresh water. Extra water will be needed for toilet flushing if yours is a septic system.
- Have warm blankets on

hand and sleeping bags for each person in the home.

- Unplug all electronic devices if the power goes out to protect against a surge and damage when the power is restored.
- Exercise caution when burning candles, opting for flashlights and lanterns instead.
- If it's very cold outside, move refrigerated and frozen items outdoors so they do not spoil in an unpowered refrigerator.
- Do not use gas stoves, charcoal grills or other

open-flame heat sources for warmth indoors. Carbon monoxide gas can build up inside and prove deadly.

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a backup generator for power.
- Stock up on gasoline for vehicles and to power gas-driven generators.
- Use power company websites and apps to report outages and stay apprised of restoration status.
- Be cautious of downed power lines in the area when driving or walking.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!
Bushman's Service
 On Farm Tire Service
 Milledgeville, IL
815-225-7411

EUGENE J EIKE
 INSURANCE AGENCY, LUTCF

1500 W. Washington, Oregon, IL
732-2222

Life Insurance • Health Insurance • Auto Insurance
 • Homeowners • Senior Products • Medicare Supplements

Serenity
 HOSPICE & HOME

WISHING YOU
 A HAPPY
 New Year

Heartland REALTY
 815-288-4648

Matt Hermes, Designated Managing Broker
 Nancy Fritts 815-440-3369
 Bill Dempsey 815-631-4295
 Karen Didier 815-973-2686

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUED BUSINESS, & WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN 2023!

Troy Morse 815-973-2585
 Nancie Dempsey 815-994-8915
 Sylvia Latta 815-440-0777
 Ashley Como 815-677-1257

Byron Forest Preserve District

Jarrett Prairie Center Museum
 7993 North River Road
 Byron, IL

Have a safe and Happy New Year!

Enjoy these free activities

- Explore 4,000 square feet of interactive exhibits
- Play with hands-on learning opportunities for visitors of all ages
- Design your own farm at our plow exhibit
- Take in the beauty of winter at our prairie overlook area

For more information:
www.byronforestpreserve.com