

**Excelleaf**  
DeKalb's 1st Cannabis Dispensary

**First Time Customers Receive 30% OFF\***

Flower | Pre-Rolls  
Edibles | Vapes  
Concentrates  
Tinctures  
Topicals

\*Discounts do not stack. Two or more transactions level discounts cannot be redeemed in one transaction.

Veterans 20%\* | SSJ/SSDI 10%\* | Seniors 65+ 10%\* | NIU Faculty 10%\*  
Kish & NIU Students 10%\* | Cannabis Industry Professionals 10%\*

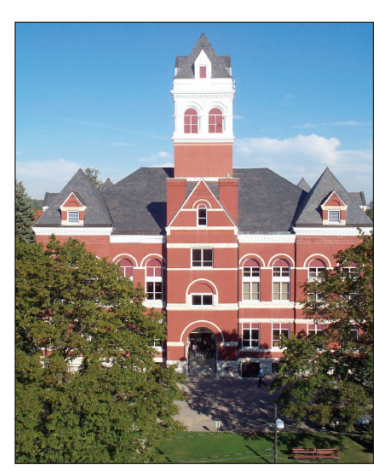
**Veteran, Women, Minority & RN Owned and Operated**

Discounts  
Loyalty Program  
Daily Specials

Promoting Healing, Community, Quality.

305 E. Locust Street, DeKalb | 815-421-3501  
excelleaf.com | Instagram | Facebook  
Mon-Sat 9-9 & Sun 10-6

# OGLE COUNTY LIFE



VALLEY SHOPPER

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 45

**MONDAY**  
Jan. 22, 2024

**FREE**

Visit [www.oglecountylife.com](http://www.oglecountylife.com)

Ogle County's most widely read weekly newspaper!

## KNOW IT TODAY



Inside Today!

**WEATHER**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
34 29	35 30
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
37 32	38 29
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
36 27	34 24

## County board: \$100,000 in ARPA funds for OCEDC approved, presentation made

Increased election judge compensation approved

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**OREGON** — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board heard a presentation made by the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation and unanimously approved the commitment of \$100,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act Funds to the newly-formed organization.

The OCEDC is a non-profit representing all of Ogle County, its communities, employers and citizens. The entity officially formed in August 2023 to bring a cohesive county-wide economic development effort. Since 2019, more than a dozen communities, utility companies, state and regional economic agencies have come together to make the OCEDC a reality.

The OCEDC is made



up of various officials from municipalities and the county. Its officers include Randy Schoon - president (Polo), Darin DeHaan - vice president (Oregon), Paula Diehl - secretary (Mt. Morris) and John Rickard - treasurer (Byron). Each officer represents a community that has pledged startup funds for the new organization. Ogle County and the City of Rochelle have also pledged.

**"Every community in every aspect of Ogle County needs to take a look at economic development."**

**Darin DeHaan**

DeHaan made a presentation at Tuesday's meeting on behalf of the OCEDC.

"Every community in every aspect of Ogle County needs to take a look at economic development," DeHaan said. "And what we're asking for is your financial commitment and your commitment as elected officials to start driving Ogle County forward with economic development. We've torn

down the barriers of the past and we're all working together."

To start the OCEDC, \$300,000 was raised between the county and the five communities of Polo, Mt. Morris, Oregon, Byron and Rochelle. The governing bodies took a formula of each of their federal COVID-19 relief American Rescue Plan Act funds that they received.

**See COUNTY page 2**



## Ogle County Life unveils revamped website

**ROCHELLE** — As of Monday, Jan. 15, the Ogle County Life's revamped website at oglecountylife.com has been unveiled.

Work on the site has been ongoing in recent months in an effort to bring the best online experience possible to readers in the Ogle County area and abroad.

The Life's editorial staff will now have access to a state-of-the-art content management system to bring a more informational and immersive experience to subscribers. Editors will be able to customize the site and story features as they see fit to deliver local news in the most efficient ways possible to the site's visitors.

As they have in the past, readers will be able to keep up with the top local news and sports stories on the site, as well as police reports, obituaries and opinion pieces.

The revamped site also includes more streamlined methods for those looking to view e-editions online. Feedback from readers over the years was considered as the site's design was made. The site will also include an upgraded advertising experience for local advertisers looking to reach readers online.

The Life appreciates your continued readership and looks forward to providing local news to its subscribers in the best ways possible in the future.

## RCH, RRVBC mark National Blood Donor Month



**'Right now, we definitely are in dire need of more donations'**

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — January is National Blood Donor Month, and Rochelle Community Hospital and the Rock River Valley Blood Center are working to raise awareness to increase donations amid a nationwide and regional blood shortage.

RRVBC is the sole provider of blood to RCH. Donations made at blood drives in the region and at RRVBC's two fixed Rockford sites remain local to help patients in need at RCH and healthcare facilities in the area. Locally, RRVBC supplies blood to 14 hospitals in the region. Because blood has a short shelf-life, fresh donations must constantly be collected.

"We have a wonderful working relationship with RCH," RRVBC Donor Recruiter John Seger said. "Our hospital services team is always able to get the blood products down to Rochelle in a very quick and timely manner. They've been an awesome partner for us in hosting blood drives over recent years and donating for our new mobile bloodmobile, which we take out to different sites around the community to do mobile blood drives. It's so nice to have that relationship, because so many of the hospitals we work with can be difficult with hosting drives and getting orders in on time and

at Rochelle, we never have that problem."

RCH Lab Manager Karen Ravnika said that the hospital keeps a certain number of units of blood on hand to be ready for emergencies and stock is rotated out every two weeks to keep blood always available.

RCH keeps a larger supply of blood at the hospital than its size suggests due to its proximity to Interstates 39 and 88 in case of vehicle accidents. Amid the blood shortage in the healthcare industry, RCH has seen less impacts than other hospitals.

"For our community, it's important," Ravnika said. "People need blood for various reasons, not just for a car accident. Cancer patients often need blood. People that have GI bleed problems or anemia for whatever reason also need it too. We're glad RRVBC does a good job of keeping its stocks up. It's a smaller place, but they do really well with donor recruitment and keeping the supply up. We've not had some of the pain points that some of the bigger facilities have had. We do have shortages now and then. And right now it's O negative blood, which is the crucial universal donor. That is concerning, but at least we've had a pretty good supply and we can get what we need."

**See DONORS page 2**

**OBITUARIES**

- Sharon Cox
- Linda Mitchell
- Richard Montavon
- Delbert Tedrick

**See page A4**

**INSERTS**

- Felker Foods
- Byron County Market
- Polo Fresh Food
- Menards
- Snyder Pharmacy

**Stillman BANK**

**Local Lenders. Local Decisions.**

FREE Pre-Approvals  
COMPETITIVE Rates  
LOCAL Servicing  
EXPERIENCED Lenders

**Diana Davidson**  
Mortgage Lender  
NMLS No. 746408  
815.645.2029  
dianad@stillmanbank.com

[www.stillmanbank.com](http://www.stillmanbank.com)

**Holcomb Bank**

Where *Relationships* Matter

Local Lenders . Local Decisions . Local Support

Rochelle | New Milford | Creston | Byron

815.562.3838 [www.holcomb.bank](http://www.holcomb.bank)

**HURST HEATING & COOLING**

Sales • Service • Installation

**815-757-4383**

WE'RE YOUR HVAC PROFESSIONALS FOR **SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION**

**Byron Bank**

815.234.2561 | [byronbank.com](http://byronbank.com)

We're not just a bank; we're your neighbors, your friends, and your partner in your financial journey.

At Byron Bank, our team is dedicated to providing you with the support you need, when you need it. *Because when you ask, we help - that's the Byron Bank Way!*

# LOCAL NEWS

## DONOR: Local blood drives great opportunity for donors

From page 1

Trauma patients that are transported to RCH are typically transferred to a larger hospital, but they're stabilized at RCH, and that requires blood transfusion. In the case of a shortage of blood, RCH can get what it needs from RRVBC, Ravnika said. She said RRVBC's smaller size and local roots have made for a productive relationship.

"It's been very helpful that RRVBC is small, and the fact that they've been able to keep up with that demand is amazing," Ravnika said. "It's not a huge corporation. They're small and they're very client-friendly. They get us what we need. If we have a complicated test, we also reference our testing out to them and they're easy to communicate with."

The blood shortage has been seen in recent years, and Seger said it started to be seen in the months following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. In early 2020 during the shutdown, blood donations were actually in a good place with numbers, due to them being exempt and one of the few activities people could leave their homes to take part in.

But, Seger said when the country started to open back up, blood donations dropped. That cause for concern has remained for organizations like RRVBC.

"It seemed like when people went back to their normal lives and things started opening up again, we just lost so many donors," Seger said. "And people haven't come back. We're still trying to figure out why that is and how we can get them back. We're fighting not only an aging demographic that we have that typically donates, but trying to get younger people to donate and finding new people, communities and demographics."

Seger praised the community of Rochelle for its willingness to donate at local blood drives, which typically take place a couple of times a month in the Hub City. RRVBC also serves Rockford hospitals that cater to Rochelle-area residents with more serious conditions, so local donations follow those in need up to Rockford.

Blood centers typically see lower donation numbers in the winter months, especially following the holiday season. Seger said that's due to winter weather and snow storms forcing the cancellation of blood drives. The blood need doesn't stop or slow down in the winter.

"We have enough on the shelves right now to maintain our current needs," Seger said. "But if there is an uptick in trauma or accidents or a big injury event, we could be in dire straits. Last year when the Apollo Theater in Belvidere had its roof collapse, we just barely had enough blood to cover that. Another event like that, you don't want to think about it, but we want to make sure we have blood on the shelves to be prepared for things like that. The truth of the matter is, we might not be able to handle such a big influx of trauma at this moment."



**"Even if five percent of people who are eligible to donate do so, we would never have a shortage again. It's not 'All hope is lost.' There's definitely a light at the end of the tunnel. But right now, we definitely are in dire need of more donations."**

**John Seger**

Seger said his efforts have not only included finding more people to donate blood, but also educating the public on donating and blood needs. By law the blood that patients receive in hospitals can only come from donated sources.

Amid the blood shortage, RRVBC is trying new avenues such as incentive programs and expanding to southern Wisconsin. The blood center needs about 800 donations per week to ensure that it meets its needs.

"We're not at that now, but we're not far off," Seger said. "Even if five percent of people who are eligible to donate do so, we would never have a shortage again. It's not 'All hope is lost.' There's definitely a light at the end of the tunnel. But right now, we definitely are in dire need of more donations." Individuals feeling healthy and well are encouraged to

schedule a blood donation appointment at rrvbc.org, on the myRRVBC app, or by calling 815-965-8751. Organizations also are encouraged to call about hosting blood drives to help support the community's needs.

"Everyone has someone in their life that needs blood," Seger said. "Donating with us makes that blood stay local to help people here. It's the easiest way to make our community a better place to live. Sometimes people can be down on the communities they live in. People might not always love where they live. This is the easiest way to help your community. It's free, it doesn't take long and it's easy. And it's a way to feel good about yourself and make Rochelle and Northern Illinois a better place to live."

## COUNTY: Board approves election judge pay increase

From page 1

The OCEDC is modeled after other economic development public-private partnerships across the country. In northern

Illinois, other EDCs include the DeKalb County EDC, Growth Dimensions in Boone County, and the Grundy Economic Development Council.

"I think in Ogle Coun-

ty we need to get on the same playing field as those around us and be competitive and bring developments to Ogle County," DeHaan said. "And that doesn't mean we don't

take care of what already exists here. Economic development also has an arm of business retention and support. Those small and large corporations that are already here that provide good-paying jobs, the OCEDC is here to assist them on what they need, such as workforce development and access to federal and state grants."

DeHaan said the OCEDC will need continued financial commitment from the Ogle County Board and the entities already involved in it have committed for

at least two years. The OCEDC hired a firm for its search for an executive director and a contract is currently being worked out with a new hire, who was named to a list of 50 top economic developers.

"I think he's ready to go to work for Ogle County and all of our communities and everybody that you all represent," DeHaan said.

### Election judges

The board approved an increase in pay for election judges, who work in the county on election days. The state

increased the amount it reimburses from \$45 to \$65. The county pays \$185 to election judges. The total will now be \$250 paid to election judges.

### Road & bridge

The board unanimously approved the appropriation of \$248,000 in federal aid matching funds for hot mix asphalt resurfacing on Baileyville and Montague Roads. The project entails a joint funding agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

**SERVICE CALL SPECIAL**  
**\$29.95 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!

**Dickerson & Nieman REALTORS**

115 S. 4th Street, Oregon  
**PRICE REDUCED!**  
 \$104,999 dickersonnieman.com/202303887  
**LOOKING FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY IN OREGON?** Quality well maintained commercial building currently set up for office use. Located in downtown Oregon's Commercial District on highly traveled IL Route 2. 1,980 SF with front & back entrances. Current co-tenant would like to stay. LL set up for additional office or storage  
**SHARON BOWERS**  
 (815) 757-7462

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

304 W. Willow Street, Forresteron  
 \$189,999 dickersonnieman.com/202305874  
**COZY HOME IN FORRESTON!** This 3 bedroom, 2 full bath ranch home sits on a corner lot. Partially fenced in back yard. Enclosed back porch. Many built-in bookshelves.  
**DOROTHY BOWERS**  
 (815) 985-3264

**MAYDELL LESSEN**  
 DESIGNATED MANAGING BROKER  
 (815) 622-4619

**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

**CHRIS SNYDER**  
 (815) 494-7857

# LOCAL NEWS

## Illinois Extension to host 'Navigating Changes as We Age' event

OREGON — Every one is aging, and many changes happen along the way — physically, mentally, financially — in about every aspect of our lives. Why can change be so difficult to manage?

Kara Schweitzer, University of Illinois Extension family life educator, will conduct "Navigating Changes as We Age" at Rock River Center in Oregon on Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. This workshop is provided free of charge, but advance registration is suggested. Call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 to register by Feb. 6.

Participating in this program will examine the significant life changes we experience and explore ways to adopt a more accepting mindset that will improve well-being and open new opportunities.

In Wits Fitness Brain Exercises, Kara will also lead interactive activities to enhance cognitive function and memory. Current research indicates that challenging the brain is one of several things you can do to improve your brain health as you age. Join Extension Educator Kara Schweitzer for brain challenges to train your

brain and keep your wits fit!

These classes will be held at Hub City Senior Center, Rochelle, 10:15-11:15 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25; Friday, Feb. 23; Thursday, March 28; Thursday, April 25; and Thursday, May 30. And at Rock River Center, Oregon, 10-11:30 a.m., Monday, March 18, Monday, April 15, and Monday, May 20.

Each monthly class is free and open to the public! Registration is not required but is appreciated. Contact Hub City Senior Center at 815-562-5050

or Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 to register. Participants are welcome to join the class at any time.

For more information about any of the classes or if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in programming, call 815-632-3611.

University of Illinois Extension offers programs that put knowledge to work and aim to make life better, healthier, safer, and more profitable for individuals and their communities. The University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

## Regional Transportation Committee Meeting set for Jan. 26

PERU — The next Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Regional Transportation Committee Meeting for Region 3 (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle and Putnam Counties) will be held on Friday Jan. 26 at 10 a.m. at the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission — 4231 Progress Blvd., Suite 3, Peru, IL 61354. Human service organizations with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged to attend, as well as anyone interested in public transit. If you would like further information, please contact via email: hstp@ncicg.org or call us at (815) 433-5830.

We will have reserved time slots available for public comment via Zoom for anyone not able to attend the meeting in person between 10:15-10:30 a.m. If you would like to participate in public comment via Zoom during that time frame, please contact us at (815) 433-5830 to reserve your time slot.

HSTP identifies transportation needs and develops solutions to improve transportation services for the general public. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and veterans. For more information about NCICG, HSTP, or if special accommodations are needed, please contact Connor Schwinn at (815) 433-5830.

## Art show hosted by Byron Museum of History starts Feb. 10

BYRON — The Byron Museum of History will host an art exhibit of work by members of the Eagle's Nest Art Group. The show will begin with an opening reception on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Several artists will be on hand to welcome visitors.

The exhibit will remain on display through Saturday, March 30. The museum, located at 110 N. Union St. in Byron, is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The museum's exhibits and the two-month long art show are open to the public free of charge.

This year's Eagle's Nest Art Group show features oil, watercolor, pastel and acrylic paintings as well as photography and glass art plus other 3-D art. It will be an extensive show of the work of local artists from Oregon, Byron, Rockford, Sycamore, Rochelle, Rock Falls, Sterling, Dixon, Forreston, Mt. Morris, Ashton and Polo.



ENAG, founded in 1957, has a full schedule of art events, workshops and shows and will have materials available at the museum for all who are interested in learning more about this community of artists and its activities. The group welcomes artists of any level of experience. There are Thursday sessions at the ENAG studio in Conover Square and summer outdoor painting sessions offered to all mem-

bers. For more information about ENAG, call (815) 732-7783 or visit Facebook at Eagle's Nest Art Group, Oregon, Illinois.

The permanent collections of the Byron Museum of History as well as the historic Read House, which is a listed Underground Railroad site on the National Park Service's Network of Freedom, are open to the public throughout the year. The museum is dedicated to preserving the rich history

of the Byron area through exhibits, programs, and artifact preservation. To learn more about the museum and its events, call (815) 234-5031 or visit their website [www.byron-museum.org](http://www.byron-museum.org)

## UW-Madison announces fall dean's list

MADISON, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year.

They include Byron's Ashley Dunham (school of pharmacy, honor roll), and Oregon's Taylor Geiseman (school of business, dean's list).

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must

complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

To view an online listing, visit registrar.wisc.edu/deanslist. Use the data display dashboard to find students from your circulation area who have received this honor.

For questions or concerns about eligibility, please contact [deanslist-registrar@em.wisc.edu](mailto:deanslist-registrar@em.wisc.edu)

## County electronics recycling event is Jan. 26

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email [solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov](mailto:solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov) and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by 4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25.

Accepted items include all televisions and computer monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCRs, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calculators, phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVDs, and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted.

Limit seven large or bulky items per permit and one permit per county household per month. Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events.

Business or institutional electronics are accepted by the OCSWMD via a separate program. Call the number above for more information and pricing for business electronic recycling, and to make an appointment for drop off of the materials to be recycled.

For more information about this recycling event call the OCSWMD at the number above, visit [www.oglecountyil.gov](http://www.oglecountyil.gov), or on Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.

### How Will You Use the New Year?

Teach us, O Lord, to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom

*Read from God's Word, Psalm 90:12*

Brought to you by  
**Little Prairie Mennonite Church**  
Pastor Norm Reinford (779) 861-3700  
[littlepraieministries@upwardmail.com](mailto:littlepraieministries@upwardmail.com)

# Start the New Year off right!

**\$50 VISA GIFT CARD**  
Upon completion of appointment

**75% OFF INSTALLATION\***  
Does not include cost of materials

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

\*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free

\*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, IN, PA and MI. Expires 1/31/24.

Call Today for Your **FREE Estimate!**  
**815-673-7499**

LeafGuard **GOOD HOUSEKEEPING** Since 1909  
18 YEARS BACKED BY THE SEAL  
BBB A+ rating

**SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE**

# RALPHIE & LULU'S

Join us on Friday nights for **fish, chicken and more**  
Saturday we serve up **Chicken Ralphie** a fan favorite

The slots are hot and the beer is cold

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

**812 Main St. - Ashton**

07/27/2022

# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Sharon K. Cox

**MT. MORRIS** — Sharon K. Cox, age 85, passed away peacefully on Thursday January 11, 2024 in Pinecrest Manor Nursing Home, Mt. Morris, IL. She was born on July 21, 1938 in Oregon, IL in her grandmother's home; the daughter of Edward Burnell & Margaret Jane (Reid) Wagaman. Sharon graduated from Mt. Morris High School. Sharon married Karl Cox on February 21, 1958 in Oregon, IL, and he preceded her in death on March 15, 2010. She worked in the accounting department at Kable News Company, Mt. Morris, IL retiring on August 29, 2003.



She is survived by her children: Randy (Melinda) Cox, Jeff (Peg) Cox, and Mike Cox all of Mt. Morris, IL, daughter: Jolene (Lee) Turner, Wauke-

sha, WI; grandchildren: Marc (Sarah) Cox, Allie (Jacob) Turner-Remmers, Maddie (Mike) Ray, Sam Turner, Miranda Cox, Travis Cox, Jacob Cox, and Zac Cox; great grandchildren: Teion and Zada Pye, Henry and Charlie Turner-Remmers, and Willow Cox; sister: Patricia Kump, Oregon, IL. Sharon is preceded in death by her parents; husband: Karl; and grandson: Landon Turner. Funeral services will be held on Friday January 19, 2024 in Finch Funeral Home, 405 East Hitt, Mt. Morris, IL, at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Bruce McKanna officiating. Burial will be held in Fairmount Cemetery, Polo, IL. Visitation will be held on Friday January 19, 2024 in Finch Funeral Home from 10:00 a.m. until service time. Memorials to the Mt. Morris Evangelical Free Church.

### Richard C. Montavon

**DIXON** — Richard C. Montavon age 88 of Dixon passed away on Friday Jan. 12, 2024 at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon, surrounded by his children. He was born on Jan. 8, 1936 in West Brooklyn the son of George and Catherine (Boyle) Montavon.



Richard worked for Northern Illinois Gas in Aurora, owned and operated Rich's Place in Amboy from 1965 to 1972, was an agent for Country Companies for over 22 years, and in retirement he was a crop adjuster for Country Companies. He was a gifted singer who enjoyed singing at many weddings, funerals and any other occasion where he could share his beautiful voice.

Richard married Joyce M Nauman on Sept. 6, 1958 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy. He is preceded in death by his wife Joyce on June 2, 2020, daughter Ann Kathryn Montavon, and one sister Donna Rapp. Richard is survived by his children Kathleen Rosignal of Dekalb, Julia (Tim) Langan of Peoria, Richard "Dick" (Susan) Montavon of Oregon, Sara (John) Stimac of East Alton, 11 grandchildren Jessica (Mark) Szachowicz, Jacqueline (Victor) Bompreszi, Kate (Joseph) Vitucci, Mitchell (Amanda) Langan, Patrick (Dani) Langan, Natalie (Dino) Vitale, Lucas Langan, Bailey Montavon, Lauren Montavon, Megan (Rob) Stanfield, Jacob Spaniol, 10 great grandchildren Colette, Sloane, and Ivy Szachowicz, Sienna and Victor Jr Bompreszi, Oliver Vitucci, Richard "Beau" Langan, Logan Langan, and Jax and Stormi Stanfield. He is also survived by two brothers James (Janet) Montavon of Dixon, Peter Montavon of Sandwich, and one sister Mary Jo Harms of Somonauk.

One of his favorite places was at the cabin on Dry Gulch, where he spent many weekends with his family and friends. His hobbies included golf, fishing and hunting to name a few.

He was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church in Dixon, the Knights of Columbus Council 690, the Fr. Boland Assembly of the 4th Degree, the Dixon Elks Club, and Moose Lodge.

Funeral services will be on Wednesday Jan. 17, 2024 at 10:30 AM at St. Anne Catholic Church in Dixon. Burial will follow at St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery in Amboy. Visitation will be on Tuesday Jan. 16, 2024 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and again on Wednesday Jan. 17, 2024 from 9:00 AM until 10:00 AM at the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon. Memorial donations can be directed to Kreider Service in Dixon and Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon. Online condolences can be left at [www.thejonesfh.com](http://www.thejonesfh.com)

### Linda E. Mitchell

**BYRON** — Linda E. Mitchell of Byron passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 11, 2024 surrounded by her loved ones. She was born May 16, 1943 in Rockford, IL. Daughter of Elliott and Clara (Toppe) Winterton. She married Warren Alan Mitchell on April 7, 1984.



She decided to try self employment cleaning houses before going to Hanlin Automotive keeping books. She would end her working career with what she said was the best job she ever had at Mopar City keeping books for Larry Pontnack. Although challenging at times, making one of the best friends she's had with lots of laughs and in her words, never a dull moment.

She was an avid bowler on several woman's leagues. She spent many hours sewing, making quilts and purses, affectionately known as the "Bag Lady".

What was most important and above anything else was time spent with her family and her pride in her Norwegian roots. Nothing brought her greater joy than her family and siblings who share an unbreakable bond. Her children and especially her grandchildren brought her so much joy and pride that can not be measured.

She is survived by her husband, W. Alan Mitchell, daughter, Carrie (James) Luttrell. Son, Christopher (Peggy) Head. Grandson, Derek Luttrell, Granddaughter, Brittani (Nathan Bradford) Head. Granddaughter, Kirsten (Austin) Kenney, Grandson, Adam (Amanda Carter) Head. Sister, Wilma Fafnis, brothers, Charles (Sue) Winterton and Mark (JoEllen) Winterton. Countless and adored nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by her parents, Elliott and Clara Winterton, former husband, Joseph Head, son, Derek Jon Head.

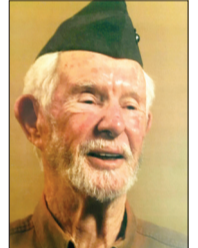
Celebration of Life to be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024 from 1-5PM at PrairieView Golf Pavilion in Byron.

Memorials can be sent in Linda's honor to Ronald McDonald House or St. Judes.

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

### Delbert 'Del' Lloyd Tedrick

**ROCKFORD** — Delbert "Del" Lloyd Tedrick age 93, formerly of Winnebago, died Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at Trustwell Living at Cherryvale Place in Rockford. He was born August 2, 1930, in Sterling, Illinois the son of Chester and Maude (Caswell) Tedrick. He graduated from Stillman Valley High School in 1948.



Del served his country in the U.S. Marine Corp from 1950 - 1954 in the South Korean Theater. He married Phyllis Fraley on Nov. 7, 1954, at Lowden State Park near Oregon, IL.

Del's occupation consisted of many things: he owned and operated Del's Gulf in Freeport, IL, owned and operated a fuel-delivery truck for DX, operated harvest equipment for Del Monte in Rochelle, was a farmer, and worked 32 years for the Illinois Farm Bureau including serving his last 26 years as manager of the Winnebago County Farm Bureau.

He was a 55-year member of Middle Creek Presbyterian Church where he was an ordained Elder and served as Trustee. Del was a former Lions's Club member, and a 50-year member of the Durand American Legion.

Del introduced President Ford to 600 Farm Bureau members and years later was thanked with a handshake from President Ronald Reagan for his coordination of the "Operation Haylift" program. He also represented the U.S. by leading a trade mission to the Soviet Union. Del participated in Civil War reenactments for over 20 years with the Battery G 2nd Illinois and Chicago Mercantile Artillery Batteries; Del's fellow reenactors became a second family for him. In 2019, Del's military service was the subject of a mini documentary by the

Harlem Veteran Project; the film can be viewed by searching Del's name on YouTube.

He liked to garden and take great care of his grounds at home.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his three brothers Albert, Wallace, and Richard Tedrick; and granddaughter Casey Tedrick.

He is survived by his loving wife of 69 years Phyllis Tedrick of Rockford; three children: Tim (Mary Lynn) Tedrick of Sterling; Robin (Becki) Tedrick of Winnebago; and Kimberly Tedrick (Paul Mapes) of Davis Junction; five grandchildren: Sean (Courtney) Tedrick of Naperville; Alison (Barrick) Tormohlen of Sterling; Kristin Tedrick of Rockford; Trenton Tedrick of Rockford; and Rachel (Ryan) Rebsom of Oswego; four great-grandchildren: Charlie, Connor, Rhylen, and Renley.

A funeral service will be held 11:00 AM, Saturday, January 20th, 2024, at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 136 W. Roosevelt Road in Stillman Valley, IL with the Pastor Willie Little, Chaplin of the Serenity Hospice and Home officiating.

Visitation will be prior to the service at the funeral home from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. Military honors for Del will follow the funeral service at the funeral home. Burial will take place at the White Rock Cemetery near Kings, Illinois.

Please, no flowers. Instead, a memorial fund has been established in Del's name and may be directed to Middle Creek Presbyterian Church, Rock River Valley Blood Center or Serenity Hospice and Home.

Visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com) to leave a condolence or memory of Del.

### 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.

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

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**Bar Mon-Thur 4 - 8PM & Fri 4 - 9PM**  
**Kitchen Mon-Thur 4-7PM & Fri 4-8PM**

Public is Welcome!

**VFW EVENTS**

Monday Lighting @ 5:30pm  
Wednesday Bingo @ 5:30pm  
Thursday Trivia Night @ 6:30pm

Public is Welcome!

**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!**

### Locals named to fall 2023 dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University

**BOURBONNAIS** — Four locals were recently named to the fall 2023 dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University, including Danielle Beukema of Oregon, Shawn Clinton and Alaina Haas of Byron, and Grant Ogden of Stillman Valley.

To qualify for inclusion on the dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 grading scale.

# LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

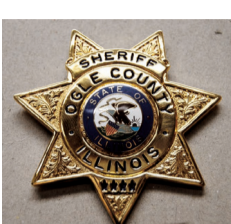
## Driver cited for failure to yield, driving too fast for conditions following accident

OREGON — On Jan. 10 at approximately 9:20 a.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident with an injury at the intersection of Mulford Road and Illinois Route 72. After investigation, deputies learned that a black Hyundai passenger car driven by Briann McCain-Bell, 19, of Rockford was traveling southbound on Mulford Road while approaching the Illinois Route 72 stop intersection. A black Peterbilt semi-truck tractor with a trailer of livestock, driven by Rick Phipps, 59, of Cannelton, Indiana was traveling eastbound on Illinois Route 72 approaching the Mulford Road intersection. The Hyundai then traveled through the intersection southbound without coming to a stop at the stop sign. The Peterbilt semi was unable to avoid the Hyundai and struck the front passenger side of the vehicle. The Peterbilt

semi then traveled off the south side of the roadway before striking a telephone pole and breaking it in half before coming to rest. The Peterbilt sustained heavy front-end damage and the Hyundai sustained heavy front-end damage. McCain-Bell was transported to St. Anthony's Medical center for minor injuries by Stillman Valley EMS/Fire. McCain-Bell was later issued citations for failure to yield at a stop intersection and too fast for conditions. Monroe Center EMS/Fire and COMED also assisted with the accident.

On Jan. 10 at approximately 1:01 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 72 and Kilbuck Road. After

investigation deputies issued Kimberly Berlin, 35, of Davis Junction, a notice to appear for no valid driver's license with a future court date. Berlin was additionally issued a citation for an expired registration.



On Jan. 11 at approximately 6:30 a.m. deputies were dispatched to a two-vehicle accident with injuries in the 1,000 block of South Illinois Route 251. After arrival, deputies learned that a grey Ford Edge, driven by Kimberly Baslerwalton, 42, of Oregon, was traveling southbound in the 1,000 block of South Illinois Route 251 on the snow-covered road. At the same time, a white Buick passenger car, driven by Aisha Maliyabwana, 37, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, was traveling

northbound in the 1,000 block of South Illinois Route 251. The Buick then lost control in the roadway before traveling into the southbound lane and striking the Ford head-on. The Buick came to rest completely in the southbound lane, and the Ford came to rest partially in the southbound lane and off of the west shoulder of the roadway. Both vehicles sustained heavy damage. Baslerwalton was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries by Rochelle EMS. Maliyabwana was transported to OSF Hospital for life-threatening injuries by Rochelle EMS. The accident remains under investigation.

On Jan. 11 at approximately 6:40 p.m. deputies with the assistance of Oregon Fire/EMS responded to a three-vehicle crash at the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Chana

Road. After conducting an investigation, it was discovered a Chevrolet Cruze driven by Coral Rasmussen, 18, of Forreton, was northbound on Chana Road at the intersection with Illinois Route 64 when she pulled out in front of a Kia Soul driven eastbound by Nikolai Kowalchuk, 24, of Willowbrook. The Chevrolet Cruze and the Kia Soul collided sending the Kia into the westbound lane where it struck a Ford Escape driven by Jacob Farbo, 26, of Chana. Kowalchuk was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. All other parties were treated by EMS on scene and did not seek further treatment. Rasmussen was issued a citation for failure to obey stop sign with a notice to appear in court.

On Jan. 12 at 5 p.m. deputies responded to 100 block of North Illinois

Route 251 for a single-vehicle rollover. After a brief investigation it was learned the driver, Alondra Villa-Diaz, 25, of Davis Junction was traveling northbound, spun out and rolled over in the west ditch Villa-Diaz and a passenger Andrea Lopez, 23, of Davis Junction, were transported to Rochelle Community Hospital with suspected minor injuries. Deputies were assisted by Lynn-Scott-Rock EMS.

On Jan. 16 at approximately 7:30 a.m. deputies responded to a truck in the ditch at Penn Corner Road and Ridge Road. After an investigation, deputies cited Jacob Goodall, 33, of Machesney Park for driving while license suspended, no insurance and expired registration. Goodall was given a notice to appear for his citations at the scene.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## Ogle County Sheriff's Office announces 2023 holiday enforcement campaign results

OREGON — The Ogle County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Illinois Department of Transportation and law enforcement across the state for the holiday "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" drunk-driving enforcement campaign. From Dec. 15 through Jan. 2, the sheriff's office showed zero tolerance for impaired driving, arresting seven offenders for the deadly crime. During the enforcement campaign, sheriff's deputies issued 142 total citations for various offenses including: 20 arrests for no valid/

suspended/revoked driver's licenses, seven arrests for DUI, three arrests for outstanding warrants, two arrests for resisting or obstructing a police officer, two citations for illegal transportation of alcohol, one citation for a cannabis violation, 53 citations for speeding violations, 31 citations for registration violations, 13 citations for no valid insurance, one citation for a child safety restraint violation, and 14 citations for other traffic offenses.

"We need to drive this message home:

Impaired driving is seriously risky business. It's illegal, and it endangers the driver, their passengers and everyone else on the road," Sheriff Brian VanVickle said. "The 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign helps our law enforcement deal with this problem head-on. If you're under the influence, don't get behind the wheel."

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

### H.O.P.E

For Free Help or Information Call 815-562-8890 24 Hours

All Calls Are Confidential.

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

### HOPE of Ogle County

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

Join millions of older Americans who are rediscovering the joy of walking

### "I'm on the move again with my UPWalker!"

FREE Shipping!

The UPWalker is a revolutionary new mobility device that can change your life by changing the way you walk. It enables you to stand upright when you walk- with your spine straight and your eyes looking straight ahead. Your weight is supported by your upper arms and shoulders, some of the strongest parts of your body. Traditional walkers and rollators force you to put the pressure of your body weight on your hands and wrists. You push them in front of you, looking at the ground instead of where you going. The UPWalker moves with you, with your body perfectly aligned and your feet



Includes 6 FREE Accessories! (a \$142 value)

- From the makers of the original UPWalker®
- Stand-Assist Handles
  - Comfortable Seat
  - Folds Easily
  - Adjustable Backrest
  - Optimized Center of Gravity
  - Easy-Brake Wheels

Plus, now you can choose between dark luster silver or champagne

free to walk in a normal fashion. Its easy-adjust height system allows it to be the perfect fit/height for anyone from 4'10" to 6'1" and supports up to 300 pounds. The new stand-assist handles enable you to distribute your weight across your arms and shoulders, not your hands and wrists to help reduce back, neck, wrist pain and discomfort. It features comfortable arm pads, hand brakes, a fold-down seat, a backrest and two storage bags. It's built



with aircraft-grade aluminum to be sturdy yet lightweight, and its sleek design and oversized wheels make it perfect for tight spots in the house or walking in the yard.

Why spend another day bent over and shuffling around- or worse yet, plopped in front of the TV all day. Pick up the phone and take back your life. Call now.

### UPWalker® Premium Lite from Journey Health & Lifestyle

Call now Toll-Free 855-424-2538

Please mention promotion code 601943.

© 2023 Journey Health and Lifestyle



84-531

Back by Popular Demand!  
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE!

NORTH AMERICA'S  
#1 Selling Walk-In Tub

Featuring our Free Shower Package

Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing with Safe Step Walk-In Tub's **FREE Shower Package!**

- ✓ First walk-in tub available with a customizable shower
- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!

FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY  
Call Toll-Free 815-515-4749

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase.

Call Today for Your Free Shower Package

# 1-815-515-4749

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

EASE OF USE CERTIFIED

MADE IN TENNESSEE

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

LIFETIME LIMITED WARRANTY

CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13VH11096000

# VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday  
Tonja Greenfield, General Manager  
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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

## MOMENTS IN TIME

\* On Feb. 5, 1922, DeWitt and Lila Wallace self-published and marketed the first Reader's Digest magazine, designed to provide abridged articles on a wide variety of subjects for easy reading. It eventually gained a circulation of more than 10 million copies in the U.S. and is still believed to be the best-selling consumer magazine in the country.

\* On Feb. 6, 1911, Ronald Reagan was born in Tampico, Illinois. Reagan spent 30 years as an entertainer in radio, film and television before winning the California governor's seat in 1966. Elected as America's 40th president in 1980, he survived an assassination attempt and became the most popular president since Franklin D. Roosevelt.

\* On Feb. 7, 1301, King Edward I of England gave his son Edward (later King Edward II) the title of Prince of Wales. Edward I had conquered Wales and ordered the execution of David III, the last native Prince of Wales, in 1283. To this day the title "Prince of Wales" is reserved exclusively for the heir apparent to the British throne.

\* On Feb. 8, 1983, a 5-year-old thoroughbred stallion named Shergar was stolen from a stud farm owned by the Aga Khan in County Kildare, Ireland. Worth a stunning \$13.5 million and commanding stud fees of approximately \$100,000, the animal was never seen again. No ransom was paid and the case was never solved.

\* On Feb. 9, 2008, Turkey's parliament approved two constitutional amendments easing the ban on women wearing Islamic headscarves in universities. While the government claimed the ban would result in many girls being denied an education, the secular establishment saw it as a step in allowing a more prominent Islamic influence on the state.

\* On Feb. 10, 1942, Glenn Miller became the first artist to win a gold record award, for his single "Chattanooga Choo Choo." The tune was featured in the 1941 movie "Sun Valley Serenade" and inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1996.

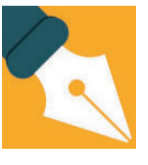
\* On Feb. 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was released from a South African prison after serving 27 years of a life sentence on charges of attempting to overthrow the apartheid government. Four years later, he was elected president in the country's first all-race elections.

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Thanks to bus drivers

Dear editor,  
The Forrestville Valley School District would like to take this opportunity to say, "thank you" to our bus drivers for ensuring the safe transport of students. The drivers' dedication to safety and commitment to the community are truly appreciated. Therefore,

please help us celebrate Bus Driver Appreciation Week in the Forrestville Valley School District, Feb. 5-9, by a kind word, a note of thanks or a gesture of appreciation to our drivers.



**Mrs. Sheri Smith,**  
superintendent  
Forrestville Valley School District

## LIFE letters' policy

Concise letters are most likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of management. All letters must be signed or they will not be considered for publication.

During election times, no letters written by the candidates endorsing themselves will be considered for publication.

Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. Writers are urged to use discretion and refrain from sarcasm or personal attacks.

Criticism of individuals or organizations that is not broached tactfully will jeopardize the publication of a letter. Letters will be published in the order that they are received, unless there is a time factor involved, space permitting.

## Climate-smart farming practices

OVER the next five years, millions of dollars could be funneled into efforts to help farmers rotate their crops, preserve their soil, improve how their animals are fed and, along the way, significantly reduce the 10% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions that come from agriculture.



Ron Kern

If, that is, the 2023 Farm Bill actually gets passed and if, unlike last time around, it includes significant funding for climate-smart farming practices.

Both are big ifs. Even before the actual text of the proposed Farm Bill is released, some in Congress are pushing to shift money away from conservation and climate change and instead make already high payments for rice, peanuts and cotton even higher.

It's also not clear if the Farm Bill, the now 90-year-old piece of legislation that is the basis for U.S. agricultural policy and which must be re-upped every five years – will be passed this year in the face of Congressional dysfunction, a possible government shutdown and an upcoming presidential election.

Started in 1933 during the depths of the Depression as a way to support farmers, the Farm Bill has become the single largest piece of federal legislation that supports the livelihoods of farmers, ranchers and dairymen across the country.

It assists farmers with risks, provides payments for many crops – primarily corn, soy, wheat, and rice – and funds efforts to protect farm soil and water. A significant portion of the funding, about 80%, goes to low-income families to buy food through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known as SNAP.

What the next Farm Bill might include isn't yet known. Both the House and Senate committees on agriculture are working on versions but neither have been released and aren't likely to be until the House and Senate are ready to move.

Agriculture accounts for about 10% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. That makes the Farm Bill, the United State's main food and farming legislation, a potentially critical part of the fight against climate change.

On a positive note, changes to the Farm Bill could help agriculture go from something that produces a significant amount of greenhouse gasses to something that's an important part of the solution.

There's already strong evidence for land management techniques farmers can use to produce fewer emissions and keep carbon in the soil, including practices that improve soil health, reduce erosion and improve water quality. But given the razor-thin margins they operate under, it takes federal support to help the nation's food growers make the shift.

### Some of those techniques include:

Planting cover crops and using crop rotation to keep soils healthy so they hold more carbon.

Timed, targeted fertilizer use to reduce nitrogen emissions into waterways and the atmosphere.

Researching feeding regimes and additives to keep livestock from producing as much methane in their burps.

Some of these practices are

already becoming popular with farmers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has programs to support them, funded in part by \$18 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act.

On average, there are about twice as many farmers who want conservation assistance from USDA than there is funding available for. We have strong demand for these programs. Farmers understand the benefits and that they're investing in their farms and farmland.

To get every American farmer involved will require more money but it will be money well spent, say advocates. As other sectors of the economy become more carbon neutral, agriculture's portion of emissions could grow to as high as 30% by 2050 according to some calculations, said Scott Faber, vice president for government affairs with the nonprofit Environmental Working Group.

Avoiding that also makes farming part of the national climate solution.

We can sequester tons of carbon in the soil. It takes time but it's a key solution to lowering carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The nice thing is that it's a win-win – it improves the soil and helps us adapt to climate change.

### Poetry

And with Christmas soon upon us I leave you with this...

I made myself a snowball,  
As perfect as could be,  
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,  
And let it sleep with me.

I made it some pajamas,  
And a pillow for its head,  
Then last night it ran away,  
But first - it wet the bed!

~ Shel Silverstein  
*Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.*

## Re-evaluate your drinking habits with a month of sobriety

WHETHER you began in January or are starting later in the month or February, it's never too late to give yourself a month of abstaining from alcohol. It's a great way to kick start the year and give yourself mental and physical clarity.

For many, holiday drinking is commonplace, and it can get out of hand. Even social and casual drinkers may find themselves drinking more than usual during the festive season. There are significant health benefits with a month of sobriety. There are also social benefits, and it helps you re-evaluate your drinking habits.

Fortunately, there are practical tips that you can use to help you achieve success and reap the benefits of a month of sobriety.

Initially, the health benefits are significant.

You will find yourself sleeping better, having more energy, lower blood pressure and cholesterol, and more money. You'll notice you may lose weight, have clearer skin, and feel less depressed, anxious, and stressed. Overall, your mental and physical well-being will significantly improve.

chance of driving while impaired is a substantial social benefit. Abstaining from alcohol is the backbone of effective drunk driving prevention. In Illinois, most DUI arrests occur among 25 to 34-year-olds. In 2022, 292 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes, approximately 23% of the 1,268 crash fatalities and 86% of all drivers arrested for DUI are first offenders.

It can seem challenging to know where to start this process, but there are practical tips that can help you along the way.

Create a supporting environment where you know you will succeed. Thoroughly purge all the booze around you; either dump it, hide it, or give it away. Moreover, find a suitable non-alcoholic drink for social situations.

Recruit a friend or family member to participate and help avoid temptations. Not only will you support one another, but you can also plan activities that do not involve alcohol, and you can speak about the successes and challenges of abstaining from alcohol.

Stay busy and active and take this time to focus on your mental and physical well-being; take advantage of having more energy and sleeping better. Utilize Dry January or sobriety apps that will help you track your progress and find practical ways to hold yourself accountable.

*Nickolaus Hayes is a healthcare professional in the field of substance use and addiction recovery and is part of the editorial team at DRS. His primary focus is spreading awareness by educating individuals on the topics surrounding substance use.*



Nickolaus Hayes

Moreover, it helps you re-evaluate your drinking habits if you feel it got out of hand over the holidays. Consider asking yourself if alcohol is used as a tool to cope with stressful situations. Do you find yourself feeling stressed without alcohol, or have your drinking habits impacted your relationships or your professional life? If the answer is yes, consider a month of not drinking alcohol.

Finally, and most importantly, removing any

## New Political Letter Policy

The Ogle County Life is implementing a new political letter policy.

We will now be accepting election letters endorsing or advocating for or against a ballot measure, party or candidate as paid advertising announcement. The fee is \$25 minimum for a 200 word letter and 10 cents a word for additional words over 250. Like other letters to the editor, the writer's name, address and phone number are required. Phone numbers and exact addresses are not published. We have the right to reject letters which don't meet publishing standards and will determine if the letter qualifies as a paid endorsement. Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page.

Most newspapers that have adopted this approach cite one main reason: Political campaigns for years have used newspaper opinion pages for what amounts to free advertising. As these letter-writing

campaigns become more widespread and sophisticated - some campaigns even pay people to write letters to the editor - newspapers are flooded with requests to publish them, especially in the run-up to elections.

Will we still publish letters complaining about the county board or school board? Yes. But if you want others to vote for or against a candidate, or for or against an issue on the ballot, you will need to pay a fee. Not a large fee - \$25 for up to 200 words.

Some key dates to keep in mind for political endorsement letters:

The primary election is Tuesday, March 19, 2024. The last batch of letters that endorse candidates for this election will be printed in the Monday, March 11, 2024 issue of the Ogle County Life must be received by noon on Wednesday, March 6.

To submit a letter, email Managing Editor Jeff Helfrich at [jhelfrich@oglecountylife.com](mailto:jhelfrich@oglecountylife.com).

# LOCAL NEWS

## Stillman Bank names 2023 holiday giveaway winners

**STILLMAN VALLEY** – Stillman Bank held its 59th annual Holiday Giveaway drawing on Dec. 22. The bank had a total of six winners throughout its six locations. The winners received either a beef quarter or pork half.

The winners of the beef quarters were: Richard Knight (Stillman Valley), Sandra Bedard (Davis Junction) and Tony Taylor (Roscoe).

The winners of the pork halves were: Gary Schultz (Oregon), Patrick O'Brien (Leaf River) and Cheryl Johnson (Roscoe).

The annual Holiday Giveaway is one of the many ways the bank gives back to the local communities it serves. For more information on the 2023 Holiday Giveaway or to find out more about Stillman Bank's products and services, please contact or visit [www.stillmanbank.com](http://www.stillmanbank.com).

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

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



Sandra Bedard, Davis Junction



Richard Knight, Stillman Valley



Patrick O'Brien, Leaf River



Cheryl Johnson, Roscoe



Gary Schultz, Oregon

**After Life, then Eternity**  
*It is appointed unto men once to die,  
 but after this, the judgment*  
**Are you ready?**  
 Read from God's Word, Hebrews 9:27  
 Brought to you by  
**Little Prairie Mennonite Church**  
 Pastor Norm Reinford (779) 861-3700  
[littlepraieministries@upwardmail.com](mailto:littlepraieministries@upwardmail.com)



Laura Watters speaks to Oregon Lions

Laura Watters, who is the director of Florissa and Autism Day Services for Kreider Services, spoke to the Oregon Lions on Jan. 11 during their meeting at the VFW in Oregon. She explained the services offered at the Kreider center. Kreider Services, based in Dixon, has provided direct services to people with developmental disabilities for the past 60 years and, at present, serves 700 people in 14 counties. It has 272 employees who help support individuals at their day and residential sites as well as providing services to those clients living with their families. Watters is the director of Florissa and Autism, which is a program that addresses the social and emotional needs of developmentally delayed children aged 0-18 living in rural northwest Illinois. Pictured from left to right: Oregon Lion Dr. Tom Champley, Watters and Oregon Lions President Lori Peterson. (Courtesy Photo)

## Sen. Chesney launches first annual Valentines for Seniors Card Drive

**FREEPORT** — With the start of the new year in Illinois, State Sen. Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) is launching his first annual "Valentines for Seniors" card drive. To brighten the days of seniors and make sure they know they are a valued part of the community, Senator Chesney is asking students from public and private schools, church groups, scouting organizations, and other groups to create homemade cards that will be delivered to assisted living centers, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities across the 45th Senate District.

"Seniors are a special part of our community, and this card drive will show them they are appreciated and that we're thinking of them," said Chesney. "It just takes a few minutes to make a card or write an

encouraging note, and that small gesture will make a big difference to our area's seniors."

Cards, poems, and other well-wishes will be collected between now and Feb. 5 at Senator Chesney's Freeport office, located at 50 W. Douglas St., Suite 1001, Freeport, IL, 60132,

between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"I hope we have a tremendous response to the project and are able to bring a great deal of joy to seniors living in assisted and nursing home settings throughout the 45th District."

## It's tax time!!!



Jennifer Lungstrom, CPA, EA



Silene Walters, CPA, MAS

See us for Income Taxes, Payroll and Bookkeeping

**WALTERS**  
Accounting Inc.

202 N. Walnut, Stillman Valley  
815.645.8979

[www.WALTERSTAX.com](http://www.WALTERSTAX.com)

01152024

# Antiques & Collectibles

### Belvidere Collectible Coins

[www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com](http://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

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

## BHS's Maison Brandt named 3-time ILMEA All-State musician

*'It's something not many people at Byron have done and I'm proud of it'*

**BYRON** — During the fall of 2023, over 10,000 students from elementary, junior high and high schools around Illinois participated in a virtual audition process and of those auditions, more than 7,000 students were selected to participate in district festivals celebrating student musicians in bands, orchestras, choruses and jazz ensembles.

Students in grades 9-12 who participated in the ILMEA District Festivals are also eligible to be selected into ILMEA's All-State Student Programs. This year, 1,500 students were selected to participate in the Illinois Music Education Association's 2023 All-State Student Programs in Peoria, Illinois from Jan. 24-27, 2024. In addition to the performing ensembles, this group also includes students who applied for and were accepted into the Future Music Educators Seminar for those students interested in pursuing careers as professional music educators, and students who entered the ILMEA Composition Contest and were selected to participate in the Composition Track. This is a unique and exciting track of events designed for exceptional students who are working in the areas of traditional composition, remix, singer/songwriter and other areas of music writing and production.

Maison Brant, senior, is Byron Choir's first three-time All-State Honors musician. He is in Chamber Choir. Maison's parents are Ann & Jake Brandt. Maison made the Honors All State Choir as a Bass 2. His future plans are to attend a four-year college and major in accounting and finance.



Maison Brandt

While in high school he has participated in golf, basketball, band, track, and the Illinois Music Educators Honor Society. He also is a member of his church's praise team. In 2022 Maison was

selected to the All-National Choir sponsored by National Association for Music Educators. Maison's thoughts on making all state are: "It is always amazing being accepted to all-state and I can't believe it's my third time. It's something not many people at Byron have done and I'm proud of it."

His favorite memory from choir has been the two choir trips he went on: the 2022 Tennessee Choir Trip and the 2019 St. Louis Choir Trip. His words of wisdom for future musicians "If you're on the fence on trying band or choir, then I would say go for it. It's truly a wonderful experience".

Students in the performing ensembles represent the best student musicians in Illinois that will come together to present a series of All-State Concerts. On Friday, Jan. 26, the 2024 Jazz Night Concert will feature a night of music performed by the student vocal and instrumental jazz ensembles. The All-State Elementary Chorus Concert, the All-State Concert and the Honors Concerts will be presented on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. Each of these ensembles will be led by distinguished conductors and educators from across the country.

The All-State Student Programs run concurrently with the Illinois Music Education Conference, the premier professional development opportunity for music educators in Illinois. This event brings over 12,000 students, educators, parents and music education industry vendors to the Peoria Civic Center to celebrate and promote music education in Illinois.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Feb. 3

The annual February Finds Antiques and collectible market will be held Saturday, Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mount Morris Moose Lodge 1551 Family Center at 485 E. Hitt St. Mt. Morris. Admission for this event is \$3 per person with children under 12 free. 20+ dealers will be featuring vintage items, retro decor, primitives, glassware, pottery, artwork, old toys, local advertising, furniture, baseball cards, fishing lures, linens, jewelry, military items, vintage political, local maple syrup, and so much more. Bobbi's Country Catering will have baked goods available for sale. The Moose Lodge will have food and drinks available for purchase through the day. Plan on an enjoyable day browsing the booths full of unique things and finding a special treasure.

### Feb. 4

Disciples United Methodist Church, 102 Maple Ave., is hosting a potato bar on Sunday, Feb. 4 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No registration is needed. Free will donations will support the missions of the church. Call the church at 815-734-4853 with any questions, or email secretary@disciplesumc.org.

### Feb. 6

Serenity Hospice & Home's Young Widows Group will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 6 from 5-6 p.m. at The Serenity Home, 1658 South Illinois Route 2, Oregon. This group is for ages 60 and under. Please call our office at 815-732-4111 by noon to register.

### Feb. 24

Byron Choirs have the wonderful opportunity to tour Ireland this June. While in Ireland they will be touring Galway, Killarney, Limerick, Kerry, Cork,

Tipperary and Dublin. Many cultural activities are planned for the group, but most importantly they will be performing three concerts. One at the Gothic Church on the grounds of Kylemore Abbey, one at St. Mary's Church in Killarney, and the final performance will be a joint concert with a youth choir in Dublin. The choirs will be hosting two benefit concerts to help raise money for the trip expenses but also to share selections of music they will be performing while in Ireland. The first concert will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24, 4 p.m., at All Saints Lutheran Church, 624 Luther Drive, Byron and the second concert will be held on Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 200 S. 4th St. in Oregon. The public is welcome to attend so the choir can provide their music and thank everyone for the continued support of the Byron High School Choirs. Any questions can be directed to the choir director, Amy Harn, at aharn@byron226.org.

### March 6

Learning to create original art for your own use and enjoyment or to give as gifts to those you care about is a joy! And think of the new friends you will meet while learning new skills! Encore! Mt. Morris and Highland Community College are collaborating to host six art classes between March 6 and April 18, most 6-8 p.m.: Macrame (Spring Gnome Garland), March 6, 6-8 p.m. Essential Skills for Basic Wood Carving, March 11 and 18, 6-8 p.m. Mastering Smartphone Photography, March 14 and 21, 6-8:30 p.m. Extreme Beginner Drawing with Pencil, April 8 and 15, 6-8 p.m. The Art of Drawing with Colored Pencils, April

11 and 18, 6-8 p.m. Introduction to Watercolor Painting, April 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All supplies are included in the course fees. Classes are held in the Old Sandstone Gallery, 122 S. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris. For course details (descriptions, fees, instructors, photos of projects) and to register for one or more of the classes, go to the Encore! Mt. Morris web site (encoremorris.com) and click on the "Spring 2024 Art Classes" button. Clicking on the title or photo of the class that interests you will take you to the Highland CC Lifelong Learning page to register. Contact Molly Baker at mollyb@encoremorris.com if you have any questions.

### March 20-21

Families living within the Meridian CUSD #223 school district who have children who will be five by Sept. 1, 2024 are invited to register for Kindergarten Kickoff for the 2024 2025 school year at Highland Elementary School. This night is designed to help provide a smooth transition into school for our future students and their parents. Students will participate in a series of group and individual activities, and parents will have the opportunity to attend informational sessions regarding the school and preparing their children for success. The event will be held on two nights in March at Highland Elementary School, 410 S. Hickory St. Stillman Valley. Families with last names beginning with letters A through L will attend Wednesday, March 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. and families with last names beginning with letters M through Z will attend Thursday, March 21 from 5:30-7 p.m. Please contact the Highland school office at 815-645-2230 to RSVP by March 8.

Brought to you by these sponsors:

**Bushman's Service**  
On Farm Tire Service  
Milledgeville, IL  
**815-225-7411**

**Gene Eike**  
Insurance Agency  
1500 W. Washington, Oregon • 732-2222

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

Mike Hurst, Owner/Operator  
**HURST**  
HEATING & COOLING  
**815-757-4383**  
MONROE CENTER, IL  
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALL

**Discount Hardware**  
Rotating Inventory  
Cleaning Supplies  
Gloves  
Tools  
Monday, Tuesday & Friday 1-5pm  
111 E. Hitt St. Mt. Morris (South Side of The Building)

WOODEN FRIEZE NICKEL  
Serving the Community for 31 years!  
Locally owned and operated  
**FISH FRY**  
Friday 5pm-9pm  
Full Menu Served:  
Wed, Fri, Sat | 5pm - 9pm  
208 N Walnut St  
Stillman Valley, IL 61084  
815-645-9828

**STEVE BENESH & SONS**  
3923 N River Rd Oregon IL 61061  
**815-732-2384**  
stevebeneshandsons.com

THE HARVARD STATE BANK SM  
SAFE. SOUND. LOCAL.  
Serving & Supporting Our Communities Since 1866  
Member FDIC  
510 W. Washington Street • Oregon, IL 61061  
815.732.3111 • www.webhsb.com

**KING BLACKTOP**  
Serving Ogle, Boone & Winnebago County for over 34 years  
**815-234-4171**  
**815-234-2225**  
www.kingblacktop.com  
3499 E Tower Rd  
PO Box 652  
Byron, IL 61010

**SMITH BIRKHOLOLZ & MORROW, P.C.**  
David A. Smith  
Jennifer L. Birkholz  
Eric D. Morrow  
Estate & Trust, Real Estate, Agribusiness, Corporate, Litigation, Criminal, DUI, Traffic & Family Law  
129 S. 4th Street, Oregon, IL 61061  
**815-732-6124**

**DOUGLAS & FRYE**  
IF IT DOESN'T HAVE A MOTOR MOTORSPORTS IT AIN'T A SPORT  
1902 N. LOCUST ST., STERLING, IL • 815-625-4426  
ACCESSORIES • PARTS • SERVICE  
KYMCO POLARIS  
www.douglasfryemotorcycle.com

Hybrid Seed Corn  
Call For Prices  
309-462-2396 800-345-7798  
**PREMIUM SEED, INC.**  
1028 130th St., Berwick, IL

**Holcomb Bank**  
WHERE RELATIONSHIPS MATTER  
Rochelle • New Milford • Creston • Byron  
815-562-3838  
www.holcomb.bank  
MEMBER FDIC



# WINTER SURVIVAL

## 4 factors to consider to maintain winter safety

**M**ANY 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 surfaces. 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 using 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 generators, 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. Black

ice forms when temperatures rise above freezing during the day, melting any snow on the ground and causing surfaces to become wet. If the temperature drops once more while the ground is wet, a thin, transparent sheet of ice can form. Black ice also may occur if moisture in the air condenses and forms dew or fog, and then the temperature drops below freezing, says the National Weather Service. Black ice gets its name because it looks black on asphalt roads. However, it also can form on sidewalks and overpasses, or spots shaded by trees or other objects. Slowing down and exercising extreme caution are essential.

Winter is a beautiful season. But it can be just as hazardous as it is awe-inspiring. Taking steps to stay safe in unpredictable conditions is a necessity each winter.



## A homeowners' guide to ice dams

**C**OLD weather contributes to many different conditions that can affect homes. When winds are blowing fiercely, homeowners may soon discover deficits in insulation or in caulking around windows and doors. Icy conditions can cause walkways and stairs to become slick.

One winter condition can cause extensive headaches and damage and could be a mystery to many homeowners. Ice dams occur when warm air in the attic heats up the roof and melts accumulated snow. Water from this melt runs down the roof and refreezes when it reaches the colder roof edge. A mound of ice forms at the lower edge of the roofline as a result.

Ice dams may help create a picturesque winter vista, with icicles hanging and glinting in the sunlight, but they can cause significant damage. According to experts, ice dams can weigh hundreds of pounds if they get large enough, potentially affecting the structural integrity of roof eaves. In addition, ice dams can cause melted runoff to back up under roof

shingles. This water can eventually make its way inside, ruining ceilings and walls. The roof, gutters, insulation, interior drywall, and other home surfaces can be damaged if ice dams are left unchecked.

The following are some conditions that make a home vulnerable to ice dam formation:

1. The presence of snow on the roof.
2. An average outdoor temperature that is 32 F or lower.
3. A roof surface temperature above 32 F at its higher points and below 32 F at the lower end.
4. Indoor heat making its way to the underside of the roof.

Homeowners should take a few steps to address ice dams. The first is preventing future ice dams from forming. According to First American Roofing and Siding, LLC, improving insula-

tion in the ceiling below the attic and addressing any inefficiencies in the home is necessary. A professional can do a blower door test, which works by depressurizing the home and using a thermal camera to find areas where insulation is poor. In addition, adequate ventilation under the roof deck is necessary so cold air can circulate and prevent the attic from getting so warm that it will melt the snow on the roof.

The next step is to remove excess snow from the roof with a roof rake and keeping gutters clear. If ice dams have already formed, hire a professional to remove them, as it can be dangerous to do it oneself.

Snow-covered roofs and landscapes can be beautiful, but also dangerous if conditions that cause ice dams to form are not addressed.

**Bushman's Service**  
On Farm Tire Service  
Milledgeville, IL  
**815-225-7411**

**D&W GARAGE** Byron, Illinois  
815.234.2171  
AUTO REPAIRS TOWING

Mike & Jodi Girten, Owners

- All Auto and Truck Repairs
- 24 Hour Towing Service
- Hydraulic Hose Service and Repair

**815-234-2171**  
1503 Kysor Drive, Byron, IL

**Full-Service Auto Repair & Maintenance**

From factory-schedule 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

**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.

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](http://rochellefoodsjobs.com)

# WINTER SURVIVAL

## Why regular car washes are important

**T**AKING care of a vehicle involves more than just maintaining the equipment under the hood. There are a number of steps involved in keeping a car or truck in top form, and that includes regular car washes.

Car washes keep a vehicle shiny and clean, which can help it look good while sitting in the driveway or cruising the highway. However, regular car washes are more than cosmetic.



- Protection from the sun: A car that is routinely and properly washed and waxed is less vulnerable to damage from the sun's ultraviolet rays.
- Extend the life of paint: Dirt and debris can build up on the paint surface and eventually lead to scratches and other damage. Bird droppings and sap can be corrosive. Washing will help remove grime and protect the paint

- in the process.
- Preserve the vehicle's value: Drivers who plan to sell or trade in their vehicles in the future should realize that a well-maintained car can bring in as much as 20 percent more for above-average condition, according to Kelley Blue Book. Maintaining a clean and shiny vehicle can

- protect its long-term value.
  - Remove salt: Drivers who live near the ocean or in areas where roads are salted in the winter to melt snow may have cars with high salt corrosion rates. Unless it's washed off frequently, salt can take its toll, leading to damage.
  - Improve fuel efficiency: Drivers have felt pain in their wallets at the fuel pump in recent years. Dirty cars may be less aerodynamic and less fuel-efficient as a result. Keeping a car clean may
  - improve its fuel efficiency.
  - Maintain the interior: Car washes are not only about the exterior. Keeping a clean and tidy interior can help improve the air quality inside of the vehicle and prolong the life of upholstery, mats and interior components.
- Car washes should be a routine part of vehicle maintenance. Professional car washes tend to be more eco-friendly than washing a car at home, so drivers are urged investigate their service plans and features.

## Preparing for winter storms

**W**INTER 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. If a storm is forecasted, follow these guidelines.

- 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.



### BARB CITY AUTOMOTIVE

Complete Automotive Repair - Foreign & Domestic  
 John Volkert & Bobby Leon of Rochelle - Owners  
 1150 S. 4th St. DeKalb  
 756-3898

**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

Call "Spud" for all your insurance needs...  
 James E. "Spud" Supancic  
 We carry a wide variety of insurance providers including Mexico Insurance  
 Auto • Home • Life • Health

**James E. Supancic Insurance**

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat. 9am-12 Noon  
 516 Lincoln Ave., Rochelle, IL 61552  
 815-562-7552  
 www.spudinsurance.com

**LONG TREADLIFE**

3-D SipeLock® for resistance to treadwear

V-Formation Tread Design for even contact patch

**MICHELIN® CROSSCLIMATE® 2 TIRE**

THE ULTIMATE ALL-SEASON PERFORMANCE TIRE

**MICHELIN CROSSCLIMATE 2**  
 A REVOLUTIONARY TIRE

• An authorized Michelin Dealer  
**FREE**  
 TIRE ROTATIONS for the life your tires!  
 with any 4-tire purchase

**COOPERTIRES**      **BRIDGESTONE**      **BFGoodrich**      **GOODYEAR**      **HANKOOK**      **MICHELIN**      **Firestone**

**HUGE INVENTORY OF NEW & USED TIRES**

- We sell new & used Tires & Rims •
- All Makes & Models •
- Cars/Truck Service •
- Lowest Prices Around! •

**815-312-7089**

Family Owned and Operated      Tony Kurzac

**ILLINOIS**  
 AUTO REPAIR & TIRE SERVICE

107 E Washington St.  
 Oregon, IL  
 illinoisautorepairtire@yahoo.com



**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!**  
Great Rate - Great Spot!

Call Chris @ 815-732-2156 or email cgrimm@oglecountyilife.com

01012024

### Elite Showdown

The Stillman Valley Wrestling Club saw several individuals earn medalist honors during the 2023 Novice/Senior Elite Showdown in Stillman Valley on Dec. 9. Bradley Bankes finished first in the Novice 134 Division, while Xander Bell took second in the Senior 110 Division and Tristan Jackson took second in the Novice 116 Division. Tyler Bell finished third in the Senior 126 Division and three kids including Isaias Carreno (Novice 93 Division), Keith Stepina (Novice 116 Division) and Michael Mutimer (Novice 80 Division) placed fourth. (Courtesy Photos)



## RE/MAX of Rock Valley

There may be freezing temperatures and Winter Wonderland-like conditions, but we're available to answer any questions you may have when it comes to finding your next home!

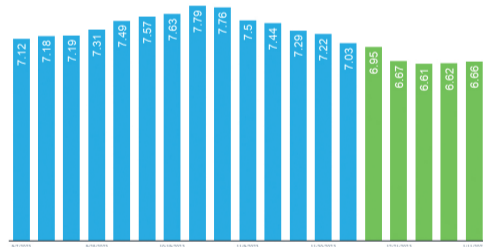


If you've been holding off on selling your house to make a move because you felt mortgage rates were too high, their recent downward trend is exciting news for you. Mortgage rates have descended since last October when they hit 7.79%. In fact, they've been below 7% for over a month now (see graph below):

### Mortgage Rates Continue To Hover in the Mid-6% Range

September 2023—Today

U.S. Weekly Averages as of 1/11/2024



And while they're not going back to the 3% we saw during the 'unicorn' years, they are expected to continue to go down from where they are now in the near future. As Dean Baker, Senior Economist at the Center for Economic Research, explains:

"It also appears that mortgage rates are now falling again. They will almost certainly not fall to pandemic lows, although we may soon see rates under 6.0 percent, which would be low by pre-Great Recession standards."

Here are two reasons why this recent trend, and the expectation it'll continue, is such good news for you.

#### You May Not Feel as Locked-In to Your Current Mortgage Rate

With mortgage rates already significantly lower than they were just a few months ago, you may feel less locked-in to the current mortgage rate you have on your house. When mortgage rates were higher, moving to a new home meant possibly trading in a low rate for one up near 8%. However, with rates dropping, the difference between your current mortgage rate and the new rate you'd be taking on isn't as big as it was. That makes moving more affordable than it was just a few months ago. As Lance Lambert, Founder of ResiClub, explains:

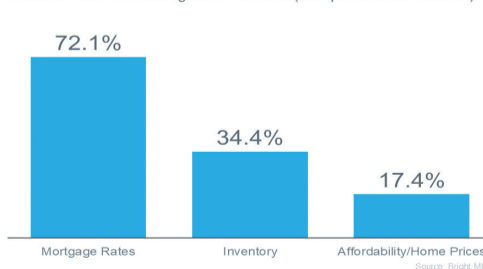
"We might be at peak 'lock-in effect.' Some move-up or lifestyle sellers might be coming to terms with the fact 3% and 4% mortgage rates aren't returning anytime soon."

#### More Buyers Will Be Coming to the Market

According to data from Bright MLS, the top reason buyers have been waiting to take the plunge into homeownership is high mortgage rates (see graph below):

### Top 3 Reasons Buyers Paused Decision

Reasons Given for Pausing Their Purchase (Multiple Could Be Chosen)



Lower mortgage rates mean buyers can potentially save money on their home loans, making the prospect of purchasing a home more attractive and affordable. Now that rates are easing, more buyers are likely to feel they're ready to jump back into the market and make their move. And more buyers mean more demand for your house.

#### Bottom Line

If you've been waiting to sell because you didn't want to take on a larger mortgage rate or you thought buyers weren't out there, the recent decline in mortgage rates may be your sign it's time to make your move. When you're ready, connect with A RE/MAX of Rock Valley agent!



### 504 Oak Meadows Drive, Oregon \$425,000 Call Carrie

Stunning Ranch nestled on a 1.11 acre wooded lot in a rural subdivision with a 4 car garage! Enjoy all main floor living with 4 spacious bedrooms including en-suite master complete with jetted tub, walk in closet & doors leading to the deck with views of your wooded back yard. Dream kitchen with ample wood cabinetry, hard surface counters, built in warming drawer, center island with range & breakfast bar. Laundry room with door leading to 2nd deck, counter & sink, 1/2 bath & easily accessible from the garage. Foyer leading to the formal dining room with hardwood flooring coffered ceiling leading to the living room with newer carpet & wall of windows. Arched doorway leading to the family room with gas log fireplace and doors leading to your own 4 season room with wall of windows for endless views. Don't forget the full unfinished basement with overhead door that leads to cement patio. LL also features a gas log fireplace & dual a/c & GFA units, ample storage and roughed in bath. Additional storage to be found in the walk up attic in the garage. New roof, gutters & leaf guards, 2 decks (13X28 & 14X14) hand scraped & stained all completed during the summer of 2023. Fiber optic high speed internet available. Call today to view this great home!



### 607 Jefferson Street, Oregon \$295,000 Call Lori

Don't miss your chance to see this home completely refurbished by master craftsman Max Newcomer. This house is redone from being lifted up for the new foundation, to electric, plumbing, roof and everything in between. Roof new in 2023. The features of the original house were maintained with original woodwork, 3 sets of pocket doors, living room fireplace (with gas insert) & stained glass window in the 2 story foyer. Second floor has 2 bedrooms with great closet spaces, a large laundry room plus, at the top of the stairs is a great big open space with 3 windows. 2 bedrooms not enough? This room can easily be finished into one or 2 more bedrooms. Poured concrete, wrap-around front porch is waiting for your chairs or sit on the brick covered patio in your fenced yard. First floor sun room will bring the outdoor feeling inside. The basement is very clean and carpeted and has oversized windows. You will love the garage with its 3 overhead doors, one of the doors is 9 x 9 for those larger vehicles. The garage is fully outfitted with a walk up area with lots of usable space. 4 blocks to the schools and just a few blocks to downtown and Nash recreation center. This house is ready and waiting just for you.



### 567 S. Second Street, Rochelle \$110,000 Call Taylor

Welcome to this charming 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom home featuring a perfect blend of classic comfort and modern updates. As you enter the home you will notice the spacious living room which is great for entertaining. Stepping into the kitchen, the new flooring accompanied by the newly refinished cabinets and countertops are sure to impress. The bathroom has been tastefully refreshed with a modernized look while also featuring a built in bathroom heater. Venture outside to discover the new fence lining the north and west side of the property, providing both privacy and a great space for outdoor gatherings. One of the standout features of this property is the 2.5 car detached garage, offering ample space for parking and storage. New sewer line installed in 2021. Call for a showing today!



### 10045 E. Edgewood Road, Polo \$725,000 Call Carla

New Listing in Polo School District! 40 Acres total zoned Ag-1. This 78x112 Morton Built Equine Facility/Barn/minihome offers so many possibilities! The living area consists of 1000 sq ft with a loft bedroom, a 33x11' Great Room on the upper level that offers a view of the indoor arena and all stall fronts, plus an outdoor view of acres of rolling farmland, fenced pastures where horses graze, a 48x18' loafing shed, radiant sunsets, often deer, wild turkeys, eagles in flight, and occasionally, meow showers. On the main floor, there is a kitchen, full bathroom, and an ADA guest bath all with radiant heat. The indoor riding arena is 100x60' with six lights and 18' fluorescent. The property's southern face is a shed row of 8 stalls, each equipped with a skylight, an electrical outlet for treated water buckets or routine dental care, a skylight, and halogen light. Six stalls measure 12x11, one is 12x12, and the 8th is 14x14, and when combined with the stall adjoining it, you have a foaling stall or a roomy place for an alling horse to get stall rest. All stalls have sliding doors access that open into the indoor arena as well as doors to the dry lot and paddocks. The Tack Room has shelving, a set tub, washer/dryer, water softener, and iron eliminator. Three pastures have automatic waterers (north, south, and west), plus 4 outdoor frost-free hydrants make connecting hoses easy, if necessary. The property's western boundary is a year-round creek, and along it, 5 acres provide hay production while an additional 10 acre field provides annual rental income. As a bonus, there is a small but prolific apple orchard. This is truly a horse lover's dream place and now it can be yours! Conveniently located close to I-88, White Pines State Park, plus several riding trails in the area.



### 523 W. Blackhawk Road, Byron \$750,000 Call Becky

Looking for a business venture? Great opportunity with two means of income - Successful existing restaurant with a long term lease plus a 5 unit apartment building with great cash flow. Restaurant has been remodeled & kitchen updated. Apartments have 2 bedroom & laundry in each. Lots of paved parking for both the restaurant and apartments. Great central location on the state highway and in the business area with a traffic count of 10,600 daily. (business not included - only building and apartments) Outdoor covered patio not included in the sale.



### 201 Jefferson Street, Oregon NOW \$150,000 Call Rebecca

NEW ROOF RECENTLY INSTALLED! This home is waiting on the installation of it's brand new roof on both the house and the garage. It has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a main floor laundry room. This home is full of charm throughout with hardwood floors, fireplace and tons of woodwork. Main floor features a formal dining space, sun room, large living room and spacious front porch. Upstairs you will find 3 bedrooms and a full bathroom. Basement is ready to be finished and has it's own access door separate from the main floor. Detached 3 car garage with second floor that could easily be finished for more living space. Located close the River District and downtown-call today for your showing!



Rebecca Hazzard 815-985-8432 | Carla Benesh 815-985-6235 | Mark True 815-631-1699 | Lori Peterson 815-973-2180 | JD Gieson 815-970-1873 | Boone Lockard 815-970-3506 | Carrie Rowland 815-677-8656 | Jenny Kirchner 815-440-2145 | Josie Kuss 815-994-1079



Taylor Miller 815-751-8943 | Merri Cruz 815-988-7947 | Casey Cline 217-840-8853 | Jamie Pendergrass 815-243-4310 | Ashley Patterson 815-291-6108 | Erin Spence 815-262-5555 | Stephanie Wendt 815-985-2055 | Jenn Goley 630-732-6858 | Becky Adams 815-509-5837

606 E Washington St., Oregon, IL  
114 E Everett, Dixon, IL

**815-732-9100**

RockValleyProperties.com

Each office is independently owned & operated.

# SPORTS NEWS



### Lady Marcos basketball players recognized

The Polo High School varsity girls basketball team recognized a trio of its student-athletes with Player of the Game awards during the month of December. Madison Glawe was the Player of the Game winner during Polo's 51-40 loss to Amboy on Dec. 1, when she scored 12 points with six rebounds and one block. Cam Jones earned the Player of the Game honors after totaling 18 points, nine rebounds, five assists and two blocks in Polo's 58-38 win over Oregon on Dec. 5. Carlee Grove was given the Player of the Game honor after recording 17 points, six rebounds and one assist in Polo's 57-38 win over Milledgeville on Dec. 7. Lastly, Jones was awarded a second time after scoring 25 points with three rebounds, one assist and one block during Polo's 59-38 loss to Pecatonica on Dec. 11. (Courtesy photos)

### AREA SPORTS

#### Oregon boys bowling falls to Dixon

The Oregon boys bowling team finished its dual match season with a 3,522-3,648 conference loss to Dixon at Town & Country Lanes, Mt Morris on Jan. 11. Oregon was led by Matthew Stahl with a 662 series (244, 208, 210) and was followed by RJ Keene's 629 series, Aiden Currier's 581 series, Gavvin Surmo's 566 series, Brady Davis' 557 series and Codey Dunbar's 531 series.

The JV completed a perfect 15-0 dual match season with a 2,948-2,806 win over Dixon. The JV was led by Caleb Brooks with a 549 series. Also competing at the JV2 level Landon Bailey had the high score with a 531 series.

The Hawks varsity finished their regular season with a 14-3 record, two tournament championships and will compete in the IHSA Regional on Monday, Jan. 15 in Freeport in one of the toughest regionals in the state.

#### Stillman Valley girls basketball defeats Winnebago

The Stillman Valley varsity boys basketball team scored a 65-45 win over Winnebago on Tuesday, Jan. 16. The Cardinals improved to 18-4 overall and 3-1 in the Big Northern with the victory. Taylor Davidson led Stillman Valley with 25 points, while Mya Janssen added 19 points and Amelia Dunseth finished with eight points. Davidson scored 15 points in the first half.

#### Oregon boys bowling ends season at regional

The Oregon boys bowling team ended its season at the IHSA Regional on Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 4 Season in Freeport. In a day that started with a lane breakdown after one frame, the Hawks never found a groove and ended the day in ninth place. Oregon was led by junior Matthew Stahl with an 1,167 series (184, 213, 220, 172, 207, 171), who missed advancing to the Sectional by two pins. Also making a run at advancing was junior Gavvin Surmo with an 1,134 series, including a 246 in game five, but fell 35 pins short of advancing. Senior Codey Dunbar had a 1,033 series, senior Brady Davis had a 1,029 series, sophomore Aiden Currier had a 369 series (two games), sophomore RJ Keen had a 304 series, junior Caleb Brooks had a 177 game and sophomore Caleb Ehrler had a 137 game.



### Tigers win Forreton Holiday Tournament

The Byron High School varsity boys basketball team remained undefeated with a perfect showing at the 2023 Forreton Holiday Tournament from Dec. 18-21. The Tigers finished the tournament with an 8-0 overall record on the season, scoring wins over Pearl City (55-25), River Ridge (73-46) and Newman Central Catholic (57-40). Three players including Carson Buser, Jack Hiveley and Ryan Tucker were named to the All-Tournament Team. (Courtesy photo)



### Third place finish at Metamora

The Byron High School varsity wrestling team secured a third-place finish and trophy from the 2023 Metamora Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 16. (Courtesy photo)



### Tigers finish sixth

The Byron High School swimming and diving team competed in the Boylan Bash, where the Tigers finished sixth out of 13 schools. Conner Welt took second and Vaughn Schamper placed sixth to earn awards in the freshman category. (Courtesy photo)

### Three earn All-Tournament honors

The Byron High School varsity boys basketball team continued its perfect season at the Mike Hutchins Holiday Tournament in Sherrard from Dec. 28-29, improving to 11-0 and claiming the crown with wins over Illinois Valley Central (66-53), Alleman (68-37) and host Sherrard (46-37). Three players including Jack Hiveley, Ryan Tucker and Cason Newton earned All-Tournament Team honors. (Courtesy photo)



## 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

SCAN FOR TICKETS

# SPORTS NEWS

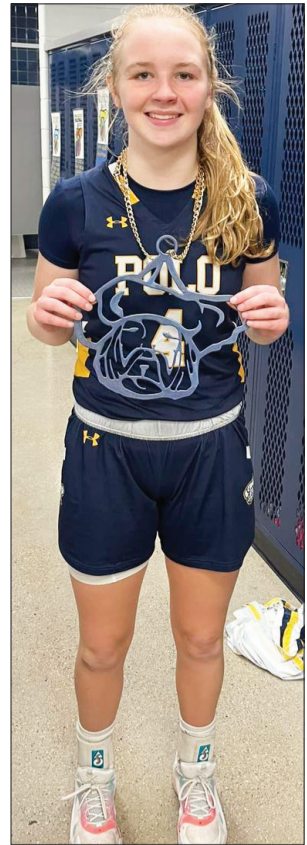


### Tigers recognized

The Byron High School varsity football team was recognized along with each of the IHSA State Championship winners at Soldier Field on Dec. 10, when the Chicago Bears hosted the Detroit Lions in an NFC North Division game. The Tigers watched as the Bears beat the Lions 28-13. On display were the team's IHSA State Championship trophy as well as the team's helmet and uniform. Highlights were also displayed on the video board inside the stadium. (Courtesy photos)



Frey



Jones



Monaco



Rahn

### Lady Marcos receive kudos

The Polo High School varsity girls basketball team recognized a trio of its student-athletes with Player of the Game awards during the month of December. Karlea Frey received the Player of the Game award after giving Polo quality minutes off the bench during a 43-20 loss to Riverdale on Dec. 14. Cam Jones was the Player of the Game after scoring 15 points with three rebounds, three blocks and one assist in Polo's 35-28 win over Forreston on Dec. 16. Sydney Rahn earned the Player of the Game honor after compiling nine points, five rebounds, five blocks and five steals during Polo's 43-42 win over Sterling Newman on Dec. 17. Lastly, Elsa Monaco won the Player of the Game award with nine points, five rebounds, two assists and one steal in Polo's 55-47 loss to River Ridge-Scales Mound on Dec. 18. (Courtesy photos)



### Second place at Skyhawk Scramble

The Byron High School varsity cheerleading team finished second and took home a trophy from the Skyhawk Scramble on Sunday, Dec. 17. (Courtesy photo)



### Chess team adds two victories

The Stillman Valley High School chess team hosted Freeport and Rock Falls on Dec. 12. The Cardinals defeated the Pretzels 68-0 and the Rockets 57-11 to add two victories to their season resume. (Courtesy photo)

# SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

## Societal bad behavior and sports

WITH weather knocking out high-school sports this past weekend, there isn't much to report on. However, a couple items in the Rockford area caught my attention.

The first was a panic-mode situation at a Guilford at Auburn boys basketball game last Wednesday. According to a report by my colleague Matt Trowbridge of the Rockford Register Star, the incident was sparked by fans who could not get into the sold-out contest.

Noise from the commotion created confusion in the gym, causing a mass exodus by terrified fans and players. Rumors of a gunshot proved to be false.

None-the-less, the incident was unsettling in that it wasn't the first time that Rockford public schools Auburn, East, Guilford and Jefferson have experienced problems at sporting events. Additionally, discipline issues have plagued these NIC-10 schools for decades.

Ironically, adults precipitated the latest incident, a reflection of bad behavior by society in towns all over America. How can we expect our children to behave when adults are out of control?

The second item is a positive story, and also concerns Rockford Guilford basketball. Their head coach, Chris Dixon, doubles as a pastor, besides working a regular job in manufacturing.

Dixon has led Guilford to a conference championship, but more importantly, he has filled a need for a spiritual path for his players to follow. With more people like Chris Dixon in positions of leadership, there is hope for young people of this country.

We hear about an increase in mental health problems boys and girls are experiencing and the emotional toll it is taking. Many young people see no way out and are desperate for an answer to fear and anxiety.

The public sector has taken to secular methods as a means for healing, but Dixon's message of spirituality holds more promise. A reliance upon God, as lived by Coach Dixon, provides strength and a peace of mind.

Some of our local schools have a Fellowship of Christian Athletes, whereby kids can share one another's burdens and offer spiritual encouragement. At the very least, a person is likely being shown his or her purpose in life.

And that is to humbly serve others. With that kind of mindset, I am

less likely to create a disturbance in the lobby of a high-school gymnasium like what happened at Rockford.

While researching an entirely different subject within the Chicago Bears organization, I encountered another Rockford Guilford connection. Carlos Polk, a former Guilford all-state football player who went on to play in the NFL for several years, has the job title of assistant special teams coach for the Bears.

The reason I was researching the Bears coaching personnel was a press release regarding the firing of several assistants, including offensive coordinator Luke Getsy. The item that piqued my interest most was that of "assistant tight end" being fired.

If there is such a thing as assistant tight end coach, how many coaches do the Bears have? Not counting the five that were fired, there were 21 other coaches for a total of 26.

That's one coach for every two players, leading me to believe the old adage about "too many cooks spoiling the broth".

Back to another professional sports news item from Chicago and one that reflects an aforementioned comment about societal bad behavior. The Chicago Bulls had a Ring of Honor ceremony and what stood out most, was not roars of approval for former greats, but a shower of boos that rained down on the widow of former General Manager Jerry Krause.

Thelma Krause, who represented her deceased husband, could be seen in tears as obnoxious fans booed when his name was announced. A national columnist decried the scene and blamed our toxic political environment, isolation during COVID-19 and the anonymity of social media for the action of the fans.

I wholeheartedly disagree.

Those are all external factors, which shouldn't be used as an excuse for bad behavior. The problem stems from inside us, the condition of our heart.

Bringing an elderly woman to such a distraught state is a sign of spiritual bankruptcy. If I am being unkind towards others, I need to look at myself first instead of blaming my environment.

That is where the love of God can come in and make a much-needed change in one's heart.

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



Andy Colbert



### Top 10

The Oregon High School varsity wrestling team finished eighth out of 60 schools in the 2023 Abe's Rumble in Springfield. Oregon opened the tournament with a 48-21 win over Shelbyville and a 57-10 win over Ottawa Marquette before falling against No. 14 Roxana. The Hawks continued the tournament with a 54-12 win over Dwight before beating Clifton Central 42-34 to guarantee a top-16 finish. Oregon clinched a top-8 finish with a 39-36 win over Oakwood, but fell against Porta, Vandalia and Lena-Winslow to take eighth overall. (Courtesy photo)

### FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### Toddler/Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Storytime is back in session! This fun, relaxed program is a great way for you and your little one to meet new friends and experience the joy of reading together.

#### Community Room

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

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

#### Soft Plastic Recycling

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

## 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**

### BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

#### YOUTH PROGRAMS

Twins & Teens 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 all independent chapter book readers. 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.

#### Stories with Stacey

Thursdays at 10:00 AM Join Miss Stacey for fun stories for your toddlers and preschoolers!

#### LEGO Club

Monday, February 5th at 5:00 PM The bricks will be waiting for you to create your next LEGO masterpiece! Ages 5 & up are invited to build. Bring a friend!

#### ADULT PROGRAMS

##### 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. 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.

##### January Book of the Month

The novel A Quiet Life by Ethan

Joella is set in a quiet suburb of Pennsylvania where Chuck Ayers, Ella Burke, and Kirsten Bonato are all dealing with major losses. They each are going through the motions of life, while not enjoying life. As their lives intersect, they start to realize how to best move forward and handle loss and grief. Stop by the circulation desk to pick up your copy.

#### January Take & Make Craft

Stop by the circulation desk and pick up a craft to make at home. Only 2 craft kits left!

#### 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

TimeReaping In Deadwood by Ann Charles

Flipping Boxcars by Cedric Kyles

##### Picture Book

Ruby and the Itsy-Bitsy Icky Bug by Allison Wortche

##### DVDs

Blackberry  
2 Movie Collection: Hotel For Dogs/ Yours, Mine, & Ours

# 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  
**779-340-0734**

**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

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

Contact Eric 815.973.9951 Fax 815.900.2090

**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**

**CONCRETE INC.**

Neil Willis 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**

Agricultural - 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**

**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**

**TURF OF ILLINOIS**

"Your prescription for a healthy yard!"

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

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

**PAINTING**

\* Interior & Exterior \* Free Estimates \* Insured

**Goodman PAINTING LLC**  
Quality • Craftsmanship

**Tim Goodman**  
815.222.9920

**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

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

Fully Licensed & Insured

**732-4710**

"Your Trees Deserve a Certified Arborist!"

**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  
Cell 815-632-7777  
Office: 815-632-9999  
greggdevries@awrswheelrepair.com

A FULL SERVICE ALLOY WHEEL REPAIR & REPLACEMENT COMPANY

WWW.AWRSWHEELREPAIR.COM/NWILLINOIS

# LOCAL NEWS

## MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Fly Tying Classes

Come to Mount Morris Library and learn how to tie both feather and hair dressed hooks! We are now taking sign-ups for this multi-day class! Classes will be Saturdays at 10:30am. There will be a total of 8 classes with each one focused on a different type of hook. Classes begin January 6 and run through February 24th. Just in time for the season! Sign up soon-call the library at 815-734-4927 to register.

### Story Time!

We will be reading books and the children will create a craft this Wednesday, 1/24. Story time is every Wednesday @11:15, bring your little ones to enjoy stories and a craft at the Mount Morris Library!

### Display Case Showings

“Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail shall keep the postmen from their appointed (library) rounds.” Deliver yourself to the library to check out this perfect display of all things postal! This collection is on display courtesy of Lenny Wells, Thank You! 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.

### 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.

### Adult Book Club

The January book, Silent Spring by Rachel Carson, is available! Amazon.com states, “First published by Houghton Mifflin in 1962, Silent Spring alerted a large audience to the environmental and human dangers of indiscriminate use of pesticides, spurring revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water.” Everyone is welcome to join this book club group! Copies of the book are available at the library.

Meeting will be held at the library on January 29th at 3:30pm.

### 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, Deceptively Delicious by Jessica Seinfeld, and bring your dish to pass at our next meeting! Join us on February 6th this month, 6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!

### Ink with a Friend: Card Making at the Library

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, February 13th 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 February 6th!

### Explore More Illinois Welcomes Volo Museum

Volo Museum is a world famous, family-owned, all-day tourist destination in Volo, IL. They are known across the world for their all-indoor show-room rotating hundreds of classic and modern collector cars. Experience over 50 exhibits and over 10,000 mechanical marvels! Receive buy one, get one free general admission to Volo Museum using 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.

### 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 po-

sition, bookmarks, notes, and other saved data will be seamlessly transitioned to the new Boundless platform.

### 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

## AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

### BYRON

#### ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

205 N. Peru St., Byron 815-234-8737 cornerstonefam ily.church  
Sr. Pastor: Erik Ness, NextGen/ Family Pastor: Collin Nicholls  
Children’s Ministry Director: Katie Dodd  
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 Rasinski.  
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 by app. Eucharist Adoration Fri. 8-9am  
www.saintmaryinbyron.org secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org

#### SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL 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: Garry Cortese  
Service Times: Sundays at 10AM; Wednesday night Faith-Lift at 6:30PM  
Find us on Facebook/Beacon Hill Assembly of God

### CHANA

#### CHANA UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Josh Brown, 606 Main Street, Chana, IL 61015. Church office 815-732-7683. (E-mail address: chanaucm@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 Bob Clardie 8:30am Sunday School  
815-535-6990 9:30am Church Service  
90 W. Flagg Road www.lostlakechurch.org  
Dixon IL 61021

### FORRESTON

#### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

402 2nd Avenue, Forreston, IL 61030, Phone 815-938-3203Pastor 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 Tews  
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  
815-933-4500 • office@immanuel-lindenwood.org  
**Sunday Offerings:** Divine Service @ 9am; Food & Fellowship @ 10am; Sunday School and Adult Bible Study @ 10:30am  
**Food Bank:** 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 9am-12pm  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock  
pastor@immanuel-lindenwood.org

#### LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

101 N Galena St, P.O box 67, Lindenwood IL 815-985-7054  
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: goelincchurch@gmail.com  
Website: www.goelincchurch.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 BROTHERN

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:** Saturday 5:30 PM; Worship Sunday 9:30 AM. Sunday Church School - follows Worship Service (Sept-May) Chime Choir  
Wednesday 6:00 PM

#### LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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

### OREGON

#### EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

East Oregon Chapel Church of God  
The Sharing is Caring Church  
Pastor Jesse Allan EDCOCministries@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., 815-732-6133  
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 of 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 & Mongan Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon • 732-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George  
Webpage: saintbrides.org • E-mail: saint.bride.church@gmail.com •  
**Worship Services:** Sunday 10 am Holy Communion with Hymns Christian Education Available

#### ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

### POLO

#### ST. MARY CHURCH

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@crossroadsncn.com  
We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us after services for coffee, snacks & fellowship. Kidzlink Children’s Ministry (nursery-5th grade) ~ during 10AM service  
Creve Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~ Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st.  
Visit our website: www.crossroadsncn.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.

### 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 Morris  
103 S Maple St, Stillman Valley, IL 815-645-8872 | www.valleycov.org  
Sunday Morning 9am ‘Gather’ for learning & conversation, 10:15am Worship both onsite and online at facebook.com/VECCFSV  
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.graceofayou.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

## OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Story Time

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

### Find A Character Ticket!

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.

### Winter Blues Bundle

Now through February 15th. Register for a winter blues bundle began 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](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com) or stop in the library to complete one. Oregon Library patrons only.

### Lego Club

New Day, New Time! Tuesday, January 23, Lego Club, 6-7 pm (2nd grade & up). The club is designed to provide an enjoyable activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence. Registration required

### Craft Swap

Saturday, January 27th from 10am-3pm. What is a craft swap? "It's when you gather up all the craft supplies, materials, tools, and accessories that have been hanging out in your craft room collecting dust for a while and give them away to someone who will actually use them. You know that phrase "one person's trash is another's treasure?" That definitely applies to crafting. You may have been hanging

onto the same scrapbook paper and ribbons for three years, but someone might be able to use it this weekend. - organized-ish. So collect your items, bring them to the library January 25th or 26th. Then, come back and "shop" the swap on Saturday from 10am-3pm. If you'd like any items back after the swap that were not taken, please label with your name and phone number.

### Illinois Library Presents

Tuesday, February 6th at 7:00pm- NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR, JERRY CRAFT. Craft is the author-illustrator of #1 New York Times bestselling graphic novels New Kid, and its companion book, Class Act. New Kid was the first book in history to win the Newbery Medal (2020), The Coretta Scott King Author Award (2020), and the Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature (2019). He uses his personal life as fuel for his stories and creates compelling stories and characters to represent his community. His works tackle complex themes with humor, heart, and a deep understanding of the human experience. Craft will be joined in conversation by Ronnell Whitaker. Whitaker has over 15 years of education experience and is a champion for comics in the classroom. He has presented across the country at conferences and conventions on the virtues of comics in the classroom. He currently serves as the English Curriculum Director for Community High School District 218 in Oak Lawn, Illinois and sits on the Board of Directors for Reading With Pictures. Registration required, visit [https://bit.ly/ILP\\_JerryCraft](https://bit.ly/ILP_JerryCraft). Illinois Libraries Present (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). Illinois Libraries Present is committed to inclusion and accessibility.

### Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, February 19th at 6:00pm. Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and are thinking about them. All designs include beautiful colored cardstock, gorgeous designer series paper, detailed stamped images, die cut pieces, matching ink, ribbon, and embellishments. All cards come with matching envelopes. Whether you're a new card maker or a seasoned pro, our kits are suited to every skill level. Don't wait! Sign up today to reserve your spot. Oregon Patrons only. Registration required (815) 732-2724 or [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com)

### Book Clubs

Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, January 25 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet Tuesday, January 30 at 6pm at the Library to discuss The Stardust Thief by Chelsea Abdullah. The 2WBC meets Wednesday, February 14 at to discuss Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, February 18 at 2:00pm. Pick up your book to find out where and what! The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, February 21 at 1 pm to discuss The Flight Girls by Noelle Salazar.

### Yoga

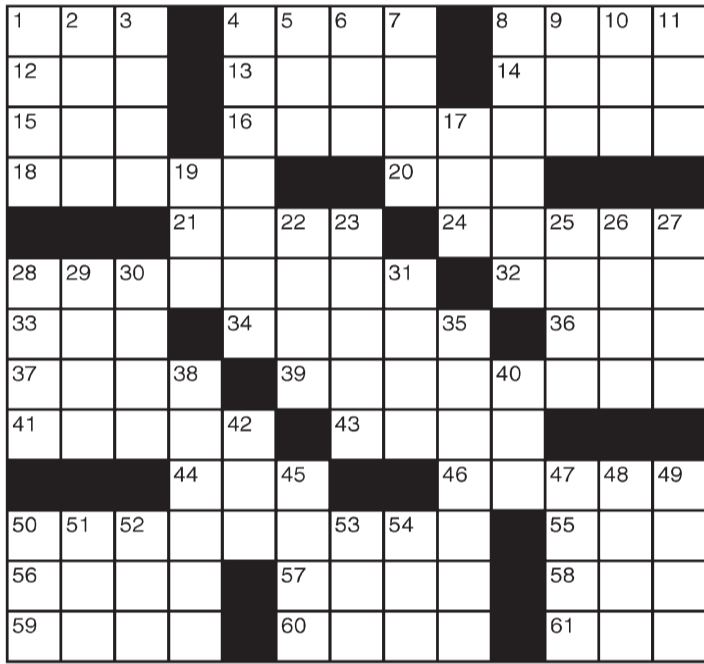
Wednesdays, 9:30 am Functional Yin-Yasa - This class is a hybrid of yang (active yoga) with yin (passive yoga). We will use fundamental yoga postures combined with functional movements to build strength and warmth followed by passive, long held poses to help with flexibility and mobility of the joints 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](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com).

## Weekly Brain Busters

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

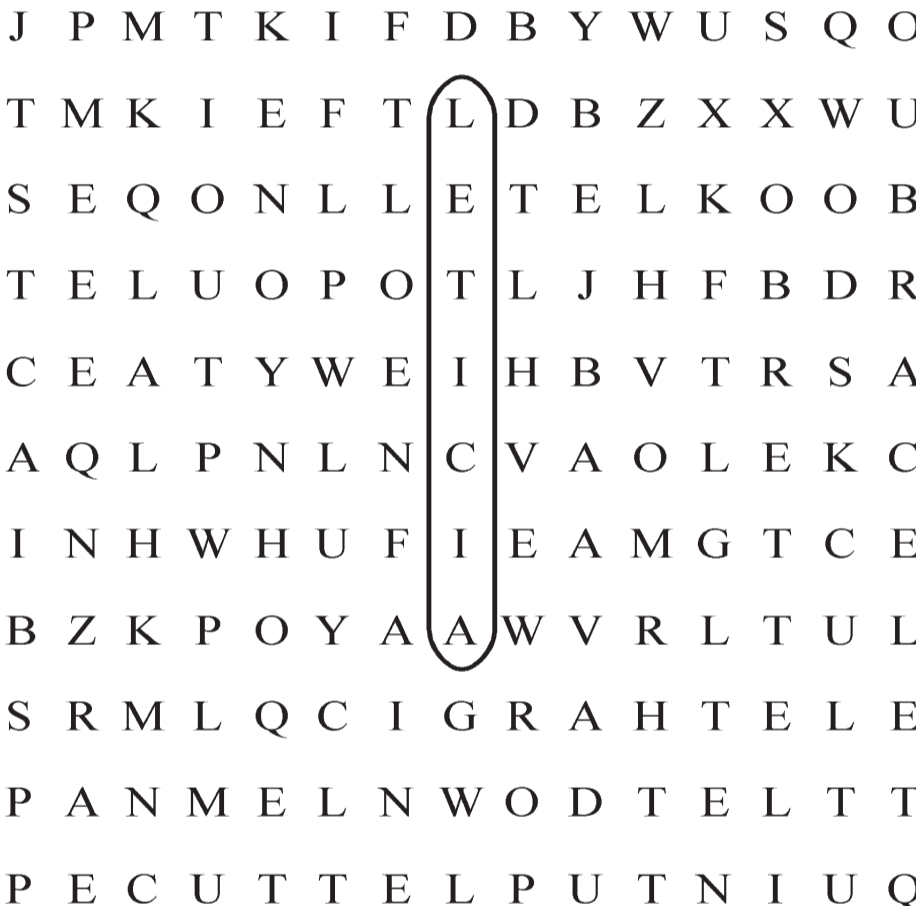
- 1 Hot tub
- 4 Pack (down)
- 8 Honeycomb division
- 12 Joke
- 13 Teen fave
- 14 Celestial bear
- 15 Capote nickname
- 16 Difficult problem
- 18 Celery unit
- 20 Pantheon member
- 21 Morays
- 24 Twilight, poetically
- 28 "Bravo!"
- 32 Wry
- 33 Bombeck
- 34 Raw rock
- 36 Melody
- 37 Actress Meg
- 39 Maintains
- 41 Wheel connectors
- 43 Bake sale orgs.
- 44 - Victor
- 46 Dugout seating
- 50 Sociable and lively
- 55 "Caught ya!"
- 56 Medicinal plant
- 57 Vogue rival
- 58 Singer Phair
- 59 Reporter's quest



- 60 Workout count
- 61 Mimic
- 10 Baton Rouge sch.
- 11 Felon's flight
- 17 Eggy quaff
- 19 Triathlon segment
- 22 Secular
- 23 Razor sharpener
- 25 Algerian port
- 26 During
- 27 Red planet
- 28 Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"
- 29 African antelope
- 30 "Hud" actress Patricia
- 31 Faxed
- 35 Equine homes
- 38 Butterflies
- 40 Language suffix
- 42 High school subj.
- 45 Declare
- 47 "The Lion King" lion
- 48 Intel product
- 49 Visibility hindrance
- 50 Fire
- 51 Flamenco cheer
- 52 At once
- 53 -de-France
- 54 Jungfrau, for one

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

### MAGIC MAZE



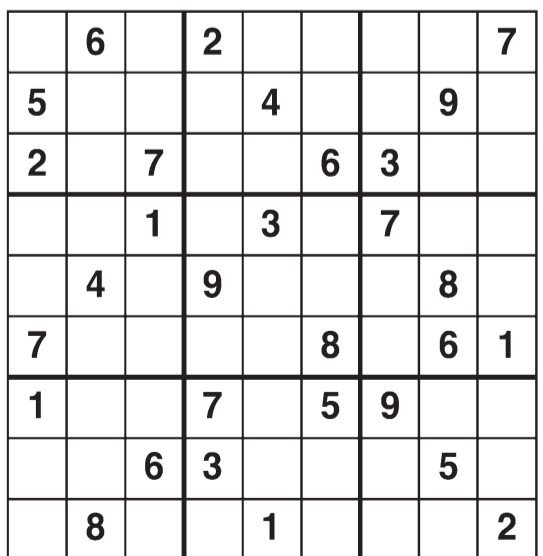
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: **Jewelry Worn Around the Wrist**

- Anklet
- Booklet
- Gauntlet
- Goblet
- Hamlet
- Letdown
- Lethargic
- Leticia
- Letterbox
- Lettuce
- Owlet
- Pamphlet
- Poulet
- Quintuplet
- Ultraviolet

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

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

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



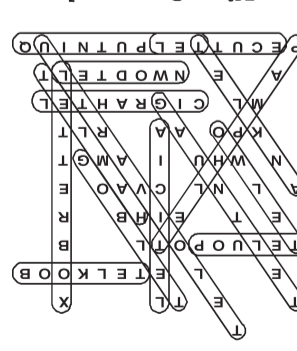
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



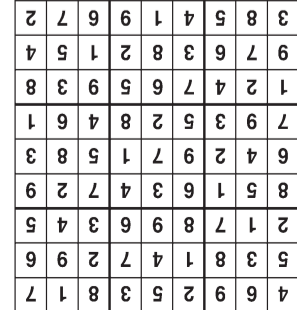
Differences: 1. Broom handle is longer. 2. Cloth is different. 3. Cap is different. 4. Cup is missing. 5. Cabinet is wider. 6. Flower picture is reversed.



Solution time: 24 mins.



©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



Answer

# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

**101 LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

**To All Owners And Occupiers Of Lands Lying Within The Boundaries Of The Ogle County Soil And Water Conservation District:**  
Notice is hereby given that an Election will be held on the 7th day of February 2024 at 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the USDA Service Center, 1213 Pines Road, Oregon, IL. Three (3) Directors will be elected to serve the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois. All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise. Only such persons, firms or corporations are eligible to vote. Marcia Heuer, Chairperson Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District  
DATE: 14th day of December, 2023.  
No. 0109  
(Jan. 8 and 22, 2024)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Landlord's lien provisions in rental agreement between Darla H Armer Unit A8, this storage unit containing personal property will be sold or otherwise disposed of after January 30th, 2024 at Lockbox Self Storage LLC, 703 N Walnut St, Byron, IL 61010 unless account is paid in full. 888-518-1116.  
No. 0117  
(Jan. 15 and 22, 2024)

**NOTICE**

2024 PINE ROCK TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES  
January 9, 2024 6:00 PM  
February 13, 2024 6:00 PM  
March 12, 2024 7:00 PM  
March 19, 2024 General Primary Election  
April 9, 2024 7:00 PM Annual Town Hall Meeting; Regular Township Meeting following Annual Town Meeting  
May 14, 2024 7:00 PM Town & Road District Budget Hearings; Regular Township Meeting following Budget Hearings  
June 11, 2024 7:00 PM  
July 9, 2024 7:00 PM  
August 13, 2024 7:00 PM  
September 10, 2024 7:00 PM  
October 8, 2024 7:00 PM  
November 5, 2024 General Election  
November 12, 2024 6:00 PM  
December 10, 2024 6:00 PM  
Gerald Beck, Supervisor Pine Rock Township 815-732-7387  
Email: pinerocktownship@gmail.com  
Jeff Winterland, Road Commissioner Pine Rock Township 815-509-5652  
Email: winterlandli@hotmail.com  
No. 0118  
(Jan. 22, 2024)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Ogle County Housing Authority has developed paperwork related to its Annual Agency Plan process and Five-year Capital Fund Program budgets for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024 in compliance with current HUD regulations. They are available for review at the Authority's Office located at 1001 Pines Road, Suite A, Oregon, IL. The office is open

Monday through Friday between 8:00AM and 4:30PM. A public hearing will be held on March 13, 2024 at 12:00 PM.  
No. 0119  
(Jan. 21 and 28, 2024 RNL  
Jan. 22 and 29, 2024 OCL)

**NOTICE**

SECTION 00 10 00 BID SOLICITATION  
FROM:  
The Owner (hereinafter referred to as Owner): City of Byron  
232 W. Second Street Byron, IL 61010  
And the Engineer (hereinafter referred to as Engineer): Fehr Graham  
515 Lincoln Highway Rochelle, IL 61068  
TO: POTENTIAL BIDDERS  
Sealed bids for the construction of Byron Boat Launch Facility Renovations will be received by the OWNER at the address indicated above until 11:00 a.m., February 01, 2024 for the above referenced project.  
Project Description/ Location: Byron Boat Launch Facility near 450 E. Blackhawk Road, Byron IL.  
This project is being financed in part by IDNR Boat Access and Development (BAAD) grant program. Successful bidder is required to follow all funding requirements of the grant program. There will be no pre-bid meeting for this project.  
Bid documents may be obtained from the Engineer's company website at www.fehr-graham.com. Upon accessing the website, Bidders will see a link titled, "Obtain Bidding Documents". Clicking this link will take Bidders directly to the Quest Network Service, and will display all projects available for bid through Fehr Graham. On this page, project ads will be listed in the left-hand column with project numbers assigned by Quest displayed. Potential Bidder can enter the Quest project number 8913369 in the field provided to view the full ad for the Byron Boat Launch Facility Renovations, and download a complete set of bidding documents from this page for a non-refundable fee of \$25.00. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. Hard copies of the bid documents may also be obtained and examined from the office of the Engineer at 515 Lincoln Highway Rochelle, IL 61068 upon receipt of cash or check in the amount of \$100 for one set (non-refundable). Documents may be viewed at the Office of the Engineer at Fehr Graham, 515 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, IL 61068.  
All bids must be accompanied by a bank check, cashier's check, certified check, or bid bond payable to Owner for five percent (5%) of the total amount of bid.  
No. 0120  
(Jan. 22, 2024)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Sealed bids will be received by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, Illinois until 2:00 P.M., February 9, 2024, for the purchase of the following new equipment:  
1) 1 Ton Dump Truck  
2) Self-Propelled Sweeper  
Specifications for the new equipment are available at the Ogle County Highway Department, 1989 South IL Rt. 2, Oregon, IL between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday. The Road and Bridge Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.  
No. 0124  
(Jan. 22 and 29, 2024)

**NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process-Public Participation in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Program Comment for Positive Train Control and Infrastructure. Union Pacific Railroad proposes to construct a 60' monopole (65' in overall height) communications pole with associated equipment at the following approximate locations in Ogle County, Illinois within the existing railroad right-of-way:  
• Coordinates: 41.92729, -89.000113; Mile Post #71.42, Creston;  
• Coordinates: 41.923989, -89.036082; Mile Post #73.29, Rochelle.  
We respectfully request that parties interested in providing comment on the proposed undertaking relative to potential effects on cultural or historic properties should contact GSS, Inc., 3311 109th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322; Ph. (515) 331-2103, within 30 days of the date of this publication (GSS W23065-IL-18/19).  
No. 0125  
(Jan. 22, 2024)

**NOTICE**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:  
NO. 2024-PR-1  
SUSAN L. MACKAY, deceased.  
CLAIM NOTICE  
NOTICE IS GIVEN OF

the death of SUSAN L. MACKAY of Oregon, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 8, 2024, to Shawn E. Mackay of Nokomis, Florida, whose attorney is David A. Smith, of Smith, Birkholz & Morrow, P. C. at 129 South Fourth Street, P. o. Box 10, Oregon, Illinois, 61061-0010.  
CLAIMS against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 South 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication of this Notice, or within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred.  
Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed.  
SHAWN E. MACKAY  
Independent Administrator  
No. 0121  
(Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5, 2024)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Sealed bids will be received by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, Illinois until 2:00 P.M., February 9, 2024, for the purchase of the following new equipment:  
1) 1 Ton Dump Truck  
2) Self-Propelled Sweeper  
Specifications for the new equipment are available at the Ogle County Highway Department, 1989 South IL Rt. 2, Oregon, IL between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday. The Road and Bridge Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.  
No. 0124  
(Jan. 22 and 29, 2024)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Sealed bids will be received by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, Illinois until 2:00 P.M., February 9, 2024, for the purchase of the following new equipment:  
1) 1 Ton Dump Truck  
2) Self-Propelled Sweeper  
Specifications for the new equipment are available at the Ogle County Highway Department, 1989 South IL Rt. 2, Oregon, IL between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday. The Road and Bridge Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.  
No. 0124  
(Jan. 22 and 29, 2024)

**NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Sealed bids will be received by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, Illinois until 2:00 P.M., February 9, 2024, for the purchase of the following new equipment:  
1. 24-XX000-00-GM Furnish and Spread 2024 Township MFT Aggregate  
2. 24-XX000-00-GM Furnish and Apply 2024 Township MFT Calcium Chloride  
3. 24-XX000-00-GM Furnish and deliver 2024 Township MFT Pipe Supply  
4. 2024 County Pipe  
5. 2024 County Aggregate  
6. 24-00000-05-GM MFT Pulverization of Church Road from Bethel to Holcomb Road.  
Proposals are available at the Ogle County Highway Department, 1989 South IL Rt 2, Oregon, IL between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday. The Road and Bridge Committee reserves the right to accept or reject and or all bids.  
No.0127  
(Jan. 22 & 29, 2024)

**NOTICE**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE

**PLANNING COMMISSION VILLAGE OF MT. MORRIS, ILLINOIS ON ZONING PETITION OF TED GESIN**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Village of Mt. Morris Planning Commission on February 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Village Hall, 105 W. Lincoln Street, Mt. Morris, Illinois, for the purpose of considering and hearing testimony with respect to a Petition for Rezoning from Ted Gesin (the "Petitioner") with respect to parcel number 08-26-152-001 (the "Parcel"). Pursuant to said Petition, the Petitioner is requesting a zoning change for the Parcel from C-2 Highway Business District to I-1 Light Industrial District.  
All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard.  
Any inquiries may be made to the Village Clerk's office located at Village Hall Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. A copy of said Petition is on file in the Village Clerk's office.  
The Parcel is legally described as follows:  
A part of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼) of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼) of Section Twenty-six (26), Township Twenty-four (24) North, Range Nine (9) East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, described as follows: Beginning Forty-six (46) rods and Four (4) feet, more or less, according to differences in past surveys, North of the intersection of the East and West center line of Section Twenty-six (26) and the North and South lines between Section Twenty-six (26) and Twenty-seven (27); thence at right angles to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Right-of-Way; thence North Forty-two (42) degrees Thirty (30) minutes West, along the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Right-of-Way to the intersection of said line of Right-of-Way with the line between Sections Twenty-six (26) and Twenty (27); thence South to the place of beginning.  
By order of the Corporate Authorities of the Village of Mt. Morris, Illinois.  
Brooke Duffy, Village Clerk  
Mt. Morris, Illinois  
No. 0126  
(Jan. 22, 2024)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Sealed bids will be received by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, Illinois until 2:00 P.M., February 9, 2024, for the purchase of the following new equipment:  
1. 24-XX000-00-GM Furnish and Spread 2024 Township MFT Aggregate  
2. 24-XX000-00-GM Furnish and Apply 2024 Township MFT Calcium Chloride  
3. 24-XX000-00-GM Furnish and deliver 2024 Township MFT Pipe Supply  
4. 2024 County Pipe  
5. 2024 County Aggregate  
6. 24-00000-05-GM MFT Pulverization of Church Road from Bethel to Holcomb Road.  
Proposals are available at the Ogle County Highway Department, 1989 South IL Rt 2, Oregon, IL between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday. The Road and Bridge Committee reserves the right to accept or reject and or all bids.  
No.0127  
(Jan. 22 & 29, 2024)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Sealed bids will be received by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, Illinois until 2:00 P.M., February 9, 2024, for the purchase of the following new equipment:  
1. 24-XX000-00-GM Furnish and Spread 2024 Township MFT Aggregate  
2. 24-XX000-00-GM Furnish and Apply 2024 Township MFT Calcium Chloride  
3. 24-XX000-00-GM Furnish and deliver 2024 Township MFT Pipe Supply  
4. 2024 County Pipe  
5. 2024 County Aggregate  
6. 24-00000-05-GM MFT Pulverization of Church Road from Bethel to Holcomb Road.  
Proposals are available at the Ogle County Highway Department, 1989 South IL Rt 2, Oregon, IL between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday. The Road and Bridge Committee reserves the right to accept or reject and or all bids.  
No.0127  
(Jan. 22 & 29, 2024)

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

**103 AUCTIONS**

**PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION BOWMAN PERSONAL ESTATE & TOOL AUCTION**

Thursday, January 25th 8AM to Sunday, January 28th 5PM

**This is an Online Auction.**  
Please visit <https://aandtauctionservices.hibid.com/> for full sale viewing beginning 1/24/2024. Pictures will be uploaded prior to that date as they are available.

**Personal Property:** Household items; various decor items; household furniture—bed sets, side tables, and more; glassware & collectibles; Knick-knacks; Christmas decor; costume jewelry; books; many various hand tools—wrench sets, Screwdrivers, large tools, levels, power tools, etc; Several Milwaukee & other power tools; Hydraulic Bender; motorcycle saddlebags; metal folding chairs; several file cabinets; mobility scooter; many various electrical tools; Step ladders; outdoor fuel barrels; and much more—too much to list!  
**Item Viewing:** Items will be available for online viewing no later than 8am on 1/24/2024. If you wish for more information on an item or an appointment to view an item, please contact A & T Auction Services directly.  
**Item Pick-up:** Pick up will be held on Thursday, February 1st from 4:30-7:00pm at 1803 N. Freeport Rd., Polo, IL, 61064.  
**Terms & Conditions:** This is an absolute sale. There will be a 10% Buyer's Premium added to all items sold. Items can be purchased with cash, GOOD check, or credit card. There will be a 3.5% fee added to any credit card transaction.  
**Follow A & T Auction Services on Facebook for the Online Sale Link and additional sale information, including pictures, how to register for online bidding, and complete sale terms and conditions.**

**Travis Cunningham, Auctioneer IL Lic. # 441.002600 A & T Auction Services, LLC atauctionservices@gmail.com 815-297-4595**

**VIRTUAL ONLINE**  
**LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024 AT 10:00 AM<sup>CT</sup>**

**271.1 TAXABLE ACRES± • 1 TRACT**

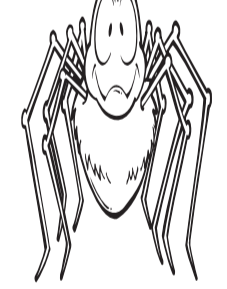
The Johnson farm is located approx. 3 miles north of Ohio, IL along Easy Rd. and Pump Factory Rd. (hard surface) and is further described as being located in Section 32, T19N-R9W, East Grove Township, Lee County, IL.

*The farm represents productive tillable farmland with center pivot irrigation. A great opportunity for investors and farmers.*

**DOUGLAS JOHNSON**  
Title Company: Security First Title Company  
205 W Stephenson St, Freeport, IL 61032  
Auction Manager: Isaac Taber (309) 335-8081 & Brandt Henness (309) 224-4276

**BigIron** **SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS**  
a BigIron company  
(844) 847-2161 | www.SullivanAuctioneers.com

**ADVERTISE WITH US**



**AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY**

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

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

**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

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

**101 LEGAL NOTICE**

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

**105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**113 FINANCIAL**

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

**119 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS**

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

**201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE**

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare

facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

**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

**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

**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**

Studio Apt in Byron. \$430+deposit. Call 815-985-7136

**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'

**ADVERTISE WITH US**

**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** 04092023



**AM I OKAY TO DRIVE?**

**BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING**

NHTSA ad COUNCIL

**GET DOWN WITH YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE**

- GET IT** (Woman using a blood pressure cuff)
- SLIP IT** (Man using a blood pressure cuff)
- CUFF IT** (Man using a blood pressure cuff)
- CHECK IT** (Woman using a blood pressure cuff)

Check it every day. Self-monitoring is power.

ad COUNCIL American Heart Association AMA AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Visit: [ManageYourBP.org](http://ManageYourBP.org)

Or scan code for more.

In partnership with HHS Office of Minority Health and Health Resources and Services Administration under cooperative agreements CPIMP211227 and CPIMP211228.

Not sure why business is slow?

**OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND...**

is not just a saying in business.

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

# LOCAL NEWS

## 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](http://www.rockrivercenter.org) and like us on Facebook.

### In-Home Personal Services

Mon., Jan. 22; 10:30 – 11:30 am. Advance registration requested.

### Cozy Chicken Stew with Lynn - RESCHEDULED

New date: Thurs., Jan. 25; 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Register by Jan. 23.

### Veteran Café

On Tuesday, Jan. 30 at 10 a.m. the Rock River Center will host a Veteran Café. The Cafes are about honoring veterans and allowing them a space to talk about military experiences with fellow soldiers while enjoying coffee and donuts. Call the RRC at 815-732-3252 to reserve your spot.

### Senior Information Services Provided By Rock River Center

Do you need help with Benefit Access Application, Medicare, housing, personal care, homemaking, heating assistance or other things? Rock River Center's Information & Assistance Specialists are available at various locations throughout Ogle County. Assistance at these locations is available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact Rock River Center at (800) 541-5479 to schedule an appointment. Byron- Jarrett Prairie Center Feb 12 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Forrester-Library Feb 21 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Mt. Morris Senior Center Feb 8 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Polo Senior Center Feb 22 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Rochelle – Hub City Senior Ctr. Feb 14 & 28 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

## JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

### 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 ends Feb. 29, 2024.

### 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 crafty 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.

### Genealogy Basics: Census and Vital Records

So, you know a little something

about Ancestry Library Edition. Join us for a more in-depth exploration about what is and isn't available on Ancestry, how to search for these records and why they're useful in this hands-on family research session. Tuesday, Jan. 30, 6 p.m. Adults. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Tween Scene: Mardi Gras Celebration

Come celebrate Mardi Gras and let the good times roll with themed snacks, games and craft. Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Toddler Time: Play Dough

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them. We'll roll, cut, shape and build using everyone's favorite sculpting material: play-dough! Don't worry, parents: it's taste-safe. All materials supplied. Friday, Feb. 9, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Adult Craft: Paint & Sip

Leave the cold outside; we're desert-bound! Grab a hot cuppa,

and join Joanna online as she walks participants through the process of painting a desert scene: complete with sun, red rocks and cacti. No painting experience required. Monday, Feb. 12, 6 p.m. Email Joanna at [jkluver@mail.meridian223.org](mailto:jkluver@mail.meridian223.org) to register for this Zoom program.

### Teen Taste-Test Challenge: Jelly Belly

How well do you know your jelly beans? We'll quiz your expertise in this blind test to see who's taste buds reign supreme. While sampling these wacky flavors we'll also vote on our favorite. Thursday, Feb. 15, 3 p.m. Ages 13-18. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Trivia Night at the Library Fundraiser

Gather a team and join us at your favorite library in the Valley to help FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY raise funds to support library programs and services! Advanced registration is required. Teams of 4-6 players. \$10 per person. Pay at the door. Friday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m. For more details stop by the library or call: 815-645-8611.

## Sinnissippi Centers unveils new sensory room at Rochelle office

ROCHELLE — Sinnissippi Centers' Rochelle office now has a sensory room that can be used for clients of all ages. Sensory rooms are spaces that have been specifically designed to give an immersive sensory experience for people with a variety of needs. The size and features of a sensory space will differ depending on the user and their needs. The main benefit of sensory rooms is that they are a humane and effective way for individuals to manage their stress levels and negative thoughts and emotions.

A sensory room typically uses lights, sound, colors, and other sensory cues to calm, engage, and help users to develop emotionally and cognitively. They are designed to help users engage with their senses, touch, sight, hearing, and reap the benefits of sensory stimulation in a safe and relaxed environment, regardless of their age or ability.

"We created a sensory room based on my personal experience with my son's occupational therapy," Sarah Schulfer-Popp, area office manager at Sinnissippi

Centers' Rochelle office, said. "It was created around the idea that many children and adults may be seeking sensory stimulation, and this makes it hard to concentrate on anything else internally. Once my son started occupational therapy, his language started to develop rapidly as his sensory needs were being met. He is now a happy and extremely chatty five-year-old. By creating a place where clients can experience increased sensory input, controlled, they are better able to free up internal resources to work on attention, focus, social skills, anxiety and even other coping skills."

In addition, a sensory room also creates a calm and safe environment for clients to have their sessions.

"Kids have loved it so far, and I have taken one adult into the sensory room and she opened up more than she had before," Schulfer-Popp said. "We had low lights, she sat on the bean bag, and had a weighted blanket on her. Her subjective report was that she feels safe in my office, but the sensory room was a step above that."

The sensory room at the Rochelle Office features a Lycra swing, a crash pad, fiber optic lights, tap lights, wall panels, a felt story board, a bean bag to sit on, chairs with exercise balls in them, weighted blankets, weighted vests, social and emotional games, sensory bins, as well as some other things like a puppet theater, a calm down jar, a white noise machine with meditation exercises on it.

While sensory rooms are newer to behavioral health, they are supported by peer reviewed research and are readily endorsed by the Joint Commission (the nation's oldest and largest standards and accrediting body in healthcare) and are being promoted by the National Technical Assistance Center, a division of the National Association for State Mental Health Program Directors.

Sinnissippi Centers operates two outpatient offices and a residential facility in Ogle County and is looking for office space to expand outpatient services in Northwestern Ogle County.

**SULLIVANS FOODS**

**DRISCOLL'S RAINBOW BERRIES**  
7 oz  
**3.49**

**Certified Angus Beef® brand BONELESS BOTTOM ROUND ROAST**  
**3.99 lb**

Prices Effective: Wednesday, January 24 thru Tuesday, January 30, 2024  
ALL ITEMS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO RAIN CHECKS | NO RETURNS | NO EXCHANGES

**FRESH MEAT**

- Sullivan's Signature SUPER LEAN GROUND BEEF ROUND **3.99 lb**
- Family Pack US Gov't Insp CENTER CUT BONELESS BUTTERFLY PORK CHOPS **2.88 lb**
- Sullivan's Signature CENTER CUT STUFFED BONELESS PORK LOIN ROAST **2.99 lb**
- Family Pack US Grade A BONE-IN SPLIT CHICKEN BREAST **1.39 lb**

**BUY 5 SAVE \$5 MIX & MATCH SALE!**

**Certified Angus Beef® brand BONELESS BOTTOM ROUND ROAST** **3.99 lb**

**Certified Angus Beef® brand BONELESS TENDERIZED SWISS STEAK** **4.99 lb**

**Certified Angus Beef® brand BONELESS NEW YORK STRIP STEAK** 10 oz **7.99 ea**

**MONDAY ONEDAY SALE**  
January 29, 2024

- US Gov't Insp WHOLE BONELESS PORK LOIN **1.77 lb**
- Meat Master's SMOKED OFF THE BONE HAM MADE IN STOCKTON IL! **4.99 lb**
- Old Orchard JUICE Select Varieties 64 oz **3/\$5**
- HALO CLEMENTINES 3 lb bag **4.99**
- Minute Maid ORANGE JUICE Select Varieties 59 oz **2/\$5**
- Bakery Fresh CUPCAKES White or Chocolate 6 ct **1.99**
- DiGiorno, Jack's or Tombstone PIZZA Select Varieties 17.2-21.30 oz **2/\$9**
- FRENCH BREAD loaf **2.29**
- Bakery KAISER ROLLS 6 ct **2.59**
- MINI CAKE FOR TWO Select Varieties 12 oz **3.29**
- DEVILED EGG POTATO SALAD **4.99 lb**
- GRAB & GO EGG ROLLS Chicken, Pork or Veggie 4 ct **5.29**
- Deli Fresh 8 PIECE FRIED CHICKEN Two Eggs, Breast, Wings, Thighs & Legs **12.99**