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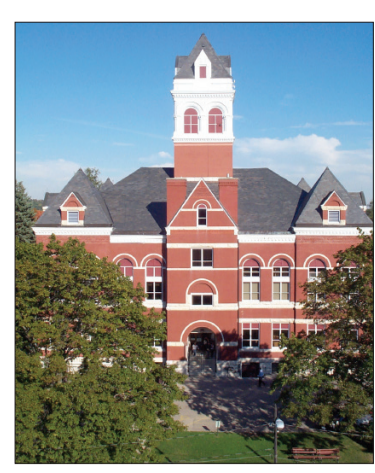
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VALLEY SHOPPER



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 47

MONDAY
Feb. 5, 2024

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KNOW IT TODAY



Mighty Clovers 4-H hosts bowling event

The Mighty Clover 4-H Club participated in its annual club bowling event recently. **A8**

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
49 29	49 32
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
47 40	54 42
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
45 29	38 25

OBITUARIES

- Anna Belle Gambrel
- Lisle Harris
- Richard Hewes
- Alice Knaub
- Everett Stoker

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INSERTS

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

United Way now has dedicated Ogle County branch, is growing work in the community

Dolly Parton Imagination Library, 211 hotline among initiatives

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OGLE COUNTY — Ogle County now has its own dedicated United Way branch, after a merger took place about a year and a half ago, United Way of Ogle County Executive Director Ashley Richter said.

Ogle County was previously serviced by the United Way of Rock River Valley out of Rockford. Richter and her board took over the territory. She also serves as executive director of the United Way of Lee County.

"It's an exciting opportunity," Richter said. "It's not starting from



Ogle County now has its own dedicated United Way branch after a merger took place. (Courtesy photo)

scratch, but in a lot of ways it's like a rebuilding year of getting awareness

out in the community and letting it know that we're here and we want to help

Oregon Park District, Village of Mt. Morris receive OSLAD grant funding

Park East, Zickuhr Park improvements coming locally

OREGON — Gov. JB Pritzker announced Jan. 30 that two Ogle County entities received grant funding through the Open Space and Land Acquisition Development grant program. Nearly \$55 million in state grants were awarded for 111 local park projects throughout Illinois to help communities acquire land and develop recreational opportunities.

Both the Village of Mt. Morris and the Oregon Park District were recipients in Ogle County.

The Oregon Park District is the recipient of \$600,000 in OSLAD grant funding from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Oregon Park District is excited to utilize these funds to improve the existing recreation amenities at Oregon Park East, OPD Superintendent of Recreation Tina Ketter said.

See PARK page 2

HEART MONTH RCH's Slattengren recuperates from triple bypass surgery at cardiac rehab unit

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital Fitness Center Assistant Katherine Slattengren has been working her way back from a recent triple bypass heart surgery at a familiar place: In the RCH Cardiac Rehab program in the hospital's fitness center, where she works.

Slattengren recently made a trip to her doctor's office with symptoms of low energy and chest pain. She was prescribed a stress test, which she was unable to pass. An angiogram followed, which showed problems with three arteries.

See HEART page 3

"It's good to come somewhere where you feel welcome and at home."



Did you get your voluntary pay envelope?

OGLE COUNTY — The Ogle County Life is offering readers a chance to become honorary staff members of the paper by participating in the annual Voluntary Payment promotion.

Envelopes were inserted into our Jan. 29 issue. If you didn't receive an envelope or have any questions, call our office at 815-732-2156. Also, 10 percent of any money donated in February will be donated to our local senior centers.

For over 39 years, we have been providing the Life to readers free of charge. We expect to continue to be able to do this for many years to come.

However, newsprint and postage costs do continue to rise, and any contributions that readers can make greatly help defray these costs and enable us to provide the best product possible.

"Our readers' generosity has played a big part in helping us achieve our goals in

producing the best local newspaper that we can," Life Publisher Tonja Greenfield said. "In addition to helping out the paper, anyone making a voluntary payment will also be helping our local senior citizens, as we in turn make a donation to area senior centers on your behalf."

The envelopes can be mailed in to P.O. Box 175, Rochelle, IL 61068, or put in our drop box at Conover Square.

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LOCAL NEWS

UNITED: Redistributing back to nonprofits

From page 1

“When you read regularly with your children during their first years, you are giving them the biggest boost toward a successful education they will ever get,” Richter said. “We’d like to build up our resources and fundraise for the program so we can continue to take on as many kids as we can. The goal of the imagination library is to get every child possible involved in it. That’s a goal for us too. It takes away the possible transportation barrier for families by shipping directly to homes. I think it’s something a lot of people can get behind and we’re open to working with organizations locally to support it.”

United Way of Ogle County also uniquely fundraises to redistribute back to nonprofits. One in three Ogle County residents is directly impacted by United Way partner agencies, which include Blackhawk Area Council, the Boy Scouts, Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago, the Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project (FLAP), Focus House, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, HOPE of Ogle County, Hub City Senior Center, Lifescape Community Services, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Mt. Morris Senior Center, Ogle County CASA, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, Rock River Center, Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, Serenity Hospice & Home, Shining Star Children’s Advocacy Center, and the Village of Progress.

Every dollar invested in United Way of Ogle County stays in the community, Richter said.

“We’re focused on the basic necessities that are the framework of a community,” Richter said. “We fundraise for our initiatives and give back to support our nonprofits. Every year, those organizations apply for funds from us. We’re always open to helping out other or new nonprofits. We were able to provide \$75,000 in support this past year. We fundraise all of that money through things like workplace campaigns or corporate donations. We’re looking for extra support locally to build on our work and get as many people involved as we can.”

As far as United Way of Ogle County’s future in the community, Richter said it is interested in programs like installing Little Free Libraries, working with elementary schools to grow the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, and working with more employers on employee payroll deduction donation programs.

“United Way has always had the focus of if everybody gives a little bit, that makes a huge difference,” Richter said. “Every dollar does matter and makes a difference. It’s about getting people involved, because it does take everyone to come together to address issues in the community. When agencies apply for funds, we see the needs that this county has.”

To get involved with United Way of Ogle County, visit <https://unitedway-ofoglecounty.org/>.



PARK: Plans for improvement began in 2019

From page 1

Plans for improvements began in 2019 with development of a park master plan. The process included solicitation of community input, inventory assessment, valuation of expected trends and a needs assessment. The final document was utilized to submit the grant application for the 2023 OSLAD program. The grant submitted in 2023 focused on the inland side of Park East.

Improvements to the inland side include a new playground, basketball court, nine-hole disc golf course, a quarter-mile paved trail that will also connect to the Lowden Trail project, ADA improvements, expanded parking lot and interpretive signage. Additionally, the district plans to add lighting to the existing baseball field and replace the field fencing and complete drainage improvements.

“Receipt of the OSLAD funds allows us to complete

the necessary recreation improvements with reduced impact on the park district budget. The improvements will be a welcome addition for our residents, and we look forward to completion occurring simultaneously with construction of the ITEP trail,” Erin Folk, Oregon Park District executive director, said.

In addition to the OSLAD project at Park East, Oregon Park District will be working toward construction of the 1.8-mile trail connecting Illinois Route 64 to Lowden State Park. \$3 million in grant funding was awarded for the completion of the trail in 2023.

Construction on both Park East and the trail is slated to begin in 2025.

The Oregon Park District has obtained \$5.9 million in grant funding since 2009 for park improvements and trail development.

The Village of Mt. Morris received \$152,600 in grant funding for its Zickuhr Park project, Village Parks

& Recreation Trustee Jim Hopkins said.

Since the village didn’t qualify as a distressed community this year, it was only eligible for a 50-percent grant. The village will use \$150,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds for the balance of the work after the grant.

The plans for Zickuhr Park include a picnic shelter, existing play structure, swings with ADA options, accessible playground components, half-court basketball, a dog park with double-gated entry, game tables, a pollinator garden with interpretive signage, and a future walking loop. Projects had to include five new recreation features and added green space.

Hitchcock Designs of Naperville assisted the village with the grant application. The next step will be meeting with Hitchcock to work with contractors to get bids on the project. The work will start in 2025 once the final plan is put together.



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Every dollar invested in United Way of Ogle County stays in the community, Executive Director Ashley Richter said. (Courtesy photos)

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LOCAL NEWS

HEART: Program looks at raising awareness of heart illness and making lifestyle changes for prevention

From page 1

"I had to have a triple bypass surgery at St. Anthony Medical Center," Slattengren said. "I had no clue. Dr. Vogeler here is my doctor. Thank goodness she caught it. Otherwise, my surgeon told me I would've been dead in a month. I come here for physical therapy three times a week. Now I know what it's like to be on the other end of my work. The nurses here are wonderful. They truly care about their patients. I know they care about me a lot. It's good to come somewhere where you feel welcome and at home."

February is American Heart Month, and the RCH Cardiac Rehab program and the hospital as a whole are looking to raise awareness of heart illness and lifestyle changes that can prevent it.

As a fitness assistant in the RCH fitness center, which also houses the cardiac rehab unit, Slattengren takes in memberships, shows new members how to use equipment, asks what their goals are and helps them achieve them.

"I try to meet them every day with a positive, uplifting attitude so it gives them inspiration to keep going at it," Slattengren said. "I like to motivate. I retired from being a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital and private practice. This is my fun job in retirement. I wanted to have something to do and get out and help people. I like to keep busy."

Slattengren said being an RCH cardiac rehab patient is comforting for her, because she already knew everyone she'd be working with. Doing her rehab locally helped her meet her goals she wanted to achieve. When the time came for her to start cardiac rehab, Slattengren asked to do it in Rochelle.

"It means everything to me to have access to all of these services for my heart here where I live," Slattengren said. "All of the doctors here that I've met and heard about from friends are really great doctors. They really go out of their way to make the patient feel important here."

Amid American Heart Month, Slattengren hopes that those with symptoms and health concerns like she had will seek medical care before their condition worsens.

"I would tell someone who isn't feeling right like I was to make an appointment and have it checked out right away," Slattengren said. "Don't think that you can just ignore it or hope that it will go away. If you're not feeling up to par, you really need to go see a doctor. Even if nothing



RCH Fitness Center Assistant Katherine Slattengren has spent her recovery from a triple bypass heart surgery with the RCH Cardiac Rehab staff in the facility where she works. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

ends up being wrong, or if it is something, it will just ease your mind. Even though I found out I had to have triple bypass surgery, I at least knew what I was dealing with and I could prepare."

RCH Cardiac Rehab RN Ellee Myers urged members of the community to be cognizant of their health, not just during Heart Month. She wants people to use RCH as the local resource it is to change their lifestyles. Using RCH's fitness center and dietician service can save residents trips to Rockford or other neighboring towns.

Myers has seen first hand how RCH's Cardiac Rehab program can help patients improve their lives in recovery from heart attacks and illnesses.

"It's seeing somebody who couldn't walk through the parking lot at a grocery store without getting winded get to spending 15 minutes on an elliptical working up a sweat and thinking it's a good thing," Myers said. "That is so fulfilling as a healthcare worker to see that improvement. It's

everyday life changes. After being here, people can walk through parking lots, breathe again, and play with their grandchildren when they couldn't before. That's really nice to see. Almost every single one of our patients starts to get that endurance back so they can just live."

RCH Emergency Department Technician Jeremy Mumm spends most of his time in ER treating patients, but also picks up shifts on occasion in the cardiac rehab program. There, he's able to see patients on the road to recovery.

"It's kind of cool if I take care of a heart attack patient in the ER and then months later, I fill in shifts here and I can see their progress," Mumm said. "I'm a one-to-one person. When someone has a cardiac event here, we get them taken care of and shipped out to higher care as fast as we can. When I work in cardiac rehab, I work one-to-one and get to know them a little bit better and see their progress. I see them at their worst when they're first coming in and then I get to see them grow

here and help them graduate through the program and be healthier and get their heart stronger."

RCH Cardiopulmonary Manager Jacqui Ranken said cardiac rehab program graduates are offered a free month of membership to the hospital's fitness center to continue healthy living habits.

"We want them to continue their routine and continue to stay healthy," Ranken said. "I like to think that our prices here are reasonable, for seniors especially, to use the facility. That's always great to see them continue to come in. We get to see them and see how they're doing. We make forever relationships with our cardiac rehab patients."

Carefree 4-H holds November and December meetings

OREGON — The Carefree 4-H held their November meeting on Nov. 13 at the Ogle County Extension Office. We are still planning on doing the LSSI. We are also planning on doing a fundraiser where we will sell cookie dough, garbage bags and scented candles. We will also have a taco bar for the December meeting. We are also planning on make ornaments for the Oregon Nursing Home.

The Carefree 4-H club held their December meeting on Dec. 11 at the Ogle County Extension Office. We made ornaments for the nursing home in Oregon to give to them for Christmas. We donated toys and gifts to give to the kids at the LSSI. All the kids were very happy with the things they got! We are still doing the fundraiser where we will sell cookie dough, garbage bags, and scented candles. We also had a taco bar for the December meeting. For our January meeting we will be meeting up at the Mt. Morris Bowling Alley. If you are interested in joining 4-H, feel free to reach out to the Ogle County Extension Office.

MSOE names locals to dean's list

MILWAUKEE, Wis — Milwaukee School of Engineering congratulates students named to the fall semester 2023 dean's list.

Seth Nelson of Forreston was named to the dean's list. Nelson is pursuing a bachelor of science in civil engineering.

Patrick Wright of Polo was named to the dean's list with high honors. Wright is pursuing a bachelor of science in computer engineering.



MSOE encourages excellence in academic achievement and, as

a result, publishes the dean's list and honors list each fall and spring semester.

Students taking undergraduate courses who have earned at least 12 credits in residence at MSOE, are in good academic standing, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher are on the dean's list. Students on that list who have maintained a 3.7 or higher receive "high honors."

Students with a term GPA of 3.2 or higher, who are not on the dean's list, are on the honors list.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Anna Belle Gambrel

WINNEBAGO—Anna Belle Gambrel, age 91, died Sunday, January 28, 2024 at Generations at Neighbor's in Byron surrounded by her loving family.

She was born August 20, 1932 in Rockford, Illinois the daughter of Wyllys and Anna (Christianson) Gross. She graduated from Winnebago High School in 1950 and from Rockford Memorial School of Nursing in 1953. She married Loren "Gene" Gambrel on March 26, 1954 at the First Presbyterian Church in Winnebago.

Anna worked as a registered nurse for Rockford Memorial Hospital, E. W. Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, MI, the Michigan Red Cross Blood Program, and 25 years for the Rock River Valley Blood Program.

Anna was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Winnebago, IL. She was a loving wife and mother, always putting her family first. She was a Cub Scout Den Mother for her son William and a Girl Scout Leader for her daughters Sonya and Susan. She liked to sew, cook, and follow her Chicago Cubs on WGN.

She also enjoyed spending the last 60 years at the family cottage on Lake



Waubesa. Anna was predeceased by her parents Wyllys and Anna Gross, and sisters Arlene Langholf and Artyst Alberts.

She is survived by her loving husband of almost 70 years, Dr. Loren "Gene" Gambrel of Winnebago, IL; her 3 children: Sonya (John) Gambrel-Lenarz of Spring Valley, Wisconsin; William (Kathleen) Gambrel of Pecatonica, IL; and Susan Gambrel of Winnebago, IL; sister Alta Straley of Winnebago, IL and grandson Randall Lenarz of Florida, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held 10:00 AM, Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at the First Presbyterian Church in Winnebago, IL with the Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer officiating. Visitation will be held from 5:00-7:00 PM, Monday, February 5, 2024 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 506 W. Merchant Street in Byron, IL. Burial will be at the Winnebago Cemetery.

A memorial fund is established for the First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago, the Blackhawk Area Boy Scouts Council, and the Rock River Valley Girl Scouts.

Lisle G. Harris

LEAF RIVER—Lisle G. Harris, age 77, passed away on Tuesday January 23, 2024 at Liberty Village in Freeport. He was born in Reno, Nev., on August 10, 1946 the son of Richard and Elizabeth (McKague) Harris.

Lisle moved around many times in his childhood before settling in Leaf River, IL towards the end of his high school career. He was social and enjoyed playing many sports and being in band while in high school before graduating from Leaf River High Class of 1967. While there, he met the love of his life, Patricia Krause, and the high school sweethearts would go on to get married on May 17, 1969 and have a love story that would last the rest of their lives.

He served the country in the US Army for 3 years and stayed a reservist for 24 more years. He was an active member of the American Legion and Sons of the Legion and was a proud 13th District Commander as well as serving on the Legion Honor Guard.

He worked for many years as an inspector for Micro Switch in Freeport and after that worked for 10 years as a bus driver at the Byron Bus Garage. He was a man of faith and a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Byron and was also a member of the Knights of Columbus. Lisle loved sports, staying active,



and being outside. He enjoyed playing mud volleyball, softball, and being in an archery league.

More than anything, Lisle will be remembered for his winning personality, sense of humor, and giving personality. He could always be counted on to lend a helping hand or giving a smile and wave. He knew how to make sure people knew they were important and cared for.

He is survived and deeply missed by many; but especially by his wife of almost 55 years, Patricia of Leaf River; children, Stephen (Jen) Harris of Grand Blanc, MI, Cathryn Harris of Rochester, MN, and Ronald (Melissa) Harris of Hudson, WI; siblings, Sherrill "Bud" (JoAnn) Harris, Richard (Bonnie White) Harris, Earl Johnson, and Margaret (Rick) Taft; grandchildren, Rachel, Emily, Benjamin, Joseph, Kaitlyn, and Lauren; and many other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents. A visitation will be held from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Feb. 9, 2024 at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home in Byron. Donations may be directed to the American Legion or the American Diabetes Association.

To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

Richard 'Rick' S. Hewes

POLO—Richard "Rick" S. Hewes, 75, of Polo, passed away Sunday, January 28, 2024, at Rock River Hospice in Sterling, IL.

Rick was born, March 27, 1948, in Oak Park, IL, the son of Harold and Dorothy (Wheat) Hewes. On December 27, 1969 in Polo, he was united in marriage to Doreen "Lisa" Smith. Rick was a teacher with Polo High School for over 30 years. In his retirement years he went back to work for the school as their IT for yet another 10 years. Rick was a loving husband, father and uncle. He enjoyed camping with his family, doing model trains on his computer. Rick and his wife would collect books, some would say a library full, the science books were always his favorite. He also had a big

heart for animals especially his cats later in life.

Survivors include his son Christopher Hewes of Prophetstown, IL; along with many Nieces and Nephews.

Rick was preceded in death by his loving wife Lisa and both parents.

The funeral will be at 11:00 AM Friday, February 2, 2024 at Polo Family Funeral Home, 110 E. Dixon St, Polo. Visitation will be one hour prior to services from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at the funeral home. Burial will be in Haldane Cemetery, rural Polo immediately following the services.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to Rock River Hospice or Happy Tails Humane Society.

Visit www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com to send condolences.

Alice E. Knaub

LEAF RIVER—Alice E. Knaub, age 78, died on Thursday, January 25, 2024, in her home, surrounded by her family. She was born on May 5, 1945 in Rockford, IL the daughter of John & Eileen (Vondra) Novak.

Alice graduated Boylan Catholic High School in 1963. Three years later on October 8, 1966 she married the love of her life Gary Knaub in Rockford. Alice always loved simple things in life like cooking, gardening, and canning. She had a deep love of Angels. Her first and forever love however was her family. She was a loving friend, wife, and mother to anyone who needed it.

She is preceded in death by her parents, daughter-in-law Connie, and her siblings Lyle and Janice.

Alice is survived and missed dearly by her loving family, sons Gary (Tastiana) Knaub Jr. of Leaf River, IL, Tim (Rosa) Knaub of Leaf River, IL, Scott (Julie) Josephitis of Stoughton, WI; daughter, Brenda Knaub of



Hartsel CO; brother, Keith Novak of IL; and grandchildren, Alice Knaub, Gabby Knaub, and Danny Knaub; great-grandchild Lee Knaub on the way soon.

The family would like to extend a large thank you to Rosa, Alice's daughter-in-law, for her 6 years of help taking care of her. With her help, Alice was able to spend her final days in her home in Leaf River.

A memorial service will be held in her honor at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Byron, IL, on Saturday, February 3, 2024 starting at 1:00 pm with Deacon Tom Petit of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Byron presiding. A visitation is scheduled for one hour prior to the memorial service from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Alice will be laid to rest with her husband in Byron Cemetery. Memorial donations made be made to FNH Hospice in her name.

To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in her memory please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com.

Everett W. Stoker

BYRON—Everett W. Stoker, age 24, formerly of Byron, Illinois and Wasilla Alaska died Monday, January 22, 2024. He was born March 5, 1999 in Anchorage, Alaska and is the son of Paul and Sonja (Ward) Stoker.

Everett attended Byron schools and graduated from Byron high school in 2017. He worked as an equipment operator for Timber Industries in Dixon, Illinois.

In his youth Everett was a Cub Scout and enjoyed playing video games. While at Byron High School, Everett was on the swim team, and helped to set several school records. One of his favorite hobbies was watching stock car racing and talking and learning about pretty much anything automotive.

He was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Tom and Trudy Ward, and his paternal grandparents, Wayne and Winnie Hillegas.

He is survived by his parents, Paul and Sonja Stoker, Wasilla, Alaska, and his sister Kaila Stoker of Wasilla, Alaska. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins.

A Celebration of Life was held at the Byron Forest Preserve on Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM in Byron Illinois.

In lieu of any gifts the family asks donations to be made to "Everett Suicide Awareness Fund" on Go Fund Me. Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Homes assisted the family.



Locals make UW Oshkosh fall 2023 dean's list, honor roll

OSHKOSH, Wis.—University of Wisconsin Oshkosh officials have released the names of students who qualified for the dean's list and honor roll in fall 2023 across its three campuses (Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Oshkosh).

The term grade-point average (GPA) requirement for university honor roll is 3.3; the term GPA requirement for dean's list is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0.

To qualify, a student must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. There can be no individual grades below

a "C" and no incomplete or non-reported grades at the time the process is run.

Byron: Anika Roush, dean's list. Oregon: Grace Kultgen, dean's list. Stillman Valley: Chad Gerig, honor roll, and Nolan Swenson, dean's list.

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LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

Rockford woman arrested for driving while license revoked

OREGON — On Jan. 23 at 11:58 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. As a result, Karina F. Canizal, 34, of Rockford was arrested for driving while license revoked. Canizal was additionally issued citations for operating a motor vehicle with registration/suspended, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and possession of cannabis/improper container/driver. Canizal was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Jan. 24 at approximately 12:52 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Town Line Road and Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Bradford Reiners, 43, of Rockford, under arrest for no valid driver's license. Reiners was additionally issued a citation for improper lane usage. Reiners was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On Jan. 24 at approximately 7:10 p.m. deputies along with Oregon Fire/EMS Department responded to a single-vehicle crash in the 6,000 block of South Lowden Road. After a brief investigation, it was learned that Nikhil Rayala, 26, of Macomb was traveling northbound when two deer ran in front of his vehicle. Due to the dense fog, Rayala was unable to observe the deer until very close to striking them. Rayala swerved off of the roadway before striking a significant amount of snow and the ditch where his vehicle sustained extensive front-end damage. Rayala was evaluated by Oregon EMS and released from the scene.

On Jan. 25 at approximately 8:23 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of West Illinois Route 72, Leaf River. After an investigation,

Patrick M. Homeyer, 48, of Leaf River, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Homeyer was also cited for speeding and unsafe backing on a roadway. Homeyer was transported to the Ogle County Jail before being released on a notice to appear.

On Jan. 25 at approximately 7:02 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. After further investigation, deputies arrested Bret Cooksey, 63, of Rock Falls, for driving while license suspended. Cooksey was released on a notice to appear.

On Jan. 26 at 7:30 a.m. deputies were dispatched to the area of South Center Road and East Illinois Route 38 for the report of a school bus on fire. The bus had only three occupants at the time of the fire. All occupants of the bus were evacuated prior to deputies' arrival and there were no injuries. The school bus belonged to Illinois Central School Bus company that is contracted through the Rochelle School Districts. After a brief investigation, it was learned that a malfunction caused a small fire in the undercarriage of the bus where it was contained. Ogle County Sheriff's deputies were assisted by Rochelle and Flag Center Fire.

On Jan. 27 at 6:42 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,200 block of East Illinois Route 38, Rochelle. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Jose Gaspar Hernandez, 32, of DeKalb, for driving while license suspended. Gaspar Hernandez was released with a notice to appear. Gaspar Hernandez was also issued a citation for inoperable registration light.

On Jan. 28 at approximately 1:07 a.m. deputies responded to a property damage accident in the 18,000 block of East Illinois Route 38. After further

investigation Joshua Cannova, 42, of DeKalb, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Cannova was also cited for improper lane usage. Cannova was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear. All subjects are presumed innocent.

On Jan. 28 at approximately 12:42 a.m. deputies initiate a traffic stop on Interstate 39 southbound near Illinois Route 38. After further investigation Kentrell Jones, 30, of Muskogee Oklahoma, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Jones was also cited for obstructed registration. Jones was released on a notice to appear.

On Jan. 28 at approximately 1:24 a.m. deputies and Oregon EMS responded to the 5,200 block of West Penn Corner Road for a reported single-vehicle accident with injuries. During an initial investigation, deputies determined a westbound vehicle, operated by Kayla J. Price, 25, of Oregon, failed to reduce speeds before exiting the roadway and striking an embankment. Price was transported to the KSB Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. Price was issued citations for failure to reduce speed and driving while license suspended, with a notice to appear in court at a later date.

On Jan. 28 at 2:47 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Dement Road and Illinois Route 38. After a brief investigation, Deputies arrested Luis Cabrera, 36, of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended. Cabrera was released with a notice to appear. Cabrera was also issued citations for illegal window tint and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

See SHERIFF page 8

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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

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PAID LETTER

Support for Janes

Dear editor,
 I would like to urge the voters in County Board District #5 to vote for and return Dan Janes to the Ogle County Board. Dan is one of our best board members in coming to all meetings with having done his "homework", ready to work. He has been a dependable leader for the board showing his leadership over the years on county committees such as the chairman of the Zoning, Assessment and Planning Committee and previous chairman of the Long Range & Strategic Planning Committee. He is currently serving on the Executive Committee, Zoning & Planning, and

Assessment and Planning Committees. His skill set and leadership came into great use while he was instrumental in the planning and building of the Judicial Center Annex. Dan is someone I turn to for getting a tough job accomplished while knowing he was doing it right and making sure the taxpayers of our county are getting their monies' worth. I am very happy he is running again, as his leadership, knowledge and experience is what the county needs.



John Finrock
 Mt. Morris, Ogle County Board chairman

Civility is still out there

Dear editor,
 Lowell Harp's article last week was on the hunger for civility. Civility may seem waning, but it resides with every one of us waiting to be expressed. In evidence of its current existence, I wish to extend a public thank you to John Dobbs who stopped on Illinois Route 64 Friday night to assist with a flat tire.

We had never met, yet he pulled over to offer help at 10 p.m. on a foggy eve. With his help and hydraulic jack, the car was quickly raised out of the mud and a swap of tires completed. This was unexpected and highly appreciated.



Thank you, John, for your kindness and civility.
John Dickson
 Oregon

Thanks from Floski family

Dear editor,
 On behalf of the Floski family, I want to extend our sincerest thanks to Stan Asp, Stan Ballard and other members of the Oregon VFW Post 8739 who organized/formed the detail for military rights for the funeral of my dad, World War II U.S. Navy Pharmacist's Mate Frank Floski Jr. The flag presentation and the gun volley were very moving to those in attendance, and were tre-

mendously appreciated by our entire family. Frank's grandchildren, all born and raised in peacetime, were especially impressed by the retired military turnout for their Poppa. Thank you to these veterans for their service to our country and for granting my dad the ultimate respect of military rights.



Doug Floski
 Byron

LIFE letters' policy

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Reauthorization of the federal farm bill

ONE of the primary issues on farmers' minds in 2024 will be reauthorization of the federal farm bill. We all depend on agriculture's success, so it's important for farmers and ranchers to be supported by strong farm programs as they face weather disasters, high supply costs and inflationary pressure. America's public investment in agriculture through farm bill programs helps secure our food supply and keep our country strong with sustainable food, fiber and renewable fuel.

farmers as partners in sustainability and provide resources to help them care for environmentally sensitive land and employ climate-smart practices in their fields to help preserve wildlife habitat, soil and water.



Ron Kern

The previous two farm bills included significant farm program reforms to ensure government support is market oriented and serves as a safety net. New improvements are needed to ensure farm programs address current and future realities. The farm bill has a long tradition of bipartisan support and now, more than ever, it's important for lawmakers to work together to ensure America's farmers and ranchers can continue to provide the safest, most affordable food supply in the world.

Through the farm bill, farmers have voluntarily enrolled 140 million acres in conservation programs—that's equal to the size of California and New York combined. The farm bill's investment in agricultural research and conservation programs is critical to reaching sustainability goals as we work to feed a growing population using fewer resources. Thanks to advances in climate-smart farming, farmers are producing more with fewer resources. To put this in perspective, it would have taken 100 million more acres 40 years ago to produce the same amount of food, feed, fiber and fuel we are growing today.

Crop insurance is one of the primary components of the Farm Bill. Farmers buy insurance to prepare for tough times; similarly, crop insurance authorized by the farm bill provides an important tool to help farmers and ranchers weather storms beyond their control. Continuation of the federal crop insurance program protects farmers from crop disasters and partners them directly with the federal government to ensure America has a safe and abundant agricultural base.

Recognizing that agriculture is the driving economic force for our rural communities we need Farm Bill programs that support rural infrastructure and other investments, including broadband, a "must have" to ensure career opportunities as well as access to quality education and health care. New broadband expansion will be a critical piece of a new Farm Bill.

One of the key components to the past two Farm Bills has been to focus on natural resource conservation. Farm bill conservation programs recognize

Some folks will query if we even need a federal Farm Bill and point to the subsidies included. But the Farm Bill impact extends well beyond the farm by protecting our nation's food supply, providing access to nutrition for families facing hunger, advancing conservation efforts and spurring innovation through agricultural research.

Managing risk on the farm is critical to keeping food on our tables. The farm bill protects farmers from weather disasters, high supply costs and inflation-

ary pressures, which keeps food affordable for millions of families in America.

The food and agriculture sector is critical to our economy, making up roughly one-fifth of U.S. economic activity, directly supporting nearly 23 million jobs—15% of total U.S. employment. When looking across the entire food and agriculture supply chain, the impact is even more striking, supporting more than 46 million jobs.

Others have advocated separating nutrition programs like SNAP from the Farm Bill. But it's important to keep nutrition and farm policy in the bill because they are tied so closely together. America's farmers and ranchers are proud to grow the food that helps supply more than 9 billion meals annually through the farm bill's nutrition programs, which ensure the most vulnerable among us have access to healthy, affordable food.

Policies established in the farm bill don't just provide meals for the hungry, they keep food affordable for all families in America. In America, we spend a smaller percentage of our take home earnings on food than almost anywhere in the world, in large part because of a strong food and farm policy.

Farming is more sustainable, thanks to rising productivity. Farmers are growing more food with fewer resources. U.S. agriculture would have needed nearly 100 million more acres 30 years ago to match today's production levels.

Bottom line: a federal Farm Bill doesn't just benefit farmers; it benefits all Americans.

"The ultimate goal of farming is not in planting crops but the cultivation and perfection of human beings." -Masanobu Fukuoka

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

Eliminate the grocery tax

Dear editor,
 Too many of our politicians have lost sight of what the real problems are for the majority of the citizens of this great country. The evening news and newspaper headlines are missing what is keeping lower- and middle-class families up at night.

The Illinois one-percent grocery tax also started back up last year to add insult to injury. Fuel in Illinois remains .18 above the national average. This is in part of the whopping 45.4-cent gas tax that Illinois imposes on its drivers. The Illinois gas tax is the second highest in the nation.

Mortgage payments are going up faster than paychecks are. Property tax rates are decreasing but overall property taxes are going up because house values are up. Local politicians can claim they are lowering your taxes, but in reality, you're paying more because of property values. Even if a family wants to move to a smaller home, they can't because mortgage interest rates remain high. Many citizens aren't able to afford the house they are in, but they can't buy something smaller because the mortgage rate will remain roughly the same.

What can be done? The one-percent grocery tax brings in around \$400 million to the State of Illinois. Most of that \$400 million is used to fund local governments. Including Illinois, only 13 states in the country have a grocery tax.

Grocery prices are up over 11 percent over the last three years in Illinois with no indication of them falling back to pre-COVID-19 num-

Gov. Pritzker announced Illinois had a \$1.4 billion surplus in his budget. Illinois should eliminate the grocery tax. The largest portion of the property tax is from your local school district. The state must do a better job in funding our schools without relying on local property taxes.

Zach Oltmanns
 Ogle County Board District 1, Davis Junction

New Political Letter Policy

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

VIEWPOINT

"Congress shall make no law . . .
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Published every Monday
Tonja Greenfield, General Manager
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Feb. 19, 1906, American industrialist W.K. Kellogg teamed with Charles C. Bolin to found the Battle Creek Toasted Corn Flake Company, now known as the multinational food manufacturer Kellogg's, after 25 years of working for his brother, John Harvey Kellogg, and buying out his in-debt brother's business.

* On Feb. 20, 1935, Danish-Norwegian explorer Caroline Mikkelsen became the first woman to set foot on Antarctica, though whether on the mainland or on an island is disputed. A small coastal mountain discovered that day is named for her.

* On Feb. 21, 1947, Edwin H. Land publicly demonstrated his instant camera, called the Land Camera, which could produce a black-and-white photograph in just 60 seconds. Two years later he put 57 Polaroid Land Cameras in Boston's Jordan Marsh department store before Christmas, and they sold out within the first day after their demonstration.

* On Feb. 22, 1989, Tina Turner won a Grammy award at age 49 for Best Female Rock Vocal Performance for her album "Tina Live in Europe," featuring recordings from her Private Dancer and Break Every Rule tours.

* On Feb. 23, 2011, 77-year-old broadcaster Larry King announced plans to conduct a one-man comedy tour after retiring from his popular talk show on CNN. The new venture was set to begin in April of that year in Connecticut and end in June in Las Vegas.

* On Feb. 24, 1836, showman P.T. Barnum exhibited an African American slave, Joice Heth, with the claim that she was the 161-year-old former nursemaid to George Washington. After her death from natural causes, and a public autopsy by a respected physician who claimed she was no more than 79 or 80, Barnum eventually admitted to the hoax, which was frequently mentioned by his critics and followed him for the remainder of his career.

* On Feb. 25, 1993, the Florida Marlins introduced their 8-foot-tall, 250-pound mascot, Billy the Marlin. Reportedly, the team's original owner, Wayne Huizenga, chose the name for the fan-friendly fish.

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It is time to reinvest in kids

DURING the 2023 session, Republicans in the Senate and House fought hard to continue a tax credit scholarship program for low-income Illinois school children. Through private donations made to a special fund, children in schools that were failing them for whatever reason had an opportunity to improve their chances for academic success by moving to a learning environment that met their needs. Donors to the program received a 75% Illinois income tax credit in exchange for their donations. It was incredibly successful, bringing in over \$308 million since 2017 to fund more than 38,000 individual scholarships.

The program, known as "Invest in Kids," did not siphon taxpayer dollars away from public schools because hold-harmless clauses in the school funding formula protect schools from losses in enrollment. Nevertheless, Democrats purposely killed Invest in Kids, ending a tremendously beneficial program that changed the academic trajectory for close to 10,000 disadvantaged kids.

Illinois Democrats advocate for equity and opportunity for struggling Illinois families. Well, in the case of educational excellence for kids from low-income households, that certainly wasn't the case. It did not matter that 2/3 of the Invest in Kids scholarship recipients came from households that were living at less than 185% of the federal poverty level,

which equates to less than \$50,000 per year for a family of four, or that over 25% of the recipients came from households making less than \$26,500 per year. It didn't matter that most of the scholarship recipients came from the districts Democrat legislators represent. Union bosses wanted the program to go away, and lawmakers who look forward to fat campaign checks from them were happy to oblige.

In addition to the roughly 10,000 kids who will likely return to schools that were previously failing them, we now see additional collateral damage from the dissolution of the tax credit scholarship program. Two private schools in the Chicagoland area and two others from southern Illinois recently announced they are closing their doors permanently because of the end of Invest in Kids. St. Frances of Rome School in Cicero and St. Odilo School in Berwyn said most of their students were beneficiaries of the scholarships. Without the program, the kids could not remain at the school, and without those tuition dollars, the schools would not be able to make ends meet.

Notre Dame Academy in Belleville and St. Ann in Nashville, IL are closing their doors for similar reasons. Subsequently, the other non-scholarship students who attend the four schools will also be left scrambling for a new educational setting, and the teachers, support staff, and other employees from these four private schools will lose their jobs. I have no doubt these

schools are the first of many that will close their doors due to the ending of Invest in Kids.

I spent every day of my K-12 education in a public school setting, and I believe I received an excellent education that prepared me well for my collegiate studies. Many people I know can say the same. However, some kids do not thrive in a traditional public school setting. Some have challenges that prevent them from reaching their educational potential. For those kids and their families, options must be available, and for those who cannot afford private school tuition, we need programs to help them. Invest in Kids was the perfect solution for struggling students.

I have said this many times: a child's opportunities for educational success should not be dictated by their zip code. For that reason, Republicans are not giving up on Illinois' kids. In 2024, we will be pushing a "Reinvest in Kids" initiative. We must bring these transformational scholarships back. Personally, I don't just want to see the program reinstated; I believe it should be expanded so that even more kids can avail themselves of these scholarships.

This issue does not need to be divisive. Illinois has room for strong public schools and tuition-based scholarships to care for non-traditional learners who would do better in a different environment. It is time to Reinvest in Kids.

Andrew Chesney is the Illinois state senator of the 45th district.



Andrew Chesney

Why Illinois should invest in more bilingual teachers

FOR years, enrollment in Illinois' public schools has been on the decline, but the number of English Learners (ELs)—students in PreK through 12th grade who require additional programming to develop academic English enabling their full participation in school—is on the rise. From 2010 to 2011 to SY2020-21, the EL population in Illinois has more than doubled, from 156,888 to 245,592 students. These students require qualified bilingual educators to succeed. Without such teachers, vital lessons in math, science, and reading fall by the wayside.

According to the recent report by Advance Illinois, "The State of Our Educator Pipeline 2023," the demand for qualified bilingual educators has reached a critical juncture. This report underscores the challenges in Illinois' educator pipeline and serves as a rallying call for a diverse and highly skilled workforce of educators. Critically, the report points out that in SY21-22, 12.3% of bilingual educators were not fully licensed to teach compared to 1.0% of all teachers.

In other words, the fastest-growing group of students in the state often do not have equal access to the education afforded to English-proficient students because there simply aren't enough teachers with the specialized knowledge and skills to effectively teach these students in both their home language and English.

Research unequivocally shows that when English Learners receive high-quality language instruction in both English and their home language, they are significantly more likely to excel academically. While the bilingual teacher shortage disproportionately affects Spanish-speaking Latino students, it has far-reaching consequences, impacting young students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

While Illinois has made steps to address the bilingual teacher shortage, changing student demographics means Illinois has more work to do. According to the Advance Illinois report, the number of English learners rose to over 260,000 for the 2022-23 school year. This number is already higher with the growing number of newcomer students in Chicago and surrounding suburbs. The success of these students rests on having a sufficient supply of bilingual educators to meet their needs.

Access to qualified bilingual educators is the most significant in-school factor for English Learner achievement. They believe that students' home

language is an advantage rather than an obstacle to their learning. These educators use theoretical knowledge and specific strategies to support this unique group of students, ensuring they receive quality education.

But where can Illinois districts find quality bilingual teachers? Fortunately, we are not in the dark here; we have evidence-based solutions within our reach. The Latino Policy Forum recently collaborated with the State Board of Education to offer guidance:

High School Seal of Biliteracy recipients: By engaging with high school students who have earned recognition for exhibiting college readiness in both English and a foreign language, we can lay the foundation for a bright future. In Illinois, Educators Rising offers a compelling model and curriculum for recruiting high school students into the teaching profession. Those on the path towards the Seal of Biliteracy represent a prime source of potential candidates for this program.

Paraprofessionals: School-based classroom staff, with their multifaceted roles, including direct translation, are an invaluable resource. They often mirror the linguistic diversity among students, with one in five paraprofessionals speaking a language other than English at home.

Career-Changers: Community members who share the same language as students and possess bachelor's degrees in non-teaching fields hold the key. This group can be recruited to earn a provisional license, enabling them to start teaching while working toward full teacher licensure.

Illinois has made progress in investing more than \$100 million in educator growth, but with the loss of sustained COVID funding and competing budget priorities in Springfield, more resources are required to maintain this momentum. Addressing the bilingual teacher shortage is an investment in our state's future, preparing English Learners to excel academically and contribute fully to our diverse society. Evidence supports the critical role of well-prepared bilingual educators. Leaving these students behind is not an option.

Erika Mendez is director of P-12 education policy, and Rebecca Vonderlack-Navarro, PhD, is vice president of education policy & research for the Latino Policy Forum in Chicago.



Erika Mendez



Rebecca Vonderlack-Navarro, Ph.D

LOCAL NEWS



Mighty Clovers 4-H hosts annual bowling event

The Mighty Clover 4-H Club participated in the annual club bowling event. Bowlers met at T-Byrd Lanes in Rochelle on Jan. 21. Five teams of three played two games of bowling in an effort to qualify for the county's bowling finals which will be held on Feb. 25. The bowlers had fun. They spent time together as a club and also enjoyed drinks and food. Everyone did a great job. Mighty Clovers meet on the second Wednesday of every month at the Monroe Center Village Hall, 300 Pacific St., IL 61052. The next meeting will be on Feb. 14 where a cake demonstration will take place. Come join the Mighty Clovers! From left to right: Kaylee King, Madeline Kusinerz, Jack Kusinerz, Trinity Feltz, Aubrey Kusnierz, Aurora Wirfs, DJ Wirfs, Henry Young, Kamryn Feltz, Madisyn Ruthe, Alayna Doane, Madelyn Young, Jameson Neumann, Charlie Young, and Mallory King. (Courtesy photo)

County 4-H club honored with statewide award

LEAF RIVER—The Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H club in Ogle County was recently honored for its achievements with a statewide Excel Club Award. Recognition and awards are an essential part of 4-H. Recognition encourages young people and increases their interest in opportunities as they become more capable young adults. Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club was honored with a Community Service Excel Club Award due to a demonstrated focus on their 4-H club's work in service to and for others, emphasizing youth leadership in planning

and implementing the service work. The Illinois 4-H Recognition program focuses on three areas of recognition: Engage, Experience, and Excel. Clubs that EXCEL in their work can compete for state awards. Congratulations to the Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club for an outstanding year! To learn more about 4-H or get involved, visit the Ogle County 4-H website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo/> or call the Extension office at 815-732-2191. Let us know if you need reasonable accommodations to participate in 4-H.

Village of Progress Foundation releases 2024 scholarship information

OREGON — The Village of Progress Foundation will offer two scholarships in 2024. The first scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is made possible through a joint effort between The Larry Young & Friends Charities and The Village of Progress Foundation. Larry Young & Friends Charities partner with The Village of Progress Foundation every year to help make our annual golf outing a success. Larry Young also serves on the foundation's board of directors. Our second scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is made possible through the generosity of the Cac-

ciatore Family. The Cacciatore's have been long time supporters of the Village. Wanda served on the Village of Progress Board of Directors for 10 years beginning in 1988. She has served on the foundation's board for almost 30 years. The scholarship honors her husband, Pete, who was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Village. Pete passed away in the fall of 2014, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to the Village and its mission. To be eligible for either scholarship, the student must:
-Be a resident of Ogle County.
-Be either a high school senior who

is disabled or is planning on attending college and majoring in an area related to the disabled, or a full-time undergraduate college student who is disabled or is majoring in an area related to the disabled. Applications must be received by March 15, be completed on the foundation application form, and include at least two written references. The financial status of the applicant is not a consideration. Those wishing an application are encouraged to call the Village of Progress at 815-732-2126 or go to our website at www.villageofprogress.org and download a High School or College application.

SHERIFF: Drivers refuse treatment following accident

From page 5

On Jan. 29 at approximately 8:28 a.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident with possible injuries in the 3,900 block of West Illinois Route 64. Upon arrival, Mt. Morris Fire/EMS attended to both drivers at the scene, and both refused medical attention. After investigation, deputies learned a white Chevrolet passenger car, driven by Kathleen York, 44, of Oregon, was traveling eastbound in the 3,900 block of West Illinois Route 64 and had begun to turn left into a driveway. A black Chrysler van, driven by Christine Roberts, 40, of Mt. Morris, was traveling westbound on Illinois Route 64 when the Chevrolet turned in front of it. The Chrysler then struck the Chevrolet on the passenger side, causing heavy damage. The Chrysler sustained heavy front right corner damage. York was issued a citation for improper left turn/oncoming traffic.

On Jan. 29 at approximately 7:37 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of North Chestnut Street and East 5th Street in Byron. After further investigation, deputies arrested Victoria Whittle, 29, of Lincolnwood, Illinois for driving while license suspended. Whittle was additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and expired registration. Whittle was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On Jan. 30 at approximately 2 a.m. deputies responded to the area of Leaf River and Byron in attempt to locate a vehicle involved in a domestic disturbance and suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. The vehicle was located in the area of Blackhawk Drive and Fox Run Lane in Byron, where deputies initiated an investigative traffic stop. After further investigation deputies arrested Buddy List, 47, of Leaf River, for driving while under the influence of alcohol. The passenger, Samantha Manley, 28, of Creston, was also taken into custody for two outstanding warrants, with Ogle and Lee County. Both individuals were taken into custody and transported to the Ogle County Jail. List was released on a notice to appear.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

POLO POLICE

Woman cited for operating vehicle with suspended registration

POLO — On Jan. 25 at 2:45 p.m. Kristine N. Marshall, 30, Polo, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration. Marshall was released on a notice to appear. On Jan. 25 at 3:38 p.m. Sunnie J. Miles, 28, Dixon, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration. Miles was released on a notice to appear. On Jan. 27 at 3:52 p.m.

Vanessa A. Bergman, 22, Sterling, was cited for speeding 45 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour speed zone. Bergman was released with a citation. On Jan. 27 at 4:31 p.m. Shyanne A. Hanson, 20, Mt. Morris, was cited for speeding 45 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour speed zone. Hanson was released with a citation. All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Locals make WIU fall 2023 dean's list

MACOMB—A total of 1,183 undergraduate students enrolled at Western Illinois University were named to the fall 2023 dean's list. To receive this award, an undergraduate student must earn at least a 3.6 grade point average on a scale of 4.0, which equals an A in a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded courses; pass-fail hours are not counted (e.g., student teaching, internships). Byron: Nathaniel R. Penrod (senior). Davis Junction: Grace Watterson (junior). Forrester: Emalee R. Vandewarker (freshman). Mt. Morris: Brandon E Rowe (freshman).

Dear family and friends,

I sincerely want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of the love, support, encouragement, and thoughtfulness that you all have shown me throughout the last couple months.

God Bless each and everyone one of you!

Love you all,
Doris Rosenbalm!

TRYOUTS-SINGING

The First United Methodist Church in Dixon, IL, is holding tryouts for their upcoming musical tribute to Whitney and Gospel Music which will be performed April 21, 2024.

Performance will be April 21, 2024

Do you like to sing? **Come JOIN US!**

PLEASE CALL FOR A TRYOUT DATE AND TIME.

815-440-0278
Pastor Tim

815-718-0933
Dave

YOU WILL ENJOY!

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LOCAL NEWS

Oregon Junior/Senior High School releases fall 2023 honor roll

OREGON — Oregon Junior/Senior High School recently released its fall 2023 honor roll.

High honors: Evelyn Anderson, Immanuel Arellano, Sirena Benton, Briley Berns, Kendall Boyle, Jade Brewington, Mackenzie Brown, Isabella Buckel, Haleigh Burkhart, Nole Campos, Leo Cardenas, Eryn Carreno, Yovanni Carreno, Teagan Champley, JonLuke Chartier, Charles Collins, Joshua Crandall, Lilyan Crosby, Ella Dannhorn, Lorelai Dannhorn, Alexis Ebert, Sarah Eckardt, David Eckardt, Kimber Ege, Caleb Ehrler, Elizabeth Elsasser, Mya Engelkes, Owen Flanagan, Emma Flanagan, Abigail Fletcher, Noelle Girton, Jackson Glendenning, Aidan Guida, Eleanor Guinn, Lariaha Hayes, Amelia Holland-Jones, Cade Hoversten, Jordyn Johnson, Cooper Johnson, Karley Jones, Abigail Kalnins, Claire Kendall, Leyton Kenney, Emily Kerchner, Asher Kramer, Cassandra Krup, Alyssa Leary, Braden Leary, Abbie Ludwig, Alease McLain, Olivia Melges, Jackson Messenger, Emma Molnar-Schlichtmann, Maya Mooney Sotelo, Cristen Morgan, Kylie Morrow, McKenzie Mueller, Sage Namaste-Rose, Merit Namaste-Rose, Ash Noble, Paige Oltman, Layla Person, Raegan Pfoutz, Matthew Pham, Sonya Plescia, Quinn Plescia, Anjali Plescia, Tyvyn Ritt, Rylie Robertson, Madeline Rogers, Ethan Rowe, Peyton Sadler, Logan Sarver, William Schafer, Coen Schafer, Virginia Sowl, Anna Stender, Sarah Stevens, Cole Suter, Olivia Thomas, Adeline Tinsman, Lux Tran, Lia Tran, Alexya Tran, Grace Tremble, Rozlynn Warner, Jack Washburn, Emily Watters, Benjamin Welle, Eliana West, Kenna Wubbena, Andy Zhan, and Molly Ziegler.

Honor roll: Irvin Acosta-Arizmendi, Paloma Albaugh, Cooper Alderks, Eleonora Alfano, Anya Anaya, Houston Arterburn, William Baldwin, Abree Barker, Maelah Barker, Gloria Barker, Breanna Bastian-Johnson, Anthony Bauer, Hailey-Jane Becker, Nelson Benesh, Levi Benton, Isabelle Berg, Jayden Berry, Skylar Bishop, Caden Bradshaw, Caleb Brooks, Isabella Burke, Trevor Burkhart, Jameson Caposey, Braylond Carlson, Grace Carreno, Nicholas Ciesiel, Brady Davis, Shaylee Davis, Codey Dunbar, Kylar Early, Isaac Ebert, Emmaline Eckerd, Cheyanne Edlund, Landon Ege, Kendra Ege, Austin Egedy, Mikaila Ellison, Andrew Fletcher, Kinsley Folk, Gregory Gabucci, Gabrielle Gabucci, Obie Garrison, Alexander George, Elijah George, Olivia Gesin, Jenna Gieseke, Jacqleen Gray, Finnegan Grennan, Mia Guajardo, Nora Hammer, Arianna Hammer, Mya Hansen, Shani Harkness, Thalia Harriett, Sky Henderson, Raymond Herold, Hayleigh Heurman, Dezyrae Hoffman, Leland Howard, Shelby Howlett, Michael Jacinto, Riley Jamieson, Devon Judkins, Robert Keene, Whitley Key, Avery Kitzmiller, Daleanah Koertner, Kylie Krug, Kaitlyn Krug, Kole Larson, Avery Lewis, Elijah Lotz, Griffin Marlatt, Anna Marquardt, Sofia

Mateos Blanco, Aralin McLain, Jasper Messenger, Gavin Morrow, Gertrude Mullen, Evelyn Mullen, Layne Newberry, Miles Olsen, Sophia Oltman, Jaxson Oltman, Alexis Ortega, Ethan Peeling, Lexton Pham, Gracen Pitts, Macklynn Rager, Kayla Rager, Jeremiah Ramos, Madalyn Rogers, Jackson Rogers, Chayse Rosenbalm, Addison Rufer, Jaqlynn Rufer, Keaton Salisbury, Marin Sand, Emalyn Sandell, Aniyah Sarver, Aubree Schefcik, Deborah Schmid, Lucas Schroeder, Airael Schutz, Haylee Schwartz, Christian Schwartz, Kaelin Shaffer, Madison Shaffer, Ethan Smice, Elizabeth Speers, Fallon Spielman, Mason Surmo, Dominic Terlikowski, Luke Tinsman, Alice Tomlinson, Addison Truitt, Ea Voiturin, Olivia Wade, Brian Wallace, Caleb Ward, Taylor Weems, Brianna Wilkinson, Dayton Williams, Kennedy Wingert, Kenzi Wubbena, Andrew Young, Milagros Zavala, Drake Zell, Landon Ziller, and Colton Ziller.

Honorable mention: Piper Albaugh, Peter Alfano, Sebastian Alford, Landon Anderson, Lyndee Anderson, Erik Antoine, Hayden Bartiumus, Carson Benesh, Jack Benesh, Chase Bennett, Chase Buchanan, Olivia Buckel, Toryn Cain, Jasmyn Cheever, Danny Chisamore, Miranda Ciesiel, Kayden Cover, Aiden Currier, Alexi Czochara, Valeria Davis, Christina Davis-McBride, Kerrie Diaz, Jakobi Donegan, Jackson Dunnavan, Ava Eckstein Carreno, Addelyn Eichholtz, Cameron Folk, Brooke-Lynn Halverson, Aiden Hammer, Logan Heinzmann, Evelyn Helton, Keira Hensley, Macauley Heurman, Madeleine Hoffman, Gabriele Hoyle, Reannah Jenkins, Drake Johnson, Brady Jozefowicz, Chase Karper, Rylee Keilin, Collin Kendall, Isaac Kramer, Xander Leek, Jaxson Manka, Levi Martin, Gavyn McArthur, Edward McArthur, Dalton McCammon, Kaelyn Meeker, Kyle Miller, Kodi Miller, Katlyn Miller, Kiana Mooney-Sotelo, Kameron Moore, Mathew Morningstar, Jakob Moser, Alexis Murphy, Elijah Nally, Noah Near, Karley Niehoff, Elida Nunez-Rocha, Tucker O'Brien, Olivia Ortega, Brody Patterson, Lauryn Patterson, Olivia Paul, Elliot Peeling, MaKenzie Peterson, William Rager, Isabella Rains, Christine Ramirez-Dzwierzynski, Estrella Ramirez-Smith, Cora Rasmussen, Tidus Rasner, Audrin Robinson, Paloma Rocha de Santanna Sampaio, Seth Rote, Ellaxandra Rowe, Kristian Ruch, Gabriella Schelling, Alyna Schutz, Christian Selden-Rodriguez, Briggs Sellers, Leland Slepiski, Nathaniel Sowl-Dettman, Rebecca Speers, Sophia Stombaugh, Hailee Taylor, Hadrian Theisen, Jack Tinsman, Lee Toutant, Zander VandeSand, Zayden VandeSand, Gwendolyn Vos, Gavin Warner, Brantley Watts, Madelyn Wendt, Emelia Wesselman, Sonny Wesselman, Brogan Wilkinson, Gabriel Williams, Ace Wilson, Collin Winterland, Emily Wissmach, Deryk Withers, Caleb Withers, Avery Young, Giselle Zavala, and Cortez Zuniga.

3 locals named to president's list at University of Alabama

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — A total of 13,950 students enrolled during fall 2023 semester at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list

with an academic record of 4.0 (all As). The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take

less than a full course load. Local students include: Amanda Williams of Byron (president's list), Elizabeth Collins of Oregon (president's list), and Rebekah Zeigler of Polo (president's list).

McCombie calls for nominations to honor local businesses

SAVANNA — House Minority Leader Tony McCombie is looking to honor local businesses throughout the 89th Legislative District. Each month the Representative will choose a business to highlight, visit, and present them with a special certificate of recognition from the Illinois House of Representatives. This new program will help promote the great business community in northwest Illinois and encourage area residents to shop locally.

her tenure, but this year would like to hear input from constituents as to which businesses should be highlighted. "We have so much to offer in this corner of Illinois and I am curious to find out which businesses are favorites amongst area residents," McCombie said. To gauge feedback, Leader McCombie has created an online form where residents can nominate a business of their choosing to be recognized. "Local businesses are the backbone of our economy, and I am excited to continue showing my support for

them through this special recognition," McCombie said. Residents can access the form here: <https://rep-mccombie.com/local-business-highlight-submission-form/>. This will be an ongoing program for the Representative. The 89th District includes all of Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, as well as parts of Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, and DeKalb counties. With questions, constituents can contact Leader McCombie's Office at (815) 291-8989.

Locals graduated from NIU in fall 2023

DEKALB — Over 1,100 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in December. Included among the graduates were the following students from the local area:

Byron: Lucia Zarco Flores, Bachelor of Science, Rehabilitation and Disability Services.

Davis Junction: Jose Herebia III, Bachelor of Science, Public Health - Health Administration. Judy Kohler, Bachelor of Science in Educ,

Elementary Education: Reading Teacher. William Luchsinger, Master of Public Admin, Public Administration-Local Government Management. Stephen Myers, Bachelor of Arts, History. Erik Villar Saenz, Bachelor of Science, Business Administration.

Forreston: Collin Austin, Bachelor of Science, Business Administration. Monroe Center: Shannon Petry, Master of Science in Education, Literacy Education.

Mt. Morris: Rachel Skoumal, Master of Science, Family Nurse Practitioner. Oregon: Nicholas Davis, Master of Science - Pure Mathematics. Polo: Angel Alba, Master of Science in Education, Instructional Technology. Elizabeth Stamm, Bachelor of Science in Educ, Elementary Education: Reading Teacher. Stillman Valley: Amanda Childers, Master of Accountancy, Accountancy.



Oregon's Wade named November Student of the Month at WACC

Oregon High School 11th grader Olivia Wade (health occupations) was recently named the November 2023 Student of the Month at the Whiteside Area Career Center. Wade is the daughter of Lynda Wade. (Courtesy photo)

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	
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.	962-5585
Oregon	732-3157
Rochelle	562-3801
The Serenity Shed Grief Services	732-2499
Senior Citizens Services	
Hub City Senior Center	562-5050
Mt Morris Senior Center	734-6335
Polo Senior Center	946-3818
Rock River Center	732-3252
Oregon, IL	800-541-5479
Sexual Assault/Abuse	
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling	
24-hour hotline	636-9811
412 W Washington, Oregon	732-0000
Therapeutic	
Pegasus Special Riders	973-3177
Veterans' Services	
Rock River Center	732-3252
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499
Medical Transportation	677-6515
Wellness Services	
Ogle County Health Dept	
907 Pines Rd, Oregon	562-6976
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle	562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499

LOCAL NEWS

Forreton Junior High holds Spelling Bee

FORRESTON — Forreton Junior High School held its annual spelling bee on Friday, Jan. 19. Students, parents, and staff watched as the qualifiers from the language arts classes of Mrs. Griseta, Mrs. Leddy and Ms. Sellers, competed for the title of top speller. 31 students from sixth, seventh and eighth grades took part in the competition.

Cora Schmidt and Brayden Pauls battled to earn first and second place honors respectively. Seventh grader,

Cora, is the daughter of Erin and Eric Schmidt of Forreton. Brayden, also a seventh grader, is the son of Dr. Craig Pauls and Kiley Pauls of Freeport. After 16 rounds of head-to-head competition, Cora spelled the words “quotation” and “superior” to earn the championship medal. Brayden earned the runner-up spot after competing against Jacob Merkel in the final three rounds to determine the second-place spot, correctly spelling the word “des-

ecration.” Cora will compete in the Lee/Ogle/Whiteside County Regional Spelling Bee held at Dixon High School on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 10 a.m. Brayden, as a runner-up in the school bee, will be an alternate for the Regional Bee. Congratulations to all students who competed in the school bee, and good luck to Cora as she represents Forreton Jr./Sr. High School at the Regional Bee in Dixon.

County residential electronics recycling event is Feb. 23

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, Feb. 23 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 and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22.

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/DVD's, 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, or on Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.



Above are the participants in the Spelling Bee. At right, Cora Schmidt and Brayden Pauls battled to earn first and second place. (Courtesy photos)

Join Us In Celebrating 38 Years and Become an Honorary Member of the Ogle County Life

Dear Reader,
 We are very proud to announce that for 39 years we have provided you with the Ogle County Life newspaper FREE of charge. Based on responses from many of you we are confident you enjoy our publication and look forward to its arrival each week. The Life is Ogle County's most widely read weekly newspaper for many reasons. Some of you read our paper for local news, public meetings, social events and church happenings, while others enjoy our articles and views on area current events. A great number of you rely on us for grocery ads, real estate, financial and health information, as well as display and insert advertising from many businesses around the area. Our classified ad section is a popular source of valuable information for many. Whether it's information about area high schools, news about local senior citizens or church happenings, we have been providing it week after week, FREE of charge to more than 9,000 households in Ogle County for 39 Years! Think about the volume of local news and advertising we provide compared to those expensive area subscription papers. We do our best to give you a comprehensive newspaper that appeals to all of our readers, and when you consider that our product is FREE - we believe we do a pretty good job. We expect to be able to continue offering this service to you for years to come, but your help makes it easier! Today you can become an Honorary Staff member of the Ogle County Life! Just drop off or mail in your voluntary payment in the yellow envelope inserted in today's paper or just use your own envelope. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and we look forward to continue serving our readers each week. Thank you!
 Tonja Greenfield
 Ogle County Life Publisher



Join our staff by Feb. 29, 2024 and you can help out our local senior citizens too!

This year if you elect to become a 2024 Honorary Life Staff Member by making a small voluntary payment by Feb. 29, a contribution of 10% will be forwarded in your name to area senior centers throughout Ogle County for provision of services to senior citizens.

p.s.

In an effort to prevent any undue confusion and concerns, it should be clear that no one is obligated to make a voluntary payment. Regardless of whether you elect to become an Honorary Staff member or not, your decision has no effect on receiving your Ogle County Life paper each week, nor will it affect in any way the services provided by the area senior centers in Ogle County.



VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day gifts couples enjoy together

VALENTINE'S Day is a time to bring smiles to the faces of loved ones - particularly the special someone in a person's life.

Gifts that appeal directly to spouses or significant others may be the standard, but gifts couples can use together can bring them closer together. The following are some great Valentine's Day gifts couples can enjoy together.

- **Quirky mugs:** Mug sets come in all shapes and sizes and express various sentiments. Some even feature interlocking designs designed to symbolize that couples are two pieces of one puzzle. Kissing mugs, which look like lips touching when they are brought together, are perfect for couples who enjoy their morning coffee together. Look for them at www.uncommongoods.com.

- **Matching robes:** Plush terry cloth robes need not be reserved for luxurious stays at premiere hotels. Coordinating robes can be monogrammed and worn on lazy days when gathering in front of a cozy fire.

- **Charcuterie set:** A romantic meal is the start of any Valentine's Day celebration. Invest in a compact charcuterie board with two matching wine glasses and enjoy the set on date nights at home.

- **MasterClass lesson:** Purchase a MasterClass instructional (www.masterclass.com) and learn photography tricks or insider tips from established professionals together.

- **Travel excursion:** Jet set to an exotic locale with a planned adventure. Parents can arrange for a sitter, friend or relative to look after the children so the trip provides some one-on-one time. This trip can serve as

the second honeymoon couples dream about.

- **Custom cornhole set:** Couples who love tailgating or opening up their homes (and yards) to guests can purchase monogrammed or custom-carved bean bag toss boards.

- **Fancy coffee maker:** Couples who spend more time in take-out coffee shops than they probably should can brush up on their barista skills at home. There are plenty of coffee makers on the market that can help couples whip up lattes, cappuccinos or espressos with ease.

- **Wine club membership:** Couples who enjoy sampling the latest vintages and flavors may enjoy a wine subscription. Winc.com is just one of the delivery services available. Or couples who prefer to be a little more hands-on can experiment with winemaking kits.

- **Hot tub:** What can be more relaxing than soaking in a warm bath of bubbling water? A backyard hot tub turns up the heat on relaxation and time spent together.

- **Tokens of love:** Matching or coordinating bracelets, necklaces or even tattoos can serve as enduring symbols of a couple's love.

Valentine's Day gifting may be even more enjoyable when gift-giving focuses on presents couples can enjoy together.

6 Valentine's Day traditions

VALENTINE'S Day is a day of love nestled in the middle of February. Sweethearts use Valentine's Day as an opportunity to show the people they care about just how deep those feelings run. A 2023 survey from the National Retail Federation found consumers expected to spend \$25.9 billion on Valentine's Day, up from \$23.9 billion in 2022. Forecasters suspect spending is likely to increase this year as well.

Valentine's Day is awash in many different customs. Here's a deep look at some of those enduring traditions and others that some may feel should be brought back into favor or adopted entirely.

Handwritten cards

It's a common scene each year in card retailers and pharmacies: people three-deep in the aisle trying to pick out Valentine's Day cards in the eleventh hour. People can save themselves the hassle of fighting the crowds if they make their own handmade cards. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, sweethearts created unique cards from scratch, according to Country Living. And prior to products produced by Hallmark and other greeting card companies, people used to send one another cards customized with personalized messages.

Pampering gentlemen

It is common in North America for Valentine's Day cel-



brations to lean significantly toward favoring women, who are often on the receiving end of flowers and chocolates. However, in South Korea and Japan, it is the men who are pampered with such gifts. Women purchase chocolates for their male partners, family members and coworkers as tokens of appreciation and affection. Never fear, a month later on White Day (March 14) men reciprocate with candy, cake and flowers.

Bouquets

These days a dozen long-stemmed red roses might be the norm for Valentine's Day gifting. However, roses weren't always the preferred flower for the holiday. History.com reports that, in the nineteenth century, bouquets might contain all sorts of flowers,

each chosen to convey certain messages. Individuals can research the meanings behind certain flowers and put together a Valentine's Day gift this year that expresses exactly what they are feeling.

Puzzle purses

Sweethearts in Victorian England created "puzzle purses," which were a series of love letters that could be read separately, but also fit together to create a design and message. These intricately folded sheets of paper had parts of messages or verses written on different corners and were meant to be read in a specific order.

Heart-shaped chocolate boxes

British chocolatier Richard Cadbury is credited with creating

the first heart-shaped box for Valentine's Day. The boxes were intended to be so beautiful they would be kept to hold trinkets or love letters. Ornate chocolate boxes are not quite as common today, although the gifting of chocolate for the holiday is still strong.

Celebrating in June?

Many Brazilians skip Valentine's Day in February and choose to celebrate Saint Anthony, the patron saint of marriage and matchmaking, on June 12. Celebrating both is fine for those who prefer to shower affection on loved ones multiple times a year.

Valentine's Day traditions are still strong and can add a little something extra to celebrations this February.

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Prime Rib Buffet

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VALENTINE'S DAY

Cozy up to these romantic films this Valentine's Day

A number of people feel that nothing beats a quiet evening in with the one you love on Valentine's Day. Watching a romantic film together can be a way to cap the night off. There are plenty of films that focus on Valentine's Day or have a larger romantic theme. Such movies are ideal for date nights and the ultimate date night: Valentine's Day.



- "Valentine's Day" (2010): This aptly titled film takes place on - you guessed it - February 14th. It has a who's who cast of well-known actors like Jennifer Garner, Shirley MacLaine and Bradley Cooper. Various storylines intersect among the characters as Los Angeles residents work their way through the highs and lows of love on Valentine's Day.
- "Kate & Leopold" (2001): While rom-com fans are used to seeing Meg Ryan teamed up with Tom Hanks, in this tale she's paired with Hugh Jackman. Jackman is a duke from 1876 who inadvertently finds himself traveling through time to modern-day New York City, where he meets a plucky advertising executive. The two clash before they discover feelings for each other.
- "The Princess Bride" (1987): This movie has withstood the test of time. It has a little bit of everything: swordfights, revenge, a giant, and, of course, a heartwarming love story at its core.
- "The Wedding Singer" (1998): Despite coming out in the 1990s, this film brings on all the campy 1980's nostalgia, including a hit soundtrack of favorite songs from that decade. Although not everyone is a fan of Adam Sandler's comedic antics, this movie is less slapstick and more heartfelt. It's one of a few where Sandler has paired with Drew Barrymore in the lead roles. Check out "50 First Dates" if you want a fun Sandler-Barrymore double feature.
- "Love, Simon" (2018): In this movie, Simon, a high school student, hasn't yet come out to his friends and family, but has been exploring a budding romance with an anonymous boy online. The big reveal of that boy's identity is a moment of anticipation.
- "Pride and Prejudice" (2005): Jane Austen's classic novel has undergone many interpretations on the silver screen. The 2005 version starring Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen as Elizabeth and Darcy is a fan favorite. With its beautiful tableaux and enchanting soundtrack,

viewers can't help but root for this unlikely couple.

- "Always Be My Neighbor" (2019): This Netflix original movie has Ali Wong and Randall Park playing former childhood best friends with some unfinished business. When they are reunited as adults on different paths, will they find a connection? Keanu Reeves has a guest cameo.
- "Chocolat" (2000): A mysterious French woman and her young daughter open a chocolate shop in a remote place where villagers are afraid of change. Her confections seemingly have magical powers to fix the ills of people, if only the shopkeeper can lure the stubborn to give them a taste. Johnny Depp stars as a love interest.
- "Notting Hill" (1999): If Meg Ryan is the queen of rom-coms, Hugh Grant may be the king. In this movie, an unassuming British book shop owner gets cast into the limelight when a famous American actress played by Julia Roberts hides in the stacks and eventually becomes more than just a customer.

roses in the United States was \$80.16 at that time. Pennsylvania had the most affordable roses and Hawaii the most expensive. Roses can be costly, and recipients may want to do their best to ensure the flowers last as long as possible.

- Unwrap the bouquet from any plastic as soon as possible to let the flowers breathe. Also, recut the stems with sharp scissors at a 45-degree angle.
- Remove any leaves from the stems that would end up sitting in the water when the roses are placed in a vase.
- Wash the vessel to rid it of dirt, dust and any grime to give the roses the best start possible.
- Use lukewarm water to fill the vase. Water that is too

Wine and dessert pairings

LOVE is in the air come February, when plenty of sweethearts enjoy romantic evenings together. When the Valentine's Day meal is through, it is prime time for something sweet. Often individuals feel they have to put away the wine from dinner and switch over to coffee or tea at this point in the meal. However, with a little knowledge of how to pair wine with dessert, Valentine's revelers can continue the celebration through this final course. According to Wine Folly, when pairing wine with dessert or other foods, the secret is to think of wine as an ingredient that will add a new flavor profile. Generally speaking, when it comes to choosing the best wines for desserts, a sweet wine is preferable as the sweetness in the wine will match the sugar in the dessert, suggests the wine resource Vin Yang. Here are some additional pairing pointers.

- A darker dessert usually requires a darker wine, as the wine should have a similar intensity to the dessert.

- The wine should be sweeter than the food in most cases.
 - The flavors in the wine should match the flavors in the food.
 - Chocolate and caramel are best paired with a sweet or fruity red wine, as dry wines may taste too bitter against chocolate due to the tannins found in both the wine and chocolate. Port, Sherry, Marsala, and Zinfandel are good options.
 - Mild, buttery or sweet vanilla desserts work best with white wines, including sparkling wines. Muscat, off-dry Rieslings, and Prosecco are some ideas.
 - Keep in mind that very sweet desserts or those with fruits, like cobblers or shortcakes, may benefit from a burst of acidity. A drier Riesling may work or a Vouvray Brut.
- Those who may be unsure of how to pair their desserts with wine can always speak with a wine retailer or a trusted restaurant sommelier for suggestions on wines for an extra-special Valentine's Day.

How to make your Valentine's Day roses last longer

VALENTINE'S Day spending shows little sign of waning. Floral arrangements are among the most popular purchases on this special day. According to Rio Roses, customers spent \$2.3 billion on flowers for Valentine's Day in 2022. Valentine's Day tends to be the busiest day for florists as plenty of people want to surprise sweethearts with bouquets and other floral arrangements. Red roses account for 70 percent of all Valentine's Day flower purchases.

Early in 2023, Finance Buzz researched the average cost of a dozen roses in each state so shoppers could expect what they would pay to gift their loved ones, and the average price for a dozen

hot or too cold may shock the blooms and shorten their life span. Fill the vase to three-quarters full.

- Use the flower food that comes with the roses. It is a good mix of nutrients to help prolong the life of the roses. A teaspoon of sugar dissolved in water also can be used in a pinch if the roses didn't come with flower food.
- Change the water every few days, especially if it is cloudy. This is a good time to re-snip the stems and add more flower food to the lukewarm water.
- Keep any cut flowers away from direct sunlight, drafts and radiators or heating vents.

With proper care, cut roses may be able to last seven to 10 days, says Southern Living magazine.

roses in the United States was \$80.16 at that time. Pennsylvania had the most affordable roses and Hawaii the most expensive. Roses can be costly, and recipients may want to do their best to ensure the flowers last as long as possible.

- Unwrap the bouquet from any plastic as soon as possible to let the flowers breathe. Also, recut the stems with sharp scissors at a 45-degree angle.
- Remove any leaves from the stems that would end up sitting in the water when the roses are placed in a vase.
- Wash the vessel to rid it of dirt, dust and any grime to give the roses the best start possible.
- Use lukewarm water to fill the vase. Water that is too



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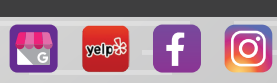
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Consistency key to success for Polo basketball as Head Coach Messer marks 300th win

'One of the keys is that we haven't done the same thing once in 18 years'

BY GEORGE HOWE
CORRESPONDENT

POLO — The world of sports is a collection of statistics, records, and feats. In the professional ranks, you'll see players quite often ask for the first home run baseball, or the pigskin once they cross the goal line. Head coaches bear the brunt of criticism much more than their successes. It is the opinion of many media types, parents, and armchair assistants, that coaches are only as good as their personnel.

Actually, most coaches, at all levels of competition, are the unsung heroes. They arrive early to practice and stay long after the final horn has sounded on game day, often driving the team bus while usually not looking for any special recognition while just doing their job.

Polo Head Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach Matt Messer has been doing just that for 18 years and recently set a milestone, recording his 300th career win. As we chatted, not once did Messer say "me" or "I", again, a typical humble trait in a lot of individuals that lead and support others. Most of the time, a coach's value and job security are measured by wins and losses. While Messer feels that there is much more to it, he has coached consecutive 20-win seasons dating back from 2012-2019, more than any other coach in the NUIC, NIC-10, or BNC. Messer shared that the recent recognition is appreciated, but there have been a lot of factors to his success. "Honestly, the people at Polo have been very good to me and let me coach with no problems," Messer said. "My wife gets a shout out for being very sup-



From left to right: Joe Merdian, Calvin Clothier, Jake Dollmeyer, Matt Messer, and Matt Scholl. Back row: Bruce Scholl, Dan Deuth and Connor Lincoln. Clothier is a current assistant and former player from Messer's first year. Matt Scholl, Dollmeyer and Lincoln were on Messer's first conference championship and regional championship team. (Courtesy photo)

portive and understanding as the wife of a coach. I think that longevity comes from consistency in our programs both at the JV and varsity levels. My right-hand man through the years is Joe Merdian. We have won 300 games together, not just me. I've had and have a great coaching staff of volunteers and parents always willing to be involved, which I feel lucky to possess. I also came in at the right time being fortunate to have such an influx of talented basketball players."

Merdian, the JV head coach and varsity assistant, has been by Messer's side for every ballgame and isn't surprised by his success.

"The time that we put in in the offseason in the

summer league and preseason meetings bouncing ideas around which will best suit our team is what stands out about Matt, and it's been really good being a part of it," Merdian said. "One of the keys is that we haven't done the same thing once in 18 years which keeps the opposing teams guessing and makes it fun for us."

Every season brings its own set of changes and challenges as students graduate and underclassmen step up. Messer said that one key ingredient to this undertaking is to try and recognize what you've been given.

See **COACH PAGE 2**

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DON'T WAIT UNTIL SPRING TO SELL YOUR HOUSE!

As you think about the year ahead, one of your big goals may be moving. But, how do you know when to make your move? While spring is usually the peak homebuying season, you don't actually need to wait until spring to sell. Here's why.

1. Take Advantage of Lower Mortgage Rates

Last October, the 30-year fixed mortgage rates peaked at 7.79%. In January, they hit their lowest level since May. That means you may not feel as locked-in to your current mortgage rate right now. That downward trend in rates has made moving more affordable now than it was just a few months ago.

Another reason today's rates make now a good time to sell? More buyers are jumping back into the market. Many had been waiting on the sidelines for rates to fall, but now that that's happening, they're eager and ready to buy. That means more demand for your house. According to Sam Khater, Chief Economist at Freddie Mac:

"Given this stabilization in rates, potential homebuyers with affordability concerns have jumped off the fence back into the market."

2. Get Ahead of Your Competition

Right now, there are still more people looking to buy a home than there are houses for sale, which puts you in a great position. But keep in mind, with the recent uptick in new listings, we're seeing more sellers may already be re-entering the market.

Listing your house now helps you beat your competition and makes sure your house will stand out. And if you work with an agent to price it right, it could sell fast and get multiple offers. U.S. News explains:

"When there is low housing inventory, sellers could get top dollar for their homes."

3. Make the Most of Rising Home Prices

Experts forecast home prices will keep going up this year. What does that mean for you? If you're ready to sell your current house and plan to buy

another one, it may be a good idea to think about moving now before prices go up more. That would give you the chance to buy your next home before it gets more expensive.

4. Leverage Your Equity

Homeowners today have tremendous amounts of equity. In fact, a recent report from CoreLogic says the average homeowner with a mortgage has more than \$300,000 in equity.

If you've been waiting to sell because you were worried about home affordability, know your equity can really help with your next move. It might even cover a big part, or maybe all, of the down payment for your next home.

Bottom Line

If you're thinking about selling your house and moving to another one, connect with RE/MAX of Rock Valley agent to get the process started now so you can get a leg up on your competition.

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SPORTS NEWS

COACH: Coaching style has changed over the years

From page 1

“My approach has been to adapt based on talent and size,” Messer said. “In a perfect world, I’d like us to play fast and shoot a lot of high-percentage three-point shots, but we can’t always do that. One year we had a 6’8 kid and ran our offense through the post. It’s those kinds of variables that help make decisions.”

Messer admitted that his coaching style has changed over the years and tries not to be a yell, but more laid back and even keeled.

“I’ve mellowed with age,” Messer said. “In my playing and early coaching days, most coaches were authoritarian types that didn’t want much input. Kids today don’t respond to that approach. They don’t want to be told what they did wrong, but explained why. One thing that I won’t tolerate and will raise my voice is if I see a lack of hustle.”

Messer’s methods aren’t lost on Polo Athletic Director Ted Alston, who’s been teaching and coaching during his tenure.

“One of the biggest measures of his success is that he’s a really good person first and foremost and his players always respond and compete,” Alston said. “Sometimes, it’s a hard thing to get the kids to constantly hustle on the court every game, but he gets that. He doesn’t get bogged down with a system that doesn’t match the talent. His in-game adjustments



Polo Head Coach Matt Messer and Assistant Coach Joe Meridan. Messer recently won his 300th game as head coach. (Courtesy photo)

are just as noticeable and impressive.”

Messer credits his staff who he admitted that he tends to lean on. “Our scout gives us good information on an upcoming opponent,” Messer said. “My assistants do a great job in game, so I don’t have to watch everything, and it takes the pressure off. I like a collaborative view; it keeps everyone in the game sharing ideas.”

This season, the Marcos find themselves currently in third place with a 5-2 record in the Northwest Upstate Illini Conference South, trailing 6-0 Eastland and 5-1 Fulton. They feature senior captain guard-forward Brock Soltow, averaging an impressive 19 points a game. Soltow is complimented by teammates, junior guard Gus Mumford, contributing 11.6 a game, senior guard Carter Meridian at 7.9 PPG who Messer refers to as our “all-around guy.” Senior forward

Nolan Hahn pulling down close to five rebounds a game, and junior forward Noah Dewey rounding out the top five, with Billy Lowry, and Gage Zeigler in the mix coming off the bench. “We are more athletic this year than we have been in a long time,” Messer said. “We have been trying to play a really aggressive defense whether it’s full or half-court pressure. Offensively, we can get out and run and shoot the ball well. It’s a nice mix as a result of our athleticism.”

Like most teams, the Marcos set their pre-season goals of winning both the conference and regional titles which Messer feels is realistic and attainable.

“We have a sense of maturity and experience with Brock and Carter members of the varsity for three years,” Messer said. “Everything that we want is in front of us. We need to keep building and are playing good basketball at the right time of this season.”

AREA SPORTS

Stillman Valley girls basketball team dominates Oregon

The Stillman Valley High School varsity girls basketball team scored a 56-19 win over Oregon on Friday, Jan. 26. Taylor Davidson scored 16 points and Mya Janssen led the Cardinals with 18 points in the game. Amelia Dunseth added 10 points for Stillman Valley and Teagan Champley led Oregon with seven points.

Forreton boys basketball team falls to Milledgeville

The Forreton High School varsity boys basketball team lost to Milledgeville 41-33 on Friday, Jan. 26. Xavier Goeddeke led the Cardinals (7-14 overall) with 12 points and Brenden Greenfield added nine points in the loss. Kendall Erdmann chipped in six points.

Oregon wrestling concedes loss to Morrison

The Oregon High School varsity wrestling team conceded a 39-36 loss against Morrison on Jan. 26. The Hawks moved to 16-11 overall on the season. Winners for the Hawks included Nelson Benesh (forfeit at 113), Jackson Messenger (fall at 120), Zander VandeSand (fall at 175), Quentin Berry (forfeit at 190), Landen Elder (fall at 215) and Briggs Sellers (fall at 285).

Oregon wrestling takes match against Sandwich

The Oregon High School varsity wrestling team took down Sandwich 48-31 on Jan. 26. Winners for the Hawks included Nelson Benesh (fall at 113), Jackson Messenger (fall at 120), Preston LaBay (fall at 126), Jakobi Donegan (fall at 144), Jackson Glendenning (forfeit at 165), Quentin Berry (fall at 190), Landen Elder (forfeit at 215) and Briggs Sellers (forfeit at 285).

Oregon girls basketball loses against Freeport Aquin

The Oregon High School varsity

girls basketball team lost 59-17 against Aquin Catholic on Saturday, Jan. 27. Teagan Champley led the Hawks with seven points in the loss. Mya Engelkes added six points on the Oregon side.

Oregon girls basketball team falls to Sterling Newman

The Oregon High School varsity girls basketball team lost 41-11 against Sterling Newman on Monday, Jan. 29. Teagan Champley led the Hawks with four points in the loss.

Oregon boys basketball team loses to Rockford Lutheran

The Oregon High School varsity basketball team hosted Rockford Lutheran on Tuesday, Jan. 30, falling 75-67 to move to 13-12 on the season. The JV team won 50-34 and the freshman team won 48-44. Noah Johnson shined for the varsity team, scoring a team-leading 28 points and making seven 3-pointers. Jameson Caposey added 12 points and Keaton Salsbury tallied 11 points for the Hawks in the game.

Oregon girls basketball team dominates West Carroll

The Oregon High School varsity girls basketball team crushed West Carroll 55-17 on Tuesday, Jan. 30. Teagan Champley led the Hawks with 12 points, while Mya Engelkes and Madison Shaffer each totaled eight points. Ella Dannhorn and Alease McLain both scored seven points.

Polo boys basketball team scores double-overtime victory

The Polo High School varsity boys basketball team outlasted Eastland for a 66-63 win in double overtime on Tuesday, Jan. 30. Brock Soltow eclipsed 1,000 career points for the Marcos and led the team with 29 points. Gus Mumford added 16 points and Carter Meridian chipped in eight points.



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SPORTS NEWS

Co-ops and declining enrollment

RECENTLY, the NUIC voted against a proposed girls sports co-op for Freeport Aquin and Orangeville. Considering they are the smallest schools in the conference and co-op in other sports, something seemed amiss.

This from an email I received from Brad Kolar of Orangeville after I had reached out to him: "Currently, our school has been able to successfully pass and maintain cooperative agreements for all junior high and high school sports except for high school volleyball, and high school girls basketball. As an athletic director and school administrator, I feel that we as school districts should strive to provide inclusive, positive and long-lasting experiences for the athletes no matter the level of play. Our view on the cooperative agreement between Orangeville and Aquin is in the best interest for the ability for two schools to come together, host sporting events and allow students from varying grades to participate in team athletics."

That makes sense and there is a long history of coops in the NUIC. So what's the beef with Aquin and Orangeville?

Mr. Kolar implored me to ask the schools who voted against it for their reasoning.

I strongly considered it, but dropped the idea. Anymore, it is difficult to get an official comment on from school officials on subjects such as this.

Quite frankly, I wasn't in the mood to run into brick walls. But, my curiosity leaves you the reader with these questions:

Was the co-op rejected because Orangeville is ranked No. 2 in the state for basketball and Aquin has one of the area's top college prospects ever in freshman Paitlyn London?

Does Aquin get extra scrutiny because they are a private school and enjoy so-called recruiting advantages?

From what I am hearing, Aquin has more serious issues than that, and that is keeping its doors open due to declining enrollments.

Catholic schools all over Illinois are taking a major hit. One of the bastions of Catholic education, Joliet, just announced the closure and consolidation of many churches and schools.

Don't worry. Football power Joliet Catholic, with its state record 15 state titles, is still in good stead.

Post season wrestling kicks off with regionals at Stillman Valley. Le-Win will be the team favorite, as Dakota has declined a bit.

One thing that still seems out of place is Rockford Boylan in this 1A regional, while the Polo co-op is in 2A. Seems like it should be other way around, but it is another case of a Catholic school dropping in enrollment.

Looking over individual and team rankings for wrestling, the rest of the state has made headway on our area, which has been the most competitive among 1A sectional for past couple decades.

But, there is a new kid on the block who has taken over from Le-Win and Dakota as the top dog in this sectional. Woodstock Marian has five wrestlers ranked No. 3 or better in 1A.

The most intriguing of that talent is nationally-ranked freshman Jimmy Mastny, whose family resides near Oregon.

Originally, the IHSA barred Mastny from competing and suspended Marian coach Jordan Blanton for allegations of illegal recruiting, because Mastny

had moved 60 miles away to the Blanton residence in Woodstock and Stacey Blanton, Jordan's wife, had become legal guardian for Jimmy.

In December, a McHenry County judge ruled in favor of Mastny and Blanton and the IHSA sanctions were lifted. An attorney for Blanton and Mastny called the IHSA findings fundamentally flawed. He said there is no finding of recruitment or inducement, or evidence of "undue influence."

According to an article in Shaw Media, for about six years, Jimmy's mother has been friends with Stacey Blanton. The Blantons live in Woodstock, so the two families spoke, and the Mastnys arranged to give the Blantons guardianship of their son so he could attend Marian, the families said.

A correction from last week: It was not the first trip downstate for the Dixon bowling team. It was the third. By the way, the Dukes made the cut to Saturday's finals (12 teams), along with Dakota, Hononegah and Harlem, furthering enhancing the prowess of the regional Oregon was in.

We did have an area champion in Charlie Hunt of Hononegah with a 230 average over 12 games. The young man mentioned last week, Trevor Anifer of Lemont, was fourth. Salem, from far downstate, was team champ with nearby Harrisburg second.

Bowling is big in the south, with five schools in final 12.

Finally, thanks for all the positive comments on the column from a couple weeks ago on spirituality. Without a doubt, it garnered was the most input of any this year.

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



Andy Colbert



First place finish

The Byron Middle School eighth grade girls basketball team finished first at its home round robin tournament on Saturday, Jan. 27. The Byron Middle School seventh grade girls basketball team took second in the same tournament. (Courtesy photo)



Polo Trio Awarded

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. Cam Jones won the Player of the Game award after 18 points, four assists, three rebounds, one steal and one block in Polo's 47-34 win over Oregon on Dec. 21. Katelyn Rockwood was the Player of the Game during Polo's 38-27 loss to Ashton-Franklin Center on Jan. 3, proving great energy and defense. Elsa Monaco earned the Player of the Game honor with five points, five rebounds, four assists and four steals in Polo's 37-30 win over Forreaston on Jan. 5. Jones was recognized a second time after totaling 23 points, three assists, one rebound and one steal in Polo's 69-47 loss against Eastland on Jan. 11. (Courtesy photos)

Three earn medals

The Byron High School wrestling team enjoyed a successful day at the Eureka JV Tournament on Dec. 30. The Tigers saw three individuals earn medalist honors. (Courtesy photo)



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SPORTS NEWS



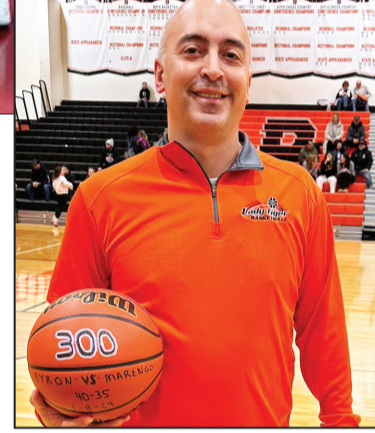
Varsity take road trip

The Forreton High School varsity boys basketball team traveled to Madison, Wisconsin to watch the University of Wisconsin men's basketball team take on the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers on Saturday, Jan. 6. (Courtesy photo)



300th win

The Byron High School varsity girls basketball team honored head coach Eric Yerly, who recorded his 300th career victory after the Lady Tigers defeated Marengo 40-35 on Jan. 8. Yerly and members of the varsity team posed for a group photo after the win over the Indians. (Courtesy photos)



Medalist honors

Oregon High School wrestler Anna Marquardt recently earned medalist honors at two local wrestling tournaments. Marquardt went 3-0 at the Kaneland Girls Invitational, recording wins over wrestlers from West Aurora, East Aurora and Dundee-Crown. Marquardt finished 3-1 over four matches at the Dundee-Crown Girls Invitational, earning victories over wrestlers from Grant, Lakes and Dundee-Crown. (Courtesy photos)



Third place finish

The Oregon High School varsity wrestling team brought home a third-place trophy from the Polo Wrestling Invitational on Jan. 6. Landon Elder finished second individually, while Quentin Berry, Landon Ege, Ethan Mowry and Andrew Young all placed third. Jayden Berry and Landon Kenney each finished fourth, while Preston LaBay took fifth. (Courtesy photo)



Wrestlers medal

Four Stillman Valley High School wrestlers earned medalist honors during the Newbill Invitational in Geneva. Blake Mollet finished third, while Michael Pannarale took fourth. Mack Jones and Henry Hildreth each placed fifth to round out the varsity medalists for the Cardinals. (Courtesy photos)

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Winter Blues Bundle

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

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.

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. 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

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Tuesday, February 20th at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your time slot). St. Patrick's Day Door Hanger - Each patron will make a festive St. Patrick's Day custom door hanger. Oregon Patrons Only. All supplies are provided. Registration required, (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

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Monday, March 4th at 6:00pm. Join us as we take a dive into the basics of severe weather. Topics include: storm chasing, local climatology, past tornadic events, severe weather safety and preparedness and a Q&A. Nick Bartholomew is a veteran storm chaser who has traveled all across the country chasing down mother nature's worst weather. Nick is also owner of Severe Weather Information LLC, which is focused on providing entertaining and informative weather programs for all ages across the country. Nick has been featured in numerous local and national news stories and his chasing content has been featured on many national news and weather outlets. Registration required, www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or call (815) 732-2724.

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Mondays at 1:00pm. This group will meet every Monday at 1pm and is open to anyone. From beginner to expert, all skill level are welcome to join. Bring any hand craft and work on it while socializing. Need help

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Book Clubs

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. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, February 22 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss *Wrong Place, Wrong Time* by Gillian McAllister. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet Tuesday, February 27 at 6 pm at the Library to discuss *Discount Armageddon* by Seanan McGuire.

Yoga

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

Oregon Writers Group

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00am. The OWG is a gathering of writers or writer-wannabes who meet to support each other and further their own writing. The purpose of the group is to help and encourage you in your writing. If you need brainstorming ideas, we can help suggest ideas or aid with the creative process.

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EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

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

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Dave Ragula 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 & Mongon Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon • 732-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George
Webpage: saintbrides.org • E-mail: saintbride.church@gmail.com •
Worship Services: Sunday 10 am Holy Communion with Hymns Christian Education Available

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

ST. MARY CHURCH

Rectory/Office: 211 North Franklin Ave., Polo, IL 61064
PHONE: 815-946-2535 • Rev. Joseph P. Nail
Website: stpaulnalcoregonil.weebly.com
10:15 a.m. Fellowship/Education hours
11:30 a.m. Worship
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
www.stmarypolo.org

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~

POLO CAMPUS

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

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8195 Kishwaukee Road, Stillman Valley, IL 61084 / 815-965-1940
Rev. Nick Garner, Pastor
www.kishchurch.org
Sunday Schedule: Discipleship Hour 9:00 AM, Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM
Gathered Worship 10:00 AM
For complete ministry schedule check out our website or call the church office.

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Lead Pastor Barry Norris
103 S Maple St, Stillman Valley, IL
815-645-8872 | www.valleycov.org
Sunday Morning 9am "Gather" for learning & conversation, 10:15am Worship both onsite and online at facebook.com/VECFSV
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.gracestoryou.com
10479 E. High Rd., Stillman Valley, IL 61084 • 815-973-1369
Worship Service: Saturday at 5pm

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

LOCAL NEWS

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Did you know

That the library has a variety of rooms available for the public to reserve? Whether it's a private area for studying or a large room for a baby shower or birthday party, the Byron Library has a room to suit just about every need. There is no charge for non-profit use of our rooms; for-profit reservations will be charged \$25 per hour. Rooms cannot be booked more than 30 days in advance. To reserve a room, you can visit Byron.evanced.info/spaces, or call the library at 815-234-5107.

Creative Studio

Our Creative Studio is open on Sunday afternoons and two evenings a week, so stop by for monthly crafts and to use our maker space equipment! Crafts out on the tables are free of charge, while some other projects will incur a cost depending on materials. Middle school and high school youth can use some of the materials while with an adult, or during Teen Time. Creative Studio hours: Sunday 1 - 5:00 pm, Monday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm & 5 - 8:00 pm, Tuesday 9 am - 1:00 pm & 5 - 8:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

Check out Our Mobile App

Did you know that there is an easy way to use the library from your phone? Just download the PrairieCat app to your phone or mobile device and log in with



The Byron Library's all-day Dungeons & Dragons Extravaganza was a success thanks to our five volunteer Dungeon Masters! All the tables were on the same journey, yet there were wildly different outcomes due to the different players at each table.

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

Curbside Delivery

The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside service! Place your holds online at byronlibrary.org or call us at 815-234-5107. Not sure what you want? Call us for help! We will call or email you with a confirmation when your holds are ready to be picked up. Call us when you arrive at the library, and we will bring your items out to you, already checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

Visit the Byron Library Facebook page, or subscribe to our newsletters at byronlibrary.org, to keep up to date on library news.

FORRESTON LIBRARY NEWS

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 (zip portion removed), cereal/snack bags, bubble wrap, and other soft plastic. Make sure bags are free from debris and remove all paper/sticker labels. Thank you!

New Materials

New adult fiction includes: The Friendship Club by Robyn Carr and One in a Million by Janet Dailey.

ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

February Yoga

Classes @ RRC
Yoga: 10:00 - 11:00 am.
Chair Yoga: 11:15 - 12:00 noon. When: Friday, Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23. Cost: \$5 per session.

Transferring Files to External Storage

Thursday, Feb 8; 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Advance registration requested.

VA Rep at RRC

Friday, Feb. 9; 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Crafting Group

Monday, Feb. 12, 9:00 - 10:00 am, Project: Valentine Bracelets. Cost: No charge/All materials provided. Advance registration requested.

Information on

Knox Boxes

Monday, Feb. 12, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Advance registration requested.

Services

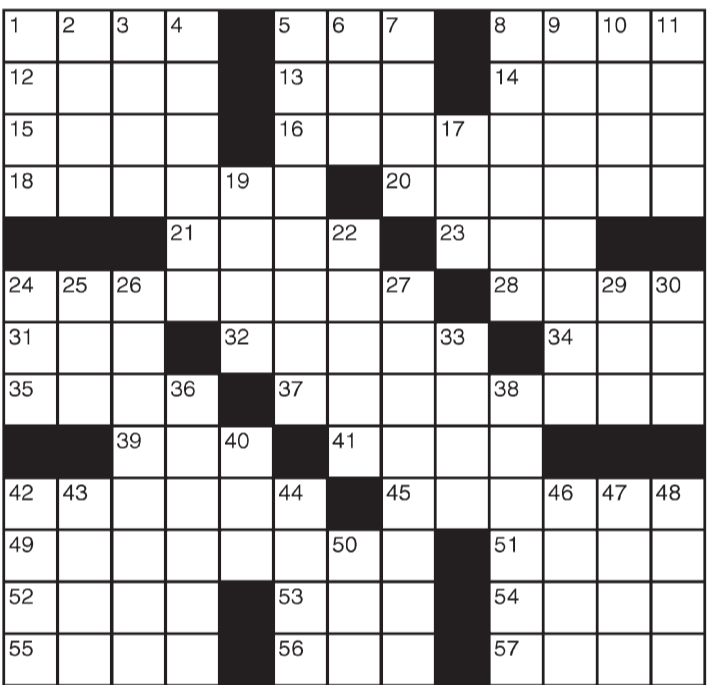
Rock River Center's Information & Assistance Specialists are available at various locations throughout Ogle County. Assistance at these locations is available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact Rock River Center at (800) 541-5479 to schedule an appointment. Byron- Jarrett Prairie Center Feb 12 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Forreston-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.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pt. of a sentence
- 5 Skirt edge
- 8 Some GIs
- 12 Nest setting
- 13 Commotion
- 14 Inter —
- 15 Admin. aide
- 16 Prepared
- 18 Fake fireplace fixture
- 20 Baker Street sleuth
- 21 Competent
- 23 Roman 151
- 24 Started
- 28 Editor Wintour
- 31 Prior night
- 32 Wrap up by
- 34 Martini ingredient
- 35 Painter Chagall
- 37 Coexisted
- 39 Chinese chairman
- 41 "Not so fast!"
- 42 Pub game fodder
- 45 Honor
- 49 Matured
- 51 Jazzy James
- 52 Robert of "The Sopranos"
- 53 Census stat
- 54 Winter fall
- 55 Suffix with song or gab



- 21 Men-only
- 22 — Major
- 23 Porgy's love
- 24 Air travel
- 25 Negotiating a price
- 26 Tokyo, once
- 27 Closet invader
- 28 Spanish dish
- 29 Pink wading bird
- 10 Funny — (2003 Derby winner)
- 11 Utters
- 17 Sinbad's bird
- 19 Slender woodwind
- 22 Fund
- 24 Jewel
- 25 Eggs
- 26 Little home wreckers?
- 27 Amassed
- 29 Diarist Anais
- 30 "Life of Pi" director Lee
- 33 New Mexico resort
- 36 Frolic
- 38 Most recent Tin Man's need
- 42 Pre-weekend yell
- 43 Actor's quest
- 44 Driver of "Logan Lucky"
- 46 Sicilian peak
- 47 Thames town
- 48 Gulleets
- 50 Conceit

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MAGIC MAZE ● SAME BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND END

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

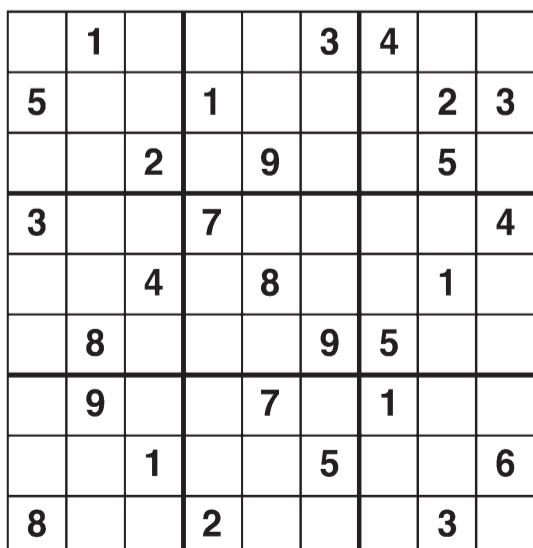
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: CAPITAL OF GEORGIA

- Albania
- Alfalfa
- Copacetic
- Dredged
- Essence
- Expense
- Gorging
- Reservoir
- Sensors
- Smokestacks
- Snapshots
- Snowshoes
- Sunsets
- Swimsuits
- Treatment

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

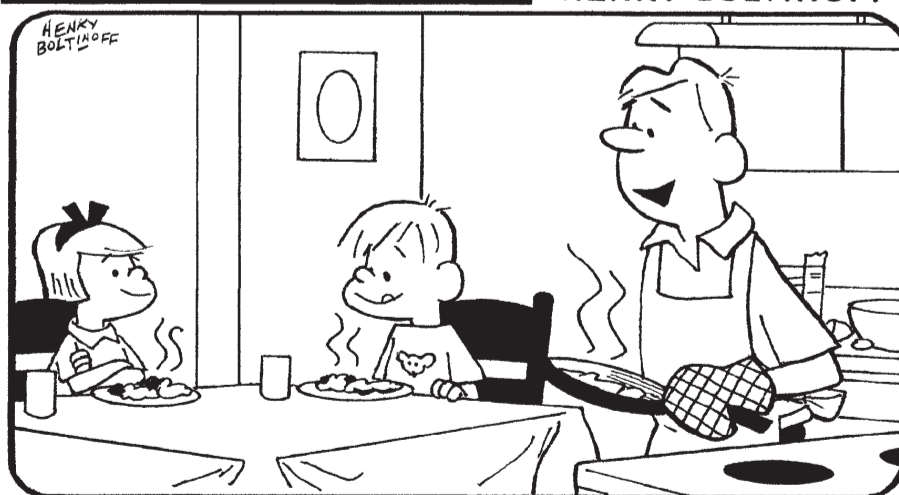
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

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

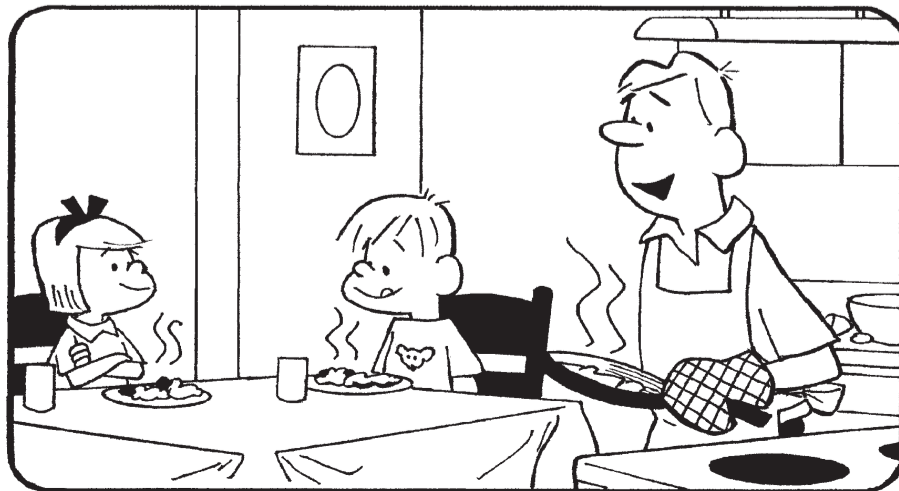
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



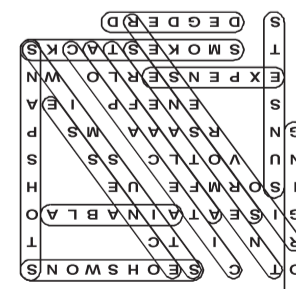
Differences: 1. Burner is larger. 2. Hand is not showing. 3. Plate is moved. 4. Glass is moved. 5. Box is missing. 6. Hair is longer.



Solution time: 22 mins.

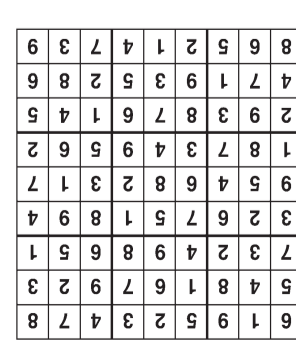
Answers

King Crossword



MIDDLE AND END

SAME BEGINNING



Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

LOCAL NEWS

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Closings

Mount Morris Library will be closed on Monday, 2/19/24, for the President's Day holiday.

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.

Cooking with Julie Class

Bring your appetite and your curiosity as we delve into the cooking world with Chef Julie! We will be cooking alongside you and creating a delicious dish to take home! We'll supply the ingredients and a recipe card so that you can make it again and again! This program is open to ages 15 and up! And it's Free! Stop by or call the Mt. Morris Library to register! 815-734-4927

Crafty Connections

Mount Morris Library is giving crafters an opportunity to come to an open session for working on their craft! Winter is a great time to start a new project or work on an old! Bring your project, meet other crafters, connect with old friends, and make new friends! Any portable craft is welcome: hand sewing, needlepoint, crochet, knitting, felting, beading, painting, or any craft you enjoy. Join us each Tuesday starting February 6th at 2:30 for friends and fun!

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 8th 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 1st!

Story Time!

We will be reading books and the children will create a craft this Wednesday, 2/7. 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 or 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 February 15th, 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 February book, The Sweet Potato Queens' Book of Love by Jill Conner Browne, is available! "To know the Sweet Potato Queens is to love them, and if you haven't heard about them yet, you will. Since the early 1980s, this group of belles gone bad has been the toast of Jackson, Mississippi, with their glorious annual appearance in the St. Patrick's Day parade." 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 February 26th at 3:30pm.

Explore More Illinois

Explore More Illinois allows cardholders from participating RAILS and IHLS public libraries to reserve free and discounted admission, parking, and gift store purchases from cultural and recreational attractions in Illinois, including museums, cultural centers, zoos, aquariums, gardens, historical societies, park districts, and more. 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 position, 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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb. 7, 13

All ages are welcome on the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center's upcoming trips to Mount Rushmore and New Orleans! The trip to Mt. Rushmore and the Black Hills will be May 26-June 1, 2024, and it will cost \$939. Nov. 3-9 the center will head to New Orleans, and the cost is \$935. Both of these trips will include motorcoach transportation from Mt. Morris, six nights lodging, 10 meals, all admissions and tours, entertainment and snacks on the bus, and more. The Center will be hosting meetings to get more information about these trips at 9 E. Front St. in Mt. Morris on Wednesday, Feb. 7th at 11 a.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 5 p.m. Attend one of these meetings to ask any questions you may have and to pay your \$100 deposit to save your spot. These trips are limited to 50 people, and have a minimum of 35 people. You can also call Melissa at 815-734-6335 with any questions you may have.

Feb. 21, 28 and March 6, 13 and 20

The Christmas decorations are just returned to the basement, and now, Easter will be here before we know it. Easter. The story of a man who 2,000 years ago

was beaten, tortured, hung to die from a cross only to rise again from the dead. Is it a "story" or is it the true account of the Son of God who came to Earth to offer the opportunity for God and man to share eternity? If you or someone you know is unsure what Easter is truly about, we have an opportunity for you to explore the answers to these questions: Is Jesus' life historical? Is Jesus' death ethical? Is Jesus' resurrection credible? Is Jesus' offer desirable? This is an opportunity to ask these questions and more and together discover answers.

Our study is rooted in the Bible, but uses examples from our present day world to help us understand such heady ideas. The author of our study guide, Rebecca McLaughlin, uses stories like 'Harry Potter' and '007 No Time To Die' to explain Jesus love for us.

These are tough questions and topics. Too tough to take on with an empty stomach! So, before delving into these questions, we at Ebenezer Reformed Church invites you to join us for a meal. We want to get to know you and your family, and we want you to get to know us! Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20. Come to one or all dates! Please call and let us know if you have any questions, plan on attending or need a ride: (815) 732-6313.

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Arlette Howerton, Owner

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Afurryaffhair@gmail.com Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

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)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS - TILLABLE FARMLAND FOR LEASE

The Byron Fire Protection District is accepting Sealed Cash Bids for the lease of approximately 37 tillable acres located on the East side of the intersection at Tower and Water Road, commonly known as the Emery Property, parcel id #05-19-326-004. Lease will run from March 1, 2024 thru February 28, 2025. Sealed cash bid on dollars per acre are due by Thursday, February 22nd, 2024 no later than 3:00 pm. Sealed bids will be opened at the Byron Fire Protection District Board Meeting on the 27th of February at approximately 6:15 pm. Sealed bids will be accepted at Byron Fire District Headquarters located at 123 N. Franklin Street. Persons interested in viewing the property, please contact the Fire District at 815-234-4911.
No. 0129
(Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, OGLE COUNTY

Request of Allison Renee Stahler Hickerson Case No. 2024MR1 Filed January 19, 2024
There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from Allison Renee Stahler Hickerson to the new name of Allison Renee Stahler
The court date will be held on March 30, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at 106 5th St., Oregon, Ogle County, in Courtroom #304.
No. 0130
(Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 12, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on January

22, 2024, a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: Medic House Roasters 405 E. Center Street Mt. Morris, IL 61054 Dated January 22, 2024 Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk No. 0131 (Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12, 2024)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
LARRY A. WRIGHT, deceased.

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of LARRY A. WRIGHT of Oregon, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on January 18, 2024, to Janice S. Wright of Oregon, Illinois, whose attorney is Attorney 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.
Janice S. Wright Administrator
No. 0132
(Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 12, 2024)

PUBLICATION NOTICE
(Cease Doing Business)

Public Notice is hereby given that on January 10, 2024, a supplemental certificate of ownership of business was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: Ceased Doing Business As: J D Photography 5436 E. Flagg Rd. Ashton, IL 61006 Dated: January 10, 2024 Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk No. 0137 (Feb. 5, 2024)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM J. HOYLE, Deceased
2024 PR4

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of William J. Hoyle of 2300 Union Road, Polo, IL 61064. Letters of Administration were issued to John Hoyle, of Dixon, Illinois, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Emily R. Vivian, Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Considine, LLC, 114 E. Everett

Street, Suite 300, Dixon, Illinois 61021. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 S. 5th Street, Suite #300, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, on or before the date which is six (6) months after the date of the first publication of this Claim Notice, or, if mailing or delivering a notice from the representative is required by section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

By: John Hoyle, Independent Administrator
Emily R. Vivian, ARDC #6290977
Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Considine, LLC 114 E. Everett Street, Suite 300 Dixon, IL 61021 (815) 288-4949 (815) 288-3068 FAX vivian@egbclaw.com No. 0201 (Feb. 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, OGLE COUNTY

Request of Amber Kay Dach to change names of minor children Case Number 2024MR5 Filed Jan. 25, 2024
There will be a court date on my Request to change the names of minor children from Dylan Luke Meyer to the new name of Dylan Luke Dach and Rylie Sophia Meyer to the new name of Rylie Sophia Dach
The court date will be held on March 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at 106 5th St., Oregon, Ogle County, in Courtroom #304.
No. 0202
(Feb. 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF OGLE)
Public Notice is hereby given to all persons in Pine Creek Township that a Public Hearing will be held Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the original Ogle County Courthouse, Third Floor County Board Room #317, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL, to consider the request filed January 4, 2024 of The Williams Family Trust, %Scott Williams, 1445 Parkside Dr., Park Ridge, IL (Seller); and Little Prairie Menno-nite Church, %Wendell Horst, 2834 W. Oregon Trail Rd., Oregon, IL (Buyer) for a Special Use Permit in the AG-1 Agricultural District to allow construction of a Church on the property described as follows, owned by the Seller and being purchased by the Buyer:
Part of the West Half (W1/2) of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section 11 Pine Creek Township 23 North, Range 9 East of the 4th P.M., Ogle County, IL, 10.0 acres, more or less of a 90.0 acre parcel
Property Identification Number: Part of 15-11-

400-001
Common Location:
1800 block of S. Harmony Rd.

All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The application for this special use is on file with detailed description and available for examination at the Planning & Zoning Department, 911 Pines Rd., Oregon, Illinois or at the following URL: http://www.oglecounty.org/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
RANDY OCKEN, Chairman
Dated at Oregon, Illinois this 4th day of January 2024
#01-24SU
No. 0204
(Feb. 5, 2024)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF OGLE PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
) CASE NO. 2023-PR-69 CHARLES O. SCHELL, Deceased)
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given of the death of Charles O. Schell. Letters of Office as Administrator were issued on December 21, 2023, to Jackie R. Hollandsworth, 1427 Illini Dr., Rockford, IL 61107, and the principal attorney for the estate is Mary J. Gaziano, One Court Place, Suite 200, Rockford, Illinois, 61101.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before August 5, 2024, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Ogle County Circuit Clerk--Probate Division at the Ogle County Courthouse, 106 S. 5th Street--Suite 300, Oregon, Illinois, or with the estate legal representative, or both. When a claim is filed with the representative but not with the Court, the representative may file the claim with the Court but has no duty to do so.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office--Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and her attorney within ten (10) days after said claim has been filed.
DATED: February 1, 2024
Mary J. Gaziano, Attorney for the Estate
PREPARED BY: Attorney Mary J. Gaziano - ARDC #6184225 One Court Place, Suite 200 Rockford, Illinois 61101 (815) 962-6800 E-mail: MJGaziano@aol.com Attorney for the Estate No. 0205 (Feb. 5, 12, and 19, 2024)

203 HELP WANTED

Lost Lake Utility District We Are Hiring!
The Lost Lake Utility District is hiring a part-time employee to perform:

- Water Tower readings testing
- Wastewater Treatment Plant readings and testing
- Meter Readings
- Monthly, drive water samples to testing facility in Peru, IL using LLUD provided truck

Requirements

- Must hold a valid driver's license with a good driving record
- Must be able to use a computer for recording and sending reports to proper entities
- Some electrical and/or plumbing knowledge preferred
- Learn how to do JULIE Locates for water and sewer lines
- Learn how to read schematics of water and sewer line locations
- Learn how to do water shut-offs and water turn-ons
- Attention to detail a must
- Willing to learn new tasks and expand knowledge of water and wastewater
- Ability to work with various contractors as needed such as during sludge removal done on every even numbered month
- Various maintenance such as snow removal, mowing, painting as needed and other routine maintenance as needed

Job
15 Hours per Week (3 hours daily to do required daily readings and testing). Hourly wages to be discussed at interview.

Send resume to: LLUD2007@outlook.com by February 16, 2024

We're Hiring!

Administrative Assistant
Part-Time - approximately 20 hours per week

The candidate must be a motivated self-starter who can be comfortable working independently with a varied range of tasks, including typing bulletins and newsletters, input of bills into database, answering the phone, relaying messages, and greeting visitors. Microsoft Office experience is essential and familiarity with database programs and website input is desired. A background check will be required.

Candidate should send their resume with a cover letter to: **102 Maple Avenue, Mt. Morris, IL 61054** by February 13, 2024. Contact the DUMC Office at: **815-734-4853** with questions or, for a copy of the complete job description, send an email request to secretary@disciplesumc.org

Disciples United Methodist Church

Byron CUSD #226 Job Posting

IT SPECIALIST

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

Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent through the CLASSIFIEDS

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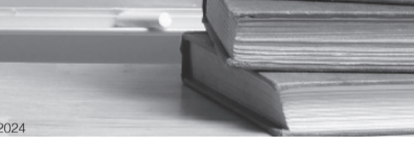


Byron School District
Job Opportunities

- Bus Monitor
- Elementary Lunchroom Supervisor
- 2nd Shift Custodian

Please apply online at www.byron226.org

Click the 'About Us' tab Select "Employment Opportunities" To see posting/ additional information



GET HIRED



Start earning now!

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

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BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING

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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

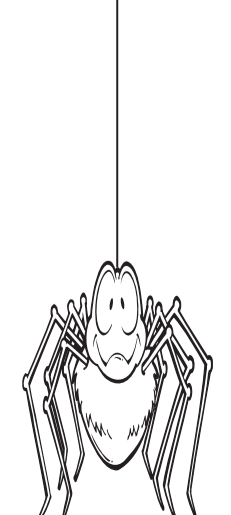
Studio Apt in Byron. \$430+deposit. Call 815-985-7136

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

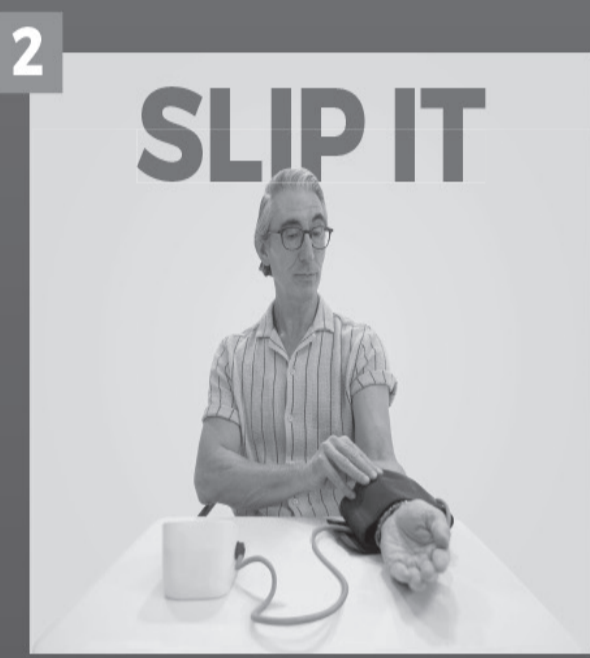
511 STORAGE UNITS

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

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Ashton, IL
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We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.
6331 11th Street, Rockford
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LOCAL NEWS

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

YOUTH PROGRAMS

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!

Movie

Monday, February 19th at 2:00 PM It has been 35 years since this movie's debut showed a headstrong, rebellious mermaid who defied her father, signed a contract with the sea witch, and exchanged her voice for legs. Bring your kids and enjoy the classic version of this movie as Ariel and her friends, Sebastian, Flounder, and Scuttle, try to outsmart Ursula.

Tweens & 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!

ADULT PROGRAMS

Sip & Solve

Monday, February 19th at 5:00 PM Join us for an evening of visiting while we solve puzzles and sip non-alcoholic beverages. Tea, coffee, hot cocoa, water, and soda will be available for your enjoyment along with an assortment of puzzles such as crossword, sudoku, word search, and more! Open to all ages.

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.

February Book of the Month

Join us this month in reading *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys. Lina is a typical teenage girl in Lithuania. That is until the Soviet Secret Police take Lina and her family and ship them to Siberian work camps in 1941. A heartbreaking story of courage, love, survival, and the trauma nations of people had to endure. Pick up a copy at the circulation desk.

February Take & Make Craft

Stop by the circulation desk to grab a kit to make a penguin keychain.

Create-a-Card

We will formally resume in the spring, but supplies will be available year round for independent access.

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.

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.

Fun Day Monday: Winter Science: Valenslime

School's out for the day! Join us at the library as we experiment, explore and create together. We're whipping up some messy science fun and celebrating Valentine's Day at the same time! Monday, Feb. 19, 1 p.m. Ages:5-9. Registration required.: 815-645-8611.

Short and Sweets

Join us at the library for an engaging discussion of Patricia Engle's short story, "The Book of Saints." Wednesday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m. Adults. Copies of the reading available at the Circulation Desk.

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.

Genealogy Basics: Military and Veterans' Records

Learn to use Ancestry Library Edition to explore records related to military service, how to use them to reconstruct an ancestor's service experiences and then place them within a wider historical context.

MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

Book Club

On the first Monday of each month we meet for conversation about our book of the month at 11:00 am. On Feb 5th we will be discussing "Beartown" by Fredrik Backman. Stop by the Mt Morris Library to check out your copy today!

Potluck

Tuesday February 6th - Join us at noon for a potluck and a program

by Better Place Forests. (This was rescheduled from January)

Cookbook Club

Tuesday February 6th at 6:00 pm will be our Cookbook Club. Get your recipe from the Mt. Morris Public Library. On club day make your dish and bring along with a serving spoon and a plate, bowl, cup and silverware for yourself. Enjoy trying every dish and hearing about

the challenges.

Tea for You!

We hope you can join us on February 12th at 6:00 pm for tea and fun. We will make our own soy candles, talk about the language of flowers, and enjoy a delicious three course dinner. The cost is only \$15 but we will be limiting this tea to 40 people. Call Melissa at 815-734-6335 to purchase your tickets today.



Last week, Mo Willems' The Pigeon, visited Julia Hull District Library for a special Character Storytime that included stories, songs and a Pigeon craft.



We'll also cover how to request service records from the government. Monday, Feb. 26, 6 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Flappers and Fedoras

The joint will be jumpin'! Join us as we visit the Roaring 20s with Nostalgia Entertainment. Listen to the music of the Jazz Age and hear fascinating stories about Al Capone, F. Scott Fitzgerald and 1920s Chicago. Thursday, March 21, 6:30 p.m. Registration required.

Red Ripe STRAWBERRIES
2/\$6

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69¢ ea

Sullivan's Signature Fully Cooked, Heat & Serve GOURMET SMOKEHOUSE PULLED PORK
4.99 lb

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Family Pack
1.89 lb

Prices Effective: Wednesday, February 7 thru Tuesday, February 13, 2024
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3 DAYS ONLY
DELI SUB & WINGS SPECIALS
FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 10, 11 & 12, 2023

Fresh In Store Made Sullivan's Signature **FOOT LONG GAME DAY SUB** \$7

CHICKEN WING DING 20 ct \$5.99

Ready to Eat **JUMBO SHRIMP** 16-20 ct per lb \$12.99

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Sullivan's Signature **BRATS OR ROPE SAUSAGES** Select Varieties \$3.99 lb

HOT BUY Lotzza **MOTZZA PIZZA** 20.97-24.52 oz \$4.99

CAKE OF THE WEEK **BIG GAME FOOTBALL CAKE** 8 inch \$7.99

Fresh Baked **HAMBURGER OR HOT DOG BUNS** 6 ct \$2.99

HEAD LETTUCE \$79¢ ea

Chi-Chi's **CHIPS OR SALSA** Select Varieties 11 oz 2/\$5

Planters **DELUXE CASHEWS** 8.25 oz \$11.99

Planters **MIXED NUTS** 10.3 oz 2/\$5

Planters **CASHEWS** 8 oz \$5.99

Mrs. Fishers **CHIPS** Select Varieties 9.85-12 oz 2/\$6

Hormel **CHILI** Select Varieties 11 oz 2/\$5

CAKE OF THE WEEK

BIG GAME FOOTBALL CAKE 8 inch \$7.99

February 11th-14th | Valentine Floral Sale

www.sullivanfoods.net
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815.645.2266
stillmanbank.com



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rochellehospital.com

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Oregon, IL

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Legacy Bar & Gaming

116 E. Main St., Stillman Valley
facebook.com/legacybarandgaming/

Oregon VFW Post 8739 & Mess Hall

1310 W. Washington St., Oregon
815.732.6851
facebook.com/oregonvfwpost8739

BLACKTOP & SEALCOATING

King Blacktop

3499 N. Tower Rd., Byron
815.234.4171
kingblacktop.com

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Oregon Soap Shoppe & Green Art Etc.

91C Daysville Rd., Oregon
866.411.6614
oregonsoapshoppe.com

CONSIGNMENT SHOPPING

ReRuns

120 W. 2nd St., Byron
815.406.8060
rerunsbyron.com

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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815.234.5626
1445 IL Route 2 North, Oregon
815.732.7956
101 East Main St., Stillman Valley
815.645.2266
stillmanbank.com

GARDEN CENTER

Hidden Timber Gardens

462 S. Chana Rd., Chana
815.751.4162
hiddentimbergardens.com

HEALTH SERVICES

Rochelle Community Hospital

900 N. 2nd St., Rochelle
815.562.2181
rochellehospital.com

HVAC SERVICES

Hurst Heating & Cooling

102 Pacific St., Monroe Center
815.757.4383
hursthvac.com

MANUFACTURING

Coilcraft

9 Clay St., Oregon
815.732.6834
coilcraft.com

MENTAL HEALTH/COUNSELING SERVICES

Changes Counseling, LLC

121 S. 4th St., Oregon
815.501.2088
changescounselingllc.com

Sinnissippi Centers

100 Jefferson St., Oregon
815.732.3157
1321 N. 7th St., Rochelle
815.562.3801
sinnissippi.org

PARKS & RECREATION

Byron Forest Preserve

7993 N. River Rd., Byron
815.234.8535
byronforestpreserve.com

Oregon Park District

Nash Recreation Center

304 S. 5th St., Oregon
815.732.3101
oregonpark.org

TITLE COMPANY

Rock River Title

412 W. Washington St., Oregon
815.732.5291
rockrivertitle.com

REAL ESTATE AGENCY

RE/MAX of Rock Valley

606 E. Washington St., Oregon
815.732.9100
rockvalleyproperties.com

SENIOR SERVICES

Rock River Center

810 S. 10th St., Oregon
815.732.3252
rockrivercenter.com

TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

Walters Accounting

202 N. Walnut St., Stillman Valley
815.645.8979
walterstax.com



WALTERS Accounting Inc.

202 N. Walnut St.,
Stillman Valley
815.645.8979
www.walterstax.com



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Byron Forest Preserve District

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