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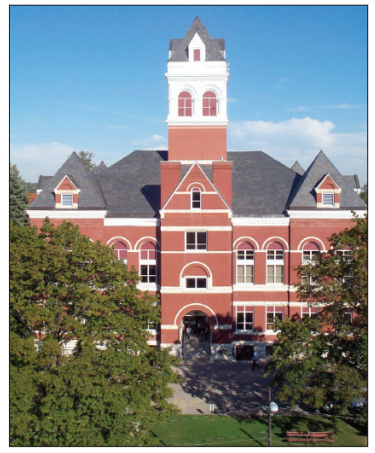
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## KNOW IT TODAY

# Brief lockdown at Byron Middle School

## Sheriff: 'Everybody did exactly what we train to do'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**BYRON** — Byron Middle School saw a brief lockdown on Wednesday morning after a report of a person carrying an item resembling a gun case was made by a student, Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said.

At 7:55 a.m. Byron School District personnel, along with the Byron school resource officer, were made aware of a report of a person accessing the BMS Theater holding a long slender bag that resembled a gun case. Emergency procedures were followed to ensure the safety of students and staff. Additional units from the Ogle County Sheriff's Office and Byron Police Department responded to the scene. After an investigation, it was determined there was no weapon, and the individual entering the building was a park dis-



Byron Middle School saw a brief lockdown on Wednesday morning after a report of a person carrying an item resembling a gun case was made by a student, Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said. VanVickle is seen above in a file photo.

trict employee bringing a banner (and case) into the theater for an upcoming show. The lockdown was lifted by 8:15 a.m.

A child on a school bus made the initial report and provided a description of the individual and vehicle. Once the school was locked down and secured, law enforcement met with

school staff and reviewed footage from the area of the report and determined what the case was.

See **SCHOOL** pg 12

## From The Heart raises \$90,000

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The 16th annual From the Heart Gala & Auction was held Feb. 3 at the hangar at Flight Deck Bar & Grill in Rochelle. The event saw 311 people attend and raised a record \$90,000, breaking its previous mark of \$80,000 in 2023.

Proceeds raised at the event will equally benefit the eight area nonprofits that From the Heart works with: the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, HOPE of Ogle County, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, Pegasus Special Riders, Hub City Senior Center, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA and FOCUS House. Each nonprofit will receive \$11,250.

"The generosity of the community was just incredible," From the Heart President and Founder Dave Eckhardt said.

See **GALA** page 2

## WEATHER

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>42 25</b>	<b>40 27</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>40 29</b>	<b>36 24</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>30 20</b>	<b>33 20</b>

## OBITUARIES

- Mable (Ray) Ashleford
- Joyce Ann Noon
- LaVon L. 'Tootie' Willey
- Richard 'Rick' L. Hultquist
- Donald J. Myers

See page 4

## INSERTS

- Drug & Alcohol Awareness
- Farm & Fleet
- Menards
- Byron County Market
- Snyder Pharmacy
- Felker Foods
- Polo Foods

# Groundbreaking held Feb. 2 for The Grove

## Three-story complex will include 30 units of family housing, amenities

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — On Friday, Feb. 2, a groundbreaking ceremony was held by the City of Rochelle and New Directions Housing Corporation at 405 Lake Lida Lane in Rochelle for The Grove, a new family housing complex.

NDHC President Rodger Brown said the three-story apartment complex will have 30 total units with 15 units each of two and three-bedroom housing. The two-bedroom units will be about 750 square feet and the three-bedroom units will be about 950 square feet. The development will also have a management office on site, an exercise facility, laundry facilities, a community room, library, and on-site parking. Rents are expected to range from \$500-1,000 a month.

See **GROVE** page 10



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Friday, Feb. 2, a groundbreaking ceremony was held by the City of Rochelle and New Directions Housing Corporation at 405 Lake Lida Lane in Rochelle for The Grove, a new family housing complex.

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# LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY KELLY HELFRICH)

The 16th annual From the Heart Gala & Auction was held Feb. 3 at the hangar at Flight Deck Bar & Grill in Rochelle. The event saw 311 people attend and raised a record \$90,000, breaking its previous mark of \$80,000 in 2023.

## GALA: 16th Annual From the Heart event held in Rochelle

From page 1

“Everything we did, did the best it’s ever done. All of our games and silent auction items did very well. The live auction way surpassed what we’ve done in the past. That’s what made the event such a success, because we were able to raise \$90,000. The group just did a tremendous job. Every organization we support helped out and the From The Heart committee did a tremendous job. We’re very fortunate.”

From The Heart has hit the \$800,000 mark in funds raised since its inception. When the organization started, it benefited only two nonprofit groups along with the Rochelle Rotary Club. The goal at that time was to raise \$10,000 for each group. From The Heart is now a 501c3 nonprofit and its own entity to raise money for its eight nonprofits.

“I can’t say enough about the community and the generosity that it shows each and every

year,” Eckhardt said. “Our event wouldn’t be what it is without all of the generosity of the people that show up. It’s just amazing and it’s so cool to see it all come together. It’s beyond my wildest dreams. When we started this, our first year we just tried to raise \$30,000. And now we’re making \$90,000. We never saw that coming. It’s very neat.”

Eckhardt said preparation for the gala is done over an entire year, and the first meeting for 2025 will be held this week. The day of the gala takes “a lot of work” starting in the morning. He thanked those that helped with the work.

The community is what allows From the Heart to grow its fundraising efforts each year, Eckhardt said.

“I think we’re able to grow the amount each year because people enjoy coming and helping the cause and they have fun,” Eckhardt said. “It’s all of that combined. It’s a night out and it’s in the



winter time when people have been stuck in the house. It gives people a chance to get out and enjoy themselves and also contribute to all of our nonprofit groups.”

With growing attendance numbers, the gala has started to reach ca-

capacity limits at its venue. “When we started this, we never thought it’d go on for 16 years,” Eckhardt said. “And we never thought we’d grow to what we are. We didn’t see it having its own 501c3 designation. But we got to the point

where we could do it. Now it’s getting to a point where we’re just about at our capacity at our venue. How do we go to the next level? It’s just a tremendous thing to be able to give more to our nonprofits. All of these organizations need more

money. It’s just amazing that we’re able to help them out as much as we are. There’s so many people that help with all of this and I can’t thank them enough. Without them, this doesn’t happen. It’s very cool that we get to do what we do.”

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# LOCAL NEWS



## Ogle Jolly 4-H Club busy in new year

(FROM CLUB REPORTER ALYSE ROGERS)

Members of the Ogle Jolly 4-H Club have been very busy since the start of the new 4-H year. They have elected a new officer team for the year. They had a visit from the Stillman Valley Fire Department about fire safety. Members were allowed to look around inside the fire trucks and ambulance. Members delivered Christmas cards to the residents of the Neighbors nursing home in Byron and also sang Christmas carols throughout the building. At the December meeting they held an awards night honoring all members who earned awards during the year. Pictured is Ayden Alderks receiving the Wayne Danekas award from Vice President Braden Rogers. Most recently club members participated in the county bowling competition at T-Byrd Lanes in Rochelle.

## Marschang named December 2023 Student of the Month at Polo Community High School

**POLO** — Allissa Marschang was recently named the December Student of the Month at Polo Community High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts. She is the daughter of Ray and Rebecca Marschang.

Marschang's extracurricular activities include Spanish Club, sports and more. After high school, she hopes to attend college and get a degree in engineering. Upon winning the award, Marschang filled out a list of questions about her school experience.

**What does it take to be a successful high school student?**

Have motivation, surround yourself with good people, and push yourself.

**What class do you find really engaging and why?**

Physics with Gina Cole has been the most engaging class this year. Physics is

very interesting to me, because I love to learn about how things work. We learn about the force of gravity as well as motion. Just last week, my class conducted an online lab about forces and motion. I enjoyed this lab because I could see the numbers I calculated come to life when I clicked the play button. My favorite part about this particular lab was the three stars that popped up on the screen when the answers I put were correct.

**What are your career and post-graduation plans?**

After I graduate high school, I plan to pursue my career of interest: engineering. When I am older, I want to use my secondary education to help people. Engineers create so many important buildings and machines. I want to be a part of their world; to create things that allow the rest of the population to not worry

about issues they cannot control. I would love to have the opportunity to attend school at Purdue University in Indiana. The campus is beautiful and their engineering program is very impressive.

**What are your two favorite extracurricular, volunteer or community activities you participate in?**

Youth group and volunteering at Kidz Café. Youth group allows me to share my ideas and feelings without judgment. The rest of the kids who attend are very caring and mature. They understand how important it is to be supportive or give constructive criticism when needed. They're like a second family. I have been volunteering at Kidz Café for two years now, and I love seeing all the kids every time they come in. It's a great opportunity for me to interact with members of my



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Allissa Marschang was recently named the December Student of the Month at Polo Community High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts.

community that I don't see all the time. I enjoy making food in the kitchen with people I've known forever. Overall these experiences have taught me how to be respectful, caring and sup-

portive. I enjoy doing these because I feel like they give me purpose.

**Please share a moment, group event or activity at school that was meaningful or memorable.**

Trips to Chicago with the Spanish Club.

**What is your hope for the future?**

I want to have a big and healthy family, with a loving husband and a job I love.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Mable (Ray) Ashelford

**BYRON** — Mable (Ray) Ashelford, September 25, 1930 – February 3, 2024. After 93 years of love, laughter, hard work, courage, faith, and dedication to family and friends, we lost our mom, grandma and GG on February 3, 2024. Mom was faithful to her many friends and always had a joke ready to evoke a laugh. She liked nothing more than visiting with her family, friends and neighbors.

Many also enjoyed her wonderful meals and desserts, especially her church family. Mable May Ray was born on September 25, 1930, in Scotland, IL to Bluford and Blanche (Bialek) Ray, joining sister, Jean Betty Ray. After homesteading in Colorado Springs, CO her family moved to Byron in the late 30's where Mable attended the McCormick one room school house.

She graduated in 1948 from Byron High School. On February 10, 1951, she married Byron High School classmate, William "Bill"

Henry Ashelford. Mable was a member of the Byron Bittner Bakery Girls amateur softball team, the National Farmers Organization, and was a long-term member, Sunday School teacher and deacon at the United Church of Byron.

Together Mable and Bill farmed for over six decades in the Sycamore and Oregon, IL area. Mable was the proud mother of William Ray Ashelford, Ronald Ray (Crystal) Ashelford (Byron, IL), Victoria Ann Holland (Madison, WI) and Robert Ray (Terri) Ashelford (Byron, IL), grandmother to Thomas Robert (Ali Ingram) Ashelford (Byron, IL) and Catherine Elizabeth (Mark) Ragland (Alexandria, VA), and great grandmother to Ruby Isabelle Ragland. Mable was preceded by her husband, Bill (August 31, 2012), son, Bill (August 20, 2023), parents, parents in law Walter and Agnes Ashelford, sister Betty, niece June Bernadine Henry, and nephews Gordon Henry, Joe and Duane Russian.



Mable is further survived by many nieces, nephews and good friends. Funeral service will be held 10:30 AM, Saturday, February 10, 2024 at the United Church of Byron with the Rev Tyler Spellious and Rev. Dave Bateman Co-officiating.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 PM on Friday, February 9, 2024 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 506 W. Merchant Street in Byron, IL. Burial will be at the Byron Cemetery. A memorial fund is established for the United Church of Byron or the Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon. Visit [www.farrell-hollandgale.com](http://www.farrell-hollandgale.com) to leave a condolence or memory of Mable. Time cannot steal the treasures that we carry in our hearts. Until we meet again, Toodle-oo, Mom.

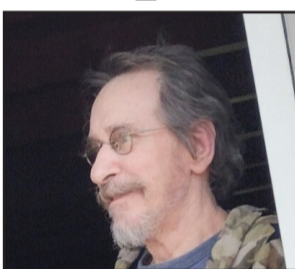
### Richard 'Rick' L. Hultquist

**OREGON** — Richard "Rick" L. Hultquist, age 69, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, surrounded by his loving family at Generations at Neighbors Nursing Home in Byron, IL.

Born on September 15, 1954, in Rockford, IL, he was the son of Richard & Barbara (Lantz) Hultquist. Rick worked for 40 years as a welder for E.D. Etnyre. He married the love of his life, Tamra "Tammy" Harrison on January 17, 1975. He was an avid outdoorsman, often spending his time fishing, hiking, exploring the caves at White Pines State Park, or even just using his riding lawn mower. Rick also had a passion for music, spending many years playing the drums in a band. He loved his family dearly, especially if that meant cooking,

and grilling for them. He was famous for his breakfast; every member of the family had their favorite dish that he would make. In heaven, Rick joins his parents, parents-in-law John Richard & Sarah (Harah) Harrison, biological father Walt Tankersly, brother Michael "Mic" Hultquist, and daughter Shanna Sarah.

He is survived and missed dearly by his wife Tammy of Oregon, IL; children Richard M. Hultquist of Oregon, IL, Tara L. Hultquist of Oregon, IL, Trena L. (Adam) Anderson of Winona, MN, and Torye C. (Dylan) Green of Mt. Morris, IL; brother-in-law John D. Harrison; half brother-in-law Troy (Cubia) Harrison; and grandchildren Taylor Hultquist, Trinity Hultquist, Pagie Merritt, Kaydin Reber, Noah Reber, Kameri



Reber, Logan Anderson, Adalae Anderson, Aubery Anderson, Isaiah Hultquist, and Aaliyah Green.

The family would like to extend a big thank you to Doctor Mark Meyers of Oregon, IL. The Hultquists couldn't ask for better care in their time of need.

Rick will be laid to rest at Riverview Cemetery near his parents-in-law. Memorial donations are established in his name and may be directed to the family. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in his honor please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com)

### Donald J. Myers

**MT. MORRIS** — Donald J. Myers, age 97, passed away on Wednesday February 7, 2024 in Serenity Hospice & Home, Oregon, IL. Don was born on February 25, 1926 in Mt. Morris Township, IL, the son of Samuel & Grace (Snyder) Myers. He served in the United States Navy during WWII, and fought in the Pacific Theater on the USS Colorado, USS Antietam,

and the USS Hancock. Don married Ruby Myers in 1949 and she preceded him in death in 2011.

Don was a member of the Leaf River Lions Club, Mt. Morris Rifle Club, Leaf River VFW, and he was a scout master in Adeline, IL.

Cremation rites have been accorded with Finch Funeral Home, 405 East Hitt, Mt. Morris, IL. There will be a private



family graveside service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Mt. Morris Library and/or Serenity Hospice & Home.

### Joyce Ann Noon

**OREGON** — Joyce Ann Noon, age 77, died peacefully on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at Serenity Hospice and Home near Oregon. She was born on May 10, 1946 in Oregon the daughter to Richard and Edith (White) Fridley.

Joyce attended Oregon Schools and graduated from Oregon High School in 1964. She married Arnold L. Noon on April 2, 1966 in Oregon. She worked over 28 years for the Ogle County USDA office. She was a longtime member of the Oregon Church of God, and loved being a part of the Tuesday Prayer Group. Joyce was very active in her church serving on the Mission Committee and as a Sunday School teacher. Joyce loved to cook, especially for her family every Sunday afternoon after church. She and Arnold loved to travel. Together they

were able to travel to all 50 states.

She also collected butterflies and nativity scenes. Here grandchildren and great grandchildren were dearest to her heart. She was predeceased by her parents Richard and Edith Fridley, her husband Arnold, and brothers-in-law Michael Baker, Dale Noon, and Stan Ubben.

She is survived by her children: LeAnn Oltmanns of Oregon; Jennifer (Felipe) Rodriguez of Dixon; and Alan (Melody) Noon of Oregon; sister Jeanne Baker (Terry Skinner) of Rhinelander, Wisconsin; sisters-in-law Kathy Ubben of Mt. Moris, IL; and Sharon Noon of Omaha, Nebraska; 4 grandchildren: Matt Oltmanns of Oregon; Molly (Josh) Mattus of Bury St. Edmunds, England; Bryce Noon of Loveland, Colorado; and Brenna Noon of Oregon;



great-grandchildren Thea and Arlo Mattus and several nieces and nephews. Funeral service will be 10:30 AM, Monday, February 12, 2024 at the Oregon Church of God with the Rev. Michael Hoffman pastor of the church officiating. Visitation will be at the church on Sunday, February 11, 2024 from 3-5 PM. Burial will be at the Daysville Cemetery following the funeral service. A memorial fund is established for the Oregon Church of God.

To leave a condolence or memory of Joyce visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com).

### LaVon L. 'Tootie' Willey

**BYRON** — LaVon L. "Tootie" Willey, age 85, passed away on February 1, 2024 at Generations at Neighbors in Byron. She was born on June 27, 1938 in Stillman Valley the daughter of Joe and Agnes (Hoerneck) Cox. She grew up in Stillman Valley and graduated from Stillman Valley High School Class of 1956. She married the love of her life, Norman Willey, on October 5, 1957. She was a member of the Red Brick Church. LaVon worked a few jobs including working in the lunch department at Byron High School for 10 years while her children were in school. But, her main passion was being a mother and grandmother. In her spare time, she enjoyed quilting and playing Mah Jong. She was an avid

cup collector and also enjoyed playing cards with her friends for nearly 60 years. She was a sports fanatic especially football and baseball. LaVon was a social butterfly and was always ready to greet everyone with a smile, a kind word, and a hug. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, and brothers, Clifton, Virgil, and John. She is survived and missed by her sons, David (Su) Willey of Sycamore and Derek (Heather) Willey of Stillman Valley; grandchildren, Jordan Bute, Wade Bute, Paytyn Willey, and Hailey Willey; sisters-in-law, Sandy Cox, Marjorie Vogt, and Mary Willey; neighbor and close friend, Denise; close friends, David and DeeDee Sneed; and many beloved nieces, nephews,



cousins, and friends. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, February 8 at 10:00 AM at The Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley with Pastor David Bogner officiating. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 7 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home in Byron. Burial will be at Byron Cemetery. Memorials are established for The Red Brick Church. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com)

### Local Girl Scouts receive \$28,393 grant from CFNIL for Camp McCormick Troophouse

**STILLMAN VALLEY** – Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) recently received a generous \$28,393 grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL). The Board of Trustees of CFNIL approved a grant from the Community Grants Program for GSNI with support from the Corbett Family Fund for Youth, Families, and Human Services of the Community Foundation of Northern

Illinois.

A grant for "Project No More Leaks!" was awarded to install a new metal roof on Troophouse at Camp McCormick in Stillman Valley. Troophouse is a one-room log cabin that provides sleeping accommodation for up to 36 people in year-round conditions. It houses a great room for activities and sleeping, a carpeted loft area for sleeping or other activities, a full kitchen, and a large deck

from which to enjoy the surrounding wooded area. With the installation of the new roof, campers and their families will be able to use and enjoy Troophouse for years to come.

GSNI would like to thank CFNIL for joining in the Girl Scout Mission where our future community leaders have a space all their own, where their interests, their experience, and their leadership—today and tomorrow—is the top priority!

### Locals named to WIU Dean's List

**MACOMB/MO-LINE** — A total of 1,183 undergraduate students enrolled at Western Illinois University were named to the fall 2023

dean's List.

The total includes 107 students at the WIU-Quad Cities Campus. 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).

Local honorees included: Nathaniel R. Penrod (senior) of Byron, Grace Watterson (junior) of Davis Junction, Emalee R. Vandewarker (freshman) of Forreston, and Brandon E. Rowe (freshman) of Mt. Morris.

### Report policy

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

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

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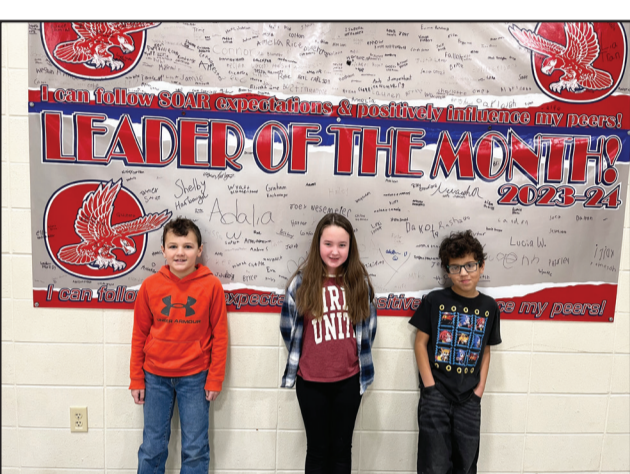
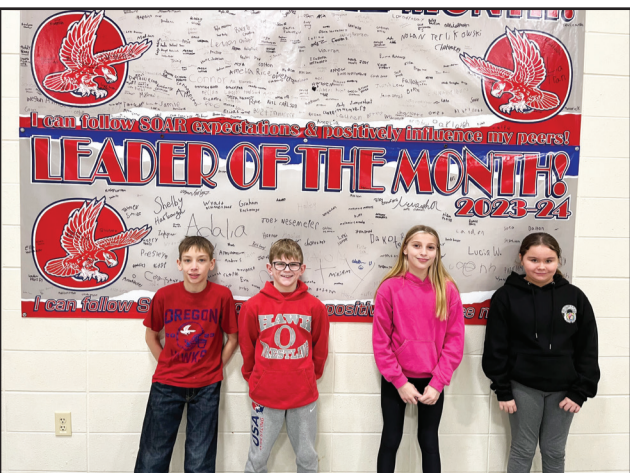
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# LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

## Oregon Elementary names January 2024 Students of the Month

Oregon Elementary School recently named its January 2024 Students of the Month. They include: Made-laine Alford, Henry Schleicher, Avery Coakley, Paisley Busser, Peyton Lee, Issac Stanley, Tucker Lahman, Luna Stevens, Stella O'Rorke, Mason Toth, Addison Meyer, Bryant Morris, Hayden Baxter, Robbie Arves, Abigail VanDyke, Nora Rogers, Sadie Zuber, Leo Kingery, Tegan Davis, Channing Berg, Brady Skinner, Jovie Barker, Gage Diehl, Charlie Nesemeier, Justin Leary, Will O'Brien, Jackson Gadow, Ellie Schier, Emersyn Smice, Mia Ball, Cannon Ziller, Mathew Heuser, Alyssa Rowe, RyAnne Engelkens, Brenden Wolfe, Makayla Danielson, Caleb Jones, Evie Elder, and Kiley Foster.

## Frank Floski Memorial Scholarship offered

**OREGON** — Applications are now available for the Frank Floski Jr. Memorial Scholarship for Education.

The \$1,500 scholarship is being offered to a graduating Oregon High School senior who plans to study education in the fall of 2024.

Floski was a life-long public school educator who is best remembered as principal of Mt. Morris High from 1965 to 1985.

A U.S. Navy veteran, Frank was able to earn a teaching degree at Eastern Illinois University by using the GI Bill. He often said he would not have been able to become a teacher had it not for that assistance. A life-long learner, Frank continued to teach following retirement, serving as a mentor to struggling students Throughout his life, both privately and as a principal, Frank worked to carry out his belief that everyone who wanted to attend college should be able to.

When Frank passed away in December, his family gratefully accepted memorial gifts in his name to help fund this scholarship.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Applications are now available for the Frank Floski Jr. Memorial Scholarship for Education.

Class rank and GPA are considerations for this scholarship; family income is not. Details and applica-

tions may be obtained at the Oregon High School Guidance office. The deadline for applying is March 15.

## PAG Scholarship applications now available

**OREGON** — Scholarship applications for the Performing Arts Guild are now available at the Oregon High School guidance office or can be downloaded from the website at: [www.performingartsguild.com](http://www.performingartsguild.com)

These scholarships are limited to individuals living in Mt Morris and Oregon or attending the Oregon School District

#220. Applications are open to anyone interested in studying the arts. This includes, but is not limited to, performing, directing, teaching drama, music, visual arts, technical crafts,

set design, etc. Scholarship application deadline is March 15. Scholarships will be awarded in May during the OHS Honors Night Assembly.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



## Polo Lions Club makes grocery deliveries

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, Polo Lions Club member Dave Buchar is shown ready to make three grocery deliveries. This is a free service done by the Polo Lions Club. Call the Polo Fresh Food Market grocery store on Tuesday by 7 p.m. to get on the list.

## 2024 Grand Detour Township meetings set

**GRAND DETOUR** — All Grand Detour Township meetings will be held at the Grand Detour Town Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. with the exception of the April meeting that will be held immediately following the annual meeting that is held the second

Tuesday in April. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Connie Ross, town clerk, at 815.973.0988. Meeting dates

are: Feb. 14, March 13, April 9, (following annual township meeting), May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11.

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# VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday  
Mike Feltes, General Manager  
Brad Jennings, Editor

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

## It's time for Congress to address the affordable housing crisis

FROM coast to coast, the foundation of a thriving community is affordable housing. Making sure hard-working families have a safe and reliable place to live is essential to economic growth and to quality of life. Unfortunately, a chronic lack of supply and soaring demand has deepened America's affordable housing shortage. This has been a serious issue for years but has been transformed into a crisis by recent events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain difficulties, rising interest rates and inflation. With over 11.6 million households nationwide paying more than half their monthly income on rent, too many families must choose between paying rent and other essentials such as food, gas or medicine. At the end of 2022, our country was 3.8 million homes short of meeting the general housing needs of Americans and 7 million homes short of housing for extremely low-income renters. Fortunately, there is a solution with a 37-year track record of proven results and support from both Republicans and Democrats: The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. Since its inception through bipartisan legislation signed by President Ronald Reagan, the Housing Credit has financed the production of over 3.7 million homes. Through a model of public-private partnerships utilizing private capital and private development, and a pay-for-performance structure that ensures not a dime of taxpayer money is spent until affordable housing developments are serving people in need, the Housing Credit has become our nation's primary tool for affordable housing production. Without it, virtually no affordable housing is built. The success of the program is laudable, and the mounting need for affordable housing means improving and expanding it has never been more critical. That is why we must enact our bipartisan bill — the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA). Every community in America is impacted by this crisis and the growing bipartisan support for the AHCIA shows it. Since it was introduced seven months ago, our House bill has gained over 200 co-sponsors equally divided between Republicans and Democrats — a remarkable feat in our current Congress. Along with the Senate companion bill, we have the support of over 40 percent of Congress. Through the bill's key production provisions, we will be able to finance nearly 2 million more affordable homes. One immediate

need is the reversal of an unprecedented cut the Housing Credit faced at the end of 2021. Congress enacted a 12.5 percent increase in Housing Credit resources in 2018 with bipartisan support but allowed it to expire because of inaction. This could not have come at a worse time for the working families, veterans, seniors and other Americans desperately seeking affordable housing in our country. That is why we must not only reverse the 12.5 percent cut, but also increase the affordable housing supply. A key provision of the AHCIA would help by reducing the amount of bonds required for a development to access Housing Credit equity. There are thousands of shovel-ready projects on the sidelines that could immediately get under development. Let's be clear — affordable housing and economic prosperity are inextricably linked because a workforce needs workforce housing. There is also no job growth if workers can't find an affordable place to live and if employers can't find workers. We see this vicious cycle playing out in local economies nationwide. By producing stable workforce housing in a broad range of areas, from fast-growing cities to farmworker housing in rural areas, enactment of the AHCIA and addressing the affordable housing crisis is a key part of our continued economic recovery. Also, because the Housing Credit is targeted at the local level based on area median income, in many areas this is housing for teachers, firefighters, police officers and other hardworking professions like restaurant, hospitality and retail workers — all essential parts of a thriving community. At a time of heightening division in our politics, this crisis transcends party because it affects everyone. By enacting the AHCIA, we can show that impactful bipartisan accomplishments aren't a thing of the past in Washington. Congress has a lot on its plate, but we cannot let any more time go by without addressing the affordable housing crisis head on. We urge our leaders and colleagues to act now and not let this crisis get any worse.

*Congressman Darin LaHood (R-IL) and Congresswoman Susan DelBene (D-WA), both members of the House Ways and Means Committee, authored this op-ed in The Hill to urge support for their bipartisan Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA). The legislation recently surpassed 200 cosponsors equally divided between Republicans and Democrats.*

## LIFE letters' policy

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

## Illinois agriculture remains resilient amid year of challenges, uncertainty

EVERYONE can point to *that year* in their lives — the year when 23 inches of snow blanketed the state, the year an EF3 tornado ripped through a rural community, or the first holiday without mom or dad. There are some years that stick out more than most.

Last December, I called on everyone in Illinois agriculture to come together to make 2023 the "Year of the Farmer," but for many Illinois farm families, this year was shaping up to be full of heartaches and hardships.

Tornadoes, hailstorms and derechos blasted much of the state in early spring and summer, exacerbating already challenging planting conditions and damaging homes. Severe thunderstorms producing dozens of devastating tornadoes tore through fields of farmland and rural communities.

Families lost their homes, and many were left with extreme damage to their livelihoods. Others lost family members, neighbors and friends.

Then drought hit nearly every corner of the state as farm production, equipment and land costs reached record highs, squeezing our pocketbooks. At the same time, global conflicts put a

new focus on food security and the need to pass a modernized farm bill that meets the needs of all Americans.

Yet, in the face of uncertainty, our farm families remained resilient. Through thunderstorms, drought, inflation and global unrest, Illinois farmers dug in their heels and got to work producing three billion bushels of grain in the 2023 crop year. And, together, farmers across the country grew the largest corn crop on record, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Despite the challenges, Illinois farmers rose to the occasion. We started off the year strong with the Illinois Farm Families coalition launching the "We are the 96 percent" campaign during Super Bowl LVII to bring awareness to Illinois' nearly 70,000 family-owned farms. This campaign showed consumers that our farms might look different than they did 100 years ago, but that's because they've evolved so that multiple generations of families can continue farming together.

Illinois farmers also emphasized sustainability and conservation through embracing new technolo-

gy and research. Nutrient stewardship field days put a focus on emerging strategies to protect water quality, and a new survey from the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, with support of Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) and several other agriculture organizations, released new data showing farmers' progress in this space.

Last year, IFB debuted its Emmy-Award-winning documentary, "Sustaining Our Future: A Farm Family Story," which told Ganschow Farms' conservation story. IFB continues to highlight Illinois farmers' stories, and I look forward to the coming launch of "Fields Apart: Rooted Together," a three-part long-form video series showcasing shared characteristics, goals and challenges facing rural and urban farmers.

Life is full of challenges, both good and bad, and Illinois farm families know that it's the many little things that can make a major impact. When I look back on all the progress we've made this year, I'm excited for the next chapter in Illinois agriculture.

Serving as president of IFB the past 10 years has

been a true privilege. I've been very fortunate for the opportunity to steward this organization toward a bountiful future. I am proud to see my friends and colleagues Brian Dunca of Polo, Ogle County, and Evan Hultine of Princeton, Bureau County, elected to be IFB's next president and vice president, respectively. I look forward to seeing the course they chart for IFB.

As I wrap up my final column on behalf of IFB, I'd like to thank our members, current and former county leaders and managers for their engagement and dedication to Illinois agriculture. I am also thankful for the IFB directors who currently serve and who have previously served for investing their time and energy in leading this organization. And, finally, my family for their infinite support and patience while I was away for this role.

It was really all of them who gave me this opportunity to serve, and I am forever grateful for the sacrifices they made. May Illinois agriculture continue to prosper in 2024 and beyond!

*Richard Guebert Jr. is the now-former president of the Illinois Farm Bureau.*



Richard Guebert Jr.

### PAID LETTER

## Letter: Thanks for food pantry support

DEAR editor, Loaves & Fish Food Pantry would like to thank the community for your continued support. With your help, we were able to provide food to an average of 152 families, 376 individuals each month in 2023. That's an increase of an average of 29 households every month from the previous year! In November we provided 140 Holiday Meals to area families. We also partnered with Northern Illinois Food Bank to host mobile pantries every month from

January to October, which provide additional food to our neighbors — about 120 households every month.

We appreciate all the different ways our community helps us! Thank you to the various community organizations and individuals who donate food. Special thanks to the Boy Scouts and post office for organizing community-wide food drives, and to Sullivan's in Mt. Morris for their fall and Christmas fundraisers for the pantry! And thank you to everyone who contributes financially. We couldn't do

it without your help!

A special thank you to all our volunteers — those who work on pantry days, those who work in the community garden, and those who help unload deliveries of food. We are always looking for new volunteers! If you would like to volunteer or learn more about the pantry, call the pantry phone (815-613-8776).

Loaves & Fish Food Pantry, located at 409 W. Brayton Road in Mt. Morris, is open on the first and third Thursday from 3:30-6 p.m. and second

and fourth Monday from 2-4:30 p.m. Anyone experiencing food insecurity is welcome. Transportation is provided to those who need it on the second Monday of every month, free of charge, by calling LOTS and scheduling a ride. If you have any questions, please call or text 815-613-8776, or visit our website at loavesandfishmm.com.

Our sincere thanks,  
**Barb Diehl & Jan Francis,**  
co-directors, and The Loaves & Fish Food Pantry Board

### PAID LETTER

## Letter: Support for Dan Janes

DEAR editor, I am writing in support of Dan Janes' candidacy for Ogle County Board Member from District 5 in the upcoming March 19 Republican Primary Election district. I believe Dan is an exceptional candidate for this position because of his experience, leadership and dedication to serving his community.

I've known Dan for 14

years and have seen firsthand his determination to serve his constituents in multiple ways -- as a county board member, a vital member of the Ogle County Republican Party, and as a member of Stillman Valley Lions. Dan researches issues, talks to community members and does what many don't: he *listens* to the concerns and opinions of those involved. And when the

decision is needed or it is time to act, Dan is not afraid to move forward.

Dan is very conscientious about his duties as well. He is very prepared at board meetings, knowledgeable about the issues, and willing to go the extra mile. When the Ogle County GOP needs someone to emcee a meeting or auctioneer a fundraising event, they usually look to Dan. He readily takes

on the responsibility and does an excellent job.

Dan has served Ogle County diligently and honorably in the past. I hope you will join with me in supporting him in the upcoming primary election on March 19 for Dan Janes for Ogle County Board.

**Mike Rock,**  
Ogle County State's Attorney

## MOMENTS IN TIME

\* On Feb. 26, 1917, the Original Dixieland Jass (later Jazz) Band recorded "Livery Stable Blues," the world's first jazz record, for the Victor Talking Machine Company in New York. That same year, the group also made the first appearance of a jazz band in a motion picture, a silent film titled "The Good for Nothing."

\* On Feb. 27, 1938, a new mascot design was created by Chris Klein and C. Karnstadt for use by the Pontiac car brand, in the form of an Indian maiden. The theme was inspired by connections with the Gen-

eral Motors war chief who was employed in the GM manufacturing division.

\* On Feb. 28, 1983, the final episode of "M\*A\*S\*H," a series about the staff of an Army hospital during the Korean War, titled "Goodbye, Farewell and Amen," became the most-watched television episode in U.S. history, with an estimated 106 million American viewers.

\* On Feb. 29, 1969, Davy Jones, a former teen idol and singer for The Monkees, died of a heart attack at the age of 66. Jones starred with his bandmates

in a popular TV series and a few other shows during his career, later returning to his first passion of horses and becoming a jockey.

\* On March 1, 2008, Britain's Prince Harry, who had been sent secretly to Afghanistan with his regiment in December at his request, was forced to return to Britain after the American website the Drudge Report made his deployment public.

\* On March 2, 1969, the supersonic airliner and joint British/French project Concorde set off on its maiden flight, reaching 10,000 feet and 300 mph.

It would be another seven years before the plane began commercial flights, which continued until 2003, when it was retired from service.

\* On March 3, 2005, Steve Fossett became the first person to fly a plane solo and nonstop around the globe without refueling, landing his Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer in Salina, Kansas, after a 67-hour journey. Two years later, he would disappear while flying over the Great Basin Desert, with his wrecked aircraft discovered in 2008.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Byron High School releases fall 2023 honor roll lists

**BYRON** — Byron High School recently released its 12<sup>th</sup> grade honor roll for the fall 2023 semester.

All As: Baker, Abigail L.; Brandt, Maison J.; Dahlstrom, Emily K.; Dolan, Taryn M.; Fish, Brianna L.; Groharing, Carter S.; Groharing, Madison L.; Gruber, Alexa G.; Lancaste, Jack D.; Lee, Conner A.; Little, Reese E.; Remhof, Fynn T. and Scheck, Hailey K.

High honors: Adams, Traiden T.; Aken, Kye D.; Baier, Mary A.; Barber, Jacob S.; Behn, Carsen T.; Bousum, Aiden J.; Buser, Carson P.; Carby, Aiden D.; Conderman, Carson M.; Connell, Abigail J.; Cross, Bailey M.; Dillard, Pheonix M.; Drake, Nicholas A.; Druien, Allison V.; Duncan, Cullen P.; Dyck, Elizabeth A.; Freedlund, Andrew R.; Galster, Maverick L.; Gautier, Ophelia C.; Girone, John C.; Gorman, Ashlee J.; Hammes, Jasmine J.; Harris, Joshua M.; Hegberg, Rosalie P.; Hildreth, Clair L.; Imel, Hope M.; Ingram, Nickolas M.; Jackson, Jenna M.; Jones, Kiley I.; Kann, Paityn C.; Keefe, Madison S.; Kilduff, Braylon E.; Kobylecky, Ted F.; Lenz, Taylor A.; Maldonado-Iniguez, Kevin G.; Mrozek, Jazmine J.; Newton, Remi L.; Perkins, Joshua K.; J.R.; Perkins, Matthew J.; Pruitt, Melina S.; Rakowski, Faith L.; Ross, Jacob R.; Smallwood, Reily G.; Smith, Ashlyn R.; Swanson, Wyatt A.; Tidwell, Jacob A.; Tillett, Sarah L.; Tucker, Ryan V.; Turner, Haley E.; West, Hailey L.; Wichman, Everett A.; Wicklein, Paul H. and Wilde, Jericho L.

Honors: Adler, Elise M.; Christian, Baylee I.; Christian, Benjamin D.; Field, Jaxson D.; Gehrke, Bruce A.; Hall, Noah D.; Henkel, Ashton M.; Johnson, Brock L.; Jones, Kyle A.; Mayfield, Paige E.; Mindock, Josephine

A.; Paulino, Armani J.; Scheidecker, Mya M.; Shank, Ayden G.; Shouer, Sarah J.; Spencer, Leila N.; Tesoro, Ayden M.; Wagner, Jace A.; Watt, Emily M. and White, Austin M.

### 11th Grade

Byron High School recently released its 11<sup>th</sup> grade honor roll for the fall 2023 semester.

All As: Bechtel, Hannah C.; Boatman, Taylor K.; Cassens, Nicholas J.; Chen, Xiang Yi; Dietrich, Claire M.; Fuller, Addison G.; Henert, Delaney J.; Henkel, Claire C.; Kilmer, Natalie R.; Larson, Hayden E.; Murgage, Benjamin A.; Rehberg, Hayden M.; Roush, Bryson T.; Sober, George T.; Stoll, Sadie A.; Torres, Jahaira and Vincer, Trey A.

High honors: Baker, Davis B.; Barton, Brock M.; Bauer, Alyssa R.; Bielskis, Karsyn R.; Boatman, Thomas K.; Brass, Nolan A.; Brown, Rory G.; Brown, Tatum L.; Claunch, Jared B.; Connell, Liam H.; Cover, Haley R.; Cross, Sophia R.; Cunningham, Olivia N.; Davis, Carson D.; Degand, Dakota K.; Ebersohl, Audrey J.; Emery, Kamryn G.; Flores, Darlena R.; Franchi, Gianna L.; Gentz, Samuel A.; Gorzynski, Rylee M.; Haas, Hunter J.; Hanes, Ella R.; Helms, Averi D.; Horwedel, Austin M.; Johnson, Maximus J.; Johnson, Noah J.; Jones, Meredith E.; Kesler, Riley T.; Knoll, Brayden A.; Lawver, Jacob S.; Markham, Audrey M.; Mc Kinney, Delaney G.; Mershon, Cooper G.; Moser, Abigail M.; Norris, Jackson D.; Nyamwange, Sarah N.; Palzkill, Jaden M.; Pauley, Benjamin R.; Peterson, Lena-Tari K.; Potter, Jack S.; Poulsen, Miami T.; Ramos, Liliana M.; Ross, Jarett B.; Schilling, Neve O.; Shank, Dil-

lon S.; Springer, Dylan N.; Strohecker, Brooklyn L.; VanBriesen, Kaydon J.; Vincer, Bailey E.; Wagner, Brock A.; Wilde, Raven T.; Williams, Evajane; Williams, Korbin D. and Zumdahl, Brooklyn G.

Honors: Baker, Gina M.; Chaney, Quantahn D.; Dale, Talon J.; Denton, Benjamin R.; DeVoe, James R.; Draheim, Mad-dex I.; Harrolle, Westin J.; Lemke, Brenna C.; Nelson, Morgan E.; Nolan, Alexandra R.; Palmgren, Skylar G.; Poggensee, Brookelyn T.; Schau, Ethan R.; Shepeck, Lillian C.; West, Mason S. and Yianibas, Kallie A.

### 10th Grade

Byron High School recently released its 10<sup>th</sup> grade honor roll for the fall 2023 semester.

All As: Barker, Annabella M.; Booker, Alex R.; Chen, Zi Han; Con-sidine, Caden J.; Gamlin, Kendall L.; Green, Brynn P.; Hammes, Braiden C.; Hilliker, Micah J.; Lane, Madison M.; Martz, August L.; Panttila, Brinkli A.; Payne, Andrew M.; Salo, Ava G.; Silva, Avril B.; Starwalt, Timothy S.; and Wulf, Ole H.

High honors: Abate, Gavin M.; Auker, Weston J.; Basler-Heather, Adys-on M.; Baxter, Payton O.; Bonvillet, Olivia A.; Bradford, Eva K.; Burnes, Mason R.; But-zlaff, Ludwig; Chapman, Addison N.; Clark, Eva K.; Crampton, Avalynn F.; Dale, Kaleah J.; Das-kaiov, Jordan T.; Ebens, Wyatt E.; Eccles, Bren-ner E.; Groharing, Macy K.; Grove, Logan N.; Hill, Evelyn J.; Irvin, Arianna M.; Johnson, Hadyn O.; Kerchner, Joel T.; Khouangsavanh, Ka-tanyah; Kilduff, Brook-lyn A.; Krall, Jaxson C.; Krane, Zachary T.; Lewis, Elisabeth G.; Linhart, Courtney J.; Madden, Laila B.; Marchini, Layni E.; Mendoza, Andrew

W.; Morton, Malia I.; Newton, Cason P.; Plei-mann, Emma J.; Politsch, Kade R.; Prose, Tatum A.; Rohde, Gavin J.; Ros-savelasquez, Amelie Z.; Roschi, Alya M.; Scheck, Brady D.; Shenberger, Evan D.; Smith, Lincoln J.; Smith, Madelaine E.; Smith, Mason D.; Spedding, Avelynn A.; Tunink, James E.; Vajgrt, Xander T.; Vincer, Ethan J.; Wheeler, Molly C.; White, Jacob S.; and Wright, Camden R.

Honors: Anderson, Blake S.; Aranda, Ellie E.; Boehm, Gabriel A.; Bonte, Annabell R.; Crid-dle, Dawson C.; Ditto, Grayson M.; Field, Carter J.; Fulrath, Ella R.; Gon-zalez, Yareli; Groharing, Carson M.; Henry, Taylor E.; Jimenez Gutierrez, Paula; Martinez, Vincent W.; Moser, Olivia M.; Northrup, Gabriella L.; Oltmanns, Amethyst H.; Roberts, Gwendolyn K.; Scott, Mason A.; Watkins, Georgia G. and Wiltfang,

Myriah R.

### 9th Grade

Byron High School recently released its ninth grade honor roll for fall 2023.

All As: Brandt, Alay-na M.; Burris, Macyn E.; Draheim, Myla A.; Franchi, Emma G.; Full-er, Aubrie H.; Gautier, Zebedee E.; Keese, Jayce M.; Krueger, Abygael O.; Lemke, Mekenzie M.; McHale, Elinor T.; Ohoro, Cael M.; Oltmans, Asher J.; Paulino, Inaki E.; Pot-ter, Ashley L.; Rybicki, Caleigh E.; Welt, Conner L.; and Wygant, River S.

High honors: Althoff, Henry T.; Bartelt, Bode D.; Barton, Briggs E.; Bauer, Alannah R.; Bigham, Juliana J.; Brown, Masyn L.; Bukoski, Cameron T.; Burle, Landon N.; Corkran, Jolie A.; Cover, Elizabeth N.; Dietrich, Braden M.; Dunk, Miya L.; Edmonson, Jekyven J.; Fritsche, Raven B.; Fritz, Madyson K.; Gentz,

Hannah B.; Gerdes, Cooper E.; Girten, Mia R.; Gooden, Amaya D.; Har-rolle, Laina L.; Hickman, Jacob C.; Ingram, Aubrey J.; Jackson, Jace A.; John-son, Celicia N.; Julian, William J.; Morehead, Lila M.; Muranko, Ali-ana J.; Nogaj, Lillian G.; Odom, James R.; Perkins, Addison O.; Poe, Jaidra L.; Shank, Denton W. Smith, Landon E.; Smith, Ryan L.; Stamm, Parker J.; Stien, Brody R.; Stubble-field, Malachi J.; Swanson, Alayna M.; Talbert, An-drew C.; Vargas, Chris-topher A.; Waldschmidt, Adalyn M.; Watters, Gra-cie M.; Wheeler, Lilley A.; Wheeler, Nathan M.; Wichman, Ashley M. and Wyant, Lillian D.

Honors: Coyne, Cai-ley E.; Jenniges, Jack L.; Lemke, Madison F.; Munoz, Elena M.; Perko, Mason J.; Putnam, Aaden J.; Schroeder, Zoie J.; Spaulding, Ryder E.; Swenberg, Oliviana R. and Zigler, Ella R.

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**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.O. Box 628**  
**Oregon, IL 61061** **732-6855**

### Mental Health

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

### Senior Citizens Services

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

### Sexual Assault/Abuse

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

### Therapeutic

**Pegasus Special Riders** **973-3177**

### Veterans' Services

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

### Wellness Services

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

## ABATE Motorcycle Swap Meet is Feb. 25

**DIXON** — Twin Rivers chapter of ABATE is holding its 16<sup>th</sup> annual motorcycle swap meet on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dixon Elks Lodge at 1279 Franklin Grove Road, Dixon, IL 61021.

Admission is \$5 and free for those 12 and under.

Early birds are \$7.

Vendors will be selling all makes and models of new and used parts, leathers and biker clothes, motorcycle photos and more. A new Harley Davison raffle bike will be on display and raffle tickets will be available.

Breakfast, lunch and

refreshments will be available all day.

Vendor space is available for \$25. To be a vendor or for more information, call John at 815-440-6018.

Proceeds from the event are used for education and the signs you may have seen that say "STARTSEEING MOTORCYCLES".

## ISP Troop 1 announces monthly activity for January 2024

**STERLING** — Illinois State Police Troop 1 Captain Joseph Blanchette has announced enforcement figures and activity for January.

Illinois State Police Troop 1 Troopers issued 726 citations, 997 written warnings, and made 26 criminal arrests during the month of January.

Troopers issued 241 citations for speeding, 18 citations for distracted driving violations and 17 citations for occupant restraint violations.

Troopers investigated 138 traffic crashes, assisted 612 motorists, and conducted 316 commercial motor vehicle inspections, 33 of which

were placed out-of-service for safety reasons. There were 22 arrests for driving under the influence.

Troop 1, which encompasses Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago counties, investigated one fatal traffic crash in January.

## Highland Community College announces fall 2023 graduates

**FREEPORT** — Highland Community College announces the 2023 fall graduates. Graduates were awarded associate degrees, associate of applied science degrees, or

certificates.

Forreston: Cole Becker, Agricultural Production Certificate, Agribusiness Management Associate of Applied Science.

Leaf River: Sophia

Hughes, Associate of General Studies, Agricultural Production Certificate.

Mt. Morris: Shefkije Ismaili, Associate of Arts; Jacob Smith, Automotive Service - Level I.

## Kultgen named to dean's list at Auburn

**AUBURN, Ala.** — The College of Science and Mathematics at Auburn University in Alabama has named

Ava Kultgen of Byron to the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester. Ava has demonstrated academic achievement

by attaining a 4.0 grade point average. She is majoring in applied mathematics and actuarial science.

# LOCAL NEWS

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**OREGON** — On Jan. 30 at approximately 8:47 p.m. deputies responded to the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Illinois Route 64 for a reported two-vehicle crash. After a brief investigation, it was determined that a Dodge Ram 1500 pickup, driven by Daniel Miller, 75, of Abbotsford, Wisconsin, was westbound on Illinois Route 64 and disregarded the stop sign at Illinois Route 251. A Chevrolet Tahoe, driven by Priscilla Rodriguez, 38, of Rockford, was southbound on Illinois Route 251 and was struck in the intersection on the driver's side by the Ram pickup. Rodriguez was extricated from her vehicle and transported to a local hospital by Rochelle Fire for suspected non-life-threatening injuries. Miller was cited for failure to obey a stop sign and was released on scene by medical personnel. Miller shall appear in court at a later date. Ogle County Deputies were assisted by the Illinois State Police, Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire and Rochelle Fire.

On Jan. 30 at approximately 11:31 a.m. deputies placed Jeffrey Rose, 66, of Grand Detour under arrest for a Lee County failure to appear civil warrant in the 8,000 block of South Green Street in Grand Detour. Rose was relayed to Lee County Sheriff's deputies.

On Jan. 31 at 7 a.m. the Ogle County Sheriff's Office received a driving complaint in the area of Kishwaukee Road and Illinois Route 72. The vehicle was located and stopped in the 4,000 block of North River Road. The driver, Lokana Kabagame, 57, from Rockford was taken into custody for no valid driver's license. He

was later released on a notice to appear and given a court date in Oregon. He was also issued a written warning for speeding.

On Jan. 31 at approximately 10:04 a.m. Emanuel Hernandez-Hernandez, 19, of DeKalb, was arrested for an outstanding no bond Ogle County warrant for reckless driving. Hernandez-Hernandez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending an appearance before a judge.

On Jan. 31 at 10:08 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of South 4<sup>th</sup> Street Oregon. After a brief investigation, James Westness, 55, of Davenport, Iowa, was arrested for driving while license revoked. Westness was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released with a notice to appear.

On Jan. 31 at approximately 11:10 p.m. deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident on Illinois Route 64 near the intersection with Pine Rock Road. After further investigation it was determined an eastbound vehicle being driven by Micah Coffman, 24, of Mt. Morris, lost control and drove off the roadway. The vehicle then struck a driveway, causing the vehicle to overturn. Coffman was evaluated by Oregon EMS for treatment of minor injuries.

On Feb. 1 at 6:06 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. As a result, Mark V. March, 58, of Byron was arrested for driving while license suspended. March was additionally issued citations for expired registration, failure to display two red tail lights, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

March was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Feb. 1 at 7:24 a.m. deputies were dispatched to Castle Rock State Park at 3100 S. Illinois Route 2 for a report of a car in the river. Through the course of the investigation, it was determined that a gray 2006 Saturn Ion was traveling southbound on South Illinois Route 2, when the driver, Douglas G. Hollister, 66, of Rockford lost control of the vehicle on the frost-covered pavement. The vehicle slid off the roadway, through the ditch, and entered the Rock River. The driver was able to exit both the vehicle and the river, prior to first responders arriving on scene, and was uninjured. Deputies were assisted on scene by the Oregon Fire Department, and Dixon Rural EMS. The vehicle was removed from the river, and no citations were issued.

On Feb. 1 at 9:05 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 38 and Main Street, Creston. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Carlos De Los Reyes, 24, of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended, possession of cannabis more than 100 grams but less than 500 grams, and manufacture, deliver, possess with the intent to deliver cannabis more than 30 grams but less than 500 grams. De Los Reyes was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released with a notice to appear. De Los Reyes was also issued citations for suspended registration and inoperable registration light.

On Feb. 1 at approximately 11:19 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop within the 6,000 block of East Montague Road.

After the investigation, deputies placed Jose G. Fuentes-Santos, 30, of Chicago, under arrest for driving no valid license. Fuentes-Santos was additionally cited for illegally backing in a roadway and operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Fuentes-Santos was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released with a notice to appear in court.

On Feb. 2 at approximately 1:21 a.m. deputies attempted to conduct a traffic stop in the 3,000 block of South Lowell Park Road on a black Chevy HHR that had previously fled from the Illinois State Police in Whiteside County and the Dixon Police Department in Lee County. After a brief pursuit the vehicle lost control in the 5,000 block of West Lowell Park Road and went into the ditch where it became stuck. The driver of the vehicle identified as Adan Trujillo, 37, of Park Forest, Illinois. The passenger of the vehicle was identified as Demarius S. Gamill, 27, of Rockford. Gamill was placed under arrest for an outstanding Rockford PD warrant for failure to appear for a residential burglary. Gamill was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond. Trujillo was transported by the Mt. Morris Ambulance to KSB Hospital to be treated for suspected minor injuries. While at the hospital Trujillo was issued citations for driving under the influence of alcohol and an intoxicating compound, no registration light, improper traffic lane usage, and speeding 35 miles per hour over the speed limit. Trujillo was also issued a notice to appear for

possession of controlled substance and aggravated fleeing to elude. Trujillo was released on a notice to appear, at the hospital, with a return court date for all charges.

On Feb. 2 at approximately 2:39 p.m. deputies responded to the intersection of Freeport Road and Illinois Route 52 for the report of a two-vehicle accident between a truck and a semi. Upon further investigation it was learned the pickup truck drove through the stop sign and impacted with the semi. Driver of the pickup truck, Joseph Emmerson, age 52 of Rockford, was cited for disregarding a stop sign. No injuries were sustained from the accident. Ogle County Deputies were assisted by Polo EMS, Ogle County Emergency Management, and Polo Police Department.

On Feb. 3 at approximately 9:53 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Philip Asbell, 38, of Byron, under arrest for driving while license revoked and an active Ogle County failure to appear driving under the influence warrant. Asbell was additionally issued citations for an inoperable registration light and operating an uninsured vehicle. Asbell was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released on a notice to appear for the traffic violations and held in lieu of bond on the warrant.

On Feb. 4, deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of South Chana Road. After investigation, deputies placed Kelsey Osborne, 33, of Chana, under arrest for

driving under the influence of alcohol. Osborne was additionally issued citations for failure to signal and failure to obey a stop sign. Osborne was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear.

On Feb. 4 at approximately 2:49 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at Illinois Route 251 and Flagg Road in Rochelle. After further investigation, deputies arrested Misael Ocampo-Nolasco, 46, of Rochelle, for driving while license revoked. Misael was released on a notice to appear with a future court date given.

On Feb. 4 at approximately 11:20 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 39 at mile marker 108 northbound. After further investigation, deputies arrested Adrian Piceno, 36, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended. Adrian was released on a notice to appear with a future court date given.

On Feb. 4 at approximately 3:20 p.m. deputies responded to 213 N. Prairie St. in Creston in reference to an unwanted subject. After a brief investigation, Matthew L. Hurst, 39, of Rochelle, was placed under arrest for two Ogle County failure to appear warrants. Hurst was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he awaited an appearance before a judge.

On Feb. 5, Katie Hintzsche, 36, of Mt. Morris turned herself in on an outstanding failure to appear Ogle County warrant. Hintzsche appeared in court was released on a recognizance bond. Hintzsche will return to court on Feb. 26.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Jan. 24**

At 3:29 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash in the parking lot of Snyder's Ace Hardware, located at 201 N. 4th St., involving a 2019 Chevrolet driven by Ronald K. Lessen, 82, of Mt. Morris, and a parked 2017 Toyota belonging to Richard E. Seals Jr., 52, of Sycamore. No citations were issued.

At 6:10 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a car vs. deer traffic crash in the 1,700 block of West Washington Street where a 2003 Chevrolet driven

by Brekk A.M. Revels, 34, Oregon, struck a deer. No citations were issued.

**Jan. 25**  
At 11:22 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Edward R. Wilhite, 32, Dixon, for a Lee County warrant for failure to appear. Wilhite was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

**Jan. 27**  
At 11:42 a.m., Oregon Police issued Crystal A. Benner, 41, Polo, a citation for speeding 52 miles per hour in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 1,300 block of Pines Road.

At 2:13 p.m., Oregon Police issued Donovan V. Depeder, 23, Chicago, a citation for speeding 50 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Gale Street.

At 7:01 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Francis E. Fenton, 59, Oregon, for an outstanding Ogle County warrant for battery. Fenton was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the custody of the correctional deputies.

**Jan. 28**  
At 1:32 p.m., Oregon Police issued Tamara A.

Teague, 60, of Winfield, Illinois, a citation for speeding 53 miles per hour in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 1,300 block of Pines Road.

Seven verbal warnings and two parking citations were issued during the week of Jan. 22-28.

**Jan. 30**  
At 4:46 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Alicia M. Gonzalez, 34, Rockford, for driving while license suspended. Gonzalez was also issued a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. Gonzalez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear. These violations occurred in the 200 block

of South 4th Street.

At 7:36 p.m., Oregon Police issued Emily S. Schier, 36, Mt. Morris, a citation for operating a motor vehicle when registration suspended for non-insurance. This violation occurred in the 1,000 block of West Washington Street.

**Feb. 1**  
At 2:18 p.m., Oregon Police issued a 17-year-old juvenile of Oregon a citation for operating a motor vehicle when registration suspended for non-insurance. This violation occurred in the 600 block of Jefferson Street.

At 7:55 p.m., Oregon Police issued Rachel C. Sulfridge, 35, of North Aurora, a citation for having expired registration.

This violation occurred in the 1,200 block of West Washington Street.

**Feb. 2**  
At 9:59 a.m., Oregon Police issued a 17-year-old juvenile of Rockford, a citation for speeding 54 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

**Feb. 4**  
At 2:01 p.m., Oregon Police issued David Cuevas-Torres, 40, Chicago, a citation for speeding 47 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

One verbal warning and one parking citation were issued during the week of Jan. 29-Feb. 4.


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

## POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**POLO** — On Jan. 30 at 3:30 p.m. Kastiel C. Raine, 25, Polo, was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Raine was transported to the Ogle County Jail. All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

General calls for service for the weeks of Jan. 22-Feb. 4: Citizen complaints/assists: Six. Juvenile: Two. Animal: Three. Disurbance/domestic: Two. Fire/medical: eight. Lock outs: one. 911 hang ups: two. Traffic stops: 18. County assists: One.

## TAX PREPARATION TIME



**Brown's Tax Service**  
Carolyn Brown  
Jade Brown  
Marilyn Oropeza


Let the **BEST TAX PROFESSIONALS** in the **BEST TAX OFFICE** in **OGLE COUNTY** prepare your 2023 taxes!

Bookkeeping, Payroll & Tax Preparation Services


**Contact Us For Your 1099 Forms**

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

## It's tax time!!!




Jennifer Lungstrom, CPA, EA



Silene Walters, CPA, MAS

## See us for Income Taxes, Payroll and Bookkeeping



**WALTERS Accounting Inc.**

202 N. Walnut, Stillman Valley  
815.645.8979

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

To be included in the Tax Preparation Time Guide call:

Chris Ackland 815-561-2153	Andrew Heiserman 815-561-2123	Chris Grimm 815-561-2125
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# LOCAL NEWS

## Extension's Ready Set Grow event is March 23

**DIXON** — In a delightful ode to the forthcoming spring, the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners of Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties proudly announce the return of the highly anticipated "Ready...Set...Grow..." gardening workshop. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 23, as green thumbs and budding enthusiasts are invited to gather at the Loveland Community Building, 513

W. 2nd St., Dixon, from 9 a.m. to noon. This year's event promises to be an enriching experience, featuring a captivating keynote address by Tyler Hagemann, the horticulturist behind Hagemann Horticulture in Oregon. Tyler's presentation, titled "Blooms of Brilliance: Nurturing Annuals for a Vibrant Garden," is set to unveil the most captivating and cutting-edge blooms destined to grace the land-

scapes of 2024. The Ready...Set...Grow... workshop is not just a presentation; it's an immersive journey into the world of gardening. Participants will have the opportunity to attend two breakout sessions tailored to their interests. From "Next Level Seed Starting" to "Crafting Your Own Blend at The Tea Garden Experience," the workshop offers a diverse range of topics to cater to every gardening

passion. In addition to the knowledge shared, attendees will receive a swag bag filled with gardening goodies, explore the "book nook" for literary inspiration, and stand a chance to win exciting door prizes. The Master Gardener Help Desk will be available for personalized advice and guidance. The event covers a variety of gardening themes, including "Making Every Drop Count - Xeriscap-

ing," "Veggie Visions: Unveiling New Flavors in 2024," "Compact Orchard Delights: Container Fruit Gardening," "Hydrangeas Demystified," "Growing Ginger, Turmeric, and Other Unique Crops," and "Spring Forward Arrangements." To secure your spot in this blossoming celebration of gardening wisdom, register by March 8, 2024. The registration fee for this comprehensive program is \$25.

Ready...Set...Grow... is not just a workshop; it's a community of like-minded individuals coming together to cultivate knowledge, share experiences, and celebrate the beauty of nature. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this vibrant gardening community on March 23, 2024. For more information and to register, visit [go.illinois.edu/ready-set-grow](http://go.illinois.edu/ready-set-grow) or contact Ogle County Extension office at 815-732-2191.

### BYRON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**BYRON** — On Jan. 4, Emanuel R. Harris, 19, Of Poplar Grove was issued a citation for speeding. On Jan. 4, John C. Montoya, 43, of Rockford was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration.

On Jan. 7, Marcus L. Macklin, 51, of Byron was issued citations for disregarding an official traffic control device and driving while license revoked. Macklin was transported to Ogle County Jail where he was later released with

a notice to appear in court. On Jan. 27, Corey J. Rau 36, of Roscoe was issued a citation for speeding. On Jan. 28, Cole A. Jordan, 30, of Williford, Arkansas was arrested for outstanding warrants in Ogle County, Lee County

and Will County. Jordan was taken to Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond. On Jan. 28, Travis L. Kane, 32, of Byron was issued a citation for driving under the influence. Kane was transported to

Ogle County Jail and later released. On Jan. 28 a 17-year-old male of Byron was issued a citation for unlawful use of electronic device under 19. On Jan. 28 Andrew D. Beam, 43, of Byron was

arrested for an in-state warrant. Beam was transported to Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond. Any arrests listed below are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

### JANUARY 2024 FTH WINNERS

January 2024 From The Heart Calendar Winners  
Jan. 1 - Laurie Borowicz, Janesville, WI, \$1,000  
Jan. 2 - Cindy Bonnell, Dixon, \$25  
Jan. 3 - Sonja Swanson, Davis Junction, \$25  
Jan. 4 - Teresa Petry, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 5 - Nathan Thomp-

son, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 6 - Audrey Summers, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 7 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50  
Jan. 8 - Kishwaukee College Foundation, \$25  
Jan. 9 - Katelyn Gabbard, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 10 - Focus House, Rochelle, \$25

Jan. 11 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25  
Jan. 12 - Molly Sly, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 13 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25  
Jan. 14 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50  
Jan. 15 - Karen Ander-

son, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 16 - Tina Graber, Palatine, \$25  
Jan. 17 - Connie Manning, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 18 - Jordan Blume, Oregon, \$25  
Jan. 19 - Tim Isley, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 20 - Debbie Belmonte, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 21 - Shane Huber,

Rochelle, \$50  
Jan. 22 - Focus House, \$25  
Jan. 23 - Amy Hayden, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 24 - Kyle Aldridge, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 25 - Hayat Taour, Oregon, \$25  
Jan. 26 - Ashley Bick, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 27 - Titus William-

son, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 28 - Aubrey Headon, Rochelle, \$50  
Jan. 29 - Mike Scott, Forreston, \$25  
Jan. 30 - Joe Williams, Rochelle, \$25  
Jan. 31 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25  
Checks to winners will be mailed out at the end of each month.

**Brookville UM Church**  
Fish Fry Supper  
4:30-7:00 pm  
**Feb. 23, 2024**  
Adults \$15.00 Children 5-12 \$8.00  
Children 4 & Under FREE  
Carry Outs Welcome  
**Bake Sale**  
02122024  
Junction of Rt. 52 & 64, Polo, IL

**CATCH OUR FISH FRY!**  
*Friday Night Fish Fry!*

**Fish Fry Buffet**  
(All You Can Eat) - \$20

(Multiple dishes, Baked Cod, Pollock, Perch, homemade hush-puppies, shrimp fried rice, cheesy potatoes, soup and salad bar, vegetables and more!)

**4-8 pm**  
Other seafood available / Full menu available

**Win some money gaming!**

**Maxsons**  
Restaurant & Riverboat

1469 N. IL Rt 2  
Oregon IL  
815-732-6761  
Maxsons.net

02122024

**Friday 5pm-9:30pm**

**2022 VOTED BEST OF OGLE COUNTY**  
**2023 VOTED BEST OF OGLE COUNTY**

**FISH FRY FRIDAYS**

**RESTAURANT & BAR**  
EST. 1991

**208 N. Walnut St.**  
**Stillman Valley**  
**815-645-9828**

PUBLIC WELCOME, DINE IN OR CARRY OUT. CHECK FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES

02122024

453-2103 • Ashton, IL

**RALPHIE & LuLu's Inc.**  
Est. 2001

**FISH FRIDAY**

Every Friday night  
Serving 5 - 8 p.m.

Fried cod, baked cod, bluegill or shrimp

**\$11.95 - \$12.95**

**Homemade Soup and Salad Bar**

**Includes:** choice or potato (baked, french fries or onion rings), homemade soup and salad bar and complimentary dessert

Dine-In or Carry-Out

**812 Main St. - Ashton**

02122024

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

**Every Friday Fish Fry**  
Cod, Catfish & Shrimp Dinners

**Served Fridays 4pm-8pm**  
Open to the Public, Dine-in or Carry-out.

02122024

# LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO) On Jan. 18, 100 Women Who Care of Ogle County heard from six charitable organizations and voted to give \$8,000 to Camp Cedar Illinois Inc., a faith-based camp for sexually abused girls aged 7-17.

## 100 Women Who Care of Ogle County gives to Camp Cedar Illinois

**OGLE COUNTY** — On Jan. 18, 100 Women Who Care of Ogle County heard from six charitable organizations and voted to give \$8,000 to Camp Cedar Illinois Inc., a faith-based camp for sexually abused girls aged 7-17.

The camp was created four years ago with the mission to empower young survivors of sexual abuse. Their goal is to create a fun, safe and encouraging environment in order to promote healing and personal growth. They

offer various activities over the summer totally free to the campers they serve. For more information visit <https://www.campcedarillinois.org/>, or write [campcedaril@gmail.com](mailto:campcedaril@gmail.com).  
100 Women Who Care

Ogle County is a group of women who join together to donate to charities within Ogle County. The local chapter is part of 100 Who Care Alliance which is international in scope. Meetings are held on a quarterly basis where a

501 c3 is nominated and voted on to receive \$100 from each member. No other fees are required. Membership is growing steadily with currently 80 members. The more women who care the more we can give.

If you are interested in becoming a member or learning more about how the donation process works contact Deanna Forrest at [forrestdede5@gmail.com](mailto:forrestdede5@gmail.com) or find them on Facebook [www.facebook.com/oglegives](http://www.facebook.com/oglegives).

## GROVE: New family housing complex coming to Rochelle

From page 1

“We expect it to take about 10-12 months for construction,” Brown said. “The city has been awesome to work with. The whole staff has been wonderful. We had good experiences with the departments of community development, building, and engineering. I wish more communities were like this. It’s been fantastic. We’re shooting to have it finished in December.”

and senior housing. Brown said his organization is seeing demand and waiting lists at all of its facilities, and that market studies show a housing shortage. “There’s a demand for workforce housing and low-income housing,” Brown said. “Those areas are just not being served. Most of the stuff being built nowadays is high-end and very expensive. In all the developments we’ve done, we get waiting lists. We’ve never had a problem filling them up.”  
Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows attended the groundbreaking and said

the housing shortage is an issue in the city. He thanked NDHC and city staff for their work on bringing the project to fruition. “It takes a team of great players and we have great people in the right spots,” Bearrows said. “I’m very proud of them and the work they do. As we always say when someone opens a new business in Rochelle, we say they can open it anywhere. The same thought stands true for this housing project. They could have built this anywhere, because there’s shortages all across the

nation. But they chose Rochelle and we’re very thankful for that. We’re looking forward to being a partner with them and working with them to facilitate the final ribbon cutting when the doors open. It’s very important to us and our community and I can’t say enough good things about it.”  
NDHC is a nonprofit and has built and rehabilitated more than 500 multi-family and single-family units since its inception in 1994. Its purpose is to provide high-quality affordable housing to households who would otherwise be

unable to afford safe and decent housing without undue hardship. Brown said due to COVID-19 and issues that followed such as supply chain, workforce, and inflationary impacts, construction costs for the project have gone up “considerably” since it was first proposed. NDHC got extra financing from the state to help with that and had to come up with more capital of its own. The housing organization is currently seeing the same issues with three other developments. The city’s community development department

played a significant role in attracting the housing development to Rochelle. “We have developments all across the state from the Wisconsin border down towards St. Louis,” Brown said. “When we first came out here, we met with city staff and they told us about all of the employment opportunities and businesses that were coming to town and the housing shortages here. And this is right off the interstate and it’s in a good place for transportation. That led us here initially and working with the city staff since has been awesome.”

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Feb. 17:** A cow, a pig, a chicken walk into chili cook-off and trivia event will take place Saturday, Feb. 17 from 5-8:30 p.m. at Kishwaukee Church at 8195 Kishwaukee Road in Stillman Valley. Trivia starts at 5:45 p.m. Bring your most amazing chili! Salad, bread and dessert provided. Childcare is available to everyone can participate.

Sign up in the narthex or call the church office at 815-965-1940.  
**Feb. 19:** For our program on Monday, Feb. 19, Country Crossroads Quilt Guild, our evening speaker will be Amy Alber, a local Mary Kay Consultant Extraordinaire! With February being the month for love, our speaker will focus on “loving ourselves!” She

will be sharing her journey with Mary Kay Cosmetics and offering information on personal care products, their benefits, and proper techniques in their use. The program will be followed by refreshments, a business meeting, and Show ‘n Tell. Guild meetings are held at the Forrester Grove Church, 7246 Freepoint Road; Forrester, IL on

the third Monday of each month (except December) at 7 p.m., with ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. Visitors are welcome; for Visitors there is a fee of \$5 at the door. Membership dues are \$20. For more information call Program Committee Chairs Shelly Holverson 815-297-2381 or Karen Bolen 815-233-9836, or

Guild President Chyree Rohde-Lincoln 815-275-2759.  
**March 2:** The 39th Annual Polo Farm Toy Show will take place Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Polo High School at 100 Union Ave., Polo. The event is sponsored by the Polo Lions Club. Approximately 100 dealer tables will be at the event. There

will be a 50-50 drawing. You do not need to be present to win. Contact Ryan Shetler at 815-499-0176 for information on the raffle. The event is handicap accessible. The cafeteria will be open and serving will be done by the Polo FFA. Adult admission is \$3 and children under 12 get in free. For dealer information, call Irene Short at 815-946-3730.

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# VALENTINE'S DAY

## Six Valentine's Day traditions to celebrate this winter

**V**ALENTINE'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 wash 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.

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.

It is common in North America for Valentine's Day celebrations 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.

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 ex-

presses exactly what they are feeling.

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.

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.

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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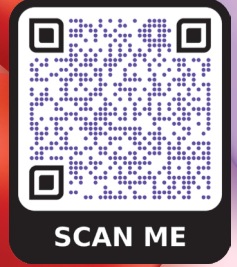


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# LOCAL NEWS

## SCHOOL: VanVickle details false alarm incident at Byron Middle School on Thursday

From page 1

The individual and vehicle had left the school by that point. "To that student's credit, it very much looked like a weapon in a case," VanVickle said. "The takeaway here is that everybody did exactly what we train to do. The child saw something and said something to an adult and adults did what they needed to do and law enforcement responded appropriately. The kids were put into lockdown for their security and verified that it wasn't a credible threat to the kids. By 8:15 a.m. the lockdown was lifted and they continued with the school day." VanVickle called the

law enforcement response to the incident "significant." Enough officers and deputies arrived at the school to be able to go to the other two schools in Byron to make sure they were secure and provide for the safety of those students. The school resource officer at BMS is an Ogle County Sheriff's deputy and relayed the report to law enforcement. "Any time that you can have somebody aware of what's going on and be in close proximity in such a short period of time, the studies show that it helps eliminate a problem or eliminate a shooter," VanVickle said. "It's a value to always have a police

officer or sheriff's deputy at a school. You can see the good work that our deputies do at schools with the interactions with the kids, let alone the safety measures. That interaction with the students has been immense. The child felt comfortable making that report, I have no doubt, because he had a rapport with our SRO." The sheriff said that the Byron School District and the rest of the school districts in the county are proactive on active shooter preparations and drills and "everything worked accordingly" Wednesday based on communication and established relationships. The sheriff's office typ-

ically meets with schools about their safety plans once a year and does outside training for active shooter events throughout the year. Work includes movement tactics and general knowledge of county schools. "We do train in most of the schools in the county on a regular basis," VanVickle said. "We try to split those up and make sure that all of our deputies are familiar with the schools. When our SRO calls out that a potential shooter went in through a specific door, all of our deputies know where it is and can respond to it in a quick fashion." Following the investigation and the lockdown being lifted Wednesday,

law enforcement representatives stayed at the Byron schools for a time to talk with and comfort students. "I was at the elementary school and I was able to talk with the kids and take some of the stress away," VanVickle said. "While they practice for things like this, it is stressful. We never had to deal with something like that when I was in school. This is just a different learning environment for our kids and we want to make it as positive an environment as possible. Our deputies and BPD hung around for a while and had contact with kids and parents to reassure them that everything was good and that they were well protected and they

could continue on with their school day." Those interactions included VanVickle speaking with the student who made the initial first report. "Quite honestly, if this would have been a true event, that time he saved by seeing somebody go into the building would have been immense," VanVickle said. "Minutes matter in those situations. By him providing that information right away and the school bus driver and SRO relaying that information right away, minutes were shaved off. If God forbid it was an active shooter situation, we would have been many minutes ahead of the curve in stopping a potential loss of life."

## D&W Garage receives grant through partnership with Holcomb Bank

BYRON — D&W Garage was awarded a \$25,000 grant through their partnership with Holcomb Bank to upgrade existing garage equipment. "Small businesses are the heart of our local communities. When we learned of the Community First® Accelerate Grant for Small Businesses, we saw an opportunity to make a big impact on a local business," Perry W. Byers, president/CEO, Holcomb Bank, said. "After reviewing the grant application and guidelines, we knew that D&W Garage would meet the necessary requirements and have the most potential of being selected." "We are honored to be the recipient of this grant. Holcomb Bank has always gone above and beyond to make sure our needs are met not only personally, but also through our business. We plan to use this grant to help provide our customers with the

best service in our small community," Michael and Jodi Girten (owners, D&W Garage), said. This grant was one of 172 deserving businesses awarded a total of \$4.3 million in critical funding through FHLBank Chicago's Community First® Accelerate Grants for Small Business (Accelerate Grants) program. Small businesses are facing challenges with growing or enhancing their operations due to surging borrowing costs in a high-interest rate environment. In response to this need, FHLBank Chicago awarded Accelerate Grants for a second year to support a variety of purposes, including purchase or improvement of property, equipment, workforce development, and technology. "Small businesses in our members' communities provide valuable products and services that contribute to local economies," Katie

Naftzger, community investment officer, FHLBank Chicago, said. "Accelerate Grants provide an opportunity for our members to strengthen their partnerships with local small businesses, thereby supporting economic growth and job opportunities and strengthening the fabric of the rural, urban, and small-town communities served by our members." **About D&W Garage** The Girtens purchased their auto repair shop — D&W Garage — almost 10 years ago. This has become a reliable and trusted family business in their community of Byron. Many customers return to D&W Garage because of the professional, knowledgeable and friendly customer service that starts with Jodi & Michael. The Girten family is well known in the area not only for their service at the repair shop but also for their kindness and giving spirit to the



(COURTESY PHOTO) D&W Garage was awarded a \$25,000 grant through their partnership with Holcomb Bank to upgrade existing garage equipment.

community as well. **About Holcomb Bank** Holcomb Bank has proudly served the northern Illinois region since its first branch opened in downtown Holcomb on July 5, 1892. Since then,

the bank has expanded its services and operates branches in Rochelle, New Milford, Creston and Byron. Headquartered in Rochelle, Holcomb Bank offers comprehensive financial services including

personal, business and agricultural banking, wealth management and loan options. Holcomb Bank is a Member of the FDIC and an Equal Housing Lender. For more information, visit [www.holcomb.bank](http://www.holcomb.bank).

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# Byron wins IHSA 1A Stillman Valley Regional

## Tiger wrestling team advances eight individuals to upcoming sectional tournament

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**STILLMAN VALLEY** — Byron wrestler Jared Claunch earned perhaps the biggest victory of his season during the final moments of the IHSA 1A Stillman Valley Regional on Saturday.

Claunch took the mat for the championship bout of the 285-pound bracket with Byron trailing Lena-Winslow by only a few points in the team standings. Not only did Claunch need a win to claim his individual regional crown, but the Byron junior needed a pin to score enough points for the Tigers to upend Lena-Winslow and bring home the regional championship as a team.

The first period of the 285-pound title match was a defensive battle, with Claunch and Galena's William Anderson taking a 0-0 score into the second period. Anderson deferred the choice to Claunch, who opted to take the down position to begin the second period in hopes of taking a lead in the match.



(PHOTO BY JODI JONES)

**The Byron High School wrestling team won the IHSA 1A Stillman Valley Regional on Saturday, Feb. 3. The Tigers advanced eight individuals to the IHSA 1A Byron Sectional.**

It was a wise choice for Claunch (26-6), who not only scored a two-point reversal to take a 2-0 lead, but turned the maneuver into perhaps Byron's biggest pin of the day.

"Our team put in a tremendous effort throughout the whole tournament and I knew we were close," Claunch said. "I

knew I had to get a pin and I did what I was coached to do. It felt amazing and it felt like all of the work I put in during practice paid off for me... I was trying to stay focused and not get nervous before my matches. I was trying to stay in the zone."

Claunch's win by fall led to one of five indi-

vidual regional championships for the Tigers, who finished first with 196 points and edged out runner-up Lena-Winslow, who totaled 195 points in the tournament. Claunch went 3-0 over three bouts in the tournament, scoring a first-round fall over Winnebago's Josh Cowman before outlasting

Lena-Winslow's Gannon Dunker for a 3-2 decision in the semifinals. The Tigers qualified eight athletes for the IHSA 1A Byron Sectional.

Jackson Norris (34-7) cruised through the bracket in the 120-pound division, going 2-0 with a first-round bye to lock up his regional champion-

ship. Norris recorded a fall over Oregon's Jackson Messenger in the semi-final round before controlling his championship bout against Durand's Ethan Foster, notching two takedowns and two near falls in an 11-0 major decision.

See **BYRON** page 2



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# SPORTS



(PHOTO BY JODI JONES)

The Byron High School wrestling team won the IHSA 1A Stillman Valley Regional on Saturday, Feb. 3. The Tigers saw five individuals take home regional championships in the tournament.

## BYRON: Tigers win IHSA 1A Regional wrestling tournament

From page 1

“It felt great and it was nice that we were able to get the title because it was a hard effort as a team and we put in the best work that we could,” Norris said. “I got a really good warm-up in so I could start the day off right and I was getting mentally prepared for each of my matches so I could feel my best and wrestle my best... I think we’ll be more comfortable wrestling here for the sectional and my goals are to finish the season the best way I can.”

Will Julian (35-9) followed with a regional championship in the 132-pound division, going 2-0 over two bouts and showing minimal difficulties. Julian sealed

his regional crown with two straight falls, defeating Durand’s Mark Nevndal and Lena-Winslow’s Mauricio Glass. The IHSA 1A Byron Sectional will begin on Friday, Feb. 9 and run through Saturday, Feb. 10.

“It felt really good and we couldn’t have done it without everybody working together,” Julian said. “Our coaching definitely helped and I thought I prepared myself really well. I stayed focused and I was able to stay calm and not be too overhyped. I’m excited to be in a good spot in my sectional bracket and my goals are to hopefully go to the state meet and place there.”

Brody Stien (30-12) ran through the bracket in the 150-pound division, finishing 2-0 with a

first-period fall over Galena’s Josue Arcos-Andrade in the semifinals and a 7-0 decision over Lena-Winslow’s John Mensendike in the finals. Byron’s team victory means that the Tigers will compete in the IHSA 1A Dual Team Sectional at Newman Central Catholic later this month.

“I feel like I’m going to have a lot of success later in the season,” Stien said. “Our team has put a lot of work in and I thought we deserved to win. Our coaching helped us a lot this year and my teammates have helped bring me up. I’m excited that we’ll have a lot of fans from Byron who will be coming to support us and my goal is to make the state meet and try to place there.”

Kyle Jones (33-4) earned a hard-fought regional title in the 190-pound division, going 3-0 over three bouts with two wins coming by fewer than two points. After a quarterfinal-round fall against Galena’s Lucas Duggan, Jones battled Oregon’s Quentin Berry in the semifinals, holding on for an 11-10 decision that included five lead changes. Jones outlasted Lena-Winslow’s Jeremiah Luke in the final round, scoring an overtime take-down and near fall for a 7-2 sudden victory.

“When Jared won his match, it brought the whole team together and we were really excited to see him get it done for the whole team,” Jones said. “I didn’t think I wrestled my best, but I got the job

done and I was able to score points for my team. It’s going to be fun wrestling here because even though it’s a tournament, we feel like we’ll have a home advantage.”

In addition to the five regional winners, Byron will advance second-place finisher Carsen Behn (32-8) as well as third-place finishers Damien Palacios (27-13) and Jacob Ross (15-8) to the sectional meet. Behn took second in the 165-pound division, winning two matches including a fall over Galena’s Gus Nack and a 1-0 decision over Lena-Winslow’s Brady Haas.

Palacios finished third in the 113-pound division, recording three victories in the tournament including a 14-6 major decision

over Lena-Winslow’s David Prater as well as a fall over Galena’s Alfonso Grajalas and a 7-4 decision over Prater in the third-place bout. Ross finished third in the 157-pound division, notching three wins by fall over Genoa-Kings-ton’s Chris Rodas, West Carroll’s Cole Herrell and Dakota’s Connor Panoske in the third-place bout.

The Tigers landed four fourth-place finishers who will be alternates for the sectional meet. Hunter King (17-20) took fourth in the 126-pound division, while Cael O’Horo (14-18) took fourth in the 138-pound bracket and Nick Ingram (11-7) took fourth in the 175-pound division. Jarett Ross (21-15) finished fourth in the 215-pound division.

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# SPORTS

## Byron falls to undefeated Beecher on Monday night

BHS head coach Huels: 'It was a good test for us going against a team like this'

BY ANDY COLBERT  
CORRESPONDENT

**BYRON** — With a 55-51 win over Byron, Beecher remains the lone undefeated boys basketball team in Illinois. In a game that was scheduled after both schools had an opening due to weather cancellations, the visitors made a two-hour drive from the far southwest suburbs near the Indiana border.

"We're not running away to hide. We need experiences like this get ready for the post season," Beecher Coach Tyler Shireman said. "Byron had posted on Twitter that they were looking for a game. I saw it and replied. In a few minutes, they wheels starting turning and we were able to get something worked out."

Had not Byron lost to Rockford Christian three days earlier, it would have been two unbeaten teams going at it. Still much of the state was focused on a rare Monday 5:30 p.m. tilt between a 25-0 team versus a 21-1 team. Besides the stellar records, it almost looked like a mirror image, with both teams playing a similar style of ball.

"After we watched film, I told our guys that they were just like us when it comes to shooting, defending the ball, pass sequence and physical size," Shireman said. "We thought the game would resemble an intra-squad scrimmage."

The first quarter was more of a free-wheeling affair, with the Tigers grabbing a 20-17 lead, with Ryan Tucker (two),

Cason Newton and Carson Buser all hitting 3s for Byron.

Early in the second quarter, Byron got up 25-20 and had a chance to go up even more after two consecutive steals by Tucker, but open layups were missed.

"We had at least three possessions with break-away layups that we missed," Byron Coach Matt Huels said. "It was kind of deflating for our kids."

Those missed bunnies started a run of nine empty possessions while Beecher went up 29-25 on a scoring flourish by all-state guard Adyn McGinley. Buser came to rescue for Byron with a halftime buzzer-beating three-pointer from the other side of the halfcourt line to close within 29-28.

"That gave us a boost," Huels said.

Byron regained the lead 34-33 midway through the third quarter as the Bobcats hit a stretch of one basket in 11 possessions. Not only that, but it was one-and-done, as Byron did not allow a single offensive board in the quarter.

With the tempo of the game slowing down, the third quarter ended with a 36-35 Tiger lead, aided by a pair of Jack Hively baskets. That was last time they would lead, as Beecher scored nine unanswered points to start the fourth quarter.

Tucker got Byron back in it with 10 straight points. He led all scorers with 23 points.

"He did a good job of getting to the basket from the high post," Huels

said.

While Tucker was in the midst of his scoring spree, 6-foot-5 Orlin Nesbitt was being a force on the boards for the Bobcats. In its only team offensive rebound of the second half, Nesbitt demonstratively grabbed a loose carom and put it back in for a 48-41 lead.

"He's really come along in last month for us," Shireman said. "His play allows our guards to be more aggressive on the perimeter."

Tucker got Byron to within 48-46 with 1:20 left in the game on his second old-fashioned three of the quarter. Going into a press, the Tigers also flustered Beecher into two quick turnovers.

But, it was Ethan Rydberg putting the game away for the Bobcats on

7-for-8 free throw shooting in the final minute.

Newton scored to make it 52-49 with 15 seconds left and again to close within 53-51 with four seconds left.

"It was a good test for us going against a team like this," said Huels, whose team (21-2) wrapped up a tough two and half weeks of facing Pecatonica, Lutheran, Dixon, RC and Beecher.

Beecher (26-0) plays in the weak River Valley conference, but had three other quality wins against Rockridge, St. Joe-Ogden and Peoria Notre Dame. The Bobcats were led by 6-3 guard Rydberg with 20 points. McGinley was held to 10.

"That was not (McGinley's) best game. It shows we can win without him," Shireman said.

## Andy Colbert: Another Byron program rises

THEY did it again. Byron, that is.

After dominating 3A football and currently state-ranked in basketball, the Tiger wrestling team added to the luster with a stunning 196-195 win over Lena-Winslow in regional wrestling.

How stunning?

Other than Le-Win and Dakota, no one else has won this regional since 2011, when Stillman Valley was champion. Byron has to go back to 2002 for its last regional crown.

It wasn't out of the question for Byron to pull off the win. Le-Win and Dakota were both down from their glory years and the Tigers have always had quality wrestlers.

Still, L-W held a higher state ranking and had beaten Byron 44-21 in a dual meet. They also put whippings on other regional contenders

Dakota, Oregon and SV. But, an individual-based regional or sectional meet has different dynamics than a standard dual.

Wrestlers from other schools can cancel out results and strange things can begin to happen. Other examples of strangeness are one-point wins that could have gone either way and lower seeds beating higher seeds.

For Byron, here were six weight classes that made the most difference in the final outcome:

At 285, No. 2 seed Jared Claunch pulled off a 3-2 win in the semis over a L-W opponent and then went on to win the title for the clinching point total. The final match was likely easier than anticipated, as the No. 1 seed from Dakota was upset in the semis.

Kyle Jones got a wild one-point win in the semis to advance to the 190-pound finals against

a No. 1 seed from L-W. Jones, a 2023 state qualifier, really got the Byron crowd fired up with a pressure-packed win over L-W to keep the regional title within reach.

Carson Behn pulled out a 1-0 win in the 165-pound semis against L-W for more crucial points. At 138 and 150, No. 1 seeds Will Julian and Brody Stien picked up workmanlike wins over No. 2 seeds from L-W in the championship round.

Due to the wrestle-back format, Damien Palacios had to beat a L-W wrestler for the second time in the third-place match at 113, a 7-4 decision. But, if he had lost after winning the first-round match, no team title for Byron.

Altogether, Byron wrestlers won seven of the 11 contested matches

against L-W kids and if any of those one-point wins go the other way, the regional title would have been Le-Win's. That how close this was.

It should also be noted that one of the officials at the regional is wrapping up a 43-year career in the sport and that is Kevin Barringer of Oregon. A long-time friend of mine and fellow Rochelle grad, Kevin has been officiating the sport since he was 18 and is a veteran of many state meets.

Thanks for your service, Kevin and the excellent work on the mat.

Back to Byron, and no I don't purposely focus on Byron, as some people occasionally suggest I do. Let's face it. They got it going there.

Anyway, it was a lot of fun to see the boys

basketball team host undefeated Beecher earlier this week.

Beecher won, mainly because they shot better — 41 percent to 34 percent. What I appreciated was how similar the two teams were to each other.

When you bring a faraway opponent in for the first time ever, you never know what you're going to get. It seemed that Byron got a clone of themselves in how Beecher handled the ball and played defense.

Until this season, Beecher has never been noted much for basketball, but is one of the premier softball programs in the state, with four state titles in last two decades.

Strangely, this town of 4,600 and school of 350 has never had football.

"We have a few farm kids around that would probably be okay, but it would be hard to keep from losing when you

start from scratch," basketball coach Tyler Shireman said. "When you've never had something, you don't miss it as much."

For the second time in recent weeks, we've had local coach pick up win number 300 in basketball. This time, it was Byron girls coach Eric Yerly, who pulled the feat off in 13 years, to go along with a couple state trophies.

As Frank Swingel from Mt. Morris told me once, Eric is going to be a decent coach because of the toughness of being a Hall Township grad. Yes, Frank hails from Spring Valley too.

After playing football against Hall in the old NCIC, can't fault that argument.

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



Andy Colbert



(COURTESY PHOTO)

### Oregon Hawk wrestling team takes third at IHSA 1A Stillman Valley Regional on Feb. 3

The Oregon High School varsity wrestling team finished third in the IHSA 1A Stillman Valley Regional on Saturday, Feb. 3. The Hawks advanced five individuals to the IHSA 1A Byron Sectional and two individuals won regional championships on Saturday. Winners include 113-pounder Nelson Benesh (34-6) and 126-pounder Preston LaBay (22-18). 157-pounder Anthony Bauer (31-5) finished second while 150-pounder Ethan Mowry (24-18) and 190-pounder Quentin Berry (21-8) both took third.

#### OGLE COUNTY LIFE SPORTS

##### Polo boys basketball takes down Milledgeville

The Polo High School varsity boys basketball team scored a 62-52 win over Milledgeville on Thursday, Feb. 1. Brock Soltow scored a team-leading 30 points for the Marcos, while Gus Mumford totaled 16 points and Nolan Hahn added 12 points in the victory.

##### Oregon girls basketball defeats North Boone

The Oregon High School varsity girls basketball team won 52-30 over North Boone on Thursday, Feb. 1. Sarah Eckardt and Alese Mc-

Lain each scored 10 points for the Hawks, while Ella Dannhorn added eight points and Teagan Champley recorded seven points. Mya Engelkes chipped in six points for the Oregon team in the win.

##### Forreston boys basketball wins over Amboy

The Forreston High School varsity boys basketball team recorded a 54-31 win over Amboy on Thursday, Feb. 1. The Cardinals (8-14 overall, 4-4 conference) received 18 points from Mickey Probst, who took two charges in the game and set a new single-season

record for charges taken in a season. Kendall Erdmann added 18 points for the Cardinals.

##### Oregon girls bowling competes at IHSA Regional

Oregon's Katy Miller bowled at the IHSA Regional in Rockford on Saturday, Feb. 3. Miller rolled a 412 series in the first half of the tournament and a 485 series during the second half to finish 38th individually with a final score of 897.

##### Forreston boys basketball shoots past Christian Life

The Forreston High

School varsity boys basketball team shot down the Rockford Christian Life for a 55-49 win on Saturday, Feb. 3. Kendall Erdmann led the Cardinals (9-14 overall and 4-4 in conference) with 21 points and six assists, while Brendan Greenfield added 17 points and 13 rebounds for a double-double. Mickey Probst contributed 12 points for Forreston in the win.

##### Oregon girls basketball loses against Rockford Lutheran

The Oregon High School varsity girls basketball team lost 56-14

against Rockford Lutheran on Monday, Feb. 5. The Hawks moved to 6-22 overall with the loss. The JV Hawks won 32-21. Mya Engelkes and Noelle Girton each scored six points for Oregon in the loss.

##### Polo boys basketball team falls against Dakota

The Polo High School varsity boys basketball team suffered a 61-50 loss against Dakota on Monday, Feb. 5. Brock Soltow led the Marcos with 24 points, while Gus Mumford added eight points. Carter Merdian and Nolan Hahn combined for

11 points in the loss.

##### Oregon boys basketball edges Indian Creek

The Oregon High School varsity boys basketball team edged Indian Creek for a 65-64 win on Tuesday, Feb. 6. The Hawks improved to 14-13 overall with the win. The JV team won 44-32 and the fresh-soph team lost 51-26 against Newman Central Catholic. Noah Johnson led the Hawks with 15 points, while Cooper Johnson added 13 points and Nole Campos totaled 10 points. Jameson Caposey and Keaton Salisbury combined for 14 points.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

**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.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Plastic Recycling**  
We ask that you make sure plastic is clean with no debris in the donation. \*No animal feed bags are allowed\* Also please remove any zip-lock-type seals and paper/

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**NEW RELEASES Adult Books**  
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Book Club: The Next Chapter  
**Picture Books**  
Accidental Inventions: Chocolate Chip Cookies by Catherine C. Finan  
A Very Dinosaur Birthday by Adam Wallace

## BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

**How to Rebloom Those Christmas Gifts**  
Thursday, Feb. 29. 6-7:00 pm. Did you receive or purchase a plant for the holidays and don't know what to do with it? Join master gardeners Phil & Marcia as they discuss how to care for your holiday plants. Please visit Byron.evanced.info/signup or call the library at 815-234-5107 to register.

**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 Prairie-Cat app to your phone or mobile device and log in with your library card number and PIN! You'll be able

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

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

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

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

## ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

or other things. Visit us at [www.rockrivercenter.org](http://www.rockrivercenter.org) and like us on Facebook.

**Navigating Change**  
Tuesday, Feb 13; 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Advance registration requested.

**Crocheting & Knitting**  
Thursday, Feb. 15, 9:00 - 10:00 am

**Denny Diamond**  
Thursday, Feb. 15; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Advance registration requested.

**Activities with Mary**  
Tuesday, Feb. 20. Sip & Craft with Mary 1:00 - 1:45. Drumming 1:45 - 2:30.

**February 19 Holiday Schedule**

Rock River Center will close on Monday, February 19 in recognition of President's Day.

No transportation or activities will take place on that day. Please plan accordingly.

**LIHEAP-HEATING ASSISTANCE**  
For the 2023-2024 LI-

HEAP program year, applications will be processed based on the following.

Income limits for 2024 Program Year: Family Size - Annual Income. 1 - \$29,160. 2 - \$39,440. For more details, call Tri-County office at 800-323-5434.

**2023-2024 NICOR**

**GAS "SHARING" PROGRAM**  
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**See page 6**

## AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Sr High Youth Ministry Sundays at 6:00pm, Jr High Youth Ministry Wednesdays at 6:30pm  
Numerous Small Groups Available for All Ages throughout the week.  
Please call our Church Office or visit our website for more details.  
Office Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm Mondays-Thursdays

#### BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

226 E. 2nd St, Byron, IL 61010 - Phone 815-234-7431 - Fr. Richard Rosinski.  
Weekday Masses: Tuesday - Friday 7:30am, Weekend Masses: Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 8:00 am and 9:30 am, Reconciliation: Fri. 8:00 am - 8:30 am; Sat. 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm or by app. Eucharist Adoration Fri. 8-9am  
[www.saintmaryinbyron.org](http://www.saintmaryinbyron.org) [secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org](mailto:secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org)

#### SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

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

#### UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON

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

#### BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

### CHANA

#### CHANA UNITED METHODIST

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

### DAVIS JUNCTION

#### DAVIS JUNCTION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors • "God's Heart in Our Community"  
Located in town on Rt. 72 • Our Pastor is Rev. Keith Kelsey-Powell  
**Sunday Services:** Worship 10:30am, Children's time during Worship Service.  
Fellowship following the Worship Service each Sunday. Communion the first Sunday of the month. Potluck luncheon following Worship every 4th Sunday, except in the summer months of June, July and August. Various small groups meet throughout the month. For more information about the small groups please call 298-2310. AA meets Wednesdays at 5:30pm and Saturdays at 9am. For more information please visit our website [WWW.DJUMC.ORG](http://WWW.DJUMC.ORG)

### DIXON

#### LOST LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Pastor Bob Clardie 8:30am Sunday School  
815-535-6990 9:30am Church Service  
90 W. Flagg Road [www.lostlakechurch.org](http://www.lostlakechurch.org)  
Dixon IL 61021

### FORRESTON

#### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

402 First Ave., Forreston, IL Phone: 815-938-2380  
Worship at 9:00 a.m. (childcare provided) with coffee and fellowship immediately following. Sunday School Age 3-Adult, 10:15 am.  
God is Good, All the Time, All the Time, God is Good!

#### ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

### LEAF RIVER

#### ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

#### LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Billy Hardy  
Live Sermon Streaming: Sundays at 10:00 AM at [www.facebook.com/LEAFRIVERBC/](http://www.facebook.com/LEAFRIVERBC/)  
Archived Sermons on our YouTube channel: Leaf River Baptist Church (Until further notice)  
9:30 Church Service. Nursery available, 11:00 Sunday school for all ages.  
Nursery available  
6941 N Mt Morris Rd, Leaf River, IL 61047  
815-738-2205 [leafriverbc@gmail.com](mailto:leafriverbc@gmail.com)

### LINDENWOOD

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS

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

#### LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

### KINGS

#### ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068 • Pastor Mary Jacobs  
Phone 815-562-6811 E-mail: [goelimchurch@gmail.com](mailto:goelimchurch@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.goelimchurch.org](http://www.goelimchurch.org)  
Sunday morning worship 10:00 am

### MOUNT MORRIS

#### DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"By God's grace in Christ, we LIVE, LOVE, and SERVE"  
All are welcome here!  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship with Communion open to all, followed by fellowship hour  
10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sep. - May)  
102 N. Maple Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054  
815-734-4853 [secretary@disciplesumc.org](mailto:secretary@disciplesumc.org)  
[www.disciplesumc.org](http://www.disciplesumc.org)  
Pastor Marcia Peddicord

#### EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

102 S. Seminary Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054 815-734-4942 [www.efcmm.org](http://www.efcmm.org)  
Senior Pastor: Bruce McKenna. Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship. 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Childcare and Children's Church.

#### MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BROTHERN

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

#### MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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

### OREGON

#### EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

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

#### EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

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

#### LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Dave Rogula 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 [lighthouseUMC@yahoo.com](mailto:lighthouseUMC@yahoo.com)  
Worship at 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month. Lighthouse will live 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](http://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](http://Riverstonecc.com) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RiverStoneChristianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RiverStoneChristianChurch)

#### ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 Highway 64, West (Hwy 64 W & Mongan Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon • 732-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George  
Webpage: [saintbrides.org](http://saintbrides.org) • E-mail: [saint.bride.church@gmail.com](mailto:saint.bride.church@gmail.com) •  
**Worship Services:** Sunday 10 am Holy Communion with Hymns Christian Education Available

#### ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

### POLO

#### ST. MARY CHURCH

Rectory/Office: 211 North Franklin Ave., Polo, IL 61064  
PHONE: 815-946-2535 • Rev. Joseph P. Nail  
**Masses:** Sun 10:30am, Tuesday Mass 8 a.m.  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** First Sunday of each month after 10:30 mass  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
[www.stmarypolo.org](http://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 Service. "Passion for God" "Compassion for People" Visit our website: [PoloOpenBible.org](http://PoloOpenBible.org)

#### CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

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

#### FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

### STILLMAN VALLEY

#### RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

Pastor Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns | Associate Pastor David Bogner  
207 W Roosevelt Road (Rte 72), Stillman Valley, IL 615-645-2526 | [www.theredbrickchurch.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.valleycov.org)  
Sunday Morning 9am "Gather" for learning & conversation, 10:15am Worship both onsite and online at [facebook.com/VECCFSV](http://facebook.com/VECCFSV)  
Home of Valley Covenant Preschool 815-645-8882 Director Jill Huber  
Bible Studies, Youth Group, Bread of Life Food Pantry  
Please visit website for more information or contact the church office M-F 9am-2pm

#### GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

Pastor Brad Pittman [www.graceisforyou.com](http://www.graceisforyou.com)  
10479 E. High Rd., Stillman Valley, IL 61084 • 815-973-1369  
**Worship Service: Saturday at 5pm**

### WINNEBAGO

#### MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

# LOCAL NEWS

## From page 5

For a 1-person household the 30-day income limit is \$3,645; 2-person household, \$4,930; 3-person household, \$6,215, etc. You can apply

## JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY

### 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.

### Fun Day Monday: Winter Science: Valen-

## FORRESTON LIBRARY

### Toddler/Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. This week we're celebrating Valentine's Day during Storytime!

for the NICOR GAS Sharing program at the Rock River Center. For more information or to make an appointment call 800-541-5479 or 815-732-3252.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### @ ROCK RIVER CENTER CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 4 t h Wednesday in February, May, August & November. Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 3RD Tuesday of month. Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

### DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 1 s t Wednesday of the month. Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### LOW VISION GROUP

Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month. Time: 12:00p.m.–1:30p.m.

For more information on any of our Support Groups, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 or 1-800-541-5479.

### slime

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:

### Community Room

Looking for a place to hold your event? Our community room (with a small kitchenette) is avail-

### 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. 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.

### Toddler Time: Scavenger Hunt

Indulge your little one's

curiosity with a hands-on event just for them! This month little ones will get to search high and low in a fun spring-time scavenger hunt. All materials supplied. Friday, March 1, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Puzzle-Palooza

Because...we just fit. At our inaugural Puzzle-Palooza, teams of 2-4 will face off to see who can assemble the same 500-piece jigsaw puzzle in 90 minutes! Members of the winning team will

take home dinner and dessert (a Casey's pizza and cookies!). Saturday, March 2, 2 p.m. Space is limited. Register your team early by calling the library at 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.

### Soft Plastic Recycling

We are collecting film-type plastic for recycling. This includes plastic bags, zipper type baggies (with the zip portion removed),

cereal/snack bags, bubble wrap, and other soft plastic. Please make sure bags are free from debris and remove all paper/sticker labels. Thank you!

## Weekly Brain Busters

### King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18			19				20			
		21			22					
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31			32			
33			34			35				
		36				37				
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45				46				47		
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

**ACROSS**

1 "Kapow!"  
 4 React in horror  
 8 Pitcher Nolan  
 12 Flamenco cheer  
 13 Genesis shepherd  
 14 Spanish greeting  
 15 Squealer  
 16 Drive- -- win-  
 17 "-- the picture!"  
 18 2014 biopic about actress Kelly  
 21 Rowing tool  
 22 Expert  
 23 Japanese verse  
 26 Glutton  
 27 Ultramodernist  
 30 Rhine feeder  
 31 Golf prop  
 32 Basketball tactic  
 33 Tibetan beast  
 34 4, on a phone  
 35 Dollar divisions  
 36 Observe  
 37 Texter's chuckle  
 38 Where something is created  
 45 QB Tony  
 46 Ocho --,

**DOWN**

1 McEnroe's rival  
 2 Winged  
 3 Transcending (Pref.)  
 4 Fancy cake  
 5 Loathe  
 6 Lowly worker  
 7 Fruit-filled dessert  
 8 Horned beast  
 9 Meditative practice  
 10 Mr. Guinness  
 11 Post-WWII alliance  
 19 Pepsi rival  
 20 URL ending  
 23 Stable diet?  
 24 Small battery  
 25 Annoy  
 26 JFK Library architect  
 27 Convent resident  
 28 Tolkien creature  
 29 Approves  
 31 Math statement  
 32 Sub shop  
 34 "My word!"  
 35 Waist-cinching garment  
 36 Tea biscuit  
 37 Unfettered  
 38 Baby carriage  
 39 "Damn Yankees" role  
 40 Latin 101 word  
 41 Blaze  
 42 Periodontist's concern  
 43 Rapsallions  
 44 Kvetches

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### START WITH AN "ST" TO MAKE A NEW WORD

**MAGIC MAZE**

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: **Falling Condensed Moisture**

- |         |         |          |       |
|---------|---------|----------|-------|
| Ages    | Ashes   | Ratified | Rung  |
| Airway  | Illness | Rays     | Umps  |
| Arching | Itched  | Reams    | Utter |
| Art     | Ranger  | Rolling  |       |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

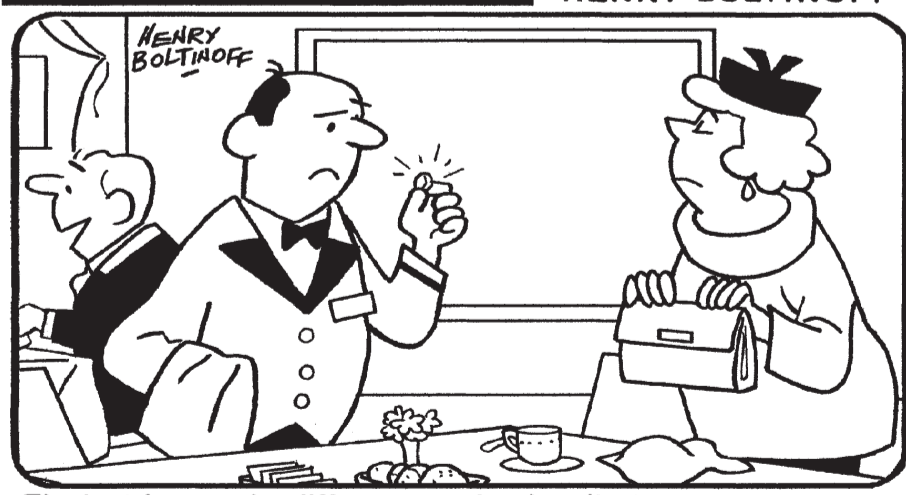
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

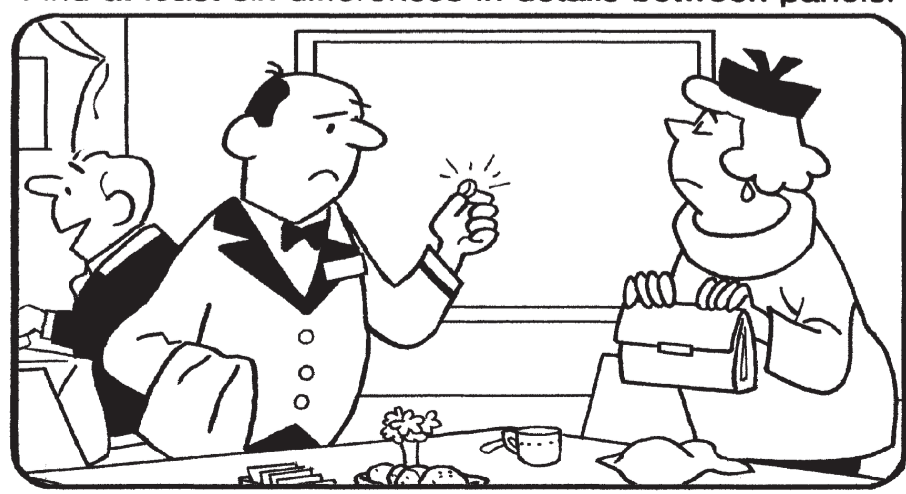
- ◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Purse is different. 2. Arm is missing. 3. Label is higher. 4. Hair is different. 5. Saucer is missing. 6. Nametag is

**King Crossword**

Answers

1. Kapow!  
 4. React in horror  
 8. Pitcher Nolan  
 12. Flamenco cheer  
 13. Genesis shepherd  
 14. Spanish greeting  
 15. Squealer  
 16. Drive-in window  
 17. The picture!  
 18. 2014 biopic about actress Kelly  
 21. Rowing tool  
 22. Expert  
 23. Japanese verse  
 26. Glutton  
 27. Ultramodernist  
 30. Rhine feeder  
 31. Golf prop  
 32. Basketball tactic  
 33. Tibetan beast  
 34. 4, on a phone  
 35. Dollar divisions  
 36. Observe  
 37. Texter's chuckle  
 38. Where something is created  
 45. QB Tony  
 46. Ocho Ocho

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

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

# LOCAL NEWS/SPORTS

## OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Illinois Storm Chaser's Severe Weather 101**  
Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 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 this chasing content has been featured on many national news and weather outlets. Registration required, [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com) or call (815) 732-2724.

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

**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.

**Knit & Crochet is BACK!**  
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 getting started with your knitting project, stop in on a Monday. Registration is requested, visit [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com) or call (815) 732-2724.

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

**Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club**  
Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and are thinking

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

**Try It Tuesday**  
Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com).

**Illinois Library Presents**  
Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm - ROMANCE & REGENCY WITH BRIDGERTON'S Julia Quinn. Julia Quinn has written close to 40 novels including her popular series about the Bridgerton family which premiered on Netflix in 2020. Her newest novel, Queen Charlotte, is co-written with television pioneer Shonda Rhimes. It's a powerful and romantic novel of Bridgerton's

many novels and has led a very interesting life. Come with questions at 11:00 am and he will be happy to answer them.

**Tea for You!**  
We hope you can join us on February 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Trivia & Tacos!**  
Join us at the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center for a fun night of tacos and trivia! For just

\$2.00 per taco and \$2.00 for the trivia, we hope to see you on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Crafts**  
Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in the Coffee Shop at the Center, join

us for a fun craft with Heather.

**Virtual trip**  
Be sure to sign up for our next virtual trip. On February 27<sup>th</sup> we will take a trip to Italy and enjoy a tasty Italian treat.

**OPLD Dial-A-Story & Oregon Public Library StoryWalk @ Oregon Park West**  
Call 815-732-2724, follow the prompts and presto...a story! Current story-Every Dreaming Creature by Brendan Wenzel. At the StoryWalk is The Mitten by Jan Brett.

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

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

soft tissues. A yoga mat and blocks will be useful props for this class! All levels welcome." Oregon Library Patrons only. Registration required, this class fills quickly. Please call (815) 732-2724 or visit [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com).

**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.

**Illinois Libraries Present**  
is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, us-

ing 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.

**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.

## MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

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

**Levinson**  
Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> come talk with author Len Levinson. Len has written

many novels and has led a very interesting life. Come with questions at 11:00 am and he will be happy to answer them.

**Tea for You!**  
We hope you can join us on February 12<sup>th</sup> 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

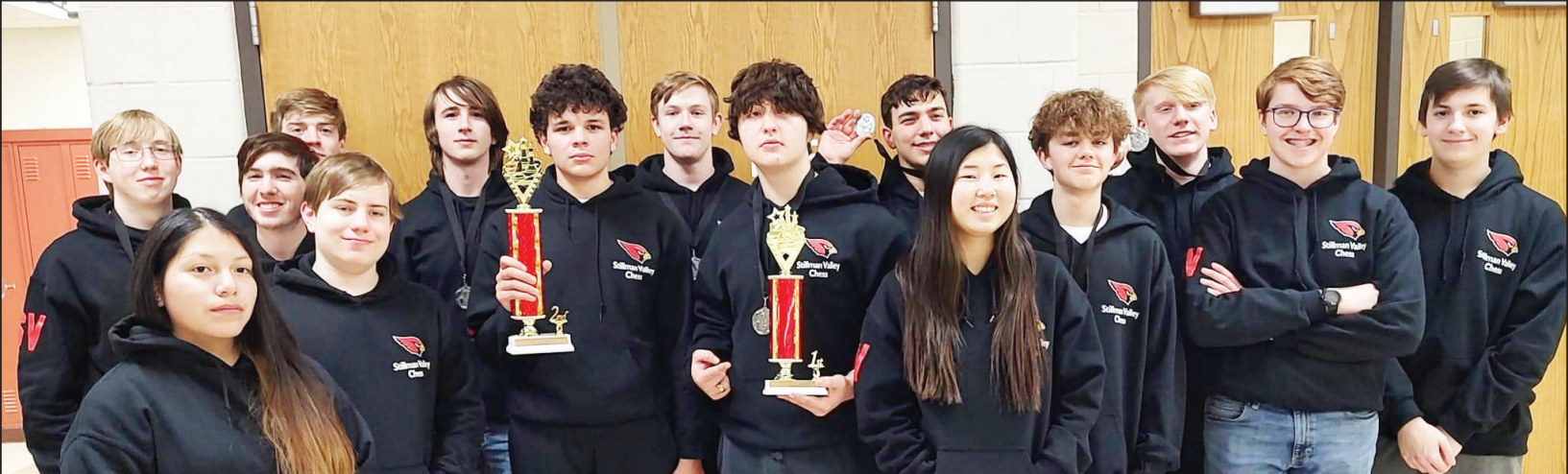
people. Call Melissa at 815-734-6335 to purchase your tickets today.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

### Polo Lady Marco basketball players earn Player of the Game awards during month of January

The Polo High School varsity girls basketball team presented its Player of the Game Award after three of its recent games in January. Carlee Grobe received the honor after Polo's 42-30 loss to Amboy on Jan. 17, scoring 11 points and grabbing three rebounds with one assist. Cam Jones took home the award after scoring 18 points with six assists, six steals and three rebounds in Polo's 45-28 win over Dakota on Jan. 20. Jones brought home the award again after totaling 15 points, three rebounds, three assists and three steals in Polo's 58-40 loss to Ashton-Franklin Center on Jan. 26.



### SVHS chess team takes second at NACL Tournament

Congratulations to the Stillman Valley High School varsity chess team on placing second in the Northern Illinois Chess League Tournament. The Stillman Valley High School JV chess team earned first place in the event.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



# 9 Biggest Benefits Of Shopping Ogle County First

**1 Youth programs, schools and non-profit groups look to our businesses first when fundraising.** These community-minded businesses donate faithfully to local youth sports programs, community clubs, nonprofit groups and churches – just to name a few. Shouldn't we look to those same businesses first when we need goods and services? Of course we should!

**2 High rate of return.** For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through payroll, taxes and other expenditures. Online orders return absolutely nothing to Ogle County, IL.

**3 Seeking health care in your hometown brings the comforts of receiving qualified care from people you know and trust.** Whether it be a trip to the dentist, regular health care screenings, a visit to a specialist or an emergency, you need not travel. It's all right here.

**4 Banking with people who know you is a luxury found only in hometowns.** You don't have to show your ID every time you go in. You can get a loan from people who know you and understand your needs, whether it be money for your first car or to help your business grow. Local banks believe in the value of community members helping one another.

**5 No one wants to have to make an insurance claim, but it's painless when your agent is your neighbor.** You don't have to convince them that there was a hail storm, or that the wind nearly took your roof off. They know because they live

here. Which do you want when you've had a bad day: A face-to-face meeting with your local agent, or a machine answering the phone at that big national insurer that advertises on TV?

**6 Time is money.** It's simple math (especially when you figure in gas mileage.) Shopping locally can actually save you both time and money!

**7 Customer service after the sale is invaluable.** Local retailers not only take responsibility for the product they sold, they will often fix it or replace it – no questions asked. Appliances, furniture, computers and electronics sometimes have glitches. Would you rather box yours up, send it to who knows where, and wait six to eight weeks, or just go back to the nice guy that helped you when you bought it?

**8 Keeping it local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally, you help maintain Rochelle's diversity, charm and appeal; which attracts new community members.

**9 One word: Jobs.** When you do business of any kind in Ogle County, it creates and maintains jobs for others in our area. A healthy employment rate is the cornerstone of all economies. How can you help the economy recover? Start at home.

OGLE COUNTY  
**LIFE**  
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

### 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. NO. 2024-PR-2 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, 197 5, 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)

### 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 of 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@egbcclaw.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)

### 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)

### NOTICE Byron Township Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2024

All regular monthly meetings of the Byron Township Board of Trustees begin at 7:00pm, the second Thursday of every month, except for in April. In April the Annual Town Hall Meeting will be on Tuesday April 9, 2024 at 7:00pm. The April regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be 10 minutes after the adjournment of the Annual Town Hall Meeting. To follow are the dates of the regular monthly meetings of the Byron Township Board of Trustees in calendar year 2024 and the first one in January 2025. January 11, 2024 - Regular Meeting February 8, 2024 - Regular Meeting March 14, 2024 - Regular Meeting April 9, 2024 - Annual Town Meeting followed by Regular Meeting May 9, 2024 - Regular Meeting June 13, 2024 - Regular Meeting July 11, 2024 - Regular Meeting August 8, 2024 - Regular Meeting September 12, 2024 - Regular Meeting October 10, 2024 - Regular Meeting November 14, 2024 - Regular Meeting December 12, 2024 - Regular Meeting January 9, 2025 - Regular Meeting The semi-annual meetings of the Planning Commission of the Byron Township are the first Tuesday of April and September. No. 0206 (Feb. 12, 2024)

### NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: ROSELLA D. BRASS, Decedent Case No. 2023 PR 14 CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE: Rosella D. Brass died on June 3, 2022, a resident of Oregon, Ogle County, Illinois. On December 5, 2023, Rosemary Prewett was appointed executor of her estate. Rosemary Prewett's address is 917 High Point Drive, Rockton, Illinois 61072. The attorney for Executor, Rosemary Prewett is Maas Legal, LLC, P.O. Box 277, Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084. Claims against the estate must be filed on or before June 5, 2024. Any claim not filed by that date will be barred. Claims may be filed with the probate division of the Circuit

Clerk's Office, Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 S. 5th Street, Suite 300, Oregon, Illinois 61061; or with Executor, Rosemary Prewett, or Maas Legal, LLC, or with all of them. Copies of claims filed with the Probate Clerk's Office must be mailed or delivered to the Executor and her Attorney, within ten (10) days after the Claim is filed. Dated: February 2, 2024. Deborah S. Maas As Attorney for Executor, Rosemary Prewett Maas Legal LLC P.O. Box 277 Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084 815-751-1809 E-mail: efile@debmaaslegal.com No. 0207 (Feb. 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

### NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for the project described below will be received at the office of City Clerk, City of Byron, 232 W. Second Street, Byron, IL 61010 until 11:00 AM on 02/28/24. Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of City Clerk, City of Byron, 232 W. Second Street, Byron, IL 61010 at 11:00 AM on 02/28/2024 DESCRIPTION OF WORK Location: Byron Project Length: 1.42 miles Proposed Improvement: The contract work consists of a slurry seal application at the following locations in the City of Byron: BASE BID Area Reflective Crack Control Treatment and Slurry Seal Application on the following streets: - Kingsway Lane from Mill Road to Southfield Lane - Southfield Lane from Kingsway Lane to Old Hunter Run - Kingsway Court from Kingsway Lane to end of cul-de-sac Slurry Seal Application Only: - Shadow Wood Drive from Mill Road to Old Hunter Run - Old Hunter Run from Shadow Wood Drive to Mill Road

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# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

**101 LEGAL NOTICE**

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

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

**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

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

**103 AUCTIONS**

**Mike & Pat Mulvain Formerly Mulvain Woodworks 'Online Auction'**  
**hacksauction.hibid.com**  
**BIDDING OPENS: FRI., FEB. 16TH @ 8 A.M.**  
**AUCTION PREVIEW: FRI., FEB. 16TH 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.**  
**14578 Center Rd., Durand, IL 61024**  
Mike & Pat Mulvain have Operated a Custom Woodwork, Lumber & Sawmill Business for 30 Years. Retiring, Will Sell: Wood-Mizer Super Hydraulic 35HP Sawmill; Oliver Strait-O-Plane 36" DS Planer; Diehl SL2 Straight Line Rip Saw; Power Tools; Support Equipment & Kiln Related; Hardware; Custom Doors & Hardware; One-of-a-Kind Tables-Furniture-Displays; Quality Rough Sawn-Kiln Dried Lumber-Large Selection-Several Thousand Board Feet of Cherry-Oak-Walnut-Pine-Maple-Sycamore & Other Examples; Great Selection of Slab Lumber-Unique; Shop Tools & Equipment; Work Benches; Pallet Rack; Chain Saws; Furniture; Sportsman; Deer Antlers & Mounts; Antiques & Farm Primitives.  
**Hack's Auction & Realty Service**  
Greg & Swan Hachmeister, Auctioneers  
Pecatonica, IL 815-239-1436  
**www.hacksauction.com**  
I.A.F.L. #44000128

**511 STORAGE UNITS**

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



**203 HELP WANTED**

**Byron School District**  
Job Opportunities

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

Please apply online at [www.byron226.org](http://www.byron226.org)

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

**Byron CUSD #226 Job Posting**

**IT SPECIALIST**

Additional information and application process Found at [www.byron226.org](http://www.byron226.org) "About Us" Tab Employment Opportunities - Technology Category

**307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

**NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION**

**NEW, USED SCRATCH & DENT**

- Refrigerators • Freezers
- Washers/Dryers • Stoves

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

**6331 11th Street, Rockford 815-262-3900**

**An Advertising Proverb**

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

**Targeted Local Advertising**

Reach an engaged and affluent local audience when you promote your business here. This is a neighborhood-by-neighborhood guide to local shopping, dining, events and more, making it a highly effective place for your business to advertise directly to the consumer.

**I Love Local!**

To learn more about advertising, contact one of our helpful ad consultants today. **815-562-4171**

**FARMLAND AUCTION**

**161.87 Acres in Ogle County Sat. April 6th at 10:00 AM**

Live Auction held at Bertolet Building 103 W. 2nd St., Leaf River, IL

Total of 161.87 Acres MOL offered in 1 Tract. Currently 110 Acres in row crop (119.5 Pl) with good productivity. Balance acres are Recreational/Hunting and Building Site.

**SELLER: JAMES LEE STUKENBERG TRUST**  
**LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 4207 TOWNLINE RD., LEAF RIVER, IL 61047**

- Spring 2024 Possession
- Hard road frontage

Attorney for Estate: Laird Lambert

Note: This property is an unusual opportunity to add to your farming operation, as well as advance potential recreational opportunities. View maps, photos, videos, sale terms and other at auction website. Call Rick Garnhart, Auctioneer for complete information.

**PRO Auctions**  
**www.proauctionsllc.com**  
**RICK GARNHART, AUCTIONEER**  
German Valley, IL 61039  
815-238-3044  
IL Lic: 440000901 WI Lic: 2844-52

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

**AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY**

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

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Sales Of All Kinds  
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**Hack's Auction & Realty Service, Inc.**  
Auctions - Real Estate Appraisals  
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Hacksauction.com

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

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

**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](mailto:LLUD2007@outlook.com) by February 16, 2024

**H.O.P.E**

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

**All Calls Are Confidential.**

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

**HOPE of Ogle County**

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

# WINTER SURVIVAL

## How to prepare your car for winter

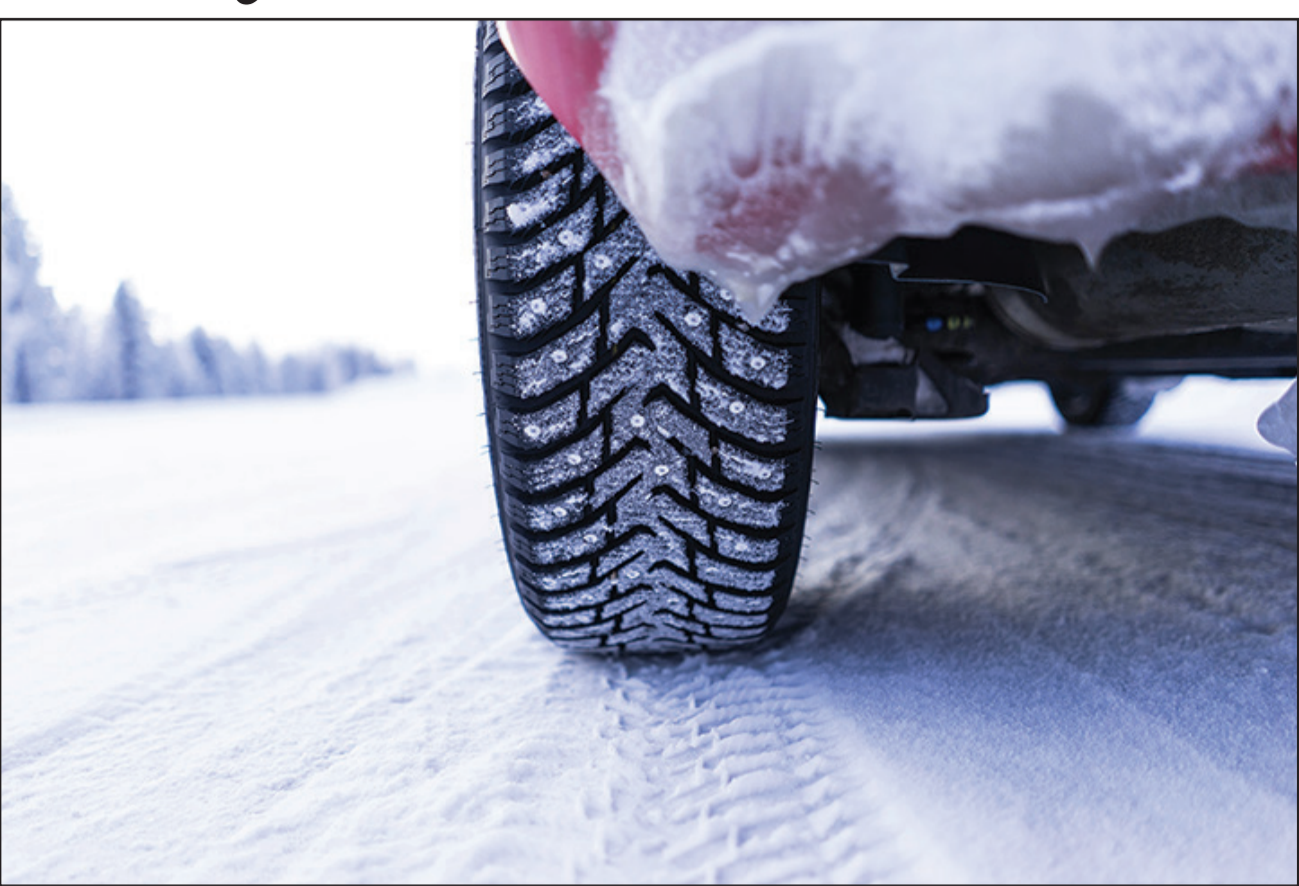
**S**UMMER and fall can stake their claim as road trip season, and even devoted drivers may admit that winter is generally a less desirable time to take to the open road. The elements factor heavily into that reputation, as fewer hours of daylight, snow and ice are just some of the variables that can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

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

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

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

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



snow and ice throughout the winter.

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

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

- Schedule a pre-winter tuneup. Even if a vehicle is not due for a tuneup,

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

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

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

## Why it's important to wash your car

**T**HE first things to come to mind when many people ponder vehicle maintenance are oil changes and routine tune-ups. Though each of those things are vital components of automotive maintenance, it's important that drivers recognize the value of a thorough car wash as well.

Drivers may see a car wash as a way to make their car look good, and that's not untrue. An effective car wash can give a car a look that mirrors how the vehicle appeared the moment it was driven off the lot. But an effective wash is more than just cosmetic. According to Consumer Reports, a thorough car wash removes grit and residue, thus protecting

the car's paint job and reducing the likelihood of corrosion. Though late model vehicles aren't as susceptible to rust, fading and peeling as cars made decades ago, they still need a thorough and routine wash to remove dirt, grime and bird droppings that, over time, can adversely affect the paint job and, if left unchecked, eat away at the metal.

Another benefit to routine car washes is they can prevent damage related to seasonal issues. For example, individuals who live in regions where winter snowfall is common may routinely drive on roads that have been salted. Deicing the roads makes driving safer, but salt can accumulate on

the undercarriage of the vehicle and contribute to corrosion. Winter may not be a time many drivers visit the car wash, but it's important to do so after snow has melted and salt on the roadways has been washed away by rain. Most car washes now offer high-pressure undercarriage treatments that can wash off salt and prevent corrosion and the formation of rust.

But it's not just the exterior of the car that can benefit from routine washing. When taking their cars to get washed, many motorists pay a little extra to have their vehicle interiors cleaned. Sometimes referred to as "interior detailing," cleaning the cabin of the car helps to

maintain the interior so it looks new longer. Routine interior cleaning also can remove dust and other particles that can serve as irritants if allowed to build up over time.

Resale and trade-in value is another factor to consider. The automotive experts at Edmunds note that the average transaction price for a used vehicle in the second quarter of 2021 was \$25,410, which marks a 21 percent increase over the year prior. Much has been made of the microchip issues that have compromised auto manufacturers' ability to produce new automobiles, and that led many motorists to the preowned vehicle market. Dealerships also offered incen-

tives to drivers willing to trade in their late model cars. By taking care of a vehicle's interior, drivers are putting themselves in position to capitalize on the increased reliance on the preowned market. Prospective buyers, whether they're private citizens or dealerships, will see more value in a vehicle with a well-maintained interior than one with a cabin that's

seen much better days.

Car washes may be seen as a purely cosmetic form of vehicle maintenance. But the benefits of routine and thorough car washes extend far beyond aesthetic appeal. In a vehicle with a well-maintained interior than one with a cabin that's seen much better days.

Car washes may be seen as a purely cosmetic form of vehicle maintenance.



**Full-Service Auto Repair & Maintenance**

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

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

**Stan's Performance FULL SERVICE GARAGE**

- Computer Diagnostic
- Brakes • Tires
- Oil Change • Transmission Care
- Air Conditioning
- Tune Up & Repair

**We Do It All – Give Us A Try!**

815-734-4272

409 E. Hitt St • Mt. Morris

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

**Hormel Foods**

**Rochelle Foods**  
1001 S. Main Street | Rochelle  
815-562-4141 | [rochellefoodsjobs.com](http://rochellefoodsjobs.com)

Live Life to the **FULLEST**

Oh the weather outside gets frightful... but don't let the winter weather, slips, and falls get you down.

**XCEL Orthopedics is here to get you back on your feet!**

**XCEL ORTHOPEDICS**  
Rochelle Community Hospital

Schedule an appointment:  
815-561-2774

More locations to serve your Orthopedic & Sports Medicine needs!

<b>Rochelle</b> 900 N 2nd St, Ste 200 Rochelle, IL 61068	<b>Sycamore</b> 2760 DeKalb Ave Sycamore, IL 60178
--	--

# SPORTS

(COURTESY PHOTO)



**Forreston High School hosts Alumni Basketball Game for former Cardinal athletes in January**  
The Forreston High School boys basketball program held its Alumni Game on Saturday, Jan. 27.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



**State Sen. Andrew Chesney honors Byron High School state championship football team Jan. 21**

On Jan. 21, State Sen. Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) stopped by the annual football banquet for the Byron High School football team to deliver honorary recognitions from the Senate to the athletes and coaches. "I enjoyed following the Tigers' season during the fall and truly believe these players aren't just the best in the Class 3A division, I believe this team is one of the best in the history of Illinois," Chesney said. "To defeat a football powerhouse like Mt. Carmel in a 69-7 IHSA record-setting win was just remarkable."



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