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VOLUME 35, ISSUE 49

MONDAY
Feb. 19, 2024

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KNOW IT TODAY



SVHS Chess wins back to back state titles

The Stillman Valley Chess team participated in the IHSA State Chess Tournament Feb. 9-10. **A12**

Reflecting on 20 years of service



"Working with our county and local first responders over 20 years has been great."

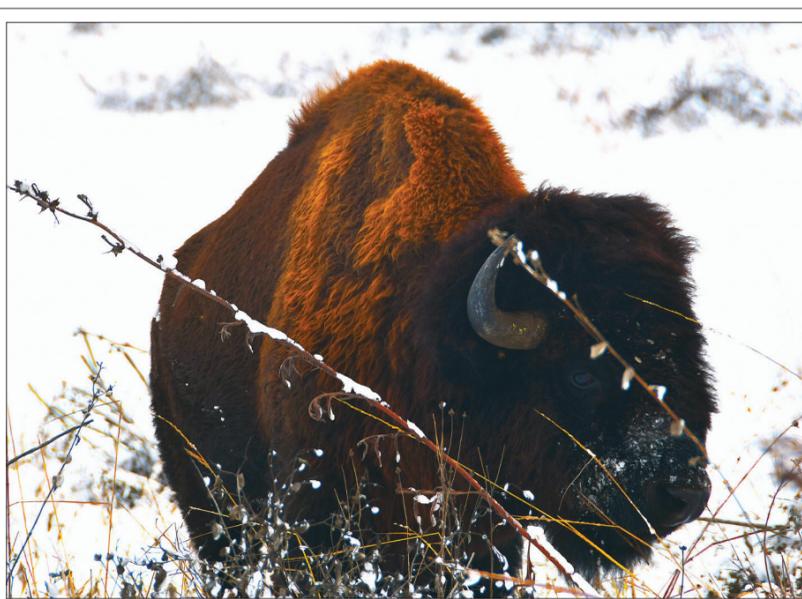
Ogle County Coroner Lou Finch

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — Ogle County Coroner Lou Finch will not be seeking re-election in the upcoming March 19 election. Finch has served as coroner since 2004.

"It was just time," Finch said of his decision to not seek re-election. "When I first ran, I always said, 'When you don't want to learn anything new and you're stuck in your ways, it's time to move on.' It's time. The office needs new blood. It was a learning experience from the beginning. I believe the office now is running perfectly for the citizens here in Ogle County."

See **FINCH** page 2



Survival of the fittest, By Val A. Stanley

Shown is a photo of buffalo in the Nachusa Grasslands, taken by Oregon native Val A. Stanley. Stanley has been honing his skills in nature photography for several years. Not limited by this medium, Val has also received recognition in his poetry, and is an accomplished interdisciplinary artist in his works with pencil, oil pastels, and watercolor. Val received recognition in his works in photography in both 2015 and 2017 when he was the recipient of the "Rich History of the 90th District" photography award given by Representative Tom Demmer. Val's photography was selected by his capturing of the eye-catching beauty of the Rock River Valley. Upon selection, his 3 photographs were on display in the Illinois Capital Building. (Courtesy photo)

WEATHER

MONDAY
HIGH 49 LOW 29

TUESDAY
HIGH 52 LOW 35

WEDNESDAY
HIGH 56 LOW 38

THURSDAY
HIGH 45 LOW 26

FRIDAY
HIGH 39 LOW 23

SATURDAY
HIGH 40 LOW 28

OBITUARIES

- Patrick Donaldson
- Verna McIntosh
- Alan Nordman
- Mark Winterton

See page A4

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Byron County Market
- Polo Fresh Food
- Menards
- Snyder Pharmacy
- Christie Cox for Coroner

SVHS grad Warzocha overcomes adversity to reach firefighter, videographer dreams

'I have never met someone who works harder and is more driven'

CHICAGO — Ninety miles west of Chicago in the small town of Davis Junction, with a population well below 3,000 people, is not where you would expect a story of grit, triumph, and innovation to be borne, but Dariusz Warzocha and his story is anything but what you would expect.

Dariusz, commonly called D, immigrated to the United States from Poland when he was in elementary school. His family ultimately settled in a small town where there were very few non-English speakers and almost nobody who spoke Polish. Still, D managed to not only make it through school, he thrived.

While in high



Stillman Valley High School graduate Dariusz Warzocha has overcome a Chronic Leukemia diagnosis to fulfill his dreams of serving as an EMT and firefighter and establishing his automotive videography company, ZOKA Media. (Courtesy photo)

school, D started to explore entrepreneurial pursuits. In fact, as a ninth-grade student he persuaded the superintendent and board of education of the Meridian School District to begin using his services to better promote and market the school. These pursuits led to a myriad of partnerships

with the school district including becoming the official videographer of graduation ceremonies, filming promotional campaigns, and serving as background expertise time and again. His leadership and impact on the district was profound. In fact, Dariusz's impact on

his school was so significant that he even featured in an educational leadership book focusing on amplifying student voice.

After high school, D was a full-time student and a full-time entrepreneur. As an immigrant to the United States, Dariusz had always known that he wanted to give back to the country and began EMT and firefighter courses. While excelling in classes, his videography was taking off and he had created an incredible business for anyone, let alone a full-time 21-year-old student.

Then, the thing that had defined Dariusz, seemed to fade. His prodigious energy waned and he could barely keep up as a full-time student

let alone a full-time student and full-time entrepreneur. Dariusz eventually went to the doctor for some answers and literally did not leave the doctor's office. He was immediately transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and diagnosed with Chronic Leukemia.

When admitted to the hospital, D was in serious condition. Weeks of testing, diagnosis, and treatment followed while he was over a hundred miles away from family and friends. While D's prognosis was (and is) good, when the disease was discovered it had become so advanced that he had lost partial vision in one of his eyes.

See **DREAMS** page 2

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LOCAL NEWS

DREAMS: Illness didn't stop Dariusz from fulfilling passions

From page 1

In the many hours alone in his hospital room in Madison, Dariusz had two major regrets. First, that he was yet to be able to serve as an EMT and firefighter and given his diagnosis he was unsure if that would ever be a possibility. Second, he had always had a love for cars and he had never taken the chance to pursue a business venture he knew he had in his heart.

Fast forward two years later and Dariusz serves as a career firefighter paramedic in the Chicago northwest suburbs and he has taken his business to a new level and followed his passion of working with and around the best of the automotive world has to offer. This new avenue has astonishingly led Dariusz and his company, ZOKA Media, to be able to unveil its new high-performance camera car, named the ZOKA Performance Production Unit, at the 2024 Chicago Auto Show.



Stillman Valley High School graduate Dariusz Warzocha and his company, ZOKA Media, will unveil its new high-performance camera car, named the ZOKA Performance Production Unit, at the 2024 Chicago Auto Show. (Courtesy photo)

The ZOKA Performance Production Unit is a highly modified Jaguar F-Type R, equipped with some of the best imaging and stabilization technology out there. The entire system has been custom built, and carefully pieced together through endless rounds of research, trial, and error. An exo-skeleton serves as the foundation to the camera system, connected to the exo-skeleton is a specially designed shock absorbing arm. Attached to the arm is a motorized gimbal stabilization system, offering industry leading

performance in camera control. Both the vehicle and camera system are purpose built for the race track, to keep up with and in many cases surpass the performance of some of the fastest cars in the world.

"As a videographer and life-long car enthusiast, I understand the meaning that cars hold to people and the importance of preserving memories," Warzocha said. "We want to make professional grade media available, accessible, affordable, and most importantly, safe - to every automotive enthusiast."

This unveiling is not just a showcase of technological advancement but a celebration of human spirit, embodied by Warzocha.

"Dariusz is relentless - regardless of the odds he is facing," Meridian School District Superintendent and Warzocha's first business client Dr. PJ Caposey said. "D is a profile in courage and grit. I have never met someone who works harder and is more driven than Dariusz. He has not only helped my business, but he inspires me to be a better person."

D has used his talents and his companies' not only for personal gain, but to support his communities and causes he cares about. The unveiling of this high-performance camera car is not just a technical milestone; it's a landmark in ZOKA Media Group's ongoing mission to give back. Partnering with Ultimate Road Rally and Cal's Angels, the event "Angels on Track" raised over \$125,000 for children facing cancer, embodying the belief that success truly shines

when shared with others.

The 2024 Chicago Auto Show will serve as the platform where technology meets humanity, showcasing not just a vehicle, but a vision brought to life by a man who believes in giving everything one's got, regardless of the challenges faced. Dariusz and the ZOKA Media

Group team welcome everyone to join them in celebrating this remarkable achievement and the enduring spirit of giving back. The vehicle will be located within Section 8 at the Chicago Auto Show, surrounded by other exotic vehicles being featured from the ChiTown Exotics Car Club.



Stillman Valley High School graduate Dariusz Warzocha started to explore entrepreneurial pursuits while in high school. As a ninth-grade student he persuaded the superintendent and board of education of the Meridian School District to begin using his services to better promote and market the school. (Courtesy photo)

FINCH: Coroner stepping down after serving county for 20 years

From page 1

Finch is a fourth-generation funeral director and owns and operates Finch Funeral & Crematory in Mt. Morris. He also served as an Ogle County Sheriff's Office deputy before he became coroner. The sheriff back in the early 2000s, Mel Messer, approached Finch with the idea of pursuing the office of coroner in 2004, and he decided to run. His experiences as a funeral director and in law enforcement lent themselves well to serving as a coroner, Finch said. Coroner's offices investigate death in certain cases such as sudden or violent death, suspicious circumstances, when alcohol or drug addiction may have been a contributory cause, death without medical attendance by a li-

censed physician, and hospice cases. Work includes attending scenes and declaring patients have passed, and the performance of autopsies.

"We investigate death," Finch said. "The best way to explain it is, we're kind of like a detective for the body. Sheriff's office and local police department detectives work the scene, and we're with the body. We work hand in hand."

Finch said he has enjoyed working with county first responders over the past 20 years. He's seen sheriffs and police and fire chiefs come and go during his time as coroner. His "old-school" thought process has meshed well with law enforcement officers that have been trained in new investigation tactics. "Overall, without their help, this

office would still be trying to get where it is today," Finch said. "The county can't ask for anything better than what it has right now with law enforcement agencies."

Finch has seen the county and society change in his 20 years as coroner. When he first ran for office, he said Ogle County had more of an agricultural demographic and over the years he started to see more residents that had moved to the area for their retirement years.

The longtime county coroner also worked through the start and growth of social media in his 20 years, which made for complications when investigating deaths or notifying families of the deceased.

"The hardest thing that people do not understand is social media," Finch said. "When I was first elected, that wasn't a thing. We could do our job and then make notification to families. Now with social media if someone drives by and knows the individual, they can put it out there before we can notify the family. That's the hardest part."

An aspect of being a coroner is seeing and investigating scenes that would be traumatic to most. Finch said over the years he learned to keep his work separated from his family life to keep balance in his life. The job also includes

breaking hard news to families and helping them through the aftermath.

"A lot of families when you first make that death notification, it's really a shock to them," Finch said. "But over time, a lot of families still come in and sit down and just want to talk about the time that their individual passed. You do your job, you make notification, you make sure the families understand every step of the way. It seems like some families like to come in year after year to kind of go over everything again. In my position, you just listen."

Following his departure from the coroner's office, Finch's work as a funeral director with his family business will continue.

Running a funeral home and the coroner's office was "hectic at times" over 20 years, Finch said. He thanked his family and co-workers for their help in his time in office.

"I had to make sure I was covered if I was at a funeral and I got a coroner's call," Finch said. "My family was able to help me, and that was huge for me. And here in the coroner's office, we all work together. The county should be happy with who is here. They're taking care of the day-to-day and making sure everything runs smoothly for all of the families in this county."

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LOCAL NEWS

Forrestville Valley School District releases information on sales tax ballot question

Informational meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 21

OGLE COUNTY — As our community prepares for the upcoming March 19 ballot, local Boards of Education in Ogle County, representing over 50 percent of the student population, have proposed a 1% Sales Tax for schools. Community leaders, including Superintendent Smith of Forrestville Valley School District, are urging residents to be well-informed about this initiative.

Background: The 1% sales tax initiative is designed to generate additional revenue to support education within our community. If approved, this tax will add 1% to the sales tax on goods sold in Ogle County, with various exceptions such as groceries. The collected funds would be distributed on a per-pupil basis to all schools in the county, benefiting the entire educational system.

Use of Funds: Superintendent Smith emphasizes that the revenue generated from this sales tax would be strategically allocated to address critical areas within the local educational system. The funds can be used for essential purposes including facilities renovations, repairs, upgrades, infrastructure projects, school resource officers, and mental health support for students.

Duration of the Tax: It is crucial to note that the proposed 1% sales tax does not have a sunset clause or expiration date. If approved, the tax will provide a consistent source of revenue for schools, ensuring a stable financial foundation for educational initiatives.

Impact on Consumers and Businesses: The sales tax is a percentage added to the final purchase price of taxable goods and services. The tax already ex-

ists in many Illinois counties, including Lee County. Importantly, there is no additional paperwork for consumers or local businesses, and data indicates that passing this tax does not adversely affect sales in any given county.

Supplementary Information: The tax is intended to supplement existing funding sources for schools, ensuring that educational institutions have additional resources for school security, mental health support, and facility infrastructure. Certain goods and services, such as groceries, prescriptions, vehicles, farm equipment, and items not currently taxed, will not be subject to the additional 1% sales tax.

Community Engagement: Community leaders understand the importance of being well-informed before making decisions that impact our schools and our community. Residents are encouraged to reach out to the school district office for additional information or clarification and are invited to learn more about this 1% sales tax at an upcoming informational meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. in the Forreton Jr./Sr. High School Library.

Contact Information: For further inquiries, please contact Forrestville Valley School District at (815) 938-2036.

Conclusion: Superintendent Smith would like to express her gratitude for the community's attention to this matter, ensuring that residents have the information needed to make informed decisions. The collective goal is to support and enhance our educational system for the benefit of our students and the community as a whole.

Hack's to offer appraisal services March 24

OREGON—Founded in 1961, Hack's Auction & Realty Services, Inc. is a third-generation family-owned-and-operated business in Pecatonica.

A full-service, full-time, fully-insured company licensed in Illinois and Wisconsin, Hack's started more than 50 years ago when Henry and Nancy Hackmeister conducted their first auction. Hack's has evolved into a premier auction company in northern Illinois. Greg and Swan, sons of Henry and Nancy, are leading Hack's Auction into the future.

The Oregon Women's

Club invites you to join Hack's Auction Staff as they provide their appraisal services on Sunday, March 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A \$5 fee per small item will be charged as a donation to the Oregon Women's Club. Bring in a family heirloom or antique that you are curious to identify or to find out its worth and Hack's Auction Staff will provide you with an appraisal.

Photographs of large items may also be appraised. A written appraisal can be discussed with the Hack's agents. Allow plenty of time to also enjoy over 40 antique

dealers exhibiting their items for sale.

Don't forget to enjoy a lunch from the Ladies of Chana United Methodist Church. The Oregon Women's Club Antique Show and Vintage Market will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. With an entrance fee of \$8.

Located at the Blackhawk Center, 1101 W. Jefferson St., Oregon, IL 61061, with plenty of free parking and handicapped access. For additional information call 815-985-7550.

SVHS's Rogers awarded prestigious National Honor Society scholarship

STILLMAN VALLEY — The National Honor Society (NHS) announced that Braden Rogers, a high school senior at Stillman Valley High School and member of NHS, has been selected as an NHS Scholarship semifinalist. Each of the National Semifinalists will receive scholarships totaling \$3,200.



Since 1946, more than \$25 million in scholarships have been awarded to outstanding NHS senior members to support college access and student success. The scholarship program is supported by the parent organization of NHS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

In the 100+ years since NHS was founded in 1921,

members have been making a difference in their schools and communities, and the NHS Scholarship is NASSP's way of recognizing the most exceptional of these student leaders.

Recipients are chosen based on their demonstrated work to support the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

"SVHS senior, Braden Rogers, is an incredibly talented student academically and athletically; his exceptional work ethic and attention to detail are truly impressive, especially considering his level of involvement in numerous clubs, teams, and service projects," Mrs. Leslie Showers, principal of Stillman Valley High School, said. "However, it is his outstanding char-

acter that truly sets him apart from the rest. We are so proud of Braden and cannot imagine a more deserving recipient of this prestigious NHS Scholarship."

At Stillman Valley High School, Braden Rogers is the vice president of the National Honor Society and the FFA. He is the vice president of the Ogle Jolly 4-H club and President of the Mighty Meridian Leo's. He is a three sport athlete participating in football, wrestling and track. He is also a member of the student council, reading buddies and principal's student advisory council. Braden participates in numerous community service activities and was recently named as an Illinois State Scholar. This fall, Braden will attend the University of Wisconsin Platteville to study civil engineering. For more information about the NHS, visit www.nationalhonorsociety.org.

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Ar. Minneapolis	3:00 pm	10:59 pm	Ar. Chicago	3:00 pm	10:59 pm

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Podraza to make presentation at Depot Museum Feb. 24

OREGON — The February presentation at the Oregon Depot Museum will feature Gerald Podraza of Galena, Illinois. Plan on coming out to hear the presentation the last Saturday of February, the 24th at 10 a.m. Gerald has traveled extensively on passenger rail in Illinois on both the Illinois Zephyr and the Saluki. He's also traveled nationally on the Texas Chief, the City of Los Angeles, the Cardinal, the City of New Orleans and the California Zephyr.

While a resident of rural Jo Daviess County near Apple River, he rode the Land O'Corn and the Black Hawk during its last year of operation. He was

a member of a Citizens' Coalition to "Bring Back the Black Hawk" for five years. Those efforts concluded in an IDOT-funded feasibility study in 2021. His presentation "Revive the Twin Cities Zephyr" will detail prior attempts to restore passenger rail service as he did with the Black Hawk in Northwest Illinois. He'll present ways to discuss, evaluate and/or demonstrate added value to communities located along and within the regions of this route.

For more information about this program or other programs, please contact Roger Cain 815-757-9715, Chris Martin 815-742-8471 or Otto Dick 815-440-0639.

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Medical Transportation 677-6515

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510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle 562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Patrick M. Donaldson

BYRON — Patrick M. Donaldson, age 78, passed away peacefully the morning of February 14, 2024 at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford. Pat was born on July 1st, 1945 to the parents of John & Catherine Donaldson of Byron.



He was born and raised on farmland in Byron, where Pat attended Byron High School, graduating in the Class of 1964 where he played basketball and was a member of FFA. After school, Pat entered the Army during the years of 1966-1968 where he served admirably as a Military Policeman at Fort Hood, Texas.

Pat was a 53-year member of Local 150 Operators Union. He garnered much respect, love, memories and friends during his 42-year career at Rockford Blacktop Construction where Pat was the paver operator.

A prolific storyteller and genuine great guy, Pat could be seen working hard but also finding time to mix in some fun. Pat lived off Meridian Road outside of Byron for the past 50 years, where he loved to spend his time tending to his wood piles, yard, dogs, and special turkeys. He enjoyed sitting at his table looking at the newspaper and having his daily coffee.

Pat was always welcome to an iced Cold drink or two, some good conversation and music. After retirement, Pat could often be seen cruising Byron, stopping by the grocery store, or attending Byron sporting events.

Pat married Karen Oelrich in 1968, with whom he had 4 children who were his pride and joy. Daughters; Trish Donaldson and Diana Rippentrop (Mark). Sons; Mike Donaldson and Andy (Linsay) Donaldson. Pat was a wonderful, loving Grampa to 8 Grandchildren and 3 Great-Grandchildren who he loved to brag about; Brittani Head (Nate Bradford) & Adam Head (Amanda Carter); Laken Sisson (Robbie) & Kaitlin Garibaldi (Max); Makenna Donaldson & Abby Donaldson; Myles Donaldson & Codee Donaldson; Arthur Sisson & Ophelia Sisson; AJ Garibaldi. Pat is preceded in death by his parents, Brothers (Dick Donaldson, Bob Donaldson, & John Donaldson) and Sister (Gerrie Mathews). Pat is survived by his sisters, Sharon Meline and Sheila Lemke (Roger) and numerous Nieces and Nephews.

A Celebration of Pat's Life will be held on March 2nd, 2024 from 1:00-4:00 PM at the PrairieView Golf Pavilion in Byron.

In lieu of flowers or donations, we ask that you simply take a moment to remember our Dad fondly, smile at the memories, laugh at one of his stories, maybe plant a tree. And remember when things get out of control and you just don't have any answers, just do as our Dad would do and say with a grin and a shrug, "Ah Well, Whaddyygonnado"? We will all miss you greatly Dad!

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

Alan D. Nordman

LEAF RIVER — Alan D. Nordman, age 69, died peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024 at the Serenity Hospice and Home near Oregon surrounded by his loving family. He was born January 10, 1955 in Rockford, the son to Albert and Jennie (Nuppenau) Nordman.



Alan graduated from Oregon High School in 1973, then graduated from Sauk Valley College with a degree in Applied Science. He worked most of his life for Raynor Garage Door Manufacturing in Dixon as a Supervisor. He also owned his own lawn mowing business for several decades, truly cherishing the relationships he built with his clients.

Alan married Sharon Schreiber on June 17, 1979. He was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Morris. Alan's hobbies included collecting sports cards, sorting nuts and bolts, bowling with his friends & family, and supporting his San Francisco Giants and Miami Dolphins.

He enjoyed spending time with his family and his many dogs over the years. He enjoyed watching the Andy Griffith Show on tv every afternoon. Everyone who knew him knew his love language

was through bantering. He was predeceased by his parents Albert and Jennie Nordman, sister Janice Miller, and nephews Jason Miller, Robert and Ryan Buskohl.

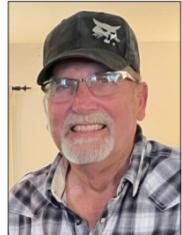
He is survived by his loving wife Sharon of Leaf River; daughter Lynnette (Rob) Hough IV of Mt. Morris, IL; sisters Judy Buskohl of Sterling, IL and Joyce (Carl) Sanders of Franklin Grove, IL; and grandchildren Rebecca Hough and R.G. Hough V both of Mt. Morris, IL; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held 11:00 AM, Saturday, February 17, 2024 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th Street in Oregon, IL with the Rev. Josh Ehrler pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Morris officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the service at the funeral home from 9:30-11:00 AM on Saturday. Burial will follow the service at the North Grove Evangelical Cemetery near Leaf River.

A memorial fund is established for the Mt. Morris Fire Foundation NFP or the charity of the donor's choice. Visit www.farrellhollandgale.com to leave a condolence or memory of Alan.

Mark L. Winterton

BYRON — Mark L. Winterton, age 68, passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on Saturday, February 10, 2024. He was born in Dixon, IL on August 21, 1955 the son of Elliot and Clara (Toppe) Winterton.



Mark graduated from Byron High School Class of 1974. He married the love of his life JoEllen Hemmersbach, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Stoughton, WI on August 6, 1988. Mark was a dedicated farmer for his entire life, working for the Rock River Farmer's Co-op in the 70s, and eventually built a successful Holstein cattle business with his wife, JoEllen.

Some of his hobbies included wood working, restoring tractors and antique farm machinery, and he loved collecting souvenir spoons and toy tractors. Mark took diesel engine repair classes at Kishwaukee College, and could always be found fixing just about anything.

In his spare time, he loved to watch Westerns, especially Gunsmoke. He really enjoyed having a sweet treat. His kids always considered him to be the "fun parent" with his loving smile, big laugh, and even his dad jokes. He always had a variety of sayings that were classic for him including: "We're not building pianos" and "Are you sittin' down?" when delivering important news.

More than anything he was born to raise a family and cherished every moment with them. Mark was always supportive of any ideas his kids had and made sure they never went a day without knowing they were important to him.

He is preceded in death by his parents and sister, Linda Mitchell.

He is survived and missed by his wife JoEllen of Byron; sons, Shawn Winterton of Byron, Colton (Fiancée Pryia Evans) Winterton of Byron; daughters, Kayla (Gene Park) Winterton of Brooklyn, NY, and Jenna Winterton of Byron; brother, Chuck (Sue) Winterton of Leaf River and sister, Wilma Fafnis of Little Chute, WI and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 11:30 AM at Ebenezer Reformed Church with Pastor Josiah Youngquist officiating. Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM until the time of service. He will be laid to rest at Ebenezer Cemetery following the service. In lieu of flowers, a donation to Serenity Hospice and Home, St. Jude's, or St. Joseph's Indian School may be made in honor of Mark's memory.

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

Verna E. McIntosh

OREGON — Verna E. McIntosh, 84 passed away peacefully at Serenity Hospice on February 7, 2024. Verna's family was by her bedside throughout her time at hospice. She was born in Freeport, IL on December 6, 1939. The daughter of Wilbur and Irene Gerwig. She was Salutatorian of her 1958 graduating class of Forreston High School.



She married James W. McIntosh at First United Methodist Church of Forreston on June 9, 1962. She worked many years at Rock Valley College as secretary for the counselors, and retired in 1995.

Verna loved living on a farm, roaming the fields with her dog Brownie. She enjoyed spring and fall trips with her husband to Door County, WI. She also loved

her cats, gardening, reading, singing and baking for her family and coworkers. She took pleasure in volunteering at Klehm Aboretum.

Survived by her daughters: Kim (Mark) Van Buskirk, Debra McIntosh (Michael Riddle) Four grandchildren: Heather (Kyle) Roberts, Adam Van Buskirk (fiance' Christine Collazo), Taylor McIntosh, Trevor (Ashley) McIntosh. Six great grandchildren: Carter Roberts, Maxwell Roberts, Leah Roberts, Roman McIntosh, Aria McIntosh, Lauren McIntosh.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James and her parents Wilbur and Irene. A private memorial service will be at a future date. Please send memorials to Serenity Hospice.

Locals named to Augustana's fall dean's list

ROCK ISLAND — Augustana College announced more than 1,100 students were named to the dean's list for the 2023-2024 fall semester. Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a four-point scale for courses taken during the term.

Recognized students include: Leslie Bandera, a Biochemistry, Chemistry major of Oregon; Hannah Batty, a Augie Ages major of Davis Junction; Cera Denton, a Augie Ages major of

Davis Junction; Jenna Hale, a Elementary Education major of Davis Junction; Olivia James, a Augie Ages major of Oregon; Emily Medford, a Biology, Psychology major of Monroe Center; Alyssa Mowry, a Augie Ages major of Chana; Isabella Olalde, a Business Administration-Marketing, Communication Studies, Business Administration-Management major of Mt. Morris; Kobe Southerland, a Augie Ages major of Forreston; Adam Thorsen, a Business Administration-Finance, Accounting major 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.

UW-Whitewater announces locals that made dean's list

WHITEWATER, Wis — A total of 3,757 students earned a spot on the dean's list at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for the 2023 fall semester.

The following students were named to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater dean's list for the 2023 fall semester: Stillman Valley:

Norah DeRosso. Leaf River: Jacob Fiorello. Forreston: Eli Metz. Stillman Valley: Hailey Smith. Rochelle: Baylie Sutton. Oregon: Evan Vache. Byron: Emma Wrede. Polo: Laura Wright

These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or above

in a single semester. "Making the Dean's List is a tremendous honor. It is a recognition of our students' hard work and commitment to success," said John Chenoweth, who serves as UW-Whitewater's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "We are proud of our students and hope to see their names on the list again. Congratulations to all who were recognized!"

The Registrar's Office reports 3,757 students were selected for the dean's list for the fall semester. More than 11,500 students are currently enrolled at the university's Whitewater and Rock County campuses.

ADVERTISING DISCLAIMER

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1310 W. Washington St., Oregon, IL
815-732-6851

VFW
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Bar Mon-Thur 4 - 8PM & Fri 4 - 9PM
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Monday Lighting @ 5:30pm
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Public is Welcome!

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01-08-2024



LOCAL NEWS

BHS's McHale named ISBE Northwest Region Teacher of the Year, state finalist

BYRON — Byron High School English Teacher Mrs. Angie McHale was named the Northwest Region Teacher of the Year and a finalist for the Illinois Teacher of the Year through the Illinois State Board of Education Those Who Excel Program.



McHale

McHale has spent her entire career teaching in the English department at Byron High School. She has also served the district as a speech coach, junior and senior class advisor, and department leader.

the Illinois Teacher of the year, McHale stated, "I am just truly thankful for all of the people who surround me and allow me to do the things that I love."

Upon hearing of her award and nomination for

McHale received official notification of her

award by a surprise online meeting with the Illinois State Superintendent, Dr. Tony Sanders. She and the other finalists will be recognized in May at the annual Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Banquet in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois.

"There isn't a more deserving educator in the State," Byron High School principal Andy Donaldson, upon hearing of McHale's recognition, said. "Mrs. McHale exemplifies passion and professionalism in everything she does for our students and our district."

Floski Foundation Scholarship for Service and Leadership offered

BYRON—Applications are now available for the Floski Family Foundation Scholarship for Service and Leadership.

The \$1,000 scholarship is being offered for the 16th year to a graduating Byron High School senior who has demonstrated service beyond self-interest and beyond Byron High School to the wider local, state, national or international community, and who has developed as a young leader as a result. The winner will be someone who plans to further his or her education in the fall of 2024. Family income and GPA are not considerations.

Applicants will be asked to write a brief essay discussing the personal benefits they have received from public service and to

submit the number of service hours they have performed during high school that they would like the committee to consider. Applicants are encouraged to understand that, while the number of service hours is a consideration of the judging committee, the scholarship is not always awarded to the student who submits the most hours: Committee members are prepared to be impressed by how the student has grown as a person while performing public service.

Other details and applications for the scholarship may be obtained at the Byron High School Guidance Office.

Application deadline is Monday, April 15. The winner will be announced at BHS Honors Night on Wednesday, May 8.

Byron Middle School honor roll for fall 2023 semester named

BYRON — Byron Middle School in Byron recently announced its honor roll for the first semester of the 2023-24 school year.

High honor roll (All As)

Eighth grade: Elliot Blache, Landon Bonvallet, Grace Burnes, Easton Burris, Gavin Early, Layne Hilliker, Michael Muzzarelli, Reid Passmore, Hanna Roberts, Avery Roewer, Ella Tunink, and Savannah Wallery.

Seventh grade: Matthew Chisholm, Hadley Dolan, Evan Fuller, Molly Girten, Madelyn Martz, Brinley Mullens, Noah Nicholson, Samantha O'Horo, Luke Shenberger, Gracyn Smith, and Lexi Yohnka.

Sixth grade: Collins Gerdes, Savannah Griffith, Andrew Hickman, Harper Hogan, Caleb Lange, Jace Ross, and Mila Snyder.

Regular honor roll

Eighth grade: Riley Boyer, Madelyn Capellan, Mallory Clark, Addisyn Clear, Oren Cox

Jasen Daskalov, Zackariah Ferguson, J.J. Freedlund, Amaya Gallegos, Kylee Grove, Lucy Gura, Hayden Hall, Addison Helms, Isabel Hill, Jordan Holifield, Brenna Hubbard, Brady Kann, Larkin Knoll, Janet Kobylecky, Chloe Lee, Grace Lindemann, Aura Martin, Autumn McClung, Lucas McConnell, Kaden McGough, Mason McNeal, Dylan Meyer, Matthew Neumann, Aubin Oliver, Owen Oraki, Ella Pifer, Bayley Pruett, Marley Rocha, Brady Schmidt, Alexa Slater, Braden Swanson, and Aven Waldschmidt.

Seventh grade: Brooks Auken, Ryland Baker, Grady Barber, Kalliope Barker, Chloe Beatty, Khloe Bennington, Adrien

Booker, Alaina Bradford, Gwen Brandt, Adelynn Dockins, Aias Dufoe, Samantha Dunham, Rylee Farrey, Alexander Freedlund, Bennett Gamlin, Parker Glendenning, Addlyn Hardy, Emery Henert, Landon Hobbie, Lacey Jackson, Geoffrey Jacobs, Lucas Kuehn, Diann Lancaste, Mason Lane, Brynna Lauderdale, Lena Marquez, Liam Marquez, Elijah Martin, Elliot Martz, Zoe Mata, Jillian Maudsley, Jaxson Mayborne, Brittan Mullens, Kaitlyn Myers, Lexa Nunez, Elijah Oltmans, Hope Rakowski, Edward Rybicki, Sophia Schmidt, Landon Smith, Stella Soltis, Irelynn Spedding, Gavin Springer, Kyane Starr, Teagan Stien, Lucca Talbert, Makenna Towle, Julian Trainor, Macie Trueblood, Jackson White, and London Wygant.

Sixth grade: Caleb Altensey, Trevor Barker, Abigail Bennett, Gwen Bierman, Hudson Boyer, McKenna Boyer, Briar Brown, Isabelle Burris, Ella Capellan, Megan Claunch, Cohen Considine, Corben Considine, Hadley Considine, Landon Dempsey, Myles Donaldson, Edward Englert, Atalie Gebbia, Gwendolyn 'Claire' Gould, Jordan Greninger, Flynn Grennan, Henry Hazzard, John Hazzard, Michael Hubbard, Nathan C. Johnson, Kimberly Kobylecky, Kristoffer Krueger, Chloe Lambert, Payton Lund, Makaii Manley, Cooper Mayborne, Cooper McGarry, Drew Miller, Cam Muszynski, Emma Muszynski, Eliza Oliver, Easton Oraki, Bennett Pendergrass, Katelyn Perko, Dreyah Poe, Severiano Rosavelasquez, Wyatt Sell, Emma Semple, Averie Simons, Taylor Stacy, Easey Stafford, Levi Swanson, Cole Tomman, Tristan Voss, Farrah Walden, Brooks Ward, Makenna Wilfang, and Bryn Yerly.

Byron Civic Band winter/spring 2024 session

BYRON — The Byron Civic Band in Byron will resume rehearsals on Feb. 21. Weekly rehearsals are 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Byron Middle School band room. The 2024 Spring concert will be in the Byron Middle School Auditorium on April 21 at 3 p.m.

Our band plays intermediate-level concert band

literature, and we welcome players of all band instruments. We have a nice mix of adult players in their 20s to 80s along with a sprinkling of younger musicians, and we invite current and former band musicians in the area to consider joining us. Yes, high school band members are welcome.

If it has been a few years

(or decades) since you've played, you may find that this band will provide the ideal opportunity to again play that band instrument you once loved to play. You will not be asked to audition.

If you are interested in joining our band, please call or text Ron Kroeger at (847) 219-9393 or email him at ronkroeger@gmail.com.

Byron to host forum for police chief candidates Feb. 21

BYRON — For the first time in over 23 years, the City of Byron is searching for a new chief of police. Current Chief Todd Murray, is retiring after serving over 39 years in law enforcement.

To assist in the search for a new chief, the city is hosting an open forum to provide the Byron community with an opportunity to meet and talk with the two finalists for the position. The forum will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 5-6 p.m. in the Community Room at Byron City Hall, 232 W. Second St. The two finalists, Sgt. Jeremy Boe-

hle of the Byron Police Department and Deputy Chief Jeffrey Wig of the Sycamore Police Department, will each say a few words about themselves and their vision for the Byron Police Department. They will then be available to meet and speak with those in attendance. Community members attending the forum will be encouraged to provide feedback on the candidates through completion of a comment card which will be considered in making the final selection.

The new chief is expected to be selected and begin work in March.

TAX PREPARATION TIME

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Why Do You Wear That White Cap?

If you have observed conservative Mennonites or Amish, you will have noticed the white cap the women wear on their heads. What is the meaning of this practice?

First of all, the Bible commands that women veil their heads. 1 Corinthians 11:1-15 is the Scripture passage that commands this practice. Along with veiled heads, the passage also teaches us that women's hair is to be uncut.

The veiling is a symbol of the woman's place in the social order. The Bible teaches that "the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is the man." It is a chain of command, so to speak; starting with God, then Christ, then man and woman. This is not degrading to women, rather it shows us that we all have a place to fill in the social order.

The woman's primary role, as taught in the Bible, is that of making a home. Sometimes our women describe themselves as "homemakers". Many women see homemaking as bondage. Far from being a bondage, women who stay at home and manage the house and care for their children possess the most powerful influence on the future of our society. It has been said that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world". This saying is old-fashioned, but still true. Children who are raised in happy homes grow up to be stable, productive citizens. Loving mothers make happy homes.

The veiling is a sign of modesty and chastity. The Bible teaches that a woman's long, uncut hair is a glory to her. This glory is to be veiled by the head-covering. This concept of veiled glory applies to the rest of the woman's body as well. Modestly dressed women are a great help toward marital fidelity. And marital fidelity, as in "one man and one woman, together for life", is a key to strong homes, churches and society in general.

Women who submit to God's order of headship as described in 1 Corinthians have a wonderful opportunity to make a difference for good in our society. God's designs always work!

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VIEWPOINT

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

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

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

PAID LETTER

Support for Ron Kern

Dear editor,



I am writing in support of Ron Kern candidacy for the Ogle County Board Member from District 5 in the upcoming Primary Election on March 19. The voters from District 5 will never find a more exceptional candidate to represent them. I have known Ron for over 38 years here in Ogle County. And his dedication to supporting both the various industries of the county and

the people working and living here, makes him the exceptional person for the job. Plus, Ron brings fresh ideas, leadership abilities and experience from many types of board meetings. District 5 voters will be served well by electing Ron to represent their interest in Ogle County. I hope you will join with many of us in supporting Ron Kern in the upcoming primary election.

Dan Head,
Oregon

PAID LETTER

Support Janes for County Board

Dear editor,



I am writing in full support of Ogle County Board Member Dan Janes. Dan embodies the spirit of dedication, commitment, and community life that we cherish in our representatives. His research on pertinent issues, coupled with his excellent communication skills, truly sets him apart. As a lifelong resident of Ogle County, Dan's advocacy for the community stems from a genuine love and understanding of its needs. His tireless work ethic and deep in-

volvement in local affairs exemplify his unwavering commitment to the betterment of Ogle County.

Beyond his professional attributes, Dan is a family man with a strong faith, values that resonate deeply with the community's core beliefs.

In these times of uncertainty, having a dedicated and accessible leader like Dan Janes is paramount. I urge fellow residents to continue supporting Dan for County Board.

Tony McCombie,
House Minority Leader / IL House District 89

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.

New Political Letter Policy

The Ogle County Life is implementing a new political letter policy. We will now be accepting election letters endorsing or advocating for or against a ballot measure, party or candidate as paid advertising announcement. The fee is \$25 minimum for a 200 word letter and 10 cents a word for additional words over 250. Like other letters to the editor, the writer's name, address and phone number are required. Phone numbers and exact addresses are not published. We have the right to reject letters which don't meet publishing standards and will determine if the letter qualifies as a paid endorsement. Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page. Most newspapers that have adopted this approach cite one main reason: Political campaigns for years have used newspaper opinion pages for what amounts to free advertising. As these letter-writing campaigns

become more widespread and sophisticated - some campaigns even pay people to write letters to the editor - newspapers are flooded with requests to publish them, especially in the run-up to elections. Will we still publish letters complaining about the county board or school board? Yes. But if you want others to vote for or against a candidate, or for or against an issue on the ballot, you will need to pay a fee. Not a large fee - \$25 for up to 200 words. Some key dates to keep in mind for political endorsement letters: The primary election is Tuesday, March 19, 2024. The last batch of letters that endorse candidates for this election will be printed in the Monday, March 11, 2024 issue of the Ogle County Life must be received by noon on Wednesday, March 6. To submit a letter, email Managing Editor Jeff Helfrich at jhelfrich@oglecounty.com.

No threats to public safety

THE same Chicago Democrat who brought us the SAFE-T Act (House Bill 3653) has filed new legislation that would further threaten public safety and impede law enforcement efforts to keep our communities safe.



Andrew Chesney

As you may recall, the so-called SAFE-T Act was pushed through in the middle of the night when fewer eyes were following the legislature's action. As I have stated many times, this law does nothing to improve safety in our communities. It heaped a slew of new mandates on police officers regarding how and when they can pursue suspected criminals and eliminated our system of cash bail so many criminals are now back on the streets within hours of an arrest. It has led droves of police officers to leave the profession and has overloaded our courts with appeals hearings for those locked up pending trial under the old system. The bill was so bad it has already been modified three different times to address glaring problems.

This lawmaker was also the Chief Co-Sponsor of the Assault Weapons Ban, House Bill 5522. While criminals continue to get their guns illegally through straw purchases and back-alley deals, this law requires those who owned so-called assault weapons and certain magazines before the law's effective date to register them with the Illinois State Police (ISP). Those who fail to do so

are guilty of crimes ranging from misdemeanors to felonies. It also completely bans manufacturing and selling more than 200 types of firearms.

Like the SAFE-T Act, the "assault weapons" ban does nothing to make our communities safer. This law goes after the wrong people. Lawful people are not the ones engaging in mass shootings, and the criminals who are certainly aren't following our laws. I doubt criminals are filing the required affidavit so their guns can be tracked.

On January 29, that same legislator filed legislation giving the SAFE-T Act and the Assault Weapons Ban a run for their money. House Bill 4603 would prohibit police from pulling motorists over or issuing citations for a variety of infractions, including the failure to display license plates or registration stickers, having an expired registration sticker, speeding (except in extreme cases), improper lane usage, failing to comply with head/tail light requirements, failing to wear a seat belt, or having excessive tint on windows, defective mirrors, an obstructed windshield, defective windshield wipers or bumpers, or excessive exhaust fumes.

Even worse, the bill states that if an officer does pull over a car for any of the above infractions, anything they find in the vehicle cannot be used against the driver in any trial, hearing, or other court proceeding. That's right. If an

officer finds drugs or illegal guns in the car they pull over for most traffic offenses, those items would be inadmissible in court.

As you can imagine, push-back on this legislation has been immediate and severe. Among those pushing back is the ISP. On February 1, ISP took to Twitter (X) and posted that on January 31, officers stopped a semi for improper lane usage and other minor traffic offenses and found a girl in the semi that was suspected of being trafficked. That routine traffic stop likely saved that girl.

In response to the massive pushback, the bill sponsor said he would not call his bill. It remains active, however, so the sponsor could change his mind at any time and begin moving this bill immediately.

At what point will those who continually send Democrats to Springfield to represent them realize that the bills being filed by their progressive leaders are hurting, not helping our communities? At what point will they demand strengthened penalties for those who commit violent crimes so we can get these criminals off the streets?

Until this happens, legislators will continue to see bills that are not in the best interest of everyday Illinoisans who deserve to live and work in safe neighborhoods. I will continue to oppose these bills and invite all other lawmakers to join me in ending this nonsense.

Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) is the Illinois state senator for the 45th District.

Illinois volunteer firefighters excluded from cancer presumption laws

THE work firefighters do is among the most essential, needed, but hazardous jobs worldwide. Firefighters not only save lives when a fire breaks out but are often the first responders in other emergencies, too. The job comes with many risks to their life and health, such as heat stress and associated cardiovascular disease, accidents, exposure to various toxic chemicals, and consequently, an increased risk of developing certain job-related cancers.

the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Cincinnati, showed an elevated mortality rate from all cancers among firefighters compared to the general population. Finally, a study published in 2021 by the International Journal of Environmental Research & Public Health focused exclusively on volunteer firefighters' PFAS exposure and concluded that they have higher PFAS levels in their organisms compared to the general population. The researchers emphasized that even though volunteer firefighters represent a majority vis-à-vis career firefighters, they are underrepresented in health and exposure studies.



Jonathan Sharp

Many may not know that most firefighters in the U.S. are volunteers. According to statistical data collected by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), almost 70% of the firefighters nationwide are volunteers. USFA's data also shows that in January 2024 in Illinois, 79.3% of the registered fire departments were volunteers, while only 20.7% were career fire departments.

As there is enough evidence by now that firefighters are more at risk of developing certain job-related cancers than the population in general due to their exposure to toxic substances, some states adopted the Cancer Presumption Law that attributes the firefighter's cancerous condition to their job. However, most states did not include volunteer firefighters in their Cancer Presumption Laws. The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) identified that more than half of the states in the U.S. are not legally bound to support volunteer firefighters who have cancer with any form of compensation or disability benefit. One such state is Illinois.

Illinois volunteer firefighters should receive cancer coverage

The Workers' Occupational Diseases Act of Illinois states that a firefighter disabled by cancer should receive an occupational disease disability benefit, which should be 65% of the previously received salary. Thus, only career firefighters can receive the most needed financial assistance.

All firefighters, whether career or volunteer, are at a high risk of toxic chemical contamination due to their regular exposure to PFAS and other adverse synthetic chemicals. Some localities have only volunteer fire departments, where volunteers do the same job as career firefighters. Volunteer firefighters regularly attend emergency calls and participate in training and events like their career firefighter peers. However, they do not get financial remuneration and often do not receive the same quality gear, attention, care, and protection as their career counterparts.

Cancer does not differentiate between firefighters, though. On what basis can state officials then decide who may receive occupational disease disability benefits when there is evidence that all firefighters are more prone to developing and dying of cancer than the average citizen due to their public safety duties and the dangerous conditions of their job? Cancer treatment costs are an immense financial burden on most individuals and their families. The initial care for one patient is around \$43,516 and can go up to \$109,727 in the last year of life on average, according to the National Cancer Institute. These are astonishing numbers. Illinois volunteer firefighters put their lives in danger for the public good and should receive the same treatment and financial benefits as employed firefighters.

Jonathan Sharp is a chief financial officer at the Environmental Litigation Group, P.C., based in Birmingham, Alabama. The firm is dedicated to assisting civilian and military firefighters exposed to toxic chemicals, especially PFAS. Jonathan is mainly responsible for case evaluation, financial analysis, and asset management.

There is enough evidence to contradict the exclusion

The Cancer Presumption Laws have been voted across the U.S. as there is plenty of evidence that cancer, in the case of firefighters, is a job-related illness. One of the reasons for developing cancer is that firefighters have been working for decades with aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF). This firefighting foam has a large concentration of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a group of toxic chemicals, often called "forever chemicals," because they are persistent and bioaccumulative once they enter the environment, especially groundwater. Studies show that long-term exposure to PFAS causes numerous health issues, including various types of cancers. On top of that, firefighters often use or wear protective gear that contains PFAS, as these "forever chemicals" have been widely used by manufacturers since the 1950s.

The results of a recent medical study published in 2023 demonstrate that the risk of skin, prostate, testicular, brain, nervous system, rectal cancers, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma is significantly higher among firefighters than among the general population. Another study published in 2020 by

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PAID LETTER

Support for Horner

Dear editor,

I have known Chad and his family for almost 40 years. I consider him a good friend. As an ordained clergy and Serenity Hospice chaplain, I have worked with Chad as an officiant of many funeral services. Working closely with Chad I've witnessed, firsthand, the true dedication, care and compassion Chad has put forth for the families he has served.

Chad has continually served Ogle County as deputy coroner for the past five plus years to the present. In that amount of time he has gained the support of

the other surrounding county coroners which speaks volumes for Chad's background and knowledge of the tasks and duties needed as our county coroner.



As a family man, Chad's Christian values, faith, education, work ethic, and integrity are the credentials that are much needed for the office of Ogle County coroner.

Those credentials are the assurance and essence of how Chad Horner will carry out the duties of our new Ogle County coroner with dignity and honor.

Rev. David Rogula,
Interim pastor, Esmond & Lighthouse UMC, Oregon

Safety and anhydrous ammonia

As I sit and shiver through the rest of winter, I know it will be only a few weeks into the dis-tance that Spring plant-ing season will be upon us. I'm sure in machine sheds across the corn belt that many farmers have already begun the pro-cess of getting equipment ready for the season. That means one thing for sure: Plenty of busted knuck-les.



Ron Kern

Sometimes it pays to take the time to locate the correct size wrench instead of reaching for the adjustable. This is called experi-ence.

Part of the season too includes prepping the land for seed place-ment. Tillage work and fertilizer application will be the norm.

The unfortunate accident a few years ago that occurred with an accidental release of anhydrous ammonia in Lake County, Illinois has brought increased awareness to its safe transport and applica-tion. I want to be sure our Ogle County farmers are in the know when applying anhydrous.

Please understand your respon-sibility as a farmer while trans-ported anhydrous ammonia. If in the event of a release of 18 gal-lons or 100 pounds of Anhydrous Ammonia (NH3), you MUST make the following 4 phone calls within 15 minutes of the release:

911, Illinois Emergency Man-agement Agency/State Emer-gency Response Commission 1-800-782-7860, National Re-sponse Center 1-800-424-8802,

and Local Emergency Planning Committee Release Reporting (in Ogle County that is Tom Richter at 815-687-2041).

Also when transporting anhydrous ammonia the following regulations must be followed.

No liquid transfer hose shall be joined between any nurse tank and any toolbar during transport upon a public right-of-way.

When nurse tanks are pulled in tandem a break-away coupling device or other means of protection shall be installed at each point where the hose crosses a hitching point. De-ployment of equipment designed to achieve this protection shall be installed and maintained in ac-cordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The hose length from the towed implement mechanically secure point to the breakaway coupler on the towing imple-ments shall have sufficient length to allow breakaway couplers to articulate freely but prevent the hose from contact with the nurse tank tongue. This shall be achieved without securing the hose mechanically through the use of chains, elastomeric straps, wire ties or other means.

Please adhere to all rules and regulations to safely transport anhydrous ammonia.

Grain transport

It won't just be equipment and land preparation that will be happening. Many farmers will be cleaning out their grain bins from

last year's harvest.

Traditional Spring rallies in the grain markets usually lead to farmers delivering on their grain contracts. Local road authorities will be posting roads for weight limits and you will start to see semi-trailer activity ramp up.

Many things in life are con-fusing and truck law would certainly fall into that category. When federal truck law dictates one set of rules and State law another it tends to lead to plenty of questions that need a definitive answer.

The Illinois Farm Bureau will be conducting On The Road seminars across the state the remainder of this month and into March. The seminars offer a comprehensive look at trucking laws and your responsibilities in operating vehicles.

A workshop is scheduled for 6 p.m. March 14 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Building, in Sycamore. Rodney Knittle, Illinois Farm Bureau Transpor-tation Specialist will facilitate the program.

Pre-registration is required and can be made through the County Farm Bureau by calling 815-732-2231 or email cfb@ogle.comcastbiz.net

The seminar is free of charge.

That's a lot cheaper than a ticket from a state trooper!

"Common sense is like deodorant. Those who need it the most never use it." -Anon-ymous

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

PAID LETTER

Support for Christie Cox

Dear editor,

As a pastor over the course of the past twenty years, I have on multiple occasions been asked to officiate funeral services in conjunction with Chris-tie Cox at Polo Family Funeral Home. Having known Christie and her family for over two de-cades, without reservation, I lend my full support and endorsement in her bid to serve the people as the next Ogle County Coroner.

As an established fu-neral director and current Deputy-Coroner, Christie will bring to the office of Coroner the knowledge, experience, and consis-tency required to be ef-fective in such a position. Having worked for and with multiple local funeral homes, Christie has devel-oped relationships with families throughout Ogle County that will undoubt-edly assist her in carry-ing out the occasional deli-cate duties of Coroner. Chris-tie, alongside her husband Marty, and their children, have been active mem-bers of their local church

for over 30 years, where Marty's father served as the pastor. This longstand-ing commitment to their faith community further solidifies their ties to the county and underscores the deep-rooted connec-tions Christie has fos-tered, both profession-ally and personally. More importantly, her integrity is unwavering which is a charac-ter quality often lacking in the political arena of our day.

As a businesswoman, Christie's professional-ism, poise, and sensitivity will surely be an asset in dealing with the issues and challenges pertinent to the Coroner's office. She will serve with dignity and honor because that is who she is. Christie absolutely values life and has a sober respect for the deceased.

For these reasons, I urge the good citizens of Ogle county to cast their vote for Christie Cox for Ogle County Coroner in the upcoming March 19 Republican Primary election.

Luke N. Schier,
Polo

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On March 4, 1933, in the midst of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated as the 32nd U.S. president. He would later notably lead the country out of the Depression and to victory in World War II.

* On March 5, 1963, beloved American country western singer Patsy Cline, whose rich, soulful voice made her one of the genre's classic performers of such ballads as "I Fall to Pieces" and "Crazy," died in an airplane crash at age 30.

* On March 6, 2018, the world's oldest known message in a bottle was discovered by Tonya Illman in Western Australia as she walked on the beach with her husband, Kym. The bottle had been thrown over-board from the German sailing ship Paula in 1886 as it crossed the Indian Ocean, and said only, "Could the finder please plot the coordinates it was found, and the date it was found, and send it back?"

* On March 7, 1965, up to 600 nonvi-olent activists marched to help African American citizens obtain the right to vote. Despite the peacefulness of their actions, the protesters were brutally attacked, with one woman, Amelia Boynton, beaten to the point of unconsciousness.

* On March 8, 1986, 29-year-old tennis star Martina Navratilova became the first in her sport to earn more than \$10 million in prize money when she won the U.S. Women's Indoor Championships in New Jersey.

* On March 9, 1611, Dutch astronomer Johannes Fabricius and his father, David, first observed sunspots, which are areas of reduced surface temperature. Johannes wrote and published a 22-page pamphlet on their findings, "Account of Spots Observed on the Sun and of Their Apparent Rotation with the Sun," though his father initially disagreed with his son's conclusion.

* On March 10, 1949, Mildred Gillars aka "Axis Sally," became the first woman in American history to be convicted of treason. Gillars worked for Nazi Ger-many's state radio program during World War II, and from 1942 to the end of the war broadcasted Nazi propaganda in an effort to convince U.S. soldiers to give up the fight. Records of the broadcasts eventually convicted her when she was later arrested and returned to the States.

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LIFE letters' policy

Concise letters are most likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of manage-ment. 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 jeop-ardize 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.

New Political Letter Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To submit a letter, email Managing Editor Jeff Helfrich at jhelfrich@oglecountylife.com.

LOCAL NEWS



Forreestville Valley School District celebrates 2024 Bus Driver Appreciation Week
 The Forreestville Valley School District 221 celebrated "Bus Driver Appreciation Week" from Feb. 5-9. The drivers were treated every day with a special treat from administration, athletic department, kitchen staff & the Forreeston Grade Schools PTO plus many parents & students. The drivers wish to thank everyone for making their week special. Top row from left to right: Marsha Birkholz, Laura Hillman, Kirk Janicke, Mike Kortemeier, and Erin Leibow. Middle row from left to right: John Mershon, Dan Miller, Jean Noonkesser, Kelley Parks, and Tom Schoonhoven. Bottom row from left to right: Brent Smith, Chet Strehlow, Joel Tuten, Heather Weaver (transportation director), and Glenn Wichman.



Groselak



Simpson



Sweeney



Wheeler

Four Meridian CUSD employees recognized by ISBE for 2024 Those Who Excel Award

STILLMAN VALLEY — The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has selected four Meridian CUSD 223 employees for the 2024 Those Who Excel Award. This formal recognition program that exists in the state of Illinois is to honor its best and brightest in the educational community. These four outstanding educators were selected to represent Meridian CUSD 223 and are among 18 Ogle County educators to be recognized among the 500 throughout the state. Awardees will be recognized at an awards banquet on May 18.

Deana Simpson: Award of Meritorious Service. Abbey Wheeler: Award of Excellence. Deb Sweeney: Award of Meritorious Service. Ben Groselak: Award of Special Recognition. "The Those Who Excel program is designed to recognize educational all-stars. The program did just that by recognizing the incredible accomplishments and contributions of Deana, Ben, Deb, and Abbey. We are incredibly fortunate to have them in Meridian and for them to represent us with this incredible honor," PJ Caposey, superintendent of Meridian CUSD 223, said.

Ebenezer Reformed Church dinner and discussions each Wednesday

OREGON — The Christmas decorations are just returned to the basement, and now, Easter will be here before we know it. Easter. The story of a man who 2,000 years ago was beaten, tortured, hung to die from a cross only to rise again from the dead. Is it a "story" or is it the true account of the Son of God who came to Earth to offer the opportunity for God and man to share eternity. If you or someone you know is unsure what Easter is truly about, we have an opportunity for you to explore the answers to these questions: Is Jesus' life historical? Is Jesus' death ethical? Is Jesus' resurrection credible? Is Jesus' offer desirable? This is an opportunity to ask these questions and more and together discover answers. Our study is rooted in the Bible, but uses examples from our present day world to help us

understand such heady ideas. The author of our study guide, Rebecca Mc Laughlin, uses stories like "Harry Potter" and "007 No Time To Die" to explain Jesus love for us. These are tough questions and topics. Too tough to take on with an empty stomach! So, before delving into these questions, we at Ebenezer Reformed Church invites you to join us for a meal. We want to get to know you and your family and we want you to get to know us! Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20. Come to one or all dates! Please call and let us know if you have any questions, plan on attending or need a ride: (815) 732-6313. Ebenezer Reformed Church is located at 2997 German Church Road (one mile south of the power plant.) We look forward to sharing a meal and a conversation with you!

Oregon Antiques and Vintage Show set for March 23-24

OREGON — The 4th weekend in March is the much-anticipated return of the Oregon Antiques and Vintage Show, sponsored by the Oregon Woman's Club! In 2024 this noteworthy event is on March 23 & 24. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Quality antiques from the early 1800s through the Retro and Vintage eras of the 1970s include all areas of collecting — furniture, glass, china, pottery, toys, primitives, textiles, jewelry, dolls, silver, decorator items and more. We're excited to see what our vendors will bring!

The Oregon Woman's Club, a member of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs, sponsors this show as a major fundraising event and uses the proceeds to help fund various community projects and charities. The facility offers ample free parking, handicap accessibility, the Chana Church Ladies' concession stand, and a huge area for our 40+ Midwest antique and vintage dealers to display their merchandise for sale. There will be items for all collecting tastes and budgets, for both the new and advanced collector. We like to think of it

as "comfort food for the eyes." On Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Hack's Auction will offer verbal appraisals of your small treasures for \$5 per item. Please supply photos of large items. Entry to the show is \$8 per person, which is good for the weekend. Door prizes all day! The show is located at the Blackhawk Center, 1101 W. Jefferson St., one block south of Illinois Route 64 (Washington Street), Oregon, IL. 61061. Mark your calendar for March 23 and 24 and make plans to enjoy the day or the weekend in beautiful Oregon.

Northern Rehab to host food drive for area food pantries

ROCHELLE — Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists is hosting a Food Drive Feb. 19-March 1 to collect non-perishable food items to benefit food pantries that serve the DeKalb, Sycamore, Genoa and Rochelle communities. Donations will support Barb Food Mart, Spartan Food Pantry, Genoa Area Food Hub, and Rochelle Christian Food Pantry. Non-perishable items needed include canned meat (chicken, tuna), cereal, pasta, dry goods, canned foods (soups, sauces, fruits, or vegetables), rice, beans, applesauce, paper goods, personal care items, diapers, cleaning products, or any non-perishable items that have a longer shelf life. Items may be dropped off at any Northern Rehab locations in DeKalb (3266 Sycamore Road), Genoa (540 E. Main St.), or Rochelle (1211 Currency Court). For more

information, please visit northernrehabpt.com or call 815.756.8524. Thank you in advance for your support and contribution! Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists, voted DeKalb County's Best Physical Therapists for 12 consecutive years and Ogle County's Best Physical Therapist for five years, is a physical therapist owned and operated physical therapy practice dedicated to providing clients with the very best one-on-one customized care and has built a solid reputation and strong relationships within the communities they serve.

ABATE Motorcycle Swap Meet is Feb. 25

DIXON — Twin Rivers chapter of ABATE is holding its 16th 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 "START SEEING MOTORCYCLES".

It's tax time!!!

Jennifer Lungstrom, CPA, EA Silene Walters, CPA, MAS

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LOCAL NEWS

Mt. Morris Senior Center announces bus trip

MT. MORRIS — Ever thought of trying a bus trip?

Here is what is nice about a Mt. Morris Senior Center group bus trip from the perspective of our travelers.

“I just love getting on the bus and not having to think about anything.” “The director provides a lot of great snacks for us to enjoy throughout the trip.” “I love the variety on the bus. Time to rest, bingo and other games, and movies make the drive pass by quickly.” “I love that I don’t have to drive.” “Everything is taken care of, a trip with no worries is wonderful!” “We always get to see so many things, and some that you wouldn’t think of on your own.” “I love getting to know other people from the area.”

All ages are welcome to join The Center on our extended trips this year! May 26-June 1 a bus trip will be traveling from Mt. Morris and going to Mount Rushmore, the Badlands, and the Black



The group from the Mt. Morris Senior Center’s trip to Branson in 2023.

Hills of South Dakota! This seven-day, six-night trip costs \$939 and all are welcome to join us. The trip includes Motorcoach transportation, six nights lodging including four consecutive nights in South Dakota, 10 meals, a visit to the Mount Rushmore National Me-

morial, a Tour of the Wildlife Loop at Custer State Park, Admission to the unique Journey Museum, a guided tour of Deadwood plus time to enjoy the town or the casino, a visit to Crazy Horse Memorial, a visit to Badlands National Park, a stop at Wall Drug

and the Corn Palace, and much more! All ages are welcome to join this trip, and we would love to have YOU! If you have any interest in participating in this trip or hearing about our future trips please give Melissa at The Center, Mt. Morris a call at 815-734-6335.

Spring art classes at Old Sandstone Gallery in Mt. Morris

MT. MORRIS — Join Encore! Mt. Morris and Highland Community College for one or more of six art classes between March 6 and April 18 most 6-8 p.m.:

- Macrame (Spring Gnome Garland), March 6, 6-8 p.m.
- Essential Skills for Basic Wood Carving, March 11 and 18, 6-8 p.m.
- Mastering Smartphone Photography, March 14 and 21, 6-8:30 p.m.
- Extreme Beginner Drawing with Pencil, April 8 and 15, 6-8 p.m.
- The Art of Drawing with Colored Pencils, April 11 and 18, 6-8 p.m.
- Introduction to Watercolor Painting, April 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All supplies are included in the course fees. Classes are held in the Old Sandstone Gallery, 122 S. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris. For course details (descriptions, fees, instructors, photos of projects) and to register for one or more of the classes, go to the Encore! Mt. Morris web site (encoremtnorris.com) and click on the “Spring 2024 Art Classes” button. Clicking on the title or photo of the class that interests you will take you to the Highland CC Lifelong Learning page to register. Contact Molly Baker at mollyb@encoremtnorris.com if you have any questions.

Encore! Mt. Morris is composed of volunteers committed to developing Mt. Morris, IL into a unique, thriving rural and cultural arts destination in northwest Illinois. Learn more at EncoreMt-Morris.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb. 21

Serenity Hospice & Home’s Men’s Coffee Group will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at Sunrise, 116 N. 4th St. Oregon, from 9-10 a.m.. This group is for all bereaved men in the community. Please call Serenity Hospice and Home at 815-732-4111 by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20 to register.

Feb. 22

Loaves & Fish Food Pantry alongside Northern Illinois Food Bank is hosting a Mobile Food Pantry on Thursday, Feb. 22 from 10-11:30 a.m. The truck will be located at Mt. Morris Moose Family Center, 101 Moose Drive, Mt. Morris. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. In case of bad weather, please check Loaves & Fish Facebook page or call the pantry phone at 815-613-8776. Mobile pantries will be held on the fourth Thursday of every month through October. Loaves & Fish Food Pantry is located

on the lower level of the Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren, 409 W. Brayton Road, and is open on the first and third Thursdays from 3:30-6 p.m. and second and fourth Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m. Anyone experiencing food insecurity is eligible to receive food. You do not need to have a referral, and no proof of income is required. If you have any questions, call 815-613-8776 and leave a message.

March 3

Disciples United Methodist Church, 102 Maple Ave., is hosting a potato bar on Sunday, March 3, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No registration is needed. Free will donations will support the missions of the church. Call the church at 815-734-4853 with any questions, or email secretary@disciplesumc.org.

March 7

The Performing Arts Guild will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 7 at the Pinecrest Grove Community Center Theater. This

event is an evening of food, fun and fellowship along with a preview of the upcoming season. The cost is \$40 to become a PAG member which includes two tickets for the 2024 season. You can join and pay your membership fee at the meeting. If you are interested in attending, please contact Karen by Feb. 29 at Karen2024@performingarts-guild.com. It isn’t work...it’s play! Come play in community theater.

March 9

Chana United Methodist Church is hosting its annual Chicken Noodle Lasagna Dinner Drive Thru on Saturday, March 9 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$12 and includes: a hearty portion of homemade (from scratch) noodles and chicken, a generous piece of home-made lasagna and fresh-from-the-oven apple crisp. Chana UMC is a certified kitchen and is COVID-19 compliant. Dinner is drive-thru only!

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LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

Driver sustains minor injuries following accident

OREGON — On Feb. 1 at approximately 7:24 a.m. deputies responded to the 4,000 block of West Illinois Route 72 in reference to a one-vehicle accident in the ditch. After investigation, deputies learned a grey Jeep, driven by Lita Johnson, 19, of Forreton, was traveling eastbound in the 4,000 block of West Illinois Route 72 on the ice-covered road. Johnson then lost control of her vehicle while negotiating a curve and traveled off the roadway's south side before striking several small trees. The vehicle sustained minimal front end and side damage. Johnson refused medical attention at the scene. Leaf River Fire and EMS assisted with the accident.

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. The driver of the pickup truck, Joseph Emmerson, 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 the Polo Police Department.

On Feb. 6 approximately 10:46 a.m. Matthew Karl Wisner, 36, of Forreton turned himself in on an outstanding Ogle County no bond warrant. Wisner appeared in court was released on a recognizance bond. Wisner will return to court on March 11.

On Feb. 6 at 1:15 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of South Union Street Byron. As a result, Carlos Heras-Figueroa, 66, of Rockford was arrested on a no bond Ogle County Warrant for driving under the influence. Heras-Figueroa was additionally issued a citation for a defective windshield. Heras-Figueroa was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Feb. 6 at around 10:21 a.m. deputies were dispatched to the 2,000 block of South Chamberlain Road for the report of a child custody issue. After a brief investigation, Angel Vazquez, 19, of Rochelle, was arrested for driving while license suspended. Vazquez was released with a notice to

appear. On Feb. 6 at around 6:12 a.m. deputies were dispatched to the area of East Ritchie Road and South Woodlawn Road for the report of a vehicle in the ditch. When deputies arrived, there was a gray Toyota Prius east of the intersection in the ditch with no occupants. It appeared the vehicle did not stop at the stop sign on East Ritchie Road and continued eastbound into the ditch. After a brief investigation it was learned that the driver, Ibrahim Habiballa, 43, of DeKalb, had disobeyed the stop sign then left the scene. Habiballa was cited for leaving the scene of an accident, disregarding a stop sign, and failure to reduce speed/too fast for conditions. Habiballa was given a notice to appear at a later date.

On Feb. 7 at approximately 9:50 a.m. Rogers Silvia, 56, of Leaf River turned herself in on an outstanding Ogle County no bond warrant. Rogers appeared in court was released on a recognizance bond. Rogers will return to court on March 13.

On Feb. 8 at approximately 9:49 a.m. deputies, Polo Fire Department, Polo EMS and Mt. Morris Fire Department responded to a two-vehicle accident at Freeport Road and Illinois Route 64. The accident involved a 2021 Ford box truck driven by Timothy Adams, 22, of Byron, and a 2008 Peterbilt truck and trailer driven by Christopher Bunker, 45, of Chamberlin, South Dakota. After an investigation, it was learned that Adams had failed to stop at the intersection and collided with the semi-trailer. Adams was issued citations for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and disobeying a stop sign. Polo EMS transported Adams to KSB Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Maggio's towing removed the Ford truck due to disabling damage and completed repairs to the trailer.

On Feb. 8 at approximately 5:59 p.m. deputies responded to the 4,000 block of North River Road in reference to a citizen assist. After investigation, deputies placed Parker Carr, 23, of Rochelle, under arrest for an active Ogle County traffic warrant. Carr was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 8 at approximately 6:40 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed James Wright, 41, of Rockford, under arrest for an active Ogle County failure to appear driving under the influence warrant. Wright was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held lieu of bond.

On Feb. 8 at approximately 6:57 p.m. deputies responded to a domestic call at 4234 N. Marrill Road. While investigating the incident, two officers on scene were battered. After investigation, deputies placed Dustin Nelson, 40, of Byron under arrest for two counts of aggravated battery to a police officer (class two felony) and two counts of resisting a peace officer. Nelson was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On Feb. 9 at approximately 1:03 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Woodlawn Road. After investigation, deputies placed Pedro Rodriguez-Gamez, 30, of DeKalb, under arrest for no valid driver's license. Rodriguez-Gamez was additionally issued a citation for speeding 26 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. Rodriguez-Gamez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Feb. 9 at approximately 1:22 a.m. deputies responded to a minor accident in the 13,000 block of East Illinois Route 72. Upon arrival, deputies had learned Angela Watkins, 53, of Fargo, North Dakota, was in the Benny's Corner Market parking lot in Davis Junction, when she drove through the ditch to get back onto Illinois Route 72. Watkins' vehicle got stuck in the ditch and sustained minor damage. Watkins was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Watkins was additionally issued a citation for failure to reduce to speed to avoid an accident. Watkins was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

See SHERIFF page 11

AREA FISH FRY GUIDE

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

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LOCAL NEWS

SHERIFF: Car rear ends garbage truck

From page 10

On Feb. 9 at approximately 3:17 a.m. Ogle County deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident with no injuries in the 5,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. It was reported that a white Nissan Versa rear ended a garbage truck. After investigation, it was determined that the Nissan, being operated by Sandy Cruz, 21, of Rockford, was traveling northbound on Illinois Route 251 directly behind a Northern Illinois Disposal garbage truck, being operated by Kenneth Gelderloos. The garbage truck began to slow down to affect a left turn when it was struck by the Nissan. Neither driver sustained injuries. After further investigation, Cruz was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended and released on a notice to appear. Cruz was additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

On Feb. 9 at around 3:18 p.m. deputies responded to the area of South Skare Road and East Hemstock Road for the report of a two-vehicle accident. When deputies arrived there were two vehicles in the northwest ditch, a gold Chevy and a black Chevy. After a brief investigation it was learned that the gold Chevy, driven by Jerome Wysocki, 75, of Rochelle, was traveling westbound on East Hemstock Road. The black Chevy, driven by Maylene Carreno, 35, of Mt. Morris, was traveling northbound. Wysocki stopped at the stop sign then proceeded into the intersection to continue west bound at which time the gold and black Chevys collided in the intersection. Wysocki was transported to a local hospital for minor injuries and he was cited for failure to obey a stop sign. Carreno and Wysocki's minor passengers were uninjured.

On Feb. 10 at approximately 1:11 a.m. deputies investigated a vehicle parked in the roadway near the intersection of Mulford Road and Baseline Road. After

further investigation Sarah Thuestad, 44, of Rochelle, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Thuestad was also cited for illegal parking on the roadway. Thuestad was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear.

On Feb. 10 at 1:01 a.m. deputies with the assistance of the Oregon Police Department, conducted a traffic stop at Hill Street and Gale Street in Oregon. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Tiffany Hedrick, 45, of Oregon, for driving while license suspended and possession of a controlled substance. Hedrick was transported to the Ogle County Jail. Hedrick was subsequently released with a notice to appear. Hedrick was additionally issued a citation for improper lane usage.

On Feb. 10 at approximately 4:48 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 300 block of West 3rd Street in Leaf River. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Lindsay A. Horton, 39, Dixon, for driving while license was revoked. Horton was additionally issued citations for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Horton was issued a notice to appear and released on scene.

On Feb. 10 at approximately 8:22 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop as a vehicle pulled into the parking lot of the Mt. Morris Dollar General store. After further investigation Shane Nielsen, 40, of Oregon, was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked. Nielsen was also cited for an equipment violation. Nielsen was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear.

On Feb. 11 at approximately 1:01 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Freeport Road and U.S. Route 52. After further investigation Keith Shomaker, 29, of Freeport, was placed under arrest for no valid driver's license. Shomaker was also cited for an equipment violation. Shomaker was released on a notice to appear.

MT. MORRIS POLICE DEPARTMENT Man arrested following domestic disturbance

MT. MORRIS — On Jan. 24 at approximately 4:15 p.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the 10 block of East Front Street for the report of a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, Loren D. Disch, 55, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with domestic battery. Disch was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Jan. 25 at approximately 8:05 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of East Hitt Street. A passenger in the vehicle, Mark T. Miller, 41, Mt. Morris, was issued a citation for illegal transportation of alcohol. Miller was given a notice to appear and released on scene.

On Feb. 3 at approximately 12:30 a.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the 10 block of North Wesley Avenue for the report of a disturbance. After an investigation, Cylee N. Brown, 25, Mt. Morris, and Owen J. Cagley, 21, Mt. Morris, were arrested

and charged with aggravated battery. Both Brown and Cagley were transported to the Ogle County Jail where they were released with a notice to appear.

On Feb. 4 at approximately 2:30 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to the 200 block of Emily Street in an attempt to locate a wanted subject. Mt. Morris Police located and arrested Donald L. Summers, 39, Mt. Morris, who had an Ogle County warrant for failure to appear on a drug paraphernalia charge. Summers was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Feb. 4 at approximately 4:55 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to the 10 block of West Center Street in an attempt to locate a wanted subject. Mt. Morris Police located and arrested Richard W. Major, 56, Mt. Morris, who had an Ogle County warrant for failure to appear on a previous drug charge. Major was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

Thank You

Ogle County Life Honorary Staff Members Make Contributions and Share Views

"We look forward to getting and reading the Ogle County Life each week."

Lenny & Barbara Wells

"I look forward to the Life every Monday."

Juanita Orsted

"Thank you. I enjoy reading the Ogle County Life."

Emma Ewing

"Keep up the good work!"

Janet Boehm

"Thank you for the news that we would miss if we didn't have your paper."

Judy Jolly

"To all of the people that help to make the Life paper so informative, thanks for your hard work. We look forward to reading the paper!"

Verlis & Joyce Sanders

"Thank you for the paper weekly."

Shirley Green

"Thanks for local news, obituaries and grocery ads."

Cindy Pedersen

10 % of all contributions made by February 29 is going to area senior centers as a donation to help provide services for our county's senior citizens. Thank you to all of our **Honorary Staff Members for your comments and support. We couldn't do it without you!**

Sincerely, Tonja Greenfield, Publisher

The collage shows several pages from the Ogle County Life and Valley Shopper newspapers. Key articles include:

- Brief lockdown at Byron Middle School:** Sheriff: 'Everybody did exactly what we train to do'.
- Groundbreaking held Feb. 2 for The Grove:** Three-story complex will include 30 units of family housing, amenities.
- D&W Garage receives grant:** Reports D&W Garage received a grant from the Ogle County Sheriff's Office.
- Weather:** Forecast for the week of Feb. 19-25, 2024.
- Obituaries:** Notices for several individuals.
- Advertisements:** Promotions for Stillman Bank, Holcomb Bank, and Byron Bank.

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officers investigate traffic crash

Feb. 6
At 8:20 a.m., Oregon Police investigated a traffic crash in the 1,200 block of Jefferson Street involving a 2003 Dodge driven by Kimberly A. Coulter, 42, Oregon, and a 2014 Ford driven by Jaime R. Raum, 35, Oregon. No citations were issued.

At 2:35 p.m., Oregon Police issued citations to Quinten J. Fletcher, 18, Oregon, for operating a vehicle when registration is suspended for non-insurance and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 1,100 block of South Illinois Route 2.

Feb. 7
At 12:57 p.m., Oregon Police issued Lucas A. Jacobs, 48, Oregon, a citation for speeding 58 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

Feb. 9
At 1:41 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the Conover Square parking lot located at 201 N. 3rd St. involving a 2024 school bus driven by Cindy S. Barnhart, 54, Oregon, and a parked 2006 GMC belonging to Gregory S. Newcomer, 61, Oregon. No citations were issued.

At 7 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Cecil Revels, 34, Oregon, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Revels was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the custody of the corrections officers.

Feb. 10
At 10:16 a.m., Oregon Police issued Ashley N. Holder, 29, Rockford, a citation for operation of a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 200 block of South 2nd Street.

Feb. 11
At 3:38 p.m., Oregon Police issued Abigail M. Myers, 28, Oregon, citations for disobeying a stop sign and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred at the 10th and Webster Street intersection.

Four verbal warnings and one parking citation were issued during the week of Feb. 5-11.

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



Stillman Valley High School chess team wins back-to-back 1A ICCA state titles

STILLMANVALLEY—The Stillman Valley Chess team participated in the IHSAA State Chess Tournament in Peoria on Friday, Feb. 9 and Saturday, Feb. 10. The two-day tournament consists of four rounds on Friday and three rounds on Saturday. Each team plays seven rounds.

Stillman Valley competed against:
Round one Lake Villa (Lakes), winning 51.5-16.5. Round two Aurora (Illinois Math and Science Academy), losing 56.5-11.5. Round three Niles (Northridge Prep), winning 55.5-12.5. Round four Normal (University), winning 59.5-8.5. Round five Glenview (Glenbrook South), losing 56.5-11.5. Round six Chicago (Brooks), winning 42-26. Round seven Skokie (Niles North),

losing 49.5-18.5. Stillman Valley ended up with four wins and three losses, placing 45th out of 128 teams.

This also placed Stillman Valley in a No. 1 ranking, according to ICCA (Illinois Chess Coaches Association) for schools of an enrollment of 700 or lower. Making them back-to-back 1A ICCA state champions.

Participating for Stillman Valley: KJ Chavers - two wins one draw. Parker Gensler - two wins two draws. Joshua Reisinger - four wins one draw. Nathaniel Seivert Carter - three wins two draws. Connor O'Sullivan - five wins one draw. Ara Michigan - two wins four draws. Trevor Miller - three wins two draws. Dawson Johannsen - one win. Landon Paff - one win.

UW-Platteville announces fall 2023 graduates

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Platteville awarded diplomas to nearly 500 students for the fall of 2023.

Students from this area who graduated include:
Byron: Colton Ingram, Civ-

il Engineering, UW-Platteville. Davis Junction: Tyler Lamer, Health and Human Performance, UW-Platteville. Forrester: Jacqueline Ludwig, Accounting and Management, UW-Platteville.

Polo: Hayden Bittinger, History, UW-Platteville; and Kyle Brown, Mechanical Engineering, UW-Platteville.

Stillman Valley: Cole Olson, Mechanical Engineering, UW-Platteville.

Local students named to Aurora University Dean's List

AURORA – Aurora University has named the following students to the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester. The dean's list recognizes full-time undergraduate students who have earned a 3.6 grade-point average or higher.

Byron: Alivia Bradford, Nursing. Cath-

erine Brown, Social Work. Madisyn Byerley, Human-Animal Studies and Biology. Mattie Christian, Psychology. Davis Junction: Rylee Reynolds, Social Work. Mount Morris: Mia Ortega, Psychology. Oregon: Breanna DeHaan, Criminal Justice.



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Byron wrestlers headed to state

Byron High School wrestlers Jared Claunch and Brody Stien each medaled in the IHSA 1A Byron Sectional from Feb. 9-10 and earned bids to the IHSA State Championships. Claunch took third in the 285-pound weight class and Stien finished fourth in the 150-pound weight class. (Courtesy photos)



2023 Award Winners



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88 ACRES OF YOUR OWN PARADISE AWAITS! Boasting 88.7 acres MOL, this property features tillable acreage, recreational land and a large, well stocked fishing quarry. With 40 acres MOL of tillable land that is currently leased for 2024, this property is a turn key income producing property. Hunt, fish or camp on the balance of the acreage that feels like your own escape. Great fishing can be found in the 2 acre pond that is fully stocked. There is also railway access off of the north end of this property. The Buffalo Creek meanders through the middle of this Ogle County haven. Call today for more information!

NEW LISTING

00 Orchid Lane, Oregon
\$50,000 Call Boone
Discover a 1.55-acre buildable lot situated just East of Oregon within the serene Marsh Woods Subdivision. Tucked away, yet conveniently close to town, this parcel offers seclusion with easy access. You have the freedom to construct an outbuilding and even consider an exposed lower level. With its abundance of mature trees, this lot provides an ideal setting for realizing your dream home. Purchase now and start building this spring!

902 Timber Trail Drive, Dixon
NOW \$39,900 Call Carla
Water front lot in Lost Lake. Located on the East side- 2 adjoining lots that would allow for full exposure. Views of the lake from one end to the other! You get the best of both with this double lot there's towering pines with Northwoods feel plus partial clearing. Adjoining community park area offers picnic areas. Annual Association fee \$389 and water bill \$22 every 2months. All with lake access, tennis courts, golf course, community building, beaches, camping and so much more!

894 Bend Road, Dixon
NOW \$159,900 Call Carla
New listing in Dixon School district. This 2+ acre farmette is located on Bend and White Oak roads. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, main floor laundry room, very large Livingroom, Dining room and eat in kitchen. Newly updated with new flooring, bath, plus freshly painted interior. Enclosed porch overlooking the large backyard with additional out buildings. Tons of potential with this fresh listing on the market.

3330 S. Watertown Rd., Oregon
NOW \$179,900 Call Carla
New listing in Oregon school district. This 4 bedroom home on one acre is recently remodeled with all new floors, bathroom, and freshly painted throughout. Located on a quiet private county road. Must see to appreciated it!! Located near Flagg road, you are conveniently minutes to Rochelle and Dixon.



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



FFA WEEK



2023-2024 Forreton FFA Officers (left to right): Maddie Chesnek, Josiah Newill, Coehen Kirchner, Hunter Miller, Dausyn Heslop, Justin Myers, and Advisor Kelley Parks

Forreton FFA Alumni Toy & Craft Show is March 9

FORRESTON — The Forreton FFA Alumni is very excited and proud to host the 36th Annual Farm Toy and Craft Show. The show will be held at Forreton High School on March 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be over 50 farm toy and craft exhibitors. A silent auction from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. will also be held, and you do not need to be present to win. We also have one of the area's best lunch stands featuring Eickman's meats along with homemade pies, cookies, bars, and brownies.

To add to the fun, there will be a Farm Toy Display Competition with FFA Alumni Toy and Craft Show attendees voting on the People's Choice Best of Show Award. The winner will be given a certificate to display

with their layouts in future shows. There will also be raffles for Eickman's Meat processing, Culver's gift cards, and many door prizes for everyone! General admission is \$3 and children under five are free.

This year's show tractors are both 1/64 scale models. The first is a Minneapolis Moline G-1000 Vista 2WD with duals. The second show, tractor is an Oliver 2255. Both tractors are priced at \$35 each. These tractors will be on sale during this year's show on March 9, or ask an FFA Alumni member to purchase one or both ahead of time.

All contracts for crafters, toy vendors, and farm toy display participants are due on Feb. 1. Vendor contracts

and event information documents can be downloaded from the FFA Alumni website. Please check out www.forretonffaalumni.org for information, including a detailed list of our 2024 vendors.

For additional information regarding the Forreton FFA Alumni Toy and Craft show, please contact Cathy Kohlbauer at 815.275.6710, Terri Nelson at 815.275.6907 or Rick Garnhart at 815.238.3044. For any other information about the Forreton Agriculture and FFA program, contact FFA Advisor Kelley Parks at 815-938-2036. Remember — you can find all the information and vendor forms on our website at: www.forretonffaalumni.org

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FFA WEEK

The history of National FFA Week

“Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment of man.”

George Washington

FFA members will observe the 77th anniversary of National FFA Week from February 17 to 24, 2024. During this time the National FFA Organization and its members will celebrate what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day. But before FFA members start the celebrations, it is important to understand the importance and history of National FFA Week.

Every year, FFA members, state officers, ag advisors, alumni, and the organization’s supporters celebrate National FFA Week the Saturday to Saturday that encompasses George Washington’s birthday — February 22. George Washington is a role model for those in the National FFA Organization. Although he was not personally involved in FFA, he was remembered as a great farmer. In addition, many of the founding members of FFA used the founding fathers as examples of character, culture and tradition.

However, before National FFA Week was ever celebrated officially, there was an FFA Day. According to research from The Friday Footnote, the idea of having a National FFA Day originated from an FFA convention delegate during the sixth national FFA convention in 1933 (the 95th national convention will be celebrated in 2022). In the beginning years of the celebrations, the actual date of FFA Day changed from year to year. However, in 1938 it was established that FFA Day would be celebrated on the Tuesday of the National FFA Conven-

tion. After a decade of celebrating FFA Day during national convention, the decision was made to honor the organization for a full week. In July of 1947, the FFA Board of Trustees decided to create National FFA Week — instead of highlighting only one single day.

In 1948, the first National FFA Week was celebrated by chapters across the country. Since then, the organization has grown exponentially. For example, in 1948 there were a total of 260,300 FFA members. However, that number has grown to 735,000 student members in 8,817 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, the organization is supported by more than 8 million alumni members.

The purpose of National FFA Week is to share the message of the agriculture industry from its future leaders. National FFA Week gives FFA members an opportunity to educate the public about agriculture and show their local impact and story. During the week, chapters conduct a variety of activities to help others in their school and community learn about FFA and agricultural education.

So while FFA members are celebrating National FFA Week this year and the joy it brings them, let us not forget our roots. The history of National FFA Week can be traced back over 77 years ago and the journey to get here today shall not be forgotten.

From agdaily.com



The FFA Creed

Believe in the future of Agriculture with a faith born not of words but of deeds. Achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

Believe that to live and work on a good farm or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which even in the hours of discouragement, I can not deny.

Believe in leadership from ourselves and respect for others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and to the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public's interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

Believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed. In being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

Believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.



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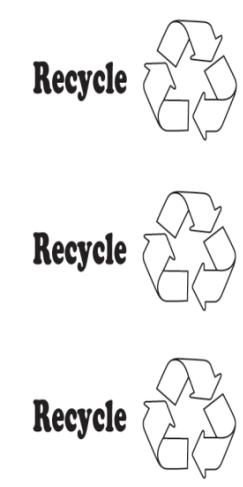
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Happy National FFA Week from Stillman Valley FFA!
 Celebrating 90 Years of Stillman Valley FFA in 2024!
 Contact lschabacker@mail.meridian223.org to be added to our mailing list to stay up to date with our 90th celebration plans!

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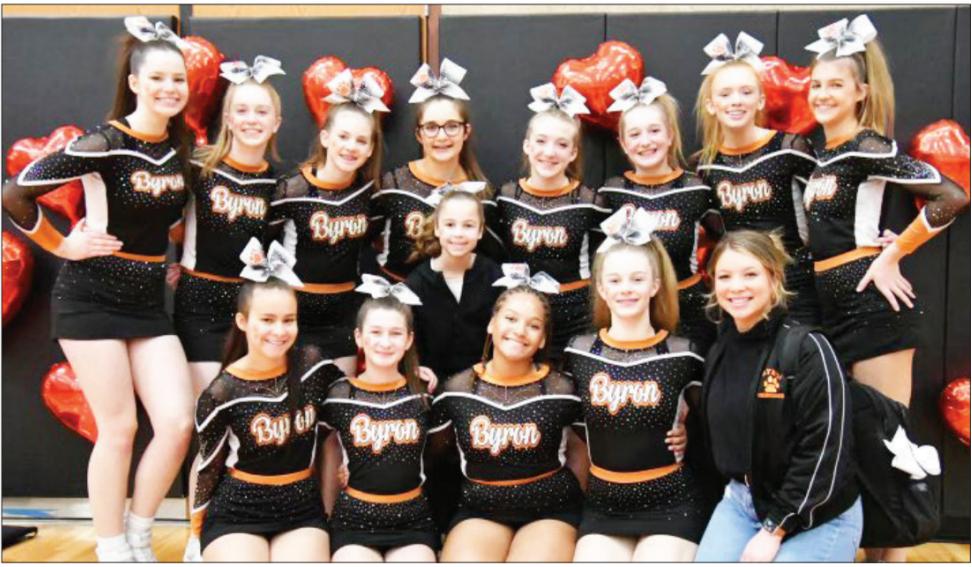


SPORTS NEWS



Top five finishes

The Byron High School varsity cheerleading team took third in the Big Northern Conference Championship meet on Thursday, Jan. 18. The Byron team followed with a fourth-place finish in the Huntley Sweetheart Invitational on Sunday, Jan. 21. (Courtesy photos)



AREA SPORTS

Oregon girls basketball takes down South Beloit

The Oregon High School varsity girls basketball team defeated South Beloit 40-28 on Wednesday, Feb. 7. The JV team won 20-18. Mya Engelkes led the Hawks with nine points, while Sarah Eckardt scored eight points. Alease McLain and Ella Dannhorn each added six points in the win. Oregon improved to 7-22 overall with the win.

Forreston boys basketball team loses against Eastland

The Forreston High School varsity boys basketball team suffered a 65-32 loss to Eastland on Wednesday, Feb. 7. The Cardinals fell to 9-15 overall and 4-5 in the conference with the loss. Brendan Greenfield

Oregon girls basketball team battles Forreston

The Oregon High School varsity girls basketball team faced the Forreston High School team on Thursday, Feb. 8. The Cardinals won over the Hawks 48-34 behind 20 points from Jenna Greenfield and nine points from Ericka Alexander. Ella Dannhorn led the Hawks with 11 points, while Sarah Eckardt totaled six points.

Forreston boys basketball team falls to Fulton

The Forreston High School varsity boys basketball team lost against Durand 62-21 on Friday, Feb. 9. The Cardinals dropped to 9-16 overall and 4-6 in the conference. Brenden Greenfield had five points and

Mickey Probst added four points for the Forreston team in the loss.

Forreston boys basketball team beats Durand

The Forreston High School varsity boys basketball team took down Durand 52-46 on Saturday, Feb. 10. Brenden Greenfield totaled 18 points and seven rebounds, while Mickey Probst added 13 points and seven rebounds for the Cardinals, who improved to 10-16 overall and 5-6 in the conference with the win. Kendall Erdmann recorded 12 points and five assists.

Oregon boys basketball team concedes loss to Mendota

The Oregon High School varsity boys basketball team fell 82-72 against Mendota on Saturday, Feb. 10. The JV team lost 51-43 and the fresh-soph team lost 44-36. The varsity team fell to 15-14 overall with the loss. Benny Olalde led the Hawks with 18 points, while Kade Girton added 15 points and two players including Cooper Johnson and Keaton Salsbury had 10.

Forreston boys basketball team takes on Polo

The Forreston High School varsity boys basketball team won over Polo in double overtime on Tuesday, Feb. 13. The Cardinals emerged with a 58-55 victory behind a game-winning 3-pointer from Mickey Probst, who had 14 points in the game. Brenden Greenfield recorded 21 points and 11 rebounds, while Kendall Erdmann finished with 12 points and five assists. Gus Mumford led the Marcos with 27 points and Brock Soltow added 10 points.

Friends, family and hardcore fanatics

THIS past week's local sporting expedition took me 11.3 miles north to the Byron 1A wrestling sectional. A 1A wrestling sectional can attract up to 3,000 fans per session and Oregon and Byron are about the only facilities among the 43 schools that feed into it capable of handling it.

In fact, I venture to guess this particular sectional gets larger crowds than anything in 2A or 3A. With the larger schools, one would think it would be the other way around. Not so. Smaller communities in the northern part of the state where wrestling has always had a proud heritage, support it like nowhere else in Illinois. It truly is grass roots with friends, family and hardcore fanatics.

Credit to these folks, as wrestling could be the toughest of all sports to spectate at. Unlike other sports that operate on set times, wrestling usually goes on a rolling schedule, dependent on mat availability and how long each bout takes.

I've covered it for 25 years and still can't crack the code on when the best time to show up is. Another drawback for these hardy fans is long slogs in the bleachers, even though Byron went from wooden bleachers to a more comfortable plastic type.

Let's take the sectional for example. On Saturday, action started at 10 a.m. with a break in the action at about 1 p.m. By IHSA rules, the gym must be cleared and fans must wait another hour before being re-admitted, thus being forced to pay twice.

Anyone who sticks it out for the whole day has a full eight-hour shift in. That doesn't count "windshield time", as some schools hail from as far as the Quad Cities area.

With non-stop action on multiple mats, there is always something to see, though the real payoff comes when a wrestler from your town steps into the ring.

Another observation from 25 years is that wrestling truly is an intersection of family and friends. I see kids that I used to cover that are now helping coach their own kids. I see fans from neighboring towns cheering on each other, except when someone from the hometown is on the mat.

Compared to most other high school sports, wrestling in more like the Wild West when it comes to coaching. Many a program welcomes "volunteer" coaches, often a former wrestler or dad.

I couldn't imagine that flying on a football or basketball staff. On an aside, I came from an era where in all sports, only teachers

within the school were allowed to coach.

However, schools were more insular back then. Nowadays, they welcome outside involvement more readily.

Because of its competitive nature and its grass roots feel, the individual wrestling sectional remains one of my favorite events of the year. The dual sectional, not so much.

In analyzing the results, it was the Woodstock Marian show with five champions and three other state qualifiers. Since 2018, Marian had plenty of appearances in state 2A dual meet.

With a declining enrollment (389 actual, 641 multiplied), Marian has fallen under the 1A cutoff of 738, but still maintains a 2A quality program as evidenced by their domination at Byron.

Byron, which will face Marian in the dual sectional, had but a third and fourth place finisher. Byron and Stillman Valley were the hard-luck teams of the sectional, as both had four wrestlers each one win away of advancing downstate.

On the positive, one of Byron's qualifiers, 33-14 freshman Brody Stien caught a huge break when a higher-ranked wrestler from Sandwich did not make weight Saturday and couldn't compete, opening up the door for Stien to grab that final spot.

Trying to rebuild its program to what it was used to be, Oregon qualified three wrestlers for state, a big improvement over a time not long ago when they couldn't get a single person out of the regional, albeit a tough one that year.

"It can be like the old days again at Oregon, with all the young kids we have coming up and the roomful of coaches we have," Coach Justin Lahman said. "It's huge getting the older coaches back."

Finally, congratulations to Sectional Grand Marshals Chris Bonnell and Mike Elsbury.

Chris is a behind-the-scenes guy that exemplifies what makes our area special for wrestling. He fell in love with the sport as an eighth grader in Amboy and carried it over to Byron when he moved there as an adult. The whole time, he stood ready to help at whatever was needed to promote and build the sport at all levels.

Next week, it is basketball talk, as the girls post season will be well underway and the boys cranking it up.

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



Andy Colbert

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SPORTS NEWS



Invite winners

The Byron High School varsity wrestling team won the Bob Mitton Invitational in Orion on Saturday, Jan. 20. Jared Claunch (17-4), Kyle Jones (21-5) and Carsen Behn (23-5) all took second-place individually for the Tigers, while Brody Stien (22-9) and Jackson Norris (24-6) finished third in their respective weight classes. Damien Palacios (19-9) took fourth and two Tigers including Jarett Ross (14-9) and Will Julian (26-9) placed fifth individually. Above is a photo of the tournament trophy and a team photo from Byron's recent triangular meet against North Boone and Genoa-Kingston. (Courtesy photos)



Multiple club champs

The Stillman Valley Wrestling Club had multiple champions crowned at the 2024 Hononegah Kids Classic on Jan. 21. Among the first-place finishers were Bradley Bankes, Tyler Bell, Austin Paulson, Isaiah Carreno, Hunter Champlain, Brycen Legue, Evan Ross and Liam Ross.



Oregon wrestling finishes sixth at LeRoy

The Oregon High School varsity wrestling team took sixth at its tournament in LeRoy on Saturday, Jan. 20 while the JV wrestling team finished fifth at its tournament in Olympia. JV placewinners include Jakob Moser (first), Dylan Ware (second), Jack Tinsman (second), Seth Rote (second), Jayden Berry (third), Zayden VandeSand (fourth), Dawson Alcalá (fourth), Jakobi Donegan (fifth), Zander VandeSand (fifth) and Maxx George (fifth). Varsity placewinners include Nelson Benesh (second), Anthony Bauer (third), Quentin Berry (third), Preston LaBay (fourth), Landon Ege (fifth), Landen Elder (fifth), Jackson Messenger (sixth) and Jackson Glendenning (sixth). (Courtesy photo)



New Avalanche 10U coaches Laila Anderson, on the left, and Sarah Stevens, on the right. (Courtesy photo)

Oregon Avalanche softball welcomes new coaches

OREGON – Oregon Avalanche is excited to welcome two new fresh faces to the Oregon Avalanche Softball Organization. Laila Anderson and Sarah Stevens are the new coaches for the 10U team. They are joining the current coaching staff which includes Head Coach Gary Young with Mykayla Young assisting for 12U and head coach Lynn Kalnins with Dave and Cari Berg assisting for 14U.

Stevens is a senior at Oregon High School. She said that she began playing softball ever since she can remember. She has been playing on a travel softball team since she was in sixth grade and has been catching for the last six years. After playing on multiple travel teams, Sarah will be continuing her softball career at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

“I fell in love with the sport since the first time I stepped on the field”, Stevens said.

Anderson is a freshman at Kishwaukee Community College in Malta, where she is continuing her softball career. She started playing softball in fifth grade and said she instantly fell in love with the sport.

“My favorite memory growing up playing softball is the countless times I would play catch in the backyard with my dad,” Anderson said.

For more information about the Oregon Avalanche softball program, registration, or to sponsor the teams feel free to email them at oregonavalanchesball@gmail.com.

Oregon Avalanche is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing young women, ages 8-14 in the OCUSD, a positive player centered environment. Players learn life lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment, self-discipline, accomplishment, competition, responsibility, and fair play.



Top honors

The Byron High School speech team had several students earn top honors during the Taylor Swift Eras Tournament in Elgin on Saturday, Jan. 20. First-place finishes in the finals and next-in finals included Abbie Baker (informational speaking), Fynn Remhof (radio speaking), Nova Rakowski (dramatic interpretation) and Elinor McHale (original comedy). Second-place finalists and next-in finalists included Nova Rakowski (prose speaking), Amie Rosa (humorous interpretation) and third-place finishers included Amie Rosa and Masyyn Brown (humorous duet acting) and Avril Silva (extemporaneous speaking). (Courtesy photo)

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LOCAL NEWS

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American Classic Tours Preview

Monday, Feb 26, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Advance registration requested.

Cancer Support Group

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Advance registration requested.

Bingocize

Bingocize® is a 10-week health promotion program that combines the game of bingo with low-impact fall prevention exercises. Friday, Mar. 1; 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Advance registration requested so we are prepared.

LIHEAP – HEATING ASSISTANCE

For the 2023-2024 LIHEAP 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-

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2023-2024 NICOR GAS "SHARING" PROGRAM

NICOR GAS sharing program is available to assist those NICOR customers whose income is above 200% of poverty level and less than 300% of the poverty level. 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 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.

Senior Information Services

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

MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

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

Movie and pizza

Friday, February 23rd please join us for a movie and pizza. Starting at 10:30 am.

Virtual trip

Be sure to sign up for our next virtual trip. On February 27th we will take

a trip to Italy and enjoy a tasty Italian treat.

Jam session

On the fourth Wednesday of each month come join us and some talented musicians for a Jam Session. Starting at 10:30 am on Wednesday, February 28th this also includes a lunch for only \$5.

Bus trips

Interested in one of our

upcoming bus trips? Contact Melissa at 815-734-6335 for more information or to sign up. On May 26th - June 1st we will spend 7 days and 6 nights on a trip to Mt. Rushmore and the Black Hills. The cost will include motorcoach transportation, lodging, 10 meals, all admissions and tours, and more! We will also be taking a trip to New Orleans from November 3rd – 9th.

POLO SENIOR CENTER

Weekly activities

Every Tuesday and Thursday Silver Sneakers Chair Exercise. Wednesday and Friday Mornings Tai/Chi - Chair Yoga. Wednesday afternoons - POUND - Seated cardio Drumming class. All exercise classes \$2. Call for details and times. Thursday's Soup and Games starts at 11. A different homemade soup each week. Donation only

Movie Mondays

2/19 - 3/18 - 3/25 Movies start at 10:00 am call for movie line up

Breakfast

3/11 Spring Valley Restaurant in Oregon, meet at 9:30 at restaurant

Cooking Demo

3/12 @ 11:00 Guest Chef Shannon Drucklieb Chicken Tuscany

PASS Luncheon

St. Patrick's Day Celebration - 3/22 at 11:00. Program: Traditional Irish Music, Louise Price and friends, meal at 12:00 - Irish Stew.

Please sign up

Bingo 3/8 10:00

Wheel of Fortune

2/28 and 3/27 11:00. Cost for both events is a \$1 donation

Closure

We will be closed 3/19 for election day

Mother's Day

Tea Party May 10th at noon

Trip

Taking reservations for our trip to Savannah Georgia (Oct 20 - 26) cost \$999 per person based on double occupancy. This is a Diamond tour bus trip 6 nights lodging, 4 nights in Savannah area, 6 breakfasts 4 dinners included. Call for details 815-946-3818

FORRESTON LIBRARY NEWS

Toddler/Preschool Storytime

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Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson
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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
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OREGON

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

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Dave Rogula 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 lighthouseUMC@yahoo.com
Worship at 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month. Lighthouse will 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
Pastor Rev Megan Smick
9:00 am Adult & Youth Bible Study
10 am Worship & Children's Sunday School
In-person or live on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/OregonUMC>
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Meal
All are welcome!

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

ST. MARY CHURCH

Rectory/Office: 211 North Franklin Ave., Polo, IL 61064
PHONE: 815-946-2535 • Rev. Joseph P. Naill
Website: www.stmarypolo.org
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.

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 Club" Ages 3-10 are then dismissed right after Praise & Worship. Blended Services. "Passion for God" "Compassion for People" Visit our website: PoloOpenBible.org

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

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

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Lead Pastor Barry Morris
103 S. Maple St, Stillman Valley, IL
815-645-8872 | www.valleycov.org
Sunday Morning 9am "Gather" for learning & conversation, 10:15am Worship both onsite and online at facebook.com/VECCFV
Home of Valley Covenant Preschool 815-645-8882 Director Jill Huber
Bible Studies, Youth Group, Bread of Life Food Pantry
Please visit website for more information or contact the church office M-F 9am-2pm

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON LIBRARY NEWS

Illinois Storm Chaser's Severe Weather 101

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

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 or call (815) 732-2724.

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.

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

Try It Tuesday

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

Illinois Library Presents

Tuesday, February 20th 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 Queen Charlotte and King George III's great love story and how it sparked a societal shift. Quinn

loves to dispel the myth that smart women don't read (or write) romance, and if you watch reruns of the game show The Weakest Link you might just catch her winning the \$79,000 jackpot. Quinn has been inducted into the Romance Writers of America Hall of Fame and was recently named the national ambassador for EveryLibrary, an organization that helps libraries fight censorship. Quinn's novels have been translated into 41 languages and have appeared on The New York Times bestseller list 19 times. Julia Quinn will be joined in conversation with Sarah MacLean, bestselling historical romance author and romance columnist for The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Bustle. MacLean is also the co-host of the weekly romance podcast Fated Mates. In addition to her novels, she is a leading advocate for the romance genre, speaking widely on its place as a feminist text and a cultural bellwether. Registration required visit https://bit.ly/ILP_JuliaQuinn. 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, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Illinois Libraries Present is committed to inclusion and accessibility.

Trivia Night at Cork N Tap

Wednesday, March 6th at 6:30pm. Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader? Trivia Night. Grab your friends and have a night out of fun! Are you smarter than a fifth grader? This trivia will cover general knowledge of literature, movies, math, science, history and more. Program intended for 18 and over. Register your team of up to 6 players at (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com. Prizes!

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pep
 - 4 "Get Here" singer Adams
 - 9 Opposite of "post-"
 - 12 Equal (Pref.)
 - 13 Jeremy of "Entourage"
 - 14 Corn serving
 - 15 Prepaid convenience for cell users
 - 17 Texter's "Enough!"
 - 18 Common verb
 - 19 Spiritualist
 - 21 Oliver Twist, for one
 - 24 Cabinet dept. head
 - 25 "Norma —"
 - 26 Snake's warning
 - 28 Mexican snacks
 - 31 Actor Richard
 - 33 UFO crew
 - 35 Commanded
 - 36 Enticed
 - 38 Rep.'s rival
 - 40 "Diamonds" singer
 - 41 Goatee's spot
 - 43 "O Pioneers!" author
 - 45 Long recliner
 - 47 Magic, on scoreboards
 - 48 "A spider!"

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
54				55					56		
57				58					59		

- 49 Cell user's practical joke
- 54 Conk out
- 55 Dodge
- 56 Classic car
- 57 Hosp. areas
- 58 Opposite of most
- 59 Watch chain
- DOWN**
- 1 Red-carpet type
- 2 "Kinda" suffix
- 3 Cow's greeting
- 4 Verdi works
- 5 Permit
- 6 Hollywood's
- 7 Semesters
- 8 "Still ..."
- 9 Fund for minor expenses
- 10 Male of "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- 11 Guitarist
- 16 "Unh-unh"
- 20 Wound cover
- 21 Pitcher
- Hershiser
- 22 Pasta sauce brand
- 23 Fruity baked goods
- 27 Norm (Abbr.)
- 29 Garfield's pal
- 30 Blacken
- 32 Classic soda brand
- 34 Extra helpings
- 37 Put to rest
- 39 Grocery store
- 42 Audacity
- 44 Patient's need, briefly
- 45 Give up
- 46 Estate recipient
- 50 Bond rating
- 51 Canine cry
- 52 Zodiac feline
- 53 Arced tennis shot

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MAGIC MAZE ● GRAINS AND OILSEEDS

R W T Q N J G D A X U R O L J

S A F F L O W E R G D A X V S

P S N K I F C C A X V S Q O L

J H E E C A X A V T R P N L J

H S O R G H U M M U S T A R D

F D B Y C R Y E S E V I L O X

V T R P X Y E L R A B O O M K

I G E D A O N I U Q B Z N X W

U T R Q L O C N R O C N A L J

I G F D F E T A E H W K C U B

C A Y S T U N A E P X W V T S

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|
| Barley | Corn | Pennycress | Safflower |
| Buckwheat | Flax | Quinoa | Sorghum |
| Camelina | Olives | Rice | Wheat |
| Canola | Peanuts | Rye | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. Flower picture is reversed. 2. Clock is larger. 3. Nose is different. 4. Pillow is different. 5. Curtain is wider. 6. Drawer is missing.

King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

GRAINS AND OILSEEDS

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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.

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.

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.

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

NEW RELEASES

Adult Books

The Friendship Club by Robyn Carr
Random In Death by J.D. Robb

DVD

Alice, Darling

Picture Books

Yoshi's Big Swim by Mary Wagley Copp
How To Count To 1 by Caspar Salmon

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Closings

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

Fly Tying Classes

Saturdays from 10:30-12

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

Cooking with Julie

Class February 29th
Bring your appetite and your curiosity as we delve into the cooking world with Chef Julie! We will be tasting a variety of different soups! Julie will be there to give tips and tricks for each

recipe that you can take home. Bring a container to take home a bowl of your favorite soup at this delicious event! This program is open to ages 15 and up! And it's Free! Stop by or call the Mt. Morris Library to register! 815-734-4927

Kathy's Crafty Connections

Tuesdays from 2:30-4pm

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

Lego Club

Thursday, March 21st
Lego night is the third

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

Adult Book Club Meeting

Monday, February 26th
The February book, *The Sweet Potato Queens' Book of Love* by Jill Conner Browne, is available! "To know the Sweet Potato Queens is to love them, and if you haven't heard about them yet, you will. Since the early 1980s, this group of belles gone bad has been the toast of Jackson, Mississippi, with their glorious annual appearance in the St. Patrick's Day parade." Everyone is welcome to join this book club group! Copies of the book are available at the library. Meeting will be held at the library on February 26th at 3:30pm.

OGLE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2024 Tree Sales Program

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
Phone Main _____ Phone Second _____

ALL SALES ARE LIMITED TO STOCK AVAILABLE.
FINAL ORDER DEADLINE- APRIL 1, 2024. After April 1st, call for availability.
TREE ORDERS MUST BE PICKED UP AT THE OGLE CO. FAIRGROUNDS ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, APRIL 11th & 12th, 2024.

Office use only
Order # 24 _____
Receipt # _____
Check # _____
Amount Paid _____

We need your full mailing address and phone numbers to reach you if a problem arises and to mail you a pick up reminder in the Spring.

Item description	Age & Size	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE	4 yr. transplant, 22" plus	25 trees for \$ 58.00		
COLO. BLUE SPRUCE SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, up to 30"	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
WHITE SPRUCE	4 yr. transplant, 22" plus	25 trees for \$ 58.00		
WHITE SPRUCE SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, up to 30"	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
NORWAY SPRUCE	4 yr. transplant, 22" plus	25 trees for \$ 58.00		
NORWAY SPRUCE SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, up to 30"	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
SERBIAN SPRUCE	3 yr. transplant, 22-30"	10 trees for \$ 40.00		
WHITE PINE SMALLER	3 yr. seedling, 14"+	25 trees for \$ 25.00		
WHITE PINE	4 yr. transplant, 22" plus	25 trees for \$ 58.00		
WHITE PINE SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, up to 30"	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
DOUGLAS FIR SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, 22-30"	10 trees for \$ 40.00		
CANAAN FIR	3 yr. transplant, 10-15"	10 trees for \$ 30.00		
AMERICAN ARBORVITAE, <i>White Cedar</i>	4 yr. transplant, 24-36"	10 trees for \$ 40.00		
REDOSIER DOGWOOD	1 yr. seedling, 2-3'	25 shrubs for \$ 36.00		
BUTTERFLY BUSH	1 yr. seedling, 2-3'	1 pack (3 plants) \$15.00		
HIBISCUS, <i>Swamp Rose Mallow</i>	2 yr. seedling,	1 pack (5 plants) \$15.00		
BLAZING STAR, <i>Liatrix</i>	Select bulbs	1 pack (5 bulbs) \$10.00		
RED BUD	1 yr. seedling, 1-2'	\$ 5.00 each		
LILAC, <i>Common, Purple</i>	2 yr. seedling, 2-3'	\$ 6.00 each		
CRABAPPLE <i>Sargent</i>	2 yr. seedling 18-24"	\$ 5.00 each		
HYBRID POPULAR, <i>Imperial Carolina</i>	1 yr. seedling, 3-4'	10 for \$35.00 or \$ 5.00 each		
WHITE PAPER BIRCH PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
RIVER BIRCH PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
Am. LINDEN (Basswood) PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
SUGAR MAPLE PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
RED MAPLE PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
CHINKAPIN OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
PIN OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
RED (NORTHERN) OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
SWAMP WHITE OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
WHITE OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
SYCAMORE PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
BLACK WALNUT	2 yr. seedling, 18-24"	25 trees for \$ 45.00		
CHINKAPIN OAK	1-2 yr. seedling, 18-24"	25 trees for \$ 45.00		
RED OAK	1-2 yr. seedling, 12-24"	25 trees for \$ 45.00		
SWAMP WHITE OAK	1-2 yr. seedling, 18-24"	25 trees for \$ 45.00		
WHITE OAK	1-2 yr. seedling 18-24"	25 trees for \$ 45.00		
BAT HOUSE or BLUEBIRD HOUSE	Locally made, IDNR plans	Bat @ \$30 or Blue Bird @ \$35		
FERTILIZER PACKET	Formulated, Time Released	25 packets for \$ 18.00		
PLANTING GEL Root Dip	4 oz. dry pack, makes 5 gallons	1 packet for \$ 10.00		
TREE PROTECTOR	4 inch x 4 ft tall poly tube	\$ 5.00 each		
MARKING FLAGS	36" wire w/ 4"x5" flag	50 flags \$10.00 / 100 flags \$20.00		
One Free CRABAPPLE for Orders Before February 27, 2022			ONE	FREE
ALL ORDERS DUE BY APRIL 1, 2022 or call after ***MINIMUM ORDER \$ 10.00			TOTAL	

FOR VOLUME ORDER DISCOUNTS CALL

To request a full tree brochure with descriptions contact the Ogle Co. Soil & Water Conservation District at 815-732-6127 ext.3

Return order and payment to:

OGLE COUNTY SWCD
1213 PINES ROAD SUITE 3
OREGON IL 61061-9060

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT 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@egbclaw.com No. 0201 (Feb. 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, OGLE COUNTY Request of Amber Kay Dach to change names of minor children Case Number 2024MR5 Filed Jan. 25, 2024

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

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. Holland-

sworth, 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 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)

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, OGLE COUNTY

Request of Misael Isaac Guerrero Case Number 2024MR6 Filed 7 February 2024 There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from Misael Isaac Guerrero to the new name of Misael Isaac Argomaniz. The court date will be held on 3 March 2024 at 9:00a.m. at 106 5th St., Oregon, Ogle County, in Courtroom #304. No. 0212 (Feb. 12, 19, and 26, 2024)

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PUBLIC NOTICE STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, OGLE COUNTY

Request of CODEY LOUIS ROHDY Case Number 2024 MR 9 Filed February 2, 2024 There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from CODEY LOUIS ROHDY to the new name of CODEY LOUIS BRATTRUD The court date will be held on April 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at 106 5th St., Oregon, Ogle County, in Courtroom #304. No. 0213 (Feb. 19, 26 and Mar. 4, 2024)

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

In the Matter of the Estate of JUDITH A. MARX, deceased No. 2024PR6 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of JUDITH A. MARX, of Monroe Center, Illinois on December 22, 2023. Letters of office were issued on February 6, 2024, to TAMARA L. HEMENWAY, 15629 E. Eddy Road, Monroe Center, IL 61052, as independent executor, whose attorney is TOBIN, RAMON & BARBER, 530 South State Street, Suite 200, Belvidere, IL 61008-3711. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4), an 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 Ogle County Circuit Clerk -- Probate Division at the OGLE County Courthouse, at 106 S. 5th Street, #300, Oregon, IL 61061., or with the representative, or both, on or before Auguts 19, 2024, which date is not less than six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of any 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. Dated Feb. 12, 2024 TAMARA L. HEMEN-

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NOTICE BYRON TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Byron Township is seeking bids for mowing of the Byron Cemetery located in the North-west corner of Mineral St and 5th street in Byron Illinois, consisting of 11.5 acres more or less. The Byron Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and rebid at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. Bids will be awarded to the bidder who the Board of Trustees determines is best for the project based on price, references, experience and equipment. Sealed bids are due at the Byron Township Office, 507 N. Colfax Street, Byron IL 61010 by 6:30 PM on March 14, 2024. Bids may be mailed to "Byron Township - Mowing Bid 2024", 507 N Colfax Street, Byron IL 61010 or email to treevets@es-il.org with "Byron Township - Mowing Bid 2024" in the subject line. Sealed bids will be opened at 6:45 PM on March 14, 2024 with possible award within 2 weeks. See below for a bid form to be completed and sealed in an envelope marked "Sealed Bid - Byron Township - Mowing Bid March 2024".

Bids to reflect a price per mowing and string trimming as outlined below. The number of mowing's per year varies from 15 to up to 30 times per year depending on weather. Mowing height to be 2.75 inches each cut and string trimming to taper from down to 0 inches at the foundation edge tapering up to where the riding mower equipment meets the trimmed areas unless otherwise directed by the Byron Township Sexton. The cemetery is approximately 11.5 acres more or less which includes the areas outside of the fences to the adjacent streets to be mowed at the same frequency and specifications including string trimming. A Certificate of Insurance must be provided to the Byron Township Clerk with their sealed bid; and to be at least one million dollars per occurrence and a General Aggregate of at least two million. The Certificate of Insurance will be inspected by the Byron Township to determine proper compliance and the bidder will be contacted as to acceptable or unacceptable. Bidder to include a description of equipment to be used for the mowing and trimming - include year, make, model and size. Mowing and Trimming Specifications/Parameters: 1) Mowing will be approximately once per week depending on weather. Cut with the intention of removing about 1/3 of the blade of grass to a height of 2.75 inches each mowing. String trimming to be accomplished for entire cemetery through the course of every 2 mowing's. This includes trimming around buildings, trees, head stones and fences. The only exception is for Memorial Day where the entire cemetery must be string

WAY Independent Executor Tobin, Ramon & Barber

530 S. State St., Suite 200 Belvidere, IL 61008 (815) 544-0316 patti@tobinramon.com No. 0214 (Feb. 19, 26 and March 4, 2024)

NOTICE BYRON TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Byron Township is seeking bids for mowing of the Byron Cemetery located in the North-west corner of Mineral St and 5th street in Byron Illinois, consisting of 11.5 acres more or less. The Byron Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and rebid at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. Bids will be awarded to the bidder who the Board of Trustees determines is best for the project based on price, references, experience and equipment. Sealed bids are due at the Byron Township Office, 507 N. Colfax Street, Byron IL 61010 by 6:30 PM on March 14, 2024. Bids may be mailed to "Byron Township - Mowing Bid 2024", 507 N Colfax Street, Byron IL 61010 or email to treevets@es-il.org with "Byron Township - Mowing Bid 2024" in the subject line. Sealed bids will be opened at 6:45 PM on March 14, 2024 with possible award within 2 weeks. See below for a bid form to be completed and sealed in an envelope marked "Sealed Bid - Byron Township - Mowing Bid March 2024".

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Classified Marketplace

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advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

203 HELP WANTED

Personal Assistant needed for 30 year old male with special needs for laundry, housework, errands & socialization. Call 815-988-6931. (MR02282024)

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

301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.

203 HELP WANTED

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

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

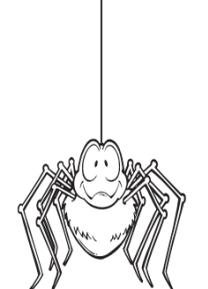
511 STORAGE UNITS

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

517 WANTED TO RENT

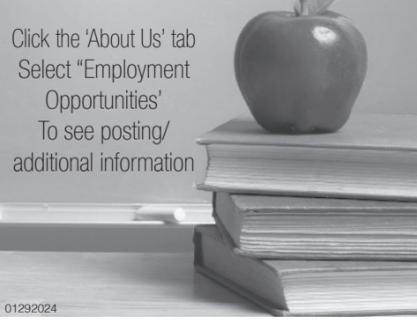
Senior, Widowed, Male 1-2 BR Apartment Oregon or Mt. Morris Non-Smoker No Pets Call 815-275-6239 (RNL03032024)

ADVERTISE WITH US



Byron School District Job Opportunities

- Bus Monitor
 - Elementary Lunchroom Supervisor
 - 2nd Shift Custodian
- Please apply online at www.byron226.org



Byron CUSD #226 Job Posting

IT SPECIALIST

Additional information and application process Found at 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

We Help You Help.

When you help care for a loved one, you take care of everything. But are you taking care of yourself?

AARP can help with information and useful tips on how you can maintain a healthy life balance, care for your own physical and mental well-being, and manage the challenges of caring for a loved one. Because the better care you take of yourself, the better care you can provide for your loved one.

You're there for them. We're here for you.

Find free Care Guides to support you and your loved one at AARP.org/caregiving

RISK OF LIGHTNING STRIKE: 1 IN 500,000

LIFE DOESN'T ALWAYS GIVE YOU TIME TO CHANGE THE OUTCOME.

PREDIABETES DOES.

TAKE THE RISK TEST TODAY AT DoIHavePrediabetes.org

RISK OF PREDIABETES: 1 IN 3 ADULTS

ad AMA CDC

WOMEN ARE 80% MORE LIKELY TO BE POOR IN RETIREMENT BECAUSE THEY'RE TOLD, "TALKING ABOUT MONEY IS IN POOR TASTE."

LEARN HOW TO SAVE FOR YOUR RETIREMENT AT WeSaySaveIt.org

National Institute on Retirement Security, 2014

ad AARP

END FAMILY FIRE

8 kids a day are accidentally killed or injured by FAMILY FIRE.

FAMILY FIRE is a shooting involving an improperly stored gun, often found in the home.

ENDFAMILYFIRE.org

Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent through the CLASSIFIEDS

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BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING

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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**

LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

Genealogy Basics: Military and Veterans' Records

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

Happy 100 Month-Long Celebration

March 2024 marks the 100th Anniversary of Julia Hull Library! The library first opened its doors in 1924 with a collection of 1,000 books. One move, one renovation and thousands of memories later... we're still growing the community mind and cultivating conversation and creativity. Stop in for prize drawings, a scavenger hunt and more. And, stay tuned to Facebook and Instagram for pop-up polls, photo memories and library trivia! March 1-31.

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



Last week, during Toddler Time at Julia Hull District Library, young patrons rolled, cut, shaped and built using special play dough made with Kool-Aid.



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.

Mario Party!

Ready... Set... Go! It's time to celebrate Mario Day with games and crafts featuring Mario, his friends and enemies. Costumes en-

couraged. Saturday, March 9, 1 p.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Flappers and Fedoras

The joint will be jumpin'! Join us as we visit the Roaring 20s with Nostalgia Entertainment. Listen to the music of the Jazz Age and hear fascinating stories about Al Capone, F. Scott Fitzgerald and 1920s Chicago. Thursday, March 21, 6:30 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Solar Eclipse 2024: How, When and Where to See It

On April 8, Americans will have the rare opportunity to experience a total solar eclipse. Join us as we learn the ins and outs of safely viewing the eclipse, including when, how and where to see it best. A pair of certified eclipse viewers will be given to program participants. Monday, March 25, 6:30 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Taylor Swift Party

Celebrate the one and only Taylor Swift at an enchanted party that is sure to be timeless. Featuring button making, friendship bracelets, photo ops, scavenger hunts, Swiftie Bingo and snacks. Wear an outfit celebrating your favorite era! Tuesday, March 26, 6 p.m. Grades 4-8. All supplies provided. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

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.

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, Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

Check out Our Mobile App

Did you know that there is an easy way to use the library from your phone? Just download the PrairieCat app to your phone or mobile device and log in with your library card number and PIN! You'll be able to view your checkouts and holds, renew renewable materials, and search the library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!

Curbside Delivery

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

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

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BLUEBERRIES
pint
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Certified Angus Beef® brand
BONELESS TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS 8 oz
\$4 ea

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ALL ITEMS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO RAIN CHECKS | NO RETURNS | NO EXCHANGES

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

GREEN GIANT IDAHO POTATO
5 lb bag
1.99

Cake of the Week
PEANUT BUTTER CAKE
8 inch round
7.99

FRENCH BREAD
loaf
2.29

Kretschmar Brand COLBY JACK CHEESE
7.59 lb

ONE DAY SALE
USDA Choice WHOLE BEEF RIBEYE
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While Supplies Last
SATURDAY FEB. 24th

FRESH MEAT

Certified Angus Beef® brand
WHOLE BONELESS SIRLOIN TIP ROASTS
3.99 lb

Sullivan's Signature
SUPER LEAN GROUND BEEF SIRLOIN
4.99 lb

Sullivan's Signature
OVEN READY SEASONED MEATLOAF
4.99 lb

US Govt Insp
CENTER CUT BUTTERFLY PORK CHOPS
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US Grade A
BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST
Family Pack
1.99 lb

Lenten Seafood Specials

Aquastar
BREADED SHRIMP
Select Varieties
24 oz
7.99

Frozen Wild Caught
Individually Quick Frozen
COD LOIN FILLET
5 oz
4/\$12

WHOLE
Frozen
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12.5 oz bag
4.49

WHOLE
Frozen
FROZEN CATFISH FILLET
Farm Raised
1 lb bag
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1 lb
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ONE PIECE FRIED COD MEAL
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ONE PIECE COD SANDWICH
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