

CHAD HORNER
OGLE COUNTY CORONER

VOTE
Chad is...

A TEAM LEADER SUPPORTED BY OGLE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Ogle County Board Members: John Finfrock, Zachary Osmann, Thomas Smith, Austin Gillis

David Williams, Dean Fox, Stanley Asp, Rick Fritz, John "Skip"

Kerney Jacke Ramsey, Ryan Reeves, Dan Miller

Chad was hired by County Coroner Lou Finch as a full-time night deputy coroner in October 2018 - serving Ogle County Citizens at all hours of the night, weekends and holidays

Why?

- Chad has a relationship built on mutual respect with the other deputy coroners in the office - being team-oriented and flexible
- Chad has built many professional relationships with first responders and clergy - being respectful of their roles but mindful of his role as a deputy coroner
- Approachable, genuine, calm demeanor, attention to detail, and reliable work ethic - leadership qualities you want in your county coroner

When honing in on the daily responsibilities and duties of running the coroner's office, you need to be a leader; a leader that has the working relationships that are based on honesty, trust and confidence. Chad relationships that he has built, Ogle County Elected Officials are now showing their confidence in Chad by supporting his candidacy.

Republican

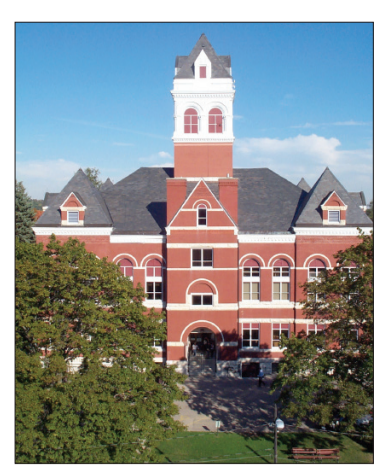
Paid for by Chad Horner for Ogle County Coroner

Horner4Coroner@gmail.com

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OGLE COUNTY LIFE

VALLEY SHOPPER



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KNOW IT TODAY

Rochelle schools hold informational meeting on county schools facilities sales tax ballot item

Potential 1-percent sales tax: 'Ultimately this is a direct democracy question'

By Jeff Helfrich
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Monday, Feb. 26, Jason Harper, superintendent of both Rochelle school districts, made an informational presentation to the community on the county school facilities sales tax referendum item that will be appearing on the March 19 election ballot.

About a dozen people attended the meeting at Lincoln School. The presentation was given later that evening in Spanish as well. It covered the basics of the county school facilities sales tax, answers to frequently-asked questions, and a question and answer session was held.

"Ultimately this is a direct democracy question."

Rochelle Schools Superintendent Jason Harper



See TAX page 2

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
69 40	58 33
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
53 30	52 36
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
53 35	55 33

Mt. Morris church, PAG presenting play with Chicago actor March 22-24

MT. MORRIS — A Chicago-area actor will take the stage in Mt. Morris next month to bring a unique perspective to a centuries-old event.

Tom McElroy will star in "Heaven, How I Got Here," a one-man play imagining the story of the thief crucified next to Jesus Christ.

The play will be presented by the Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris in collaboration with the Performing Arts Guild at the Pinecrest Grove Community Theatre, 500 Evergreen Lane.

Performances are scheduled at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 22 and Saturday, March 23, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 24.

McElroy is a seasoned veteran of the stage, televi-



Actor Tom McElroy (left) and Performing Arts Guild technical director Jeff Bold go over the sound and lighting instructions for the upcoming presentation of "Heaven, How I Got Here" at the Pinecrest Grove Community Theatre in Mt. Morris. The play will be presented by the Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris in collaboration with the PAG on March 22, 23, and 24.

sion, film, and radio. Over the past 20-plus years he honed his skills in Chicago and regional theater and then broke into television and film.

TV roles include Early Edition, Chicago Code, Prison Break (recurring), Chicago Fire, Chicago Med, and more.

McElroy's film ap-

pearances include The Dark Knight, What If...?, Southside With You, The Law of Moses, The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain, and Pardoned by Grace.

For several years, he was also the voice of "Unshackled!," the longest-running radio drama in history.

McElroy grew up in Zion north of Chicago and has always known acting was his calling, although he didn't make it his full-time profession until he was 38 years old.

"Essentially I was born with it, but it was muffled," he said with a grin. "I grew up in a conservative home. We didn't go the movies."

He acted in skits at school and church, as

well as high school plays, which earned him a best actor in the school award.

He said it was during a "holy moment" backstage while portraying Christ in the Zion Passion Play that he knew he wanted to go into acting full-time.

McElroy said he is looking forward to playing the thief on the cross in the upcoming production in Mt. Morris.

"I love the play," he said. "It's a journey that's wonderfully made. I can relate to every part of the role."

McElroy and his wife live in a northern suburb of Chicago. They have five children between them and eight grandchildren.

See PLAY page 3

OBITUARIES

Dean Hagemann

See page A4

Longtime Foundation for Focus House scholarships honor Adams couple, Judge Lenz

Applications now open for 2024 scholarship cycle

By Jeff Helfrich
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Foundation for Focus House has opened the application for its 2024 scholarships, Executive Director Jeni Hardin said.

The organization gives out two \$1,000 scholarships each year to Ogle County residents or

past/current Focus House residents pursuing post-secondary or vocational education that have made a positive change in themselves or their community.

The first Foundation for Focus House scholarship is supported by the LaVerne & Margaret Franklin Adams Scholarship Fund. It was established in May 2002 following Mr. Adams' death.

A longtime resident of Ogle County, Mr. Adams sat on the Ogle County Board from 1972 until 2002. At the time Focus House was established in 1975, Mr. Adams was appointed and served as the chairperson of the county committee that oversaw the operation of the program.

See SCHOLARSHIP page 2

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LOCAL NEWS

SCHOLARSHIP: Program strives to see applications from current or former Focus House students

From page 1

Mrs. Margaret Franklin Adams was also very dedicated to the community and the youth at Focus House. Their family added to the scholarship in LaVerne's name when Margaret passed away in 2020, to honor her commitment to the youth of Ogle County and the Focus House program.

The second Foundation for Focus House scholarship is supported by the F. Lawrence Lenz Scholarship Fund, established in April 2003 by his family following his death. As an Ogle County Circuit Judge, Judge Lenz elected to be the juvenile court judge. In this capacity he was one of the instrumental supporters of the opening of Focus House in 1975. From the bench he believed in the value of having community-based programs and was an advocate of Focus House until his death.

Foundation for Focus House Board Vice President Russ Crull is the grandson of LaVerne & Margaret Franklin Adams and is the president of the Ogle County Bar Association. Two sides of his life have a lasting commitment and investment to students in Ogle County.

"It's great to see the amount that has been given back to students over the years," Crull said. "It's great to know that a little farmer from Holcomb with my grandfather can still be making a difference in the world. And I like to see that our judges and our Bar Association have always taken this seriously and made a lasting commitment to the kids here. We've had judges that have given back and been supportive of things like Focus House. You don't see that in other counties. Judge Lenz didn't have to do that."

LaVerne Adams grew up in Holcomb as one of 11 children. He made it to ninth grade, before his brothers went off to war and he had to start working, before ultimately buying a farm in Byron in the early 1960s.

"He served on the Ogle County Board and did great things



LaVerne & Margaret Franklin Adams Scholarship Fund. It was established in May 2002 following Mr. Adams' death.

for our community, but he never got to go to high school, and he was always embarrassed by that," Crull said. "His thought with Focus House was, 'These kids are in trouble and maybe had a tough upbringing. How do we get them to a place where they can at the very least finish high school?' To him, that was a really big thing. My grandfather built the Focus House program with a lot of other people. His thought with the scholarship would be that those kids would get through the program and have some assistance moving forward."

The Foundation for Focus House scholarship program strives to see applications from current or former Focus House students and works to give preference to them, but those applications aren't common and sometimes those students are already having their future education supported by the foundation itself. The scholarships are open to students in the county that have not spent time at Focus House.

"We're blessed as a board to be able to have money to support our students," Crull said. "A lot of times if they're not applying for the scholarships, it's because we have the money to give them otherwise. This is a nice way for kids that maybe weren't in enough trouble to need to come live

here, for them to have a chance. And sometimes it's just really good kids that need a little help financially to move forward. Every kid deserves to go to college."

Crull never practiced law in front of Judge Lenz, but is well versed in his legacy of involvement in the juvenile justice system and bringing it to Ogle County. Focus House is juvenile justice system-based and caters to adolescents to divert them away from juvenile detention centers, which can be rougher environments than Focus House.

Crull has practiced law in 24 counties, and has not seen a program like Focus House in any others besides Ogle County.

"With the Judge Lenz scholarship, just to have judges that actually care about it and want to do these things, we're tremendously blessed in this county," Crull said. "We currently have Judge Roe and Judge Peska. Judge Roe and his family have been advocates of Focus House and he works in the juvenile criminal aspect of it. We're so fortunate to have something like this. Focus House is so far ahead of its time, to think that we had something like this in the 1980s and 1990s."

Hardin said she enjoys going through the scholarship process each year and reviewing the applications with the board and presenting checks to the recipients and notifying colleges. Each year, it reminds Crull of his grandparents.

"Every year when we go through it, I like to think about my grandparents' legacy and being from here," Crull said. "My grandfather died 22 years ago, and he's still making a difference here where he's from."

The deadline for the application is March 22. If you have any questions about the application, please email Hardin at jhardin@oglecountyil.gov or call (815) 562-5881 ext 3433. The scholarship application can be found online at https://www.oglecountyil.gov/departments/focus_house_2/scholarship.php?fbclid=IwAR1PLZgN3cglKKxrMyCOG33yF6S-MaxUOMf8mVpt3kcr7Oqi39D3loVXXaGA

TAX: Referendum has to pass on the ballot county-wide

From page 1

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

The referendum would have to pass on the ballot county-wide. The sales tax would be an increase of one

percent. Ogle County currently has a seven percent sales tax, and after the potential increase, it would be eight percent.

The additional sales tax would apply to items that are already taxed, with the exception of vehicles and unprepared food. Based on the most recent numbers, a county schools facility sales tax could net the Rochelle elementary district \$813,202 per year. It would net the high school district \$443,491 per year, the Kings School District \$46,181, the Creston School District \$42,259, and the Eswood School District \$26,082. The money is based on students in Ogle

County, of which the Steward School District has none, so it would not see any new funds. Steward does receive county schools facilities sales tax funds from Lee County.

The Rochelle elementary school district has seen large expenses recently as it deals with aging buildings. Tilton Elementary School was built in 1949. Central Elementary School was built in 1939 and May Elementary School was built in 1959.

The elementary district is currently in the process of pursuing renovations at Tilton School. The board plans to pursue \$14-16 million worth of needed upgrades at the school after finding in a health life safety evaluation that an estimated \$7.8 million worth of work is required at the school for those issues. The district plans to issue bonds for that money and wants to utilize an additional \$6-8 million from its reserves for other improvements involving security and spatial concerns including its pick up and drop off areas.

It was said at the Rochelle Elementary School District's November meeting that it could leverage that hypothetical \$813,202 a year in new sales tax funds into about \$8.8 million in projects.

Along with facilities, security, mental health services and school resource officers, the money can be used to abate property taxes and make rates lower for property owners within the district.

Harper said that while the elementary school district would utilize the funds for school safety improvements, SRO funding, mental health and facility improvements, the high school board would use it to abate property taxes until it saw needs arise for other designated uses of the funds. Rochelle Township High School is about 20 years old and does not have a current facility improvement need.

"The RTHS board's immediate plan if the referendum passes would be to do a lesser tax levy of about four percent," Harper said.

For school resource officers, RTHS currently has one SRO and the elementary district has one SRO between all of its buildings. Harper said the districts have "ongoing and regular conversations" with the Rochelle Police Department on SRO needs, but RPD does not currently have the staffing to dedicate another officer to a school, Harper said.

Based on public data from May 2022 through April 2023, 55 percent of the county's sales tax revenue came from the Rochelle area. However, Rochelle schools account for about 30 percent of Ogle County's total number of students.

"There is a discrepancy there," Harper said. "That is a question I've received out in the community. And if Rochelle doesn't pass it and everybody else in Ogle County votes for it, it will be put into place. The majority of Ogle County voters will decide it."

The language on the March 19 ballot will read:

"Shall a retailer's occupation tax and a service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a 'Sales Tax') be imposed in Ogle County at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes, school resource officers, and mental health professionals?"

The county schools facilities sales tax has no sunset clause or end date for counties it's passed in by referendum. But if no district has obligated funds to future bond payments, a county board could put it back on the ballot to be repealed in the future.

Harper did not take a public position for or against the county schools facilities sales tax; only presented information to the community at the meeting.

"Ultimately this is a direct democracy question," Harper said. "We're all going to go to the voting booth, shut the curtain and make a decision. And whatever that decision is, the majority will rule. And then the school boards in Rochelle will react based on that."

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LOCAL NEWS



Byron High School's January 2024 Students of the Month named

Byron High School Students of the Month for January 2024 were recently named. Pictured from left to right are: BHS Principal Andrew Donaldson, Ashley Potter (ninth grade), Madison Lane (10th grade), Morgan Nelson (11th grade), Taryn Dolan (12th grade), and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Renae Stevens. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement. (Courtesy photo)

Local extension offices release upcoming events

OGLE COUNTY — The local University of Illinois Extension offices recently released their upcoming March and April events.

Rain Garden Essentials: Design, Build, Plant| Four Seasons Gardening, March 5 | 1:30 p.m., online

Gain insights into the principles of rain garden construction and design, ensuring that your garden not only enhances the beauty of your space, but also contributes to the health of the environment. Four Seasons Gardening sessions led by Extension's horticulture experts are free to attend, and registration is required at go.illinois.edu/FourSeasons. Rain Garden Essentials will be offered at 1:30 p.m. online on March 5.

Seed Starting | Big and Small Gardening, March 5 | 4 p.m. - Winfred Knox Library, Franklin Grove

Wouldn't it be terrific for all ages to learn more about gardening? The Lee County Master Gardeners have started their gardening series again, "Big and Small Gardening." This series will be held at the Winfred Knox Library in Franklin Grove the first Tuesday of each month, with alternating months offering a youth program at 4 p.m. or an adult program at 6 PM. Join the Master Gardeners for a youth lesson on March 5 to learn more about the variety of plants to grow this summer and how to properly take care of them. One may register for these programs by calling the library at 815-456-2823.

Bottle Terrariums, March 9 | 9:30-11 a.m., Sauk Valley Community College

Explore the enclosed world of bottle terrariums, self-contained plant environments within glass. Join us to explore terrariums, their needs, and how to create a bottle version of a terrarium to take home with you. If students would like to turn a specific bottle into a terrarium, please bring it; otherwise, one will be provided. This class would be for an individual or a great family activity. Supplies are included. (Ages 10 & Up) Register online at go.illinois.edu/CommunityEdSVCC

Wits Fitness, Monthly Workshop, March 11 | 1-2:30 p.m., KSB Town Square Center, Dixon

Experience a monthly journey with Kara Schweitzer, an educator from University of Illinois Extension, as she leads participants through interactive activities crafted to stimulate the brain and enhance cognitive function and memory. We will be offering this program at the Edward Murphy Room at KSB Town Square, 101 W Second St.; new participants are welcome to join at any time.

Ready Set Grow... Gardening Workshop, March 23 | 8 a.m.-noon, Loveland Community House, Dixon

Join the Master Gardeners of Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties for this one-day event offering participants information about horticulture, backyard gardening, pest control and more. Registration is online at go.illinois.edu/readyssetgrow.

Cooking with Vegetables | Carroll County Master

Gardeners, March 25, April 22 | 5 p.m., Thomson Library

Join Master Gardener Nancy Gmitro at the Thomson Library for a monthly lesson on cooking with Spinach and Asparagus. Learn the basics of planting, harvesting, and creating recipes. A new vegetable will be featured each month, and recipes will be created. To register for this program, contact the library at 815-259-2480.

Mindful Mechanics, March 18, 25, April 1, 8 | 5-6 p.m., Sauk Valley Community College

Through 4-H Mindful Mechanics, teens age 13-19 are encouraged to build positive relationships by expressing care, concern, and gratitude for others, build beliefs in themselves, practice self-discipline, self-control, and self-reflection, and serve others. The overall program aims to promote mindful practices that lead to improvements in managing one's goals, developing a sense of self, time management, stress management, and emotional regulations. Supplies are included. Register online at go.illinois.edu/CommunityEdSVCC

Succulent Wreaths, April 13 | 9:30-11 a.m., Sauk Valley Community College

Bright and textured succulent wreaths are living plant wreaths for any occasion or holiday. Succulents are desert plants adapted as houseplants. Learn more about what succulents are, their biology, how to build your own wreath and how it needs to be cared for. Make and take home your own succulent wreath. This class would be for an individual or great family activity. Supplies are included. (Ages 12 & Up) Register online at go.illinois.edu/CommunityEdSVCC

4-H Junior Gardener SPIN Club, Tuesdays April 16-July 30 | 4-5:30 p.m. - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Dixon

4-H Junior Gardener teaches children about the wonderful world of gardening through hands-on investigation of growing their own vegetables & flowers and learning to use the harvest. A portion of the produce grown will be given to food insecure situations. The club is for youth ages 8-18 and the cost is \$30 for non-4-H members and \$10 for 4-H members. For more information contact the Lee County Extension Office at 815-857-3525. Register online at: go.illinos.edu/LeeCoJG

Pixel Pioneers Virtual Special Interest Club, April 23,30, May7,14,21,28 | 6:30-7:30 p.m., online

Explore digital creativity from home with engaging sessions on Typography, logos, and more. Join the 4-H Pixel Pioneers Virtual SPIN Club where sessions take place on Zoom, and materials are mailed to participants. The program is open to youth ages 8-18, with an enrollment deadline of April 1. A \$5 supply fee is applicable for 4-H members, and \$25 for non-members. To enroll, visit go.illinois.edu/pixelpioneersnewmember for new members and go.illinois.edu/pixelpioneers for current members.

PLAY: Not recommended for children under 10

From page 1

The play is based on a book of the same name, written by Colin Smith, senior pastor of The Orchard, a multi-campus church in the Chicago area. Tim Gregory wrote the play's script.

McElroy said he hopes the audiences will come away from the production with a deeper understanding of the gospel.

"I hope that they will really fully connect with what Jesus did for them on the cross, and if they don't know him, they will soon," he said.

Tickets for "Heaven, How I Got Here" are \$5 each and all are general admission. To order call 815-734-4942 or reserve online at performingartsguild.com.

Doors will open a half hour before each show. Refreshments will be served afterward.

The play is not recommended for children younger than 10.

The Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris is located at 102 S. Seminary Ave. Worship services are held each Sunday at 10 a.m. preceded by Sunday School for all ages at 8:30 a.m. Childcare is available for children younger than four years old.

For more information call 815-734-4942.

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Sterling Federal Bank to host 7th annual Employee Charity Challenge

STERLING — Sterling Federal Bank will host its seventh annual Employee Charity Challenge during the month of March. Each year charities are chosen by the bank's employees.

"Our employees are our boots on the ground in each of our communities so it only makes sense that they would choose the charities that participate in this wonderful event," Dean Ahlers, president & CEO, said. "Sterling Federal Bank has a long history of servicing the local communities it represents. Our employees' willingness to give of their time, talent, and treasure never ceases to amaze me."

The top three charities will receive: Grand prize winner (\$20,000), Second place winner (\$10,000), and Third place winner (\$5,000).

The winners are chosen by voting on the bank's Facebook page during the month of March.

This year the charities in the running are:

April House, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Whiteside County, Community Christmas for Children, PADS Women & Children's Shelter, Goodfellows of Lee County, Granny Rose Animal Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, Pegasus Special Riders, Brown Bag for You, and My Gear Outreach.

Sterling Federal Bank is a federal mutual savings bank with nine offices located in Northwestern Illinois and Eastern Iowa and has been serving the community since it was chartered in 1885.

IFB Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship accepting applications

BLOOMINGTON — The Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for nurse practitioner scholarships. This year, a total of 15 scholarships, each worth \$4,000, will be granted.

This scholarship program, which has been running for 32 years, aims to encourage and develop a strong pool of rural health practitioners to address primary healthcare needs in rural areas of Illinois. Recipients of the scholarships are required to practice for two years in an approved rural area within the state.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be Illinois residents and either accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program as Registered Nurses. The funding for this program is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP).

Applications can be obtained from county Farm Bureaus® across the state, the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by contacting Donna Gallivan, the Program Manager, at Illinois Farm Bureau, 1701 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701. The deadline for applications is May 1.

For further information, please feel free to reach out to Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350 or via email at dgallivan@iflb.org.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Dean Hagemann

BYRON — Dean Hagemann, 60, of Byron IL passed away on Wednesday February 21, 2024 from a sudden medical condition.

As per Dean's wishes, no formal services or visitation will be held. He will be interred in a private family service at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon IL. A fellowship celebrating Dean's life will be held on Saturday March 9 from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the Prairie View Golf Course Pavilion in Byron, IL.



He graduated from Byron High School and Motorcycle Mechanics Institute of Daytona FL. He was a career motorcycle technician employed by several regional Harley Davison and Independent dealerships. Dean also was sole proprietor of MotoDeano Service Center in Byron IL.

Dean was a friend and companion to a multitude of people. Dean was a proficient, life-long participant in various types of motorcycle racing. Dean was a National AMA/CCS and Daytona class Champion in 1999. He held several regional road racing titles. Dean also enjoyed motorcycle Ice racing and participating in Off Road dirt bike events. He was a Life Member of the American Motorcycle Association. Following his fathers precedence,

Dean was an officer, multi-decade member and event organizer of Forest City Rider Motorcycle Club of Rockford IL. Dean was a true friend of all racers and was quick to offer help, support and always advice.

Dean Hagemann was born October 2, 1963 in Oregon IL to Jimmy and Phyllis (Carr) Hagemann. Dean is survived by siblings Janet (Marc) Burwell of Boulder City NV, Gary (Valerie) Hagemann of Rockford, IL, Douglas (Terry) Hagemann of Harriman TN, Kayla Cunningham of Byron IL., nieces and nephews; Garon Burwell, Alyssa Burwell Lasoff, Danielle (Sean) Lynch, Ariel (Lyle) Pratt, Justin (Tina) Hagemann, Jason (Mckenzy) Crabtree, and Kysa (David) Boll.

Dean was predeceased by his mother Phyllis, father Jimmy, and brother-in-law Jeff Cunningham.

The family requests no flowers, but rather donations in Dean's memory to the Red Flag Fund. This is an organization that Dean promoted and supported that helps injured motorcycle racers with funding and financial support. Please go to www.redflagfund.org, take action page and donate under Dean's memorial.

To leave an online condolence visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

Three Ogle County locals named to Marquette University's fall 2023 dean's list

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Three Ogle County locals have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The list includes Sarah Tunink (bachelor of science, exercise physiology) and Abbi Virgil (bachelor of arts, political science) of Oregon and Ruby Mulvaney (bachelor of arts,

journalism) of Stillman Valley.

To make the dean's list, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the fall 2023 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The GPA threshold varies by college - for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be

named to the Dean's List.

The undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

Hermes, Faivre named to Drake dean's list

DES MOINES, Iowa (February 14, 2024) - The following local students have been named

to the Deans' and President's Lists at Drake University: Oregon: Sydney Her-

mes, Arts & Sciences, dean's list. Polo: Anna Faivre, Pharmacy & Health Sciences, dean's list.

To be eligible for the deans' list, students must have earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher during the fall 2023 semester at Drake.

Celebration of Life for Mervin (Merv.) Ludewig

March 9, 2024
Polo Senior Center
Time: 1-3 pm



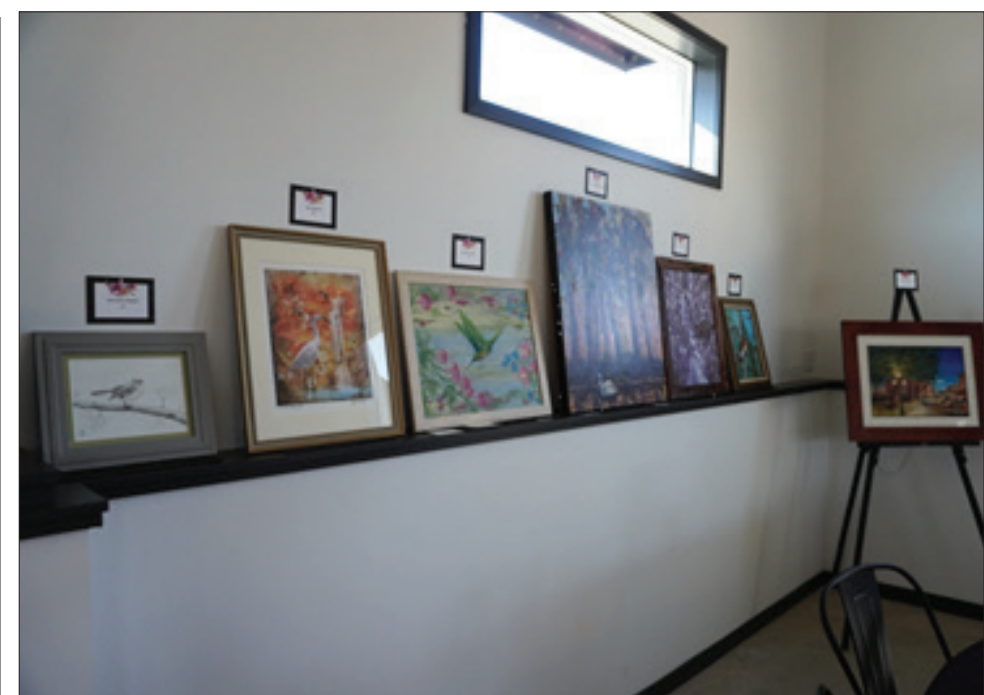
ADVERTISE WITH US



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.



Art Dash Fundraiser for Serenity Hospice and Home is April 10

OREGON —Serenity Hospice and Home's third annual Art Dash Fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, April 10 at the River's Edge Experience in Oregon, who generously donated use of their space.

The event will benefit Serenity Hospice and Home, a nonprofit that provides the highest-level compassionate care as well as free, ongoing bereavement services that are open to the public.

Last year, 84 artists from throughout the nine counties served by Serenity donated a piece of original art worth at least \$100. Some artists generously donated works of substantially greater

value.

After the "Art Preview" from 6-7 p.m., the "Dash" will begin. Three of the attendees with "Dasher" tickets will be called at a time at random to dash for the art of their choosing. What art the "Dashers" ultimately end up with depends on when their number is called and how quickly they "dash" to the piece they desire; every "Dasher" will go home with a one-of-a-kind piece of art to treasure.

To purchase your dasher or spectator ticket please contact Karen Virnoche at 815-973-2050.

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. Forreton: 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-White-

water'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.

Highland Community College releases fall 2023 dean's list

FREEMONT —Highland Community College recently announced iits the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester. Students who have completed 12 credit hours or more during the semester and have a minimum 3.25 grade point average (GPA), based on a 4.0 scale, are included on the dean's list. The Highest Honors are awarded to students with a perfect 4.0 GPA. High Honors are given to students with a 3.5 to 3.99 GPA, and Honors students have

earned a GPA between 3.25 and 3.49.

Highest Honors

Baileyville: Bryn Greenfield, Mya Greenfield, Alexa Lancaster. Forreton: Cole Becker, Brooke Boettner, Samantha Cederholm, Carter Daws. Leaf River: Alexander Milnes, Cassie Pals. Oregon: Nathan Dray, Wesley Immel. Stillman Valley: Blake-lynn Swanson.

High Honors

Baileyville: Breanna Kloster. Byron: Zachary Janovsky. Esmond: Sara Johnson. Forreton: Dylan Lewis. German Valley: Trenton Schluker. Leaf River: Samuel Cesarek. Monroe Center: Madison Simms. Mt. Morris: Shekije Ismaili. Oregon: Abigail Miller.

Honors

Mt. Morris: Shkumbin Ismaili. Polo: Monica Miller.

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The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

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

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

Public is Welcome!

VFW EVENTS
Monday Lighting @ 5:30pm
Wednesday Bingo @ 5:30pm
Thursday Trivia Night @ 6:30pm
Fridays @ 7pm 1st Fridays, Karaoke, Live music (different Fridays)

Every Friday our Fish, Chicken, Shrimp Dinners
We do Carry Outs

Try out the hot slots every weekday!

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

All Calls Are Confidential.

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

HOPE of Ogle County

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

LOCAL NEWS

Ogle County Democratic Central Committee donates to food pantries

The members of the Ogle County Democratic Central Committee made a difference in their community by recently donating a total of \$800 amongst eight Ogle County food pantries, an idea that originated during the pandemic as a unique way to celebrate the holiday season together since in person gatherings were not possible. The Ogle County Dems have raised over \$3,200 for area food pantries over the last four years. "I am so proud of our members again this year," said Committee Member David "Skip" Donald said. "Helping people is what the Democratic party is all about." For more information about the Ogle County Democrats, visit their website at Oglecountydems.org, or attend their monthly meeting, which is held on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW in Oregon. Shown is Donald delivering a donation to Darlene Shafer, treasurer, Polo Lifeline Food Pantry. (Courtesy photo)



RCH, NIFB to host mobile market food pantry March 14

ROCHELLE—Rochelle Community Hospital will host the Northern Illinois Food Bank for a mobile market food pantry on Thursday, March 14 from 4-5:30 p.m. NIFB's mobile pantry distributes food in high-need areas. Food is free so neighbors can thrive. Please bring bags or boxes in which to package your food. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

RCH and NIFB's food pantry will be located at the hospital at 900 N. 2nd St. in Rochelle. RCH and NIFB will also host mobile market food pantry events in the summer on Thursday, June 6 and Thursday, Aug. 8 at the same time and place.



Forreston's Webster named WACC Student of the Month for January

Forreston High School's Nik Webster (11th grade) was recently named the Whiteside Area Career Center Student of the Month for January 2024. Webster is the son of Daniel & Sharon Webster and is in the WACC's auto service I course. (Courtesy photo)

CATCH OUR FISH FRY!

Friday Night Fish Fry!

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

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

4-8 pm
 Other seafood available / Full menu available



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 Oregon IL
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02122024



RALPHIE & LuLu's Inc.

FISH FRIDAY

Every Friday night
 Serving 5 - 8 p.m.



Fried cod, baked cod, bluegill or shrimp


\$11.95 - \$12.95

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

Dine-In or Carry-Out

812 Main St. - Ashton

02122024



SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
 ROCHELLE, IL

2024 Lenten Fish Fry Dinners
 St. Patrick Parish Center 236 Kelley Drive

Fish Dinner

ADULT (11YRS+) \$15
 SENIOR CITIZEN (65+) \$14
 CHILDREN (4-10YRS) \$10

Includes 2-3 pieces of baked or hand breaded fried cod and everything on the menu excluding pizza

Pizza Dinner

ADULT (11YRS+) \$13
 SENIOR CITIZEN (65+) \$12
 CHILDREN (4-10YRS) \$8

Includes 2 slices of pizza (1 slice for children's dinner) and everything on the menu excluding fish


FAMILY RATE - \$50
Parent(s) and children 18-under - DINE IN ONLY
3-UNDER - FREE

50/50 RAFFLE - HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE - CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE

MENU

Baked & Hand Breaded
 Deep Fried Cod
 Tartar Sauce & Lemon Slices
 Alfano's Cheese Pizza
 Macaroni & Cheese
 French Fries
 Potatoes w/Parsley
 Green Beans
 Cole Slaw
 Dessert & Beverages

March Friday's
MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22
 5:00-7:00 PM



Every Friday Fish Fry
 Cod, Catfish & Shrimp Dinners

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

02122024

VFW
 Post 8739



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



Every Friday Fish Fry
 Cod, Catfish & Shrimp Dinners

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

02122024

VIEWPOINT

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

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

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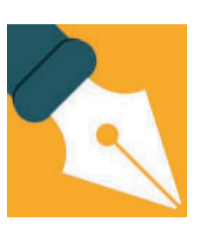
PAID LETTER

Support for Horner for coroner

Dear editor,

I have known Chad Horner for over 30 years. I had the distinct privilege of working with him for 19+ years during my career at Ogle County Hospice, now Serenity Hospice and Home. In those years, when we were together doing our mutual work, he was amazing in his care, compassion and concern for all he encountered. Our work takes a special degree of gentle strength and care for all involved. He always was a consummate professional. His gentle kindness, firm grasp of situations and the needs of all were a gift to all involved. His faith guides him

to the integrity and excellence with which he devotes the actions of life. The strength with which he dedicates himself to all he does is apparent. Since my retirement, I have had many opportunities to volunteer beside him. His family reflects the man he is.



It is my privilege to support him for this position of Ogle County Coroner. He will bring knowledge, understanding of the needs of our county, wisdom and integrity which public office requires.

Lorrie Bearrows
 retired executive director of Serenity Hospice & Home Chana

PAID LETTER

Vote for Christie Cox

Dear editor,

I was initially supporting Christie Cox for coroner simply because I've known her for many years and always found her to be a person of integrity. I recently sat down with Christie to discuss some of my concerns about the coroner's office, namely that their budget has doubled since I left office in 2018 and, even beyond that growth, they were significantly over their original budget several of those years. I came away from that meeting confident that Christie shares my

philosophy of needing to be fiscally conservative while maintaining great service to her constituents. When she is elected, she will run the office like a business, taking a hard look at office practices and spending to eliminate any waste and enhance productivity. Ogle County needs and deserves this kind of conservative leadership. I hope everyone will join me in voting for Christie Cox for Ogle County coroner on March 19!



John Coffman,
 Former Ogle County treasurer (2000-2018)

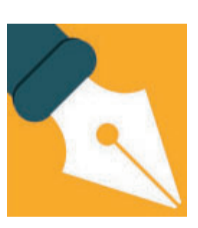
PAID LETTER

Re-elect Janes for County Board

Dear editor,

We would like to express our support for Dan Janes in the upcoming Republican primary on March 19 for the District 5 Ogle County Board position. We have known Dan Janes and his family for several decades. We have served on the county board with Dan for many years. Dan has served with us on a number of committees. The county board has called on Dan for his leadership abilities on many occasions. He was instrumental in several of the building projects that have taken place in Ogle County including our new jail. Dan deals with the future needs of Ogle County every month as he currently chairs the Supervisor of

Assessment Planning & Zoning Committee. Over the years county board members have turned to Dan for his opinion and guidance on a wide array of subjects. He attends most of the committee meetings, so his input has been sought out even when he is not an official member of a committee. There have been many times when Dan has been asked to be a part of an ad hoc committee to develop information for the board to consider. Dan has shown himself to be a good steward for Ogle County and we would like to see him continue to serve all of us.



Patricia Nordman and Wayne Reising,
 Ogle County Board District 2

Legislators must act to address migrant crisis

FOR the last 18 months, Governor JB Pritzker has quietly issued consecutive 30-day disaster proclamations for the State of Illinois as it relates to the migrant crisis and the hordes of non-citizens making their way to Illinois from the U.S. southern border. These orders grant him massive power to bypass the Legislature, a co-equal branch of government, and move and spend budget dollars how he sees fit.



Andrew Chesney

Indeed, Governor Pritzker and I do not agree on much, but we agree that the flood of migrants into Illinois is a crisis. When these people arrive, they need shelter, food, and often healthcare. Children must be enrolled in schools, and because they are primarily non-English-speaking, they require additional resources to help them learn. These things cost money and resources that most communities cannot spare. Every tax dollar that is diverted to fund the needs of migrants is a dollar that is siphoned away from Illinois citizens who are hungry, Illinois veterans who need help, Illinois citizens living with disabilities, and lower-income Illinois citizens who rely on their state government for essential services, like food on their table and a warm house in the winter.

Governor Pritzker and the Mayor of Chicago are pointing fingers at border state Governors and begging President Biden for financial assistance when they should be taking some responsibility for a crisis that is mainly

of their own making. Illinois has rolled out the welcome mat to migrants and illegal immigrants. When you loudly proclaim that Illinois welcomes migrants and illegal immigrants regardless of their status, you shouldn't be too surprised when they show up.

Illinois became a de-facto Sanctuary State when majority party Democrats passed Senate Bill 31 in the 100th General Assembly (2017-2018). This law, named the "Trust Act," prohibits Illinois law enforcement personnel from coordinating with federal immigration officials to enforce immigration laws. Then, in the 101st General Assembly (2019-2020), Democrats enacted laws that provide free health insurance, first for senior illegal immigrants, then for illegal immigrants aged 55-64, and ultimately for all illegal immigrants aged 52+. During this time, they also extended college tuition grants to illegal immigrants and tweaked court system procedures so that an individual's immigration status could not be used against them.

In the 102nd General Assembly (2021-2022), Medicaid coverage for illegal immigrants was expanded, and they became eligible for certain tax credits and state utility assistance programs. Both migrants and illegal immigrants were also provided with access to public defenders for immigration cases. In the current 103rd General Assembly, Democrats created a process for them to obtain driver's licenses and housing assistance and provided a pathway for some migrants to

become sworn police officers. Is it any wonder that Illinois is a premier destination state for the undocumented?

I recently sent a survey to residents of the 45th District. It was sent with no regard to political affiliation. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all received it. On the issue of support or non-support of free healthcare for illegal immigrants, as of January 1, 2024, a resounding 81.5% of all respondents said they were opposed to the State of Illinois providing free healthcare to those in this country illegally.

It is time to unwind the policies that have made this state a destination for the undocumented, beginning with a full repeal of the Trust Act. Illegal immigration is just that- illegal. Law enforcement should be able to work with federal officials to enforce our immigration laws.

Secondly, I recommend the elimination of free healthcare for migrants and illegal immigrants. Over 80% of the survey respondents in my district want this, so it is legislation I will be proud to carry. And lastly, we need to roll back the host of other policies mentioned above that have made Illinois a de-facto Sanctuary State and a destination for migrants and illegal immigrants.

In my opinion, this is the most important issue facing lawmakers during the 2024 session, and I am willing to work with any legislator who wants to unwind bad policies and place our state back on a better path.

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

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On March 18, 1971, a 100-foot tsunami, caused by a massive rock avalanche that crashed into Lake Yanahuani from a height of 1,300 feet, destroyed a Peruvian mining camp and killed hundreds of people.

* On March 19, 1954, Willie Mosconi, aka Mr. Pocket Billiards, set a new world record for running the most consecutive pool balls without a miss -- 526, in fact! -- during an exhibition in Springfield, Ohio. A handwritten and notarized affidavit with the signatures of more than 35 eyewitnesses served as proof of his feat.

* On March 20, 1648, King Charles I of England attempted an initial escape from his captivity at Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight by climbing out of a window, but the effort proved fruitless when he got stuck between its frame and an iron bar, and had to retreat to his room.

* On March 21, 1984, New York City's Central Park designated a section of its grounds as "Strawberry Fields" to commemorate former Beatle John Lennon, who was shot dead in front of his nearby residence by Mark David Chapman.

* On March 22, 1946, the United States Army made its first successful launch of an American-built rocket out of the atmosphere, using a combination of American and German scientists in adapting the German V-2 rockets seized after the Allied victory in World War II. The rocket reached an altitude of about 50 miles.

* On March 23, 2022, New Zealand's prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, announced the country would relax Covid mandates for some of its workforce, allowing restaurants and similar hospitality venues to increase their indoor capacity from 100 to 200 people. Vaccine passes were no longer required to get into shops, and visitors no longer needed to scan the venue's location using their Covid-19 tracer apps.

* On March 24, 2017, 560 people dressed as ghosts to set a world record for the largest such gathering. But these spooks at the Mercy School Mounthawk weren't trying to scare anyone -- rather, their aim was to highlight the invisibility of arthritis.

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New Political Letter Policy

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

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

paid endorsement. Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page.

Most newspapers that have adopted this approach cite one main reason: Political campaigns for years have used newspaper opinion pages for what amounts to free advertising. As these letter-writing campaigns become more widespread and sophisticated - some campaigns even pay people to write letters to the editor - newspapers are flooded with requests to publish them, especially in the run-up to elections.

Will we still publish letters complaining about the county

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

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

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

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

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.

VIEWPOINT

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

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

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News Media Corporation.

PCHS show March 8-9 is can't miss

Dear editor,

On March 8-9, 2024 at 7:00 PM, Polo Community High School will present their spring production The Play That Goes Wrong. If you have been looking for something that will make you laugh this play is for you! From start to finish there's always something going wrong... or did it?

This play is a silly farce that invites you to the opening night of the Cornley Drama Society's production of The Murder at Haversham Manor. It is a classic who done it in the style of Sherlock Holmes, however, it doesn't take long before the play becomes more like Monty Python. Set in the 1920s, this show has a little of everything mystery, plot twists, actors who get mixed up, set pieces that don't work, a dog-actor that goes missing, and



laughs galore. In the end the Cornley Drama Society manages to make it to the through their play and take their final curtain call. Part mystery, part comedy, part audience participation, and a lot of fun for everyone — this play is for you.

Please join us for the PCHS Spring Production March 8-9 at 7 p.m. in the high school "gymnasium." Tickets prices are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, children, and senior citizens. All tickets are reserved and tickets will be available at the door. Ticket reservations may be made by calling the high school office at 815-946-3314. So come and tickle your funny bone, lighten your load, and be prepared to laugh till you cry. You don't want to miss it!

Alex Albano
PCHS Drama Club
publicity officer

Details on schools sales tax ballot question

Dear editor,

The Forrestville Valley Board of Education hosted a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 21 in the Forreston Junior Senior High School library. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information to Ogle County residents regarding the one percent sales tax question that will be on the ballot March 19.

I wanted to provide our residents with a summary of this meeting.

Outside of property taxes and state and federal funds, school districts are quite limited in how they can generate revenue. The one percent sales tax provides an additional revenue source for all schools in Ogle County.

The one percent sales tax is estimated to provide an additional \$300,000 per year to the Forrestville Valley School District. These funds can be used for mental health professionals, school resource officers, or facility projects and updates.

The one percent tax would apply to everything in the municipal and county sales tax base as well as eligible online sales. There are some exceptions, and the following will not be taxed: groceries, medicine, cars, trucks, farm equipment, and services.

If something is not currently taxed it will not be included in this additional sales tax.

The tax collected from all of Ogle County sales would be distributed to area schools based on student enrollment. When we calculate our current student enrollment with the estimated tax, the estimate is an additional \$300,000 per year.

If passed, our school district would start to receive additional revenue as early as this October. Our district commitment is to prioritize funds towards student mental health services, school safety, and ongoing facility needs.

The language on the March 19 ballot will read:

"Shall a retailer's occupation tax and a service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a 'Sales Tax') be imposed in Ogle County at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes, school resource officers, and mental health professionals?"

My goal is to provide information to residents for review prior to March 19. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Superintendent Smith. She can be reached in the district office at 815-938-2036. You may also visit the district website at www.fvdistrict221.org for a complete presentation from the Town Hall meeting, Q&A documents, and additional information.

Mr. Chip Braker
Forrestville Valley Board of
Education president

Ag areas and farmers

SINCE 1980, landowners in Illinois have had a tool available to them that can help preserve farmland for at least 10 years. The Illinois Agricultural Areas Conservation and Protection Act allows one or more landowners to voluntarily place their land into a protected district, often called an "ag area," with the approval of the local county board.

Although it is only one tool in farmland protection, it can offer some assistance in maintaining farmland for farming purposes. Ag areas may also help protect farmers from some aspects of the encroachment of nearby development and possibly assist them in responding to any complaints from residents new to the rural area.

Any single landowner or multiple contiguous landowners with 350 acres or more can submit a proposal for the creation of an ag area to the local county board. The county board is responsible for implementing the procedures outlined in state statute to facilitate exploring the issue locally and voting on the specific ag area request. The approval process includes the following steps:

Upon receiving a new ag area request, the county board issues a public notice for comment by adjacent landowners.

Thirty days after public notice is given, the county board refers the request to the County Ag Area Committee. This committee is appointed by the County Appointing Authority, which includes the county board chair, county Extension staff, and the chair of the county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The Ag Area Committee consists of five appointees: four must be active farmers, no more than two can be from one political party, and one must be a county board member.

The Ag Area Committee must hold a public hearing that is followed by a 30-day comment period. The committee must present the county board with a recommendation within 45 days after the comment period ends.

The county board then must approve or deny the ag area request within 45 days of receiving the committee's recommendation.

Within 45 days of their final action, the county board is to notify the Illinois Department of Agriculture of their decision. If the proposal is approved, a description of the ag area is to be filed with the County

Clerk's office.

It is important to note that if the proposed land is within 1.5 miles of a municipality's corporate boundary, the municipality may file an objection. If the municipality adheres to all procedural guidelines and timelines, the objection can result in removing the land located within the 1.5-mile zone from the ag area. If removal of this land reduces the area to less than 350 acres, the ag area request is invalidated.

State statute lists several issues that must be considered by the Ag Area Committee and county board when determining whether to approve an ag area request. Those items include: viability of active farming within the proposed area and surrounding areas; presence of viable farmland; the nature and extent of other land uses within the proposed area and adjacent areas; county development patterns and needs; SWCD-approved conservation plans for the land within the area; and any other relevant matters.

Once approved, an ag area remains protected for 10 years. During that time, landowners can request deletions from, additions to, or dissolution of the designated ag area. After the 10-year period expires, extensions of eight years can be granted.

The county board has final approval of any changes to an ag area, following procedures similar to those for ag area establishment.

No land can be included in an ag area without the landowner's agreement. At least 350 acres must be included in the area, and one or more landowners may own the property. The state statute suggests, "the land should be as compact and nearly contiguous as feasible."

Land within an ag area may be bought, sold, inherited, etc., without any restrictions. Ag areas do not change with ownership changes. Once established, the ag area designation stays on the land until the county board dissolves it or it ceases to contain 350 acres.

The benefits of entering property into an ag area may be limited to those specified by state statute, but landowners often cite reasons and benefits that are more personal in nature.

State statute indicates that ag areas help protect landowners from local ordinances that might otherwise interfere with normal farming practices. However, ag areas do not exempt farmers from nuisance suits or from following approved best manage-



Ron Kern

ment practices, especially those prescribed by law. State statute also indicates that after land is enrolled within an ag area, no benefit assessments for community improvements (such as sewer, lighting, water, etc.) can be imposed on land used primarily for agricultural purposes when the landowner is not benefited. In addition, statute specifies that state agencies must take into account the presence of ag areas when siting state projects; however, this requirement does not prohibit those agencies from acquiring land within the ag area.

While it may be possible to achieve any or all of these benefits without creating an ag area, the ag area designation is an important public declaration that the county and the landowner feel agriculture is important to the community and still a viable industry in that area.

As stated in the 1980 Agricultural Areas Conservation and Preservation Act, "it is the policy of the state to conserve, protect, and to encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural lands for the production of food and other agricultural products. It is also the policy of this state to conserve and protect agricultural lands as valued natural and ecological resources, which provide needed open spaces for clean air as well as for aesthetic purposes. Agriculture in many parts of the state is under urban pressure from expanding metropolitan areas. This urban pressure takes the form of scattered development in wide belts around urban areas, brings conflicting land uses into juxtaposition, creates high costs for public services, and stimulates land speculation. When this scattered development extends into productive farm areas, ordinances inhibiting farming tend to follow, farm taxes rise, and hopes for speculative gains discourage investments in farm improvements.

Farmers and landowners interested in more information about ag areas should contact their local University of Illinois Extension, Soil and Water Conservation District, or Farm Bureau office. Some county building and zoning or development offices may also have information. Interested persons can also contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture in Springfield for further information.

"No race can prosper until it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem." -Booker T. Washington

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

New Political Letter Policy

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

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

paid endorsement. Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page.

Most newspapers that have adopted this approach cite one main reason: Political campaigns for years have used newspaper opinion pages for what amounts to free advertising. As these letter-writing campaigns become more widespread and sophisticated - some campaigns even pay people to write letters to the editor - newspapers are flooded with requests to publish them, especially in the run-up to elections.

Will we still publish letters complaining about the county

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

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

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

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

LIFE letters' policy

endorses 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.

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

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

Woman turns self in on outstanding warrant

OREGON — On Feb. 21 at approximately 8:45 a.m. Yulisa Regalado-Lopez, 25, of Rochelle turned herself in to the Ogle County Jail for an outstanding Ogle County warrant for cancelled, revoked or suspended registration. She appeared in court on Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. and was released on a recognizance bond. Regalado-Lopez will return to court on April 8 at 9 a.m.

On Feb. 21 at approximately 11:15 a.m. deputies arrested Antonio Martinez, 31, of Rochelle at the Ogle County Courthouse. Martinez was arrested on an outstanding warrant for violation of an order of protection. No bond was set on the warrant, and he appeared in court on Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. Martinez remains in custody on no bond and will appear in court again on Feb. 28 at 10 a.m.

On Feb. 21 at approximately 8:43 p.m. deputies were advised of a violation of an order of protection that had just occurred within the city limits of Rochelle and near the intersection of Flagg Road and Queens Road. After investigation, deputies located the offender and his vehicle involved and conducted a traffic stop on it near the intersection of Flagg Road and 20th Street at approximately 8:49 p.m. After investigation, deputies placed Jerry Nantz, 53, of Rochelle under arrest for violation of an order of protection. Nantz was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held pending a court appearance before a judge.

On Feb. 21 at approximately 1:49 p.m. Fabian J. Ruiz, 23, of Chicago Heights turned himself in on an outstanding Ogle County failure to appear warrant. Ruiz posted bond and was released with no return court date.

On Feb. 22 at approximately 12:30 p.m. deputies arrested Uredi Mulinga, 24, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

at the Ogle County Courthouse. He was arrested on an outstanding warrant for speeding. Mulinga appeared in court and was released on a recognizance bond, and will return to court on April 8 at 9 a.m.

On Feb. 22 at approximately 3:09 p.m. deputies responded to the intersection of North Illinois Route 2 and Ashelford Drive in Byron for the report of a two-vehicle accident. After a further investigation, deputies learned that Taylor Winstead, 24 of Dixon, failed to reduce speed to avoid an accident and rear ended the vehicle attempting to turn onto Ashelford from Illinois Route 2. Both parties were cleared on medical refusals by Byron EMS and Winstead was cited for failure to reduce speed. The Ogle County Sheriff's Office was assisted by Byron EMS and the Byron Police Department.

On Feb. 23 at approximately 3 p.m. deputies arrested Montana Chesko, 21, of Rochelle on an outstanding warrant for aggravated battery to a nurse. Chesko appeared in court and was arrested on a failure to appear warrant. Chesko posted bond and does not have to return to court.

On Feb. 23 at 10 a.m., the Ogle County Sheriff's Office investigated a battery complaint involving a 15-year-old male, from Monroe Center, and a juvenile female victim. After the investigation, the male was taken into limited custody for battery and released to his guardian.

On Feb. 23 at 6:02 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of North River Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Joseph Roth, 48, of Byron, for driving while license suspended. Roth was released with a notice to appear.

On Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. As a result, Rachael A. Smith, 38 of Rockford, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine. Smith was additionally issued citations for expired registration, suspended registration/non insured, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Smith was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Feb. 24 at approximately 10:25 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of South Illinois Route 251. After an investigation, deputies arrested Arturo E. Morales-Jiminez, 47, of Rockford, for driving unlicensed. Morales-Jiminez was transported to the Ogle County Jail and, after processing, was released with a notice to appear in court.

On Feb. 24 at 10:29 p.m. deputies, with the assistance of Oregon Police Department, conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of North Illinois Route 2 to investigate a domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation, Damian Rodden, 23, of Oregon, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Rodden was released with a notice to appear in court.

On Feb. 24 at 1:12 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on North Illinois Route 251 at the intersection with East Lindenwood Road. As a result, deputies arrested Anna E Ramsby-Thrower, 42, of Freeport for driving on a suspended license. Ramsby-Thrower was additionally issued citations for expired registration, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Ramsby-Thrower was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

See SHERIFF page 9

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LOCAL NEWS

Mt. Morris man arrested on attempted first degree murder charge

MT. MORRIS—A Mt. Morris man was recently arrested for charges including attempted first degree murder, an Ogle County Sheriff's Office press release on Feb. 28 said.

On Feb. 14 at approximately 3:40 a.m. deputies and the Mt. Morris Police Department responded to a disturbance at the Mt. Morris Estates Trailer Park in rural Mt. Morris. Malachi M. Voight, 18, of Mt. Morris was actively engaged in an altercation with two members of the household, the release said. As a result, the Mt. Morris Ambulance transported two senior citizens to KSB Hospital in Dixon for serious injuries. Voight was also transported to KSB Hospital by Oregon Ambulance.

Pursuant to the investigation, a warrant was subsequently issued for Voight for attempted first degree murder (class X



Malachi M. Voight

felony), two counts of aggravated domestic battery (class two felony), and two counts of aggravated battery to a senior citizen (class two felony).

On Feb. 27, Voight was released from KSB Hospital and taken into custody by Ogle County Sheriff's deputies. Voight is being confined at the Ogle County Jail without bond.

All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

MT. MORRIS POLICE

Woman arrested and cited for no valid license

MT. MORRIS—On Feb. 12 at approximately 6:20 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 3,000 block of West Illinois Route 64 for a traffic violation. The driver, Wanda L. Chest, 57, Oregon, was arrested and cited for no valid driver's license. Chest was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released with a notice to appear.

On Feb. 12 at approximately 8:55 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 300 block of West Hitt Street for a traffic violation. The driver, a 16-year-old of Polo, was issued a citation for expired registration and released on scene.

On Feb. 17 at approximately 9:30 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of South Wesley Avenue for a traffic violation. The driver, Richard L. Gallagher, 40, Oregon, was issued citations for no valid registration and

operating an uninsured vehicle. Gallagher was released on scene.

On Feb. 17 at approximately 10:30 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 300 block of East Illinois Route 64 for a traffic violation. The driver, Jonathan E. Blackburn, 23, Polo, was issued a citation for expired registration. Blackburn was released on scene.

On Feb. 18 at approximately 2:44 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of East Illinois Route 64 for a traffic violation. The driver, a 17-year-old juvenile was issued citations for driving while license is suspended. The juvenile was released to a parent/guardian.

On Feb. 18 at approximately 11:45 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of East Hitt Street for a traffic violation. The driver, Benjamin J. Taylor, 25, Oregon, was issued citations for no

valid registration and operating an uninsured vehicle. Taylor was released on scene.

On Feb. 22 at approximately 1:20 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 3,000 block of West Illinois Route 64 for a traffic violation. The driver, Terry V.

West, 60, Rockford, was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. West was released on scene.

These charges are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.



VFW Post #8739
1310 W. Washington St., Oregon, IL

VFW Post 8739 2024 Scholarship Offering

Scholarship forms are now available for pick up at the Oregon VFW Post at 1310 W Washington St in Oregon. Student's parents do not need to be a member to submit an application. Applications must be turned in by April 26, 2024. Winners will receive a \$500 scholarship to the school of their choice. Forms can be picked up at the Post Monday thru Friday from 4 to 7 PM. For more information phone 815-732-6851 same time and days as listed above.

03042024

POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Driver cited for operating uninsured vehicle

POLO — On Feb. 20 at 7:01 p.m. Airia E. King, 43, Forreston, was cited for operation of an uninsured motor vehicle. King was released on a notice to appear.

On Feb. 22 at 2:40 p.m. James K.

Lillyman, 70, Franklin Grove, was cited for speeding 42 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour speed zone. Lillyman was released with a citation.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

SHERIFF: Traffic stop leads to arrest

From page 8

On Feb. 25 at approximately 2:36 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of Kishwaukee Road. After investigation, deputies placed Elizabeth Blascak, 35, of Cherry Valley, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Blascak was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On Feb. 26 at approximately 9:30 a.m. deputies arrested Mark Rowe, 38, of Polo at the Ogle County Courthouse. He was arrested on an outstanding failure to appear warrant for manufacturing/delivery cannabis/30-500 grams. Rowe was unable to post the \$4,628 bond and appeared in court where his bond was reduced to \$525. Rowe posted bond, was released, and will return to court on March 25 at 9 a.m.

On Feb. 26 at approximately 10:45 a.m. deputies arrested Corey Kelchner, 39, of Steward when he turned himself into the Ogle County Jail. He was arrested on an outstanding failure to appear warrant for possession of a firearm with a revoked FOID card. Kelchner was unable to post the \$4,661 bond and appeared in court where his bond was reduced to \$300. Kelchner posted bond, was released, and will return to court on March 25 at 9 a.m. On Feb. 26 at approxi-

mately 10:50 a.m. deputies arrested Martha Vargas, 30, of Aurora at the Ogle County Courthouse. She was arrested on an outstanding failure to appear warrant (\$2,676 bond) and a second warrant (no bond), both for driving under the influence of alcohol. Vargas appeared in court where her bond was set at \$500. If she is unable to post bond, she will remain in custody until her court date on Feb. 28 at 3 p.m.

On Feb. 26 at approximately 3:30 p.m. deputies arrested Thomas Minton, 41, of Freeport at the Ogle County Courthouse. He was arrested on an outstanding warrant for driving while license suspended. Minton was unable to post the \$15,000 (10 percent) bond and was scheduled to appear in court on Feb. 27 at 1 p.m.

On Feb. 26 at approximately 10:28 p.m. deputies responded to the 8,000 block of North Kilbuck Road in response to the report of a suspicious vehicle. After investigation, Jose M. Martinez, 28, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while license revoked, aggravated driving while under the influence of alcohol, and two counts of unlawful use of a weapon as a felon. Martinez was also cited for improper lane usage, failure to reduce speed, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Martinez was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held, awaiting an appearance before a judge.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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200 W Washington, Oregon 732-1301

Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

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Oregon, IL 61061 732-6855

Mental Health

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Rochelle 562-3801
The Serenity Shed Grief Services 732-2499

Senior Citizens Services

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Mt Morris Senior Center 734-6335
Polo Senior Center 946-3818
Rock River Center 732-3252
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412 W Washington, Oregon 732-0000

Therapeutic

Pegasus Special Riders 973-3177

Veterans' Services

Rock River Center 732-3252
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Medical Transportation 677-6515

Wellness Services

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

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Driver cited for speeding

Feb. 20
At 7:08 a.m., Oregon Police issued Spomenka Bela, 59, Rockford, a citation for speeding, 46 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

Feb. 21
At 6:46 a.m., Oregon Police issued Dennis M. Demoss, 52, Rockton, a citation for speeding, 46 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 3:04 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the McDonald's restaurant parking lot, located at 211 S. 4th St., involving a 2008 Honda driven by Heidi S. Zimmermann, 41, Oregon, and a 2007 Jeep driven by Sirena R. Benton, 18, Oregon. No citations were issued.

At 3:32 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash at the intersection of West Washington and South 4th Streets involving a 2017 Subaru driven by Barbara A. Murdoch, 56, Polo, and a 2023 Honda driven by Catherine E. Snyder, 63, Rochelle. No citations were issued.

Feb. 22
At 8:13 a.m., Oregon Police issued Rebecca A. Jorgensen, 30, Rockford, citations for speeding, 43 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone, and operating a motor vehicle when registration is suspended for non-insurance. A passenger in the car, Steven D. Jorgensen, Jr., 35, Rockford, was also issued a citation for improper container of cannabis as a passenger.

At 1:30 p.m., Oregon Police issued Reese E. Wamhoff, 52, of LaMoille a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 100 block of North 4th Street.

Feb. 23
At 1:29 p.m., Oregon Police issued Angelle C. Pottinger, 22, Oregon, a citation for speeding, 45 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 1:49 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Jered T. Vautsmeier, 20, of Pecatonica, on an outstanding Carroll County warrant for contempt of court. Vautsmeier was also issued citations and a notice to appear for operating a vehicle with an expired registration, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and driving while license suspended. Vautsmeier was left in the custody of the correctional officers regarding the warrant. These violations occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

Feb. 24
At 9:49 a.m., Oregon Police issued Hannah M. Flint, 25, Chana, a citation for operating a vehicle in violation of the tinted front side windows law. This violation occurred in the 100 block of West Washington Street.

At 12:49 p.m., Oregon Police issued James V. Beilfuss, 73, of Belvidere a citation for disobeying a stop sign. This violation occurred at the intersection of 10th and Webster Streets.

At 6:08 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash

at the intersection of Washington and South 4th Streets involving a 2002 Jeep driven by Kelly S. Schaible, 27, Oregon, and a 2015 Dodge driven by Joseph H. McConaghie, 47, Oregon. Schaible was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Feb. 25
At 7:54 a.m., Oregon Police issued Deanna S. Sandrock, 39, Dixon, a citation for speeding, 48 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 500 block of North 4th Street.

At 8:15 a.m., Oregon Police issued Shane A. Friant, 44, Oregon, a citation for speeding, 56 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 200 block of East Washington Street.

At 1:35 p.m., Oregon Police issued Curt A. Ortamn, 32, Oregon, citations for operating a vehicle without a registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 700 block of North 4th Street.

At 2:17 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Andrew L. Stowell, 32, Dixon, on two outstanding Ogle County warrants. Stowell was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the custody of the correctional officers.

Twenty one verbal warnings and two parking citations were issued during the week of Feb. 19-25.

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



Eagle's Nest Art Group show opens at Byron Museum

BYRON — The Byron Museum of History hosted an opening reception recently for the Eagle's Nest Art Group show. The show is open to the public through March 30, every Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The museum is located at 110 N. Union St. in Byron, IL.

The show includes 70 art pieces and features many different styles of oil, acrylic, alcohol ink and watercolor painting. In addition, many exciting examples of photography are in the show. Three-dimensional art is also included: glass work, gourd art, and stoneware objects.

If you would like to know more about this local art group and its other shows and program offerings, call 815-732-7783 and informational material will be sent out to you.

To learn more about the Byron Museum of History and its exhibits and activities, call 815-234-5031 or visit their website www.byronmuseum.org. The 80 members of the Eagle's Nest Art Group, which was founded in 1957, are honored to display their work and celebrate local art at the Byron Museum for the sixth year. The public is invited to visit this special show at no cost.



Polo Lions Club holds joint meeting

The Polo Lions Club held a joint meeting on Feb. 6 at the Polo Community Center with the Dixon Evening Lions Club. District Governor Duane Collman spoke about his project Leader Dog for the Blind. In the first picture Polo Lions Club President Greg Cross and Dixon Evening Lions Club President Rod Tichler handed two donations of \$500 towards Leader Dog for the Blind to Collman. In the second picture is Joey Kochsmeier and Dr. Melydi Huyett, principal at Polo Centennial Grade School, talking about the new playground equipment that was bought by the CPO Organization. (Courtesy photos)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

March 8
Serenity Hospice & Home's Morning Group will meet on March 8, from 9-10 a.m. at The Serenity Home, 1658 S. Illinois Route 2, Oregon. This group is for anyone in the community who has experienced a loss during the past two years. To register please call

815-732-4111 by 4 p.m. on March 7.

March 16
The annual spring clean-up at White Rock Cemetery will take place Saturday, March 16. Any winter decorations not removed by then will be disposed of.

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LOCAL NEWS



MJHS names October 2023 Student Leaders of the Month
 Meridian Junior High School recently named its October Student Leaders of the Month. The students were nominated and voted on by their classmates and staff for the October trait – KINDNESS and also Leader In Me Habit #2 – Begin With the End in Mind. Congrats to the following (from left to right): Faith Sisson (seventh grade), Avery Garner (sixth grade), Braiden Jenkins (seventh grade), Carter Robinson (sixth grade), Casey McCleary (eighth grade), and Cecilia Bishop (eighth grade). (Courtesy photo)



MJHS names November 2023 Student Leaders of the Month
 Meridian Junior High School recently named its November Student Leaders of the Month. These students were nominated and voted on by their classmates and staff for the November trait – SUCCESS and also Leader In Me Habit #3 – Put First Things First. Congrats to the following (from left to right): AJ Garibaldi (sixth grade), Jovie Myrvold (sixth grade), Olivia Lalor (seventh grade), Whitt Carter (seventh grade), Ayleen DiGuisseppi (eighth grade) and Collin Evenson (eighth grade). (Courtesy photo)



MJHS names December 2023 Student Leaders of the Month
 Meridian Junior High School recently named its December Student Leaders of the Month. These students were nominated and voted on by their classmates and staff for the December trait – KINDNESS and also Leader In Me Habit #4 – Think Win-Win. Congrats to the following: Ashlyn Farris (seventh grade), Jaelyn Black (sixth grade), Garrett Schwartz (seventh grade), Grady Poliska (sixth grade), Nolan Grobe (eighth grade) and Kacee Summers (eighth grade). (Courtesy photo)

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MJHS names January 2024 Student Leaders of the Month
 Meridian Junior High School recently named its January Student Leaders of the Month. These students were nominated and voted on by their classmates and staff for the January trait – RESPECTFUL and also Leader In Me Habit #5 – Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood. Congrats to the following (from left to right): Abdy Aldana Fernandez (seventh grade), Jacob Way (eighth grade), Kaylee Hulstedt (seventh grade) Mallory King (eighth grade), Nayeli Cuevas (sixth grade), and Eli Jones (sixth grade). (Courtesy photo)

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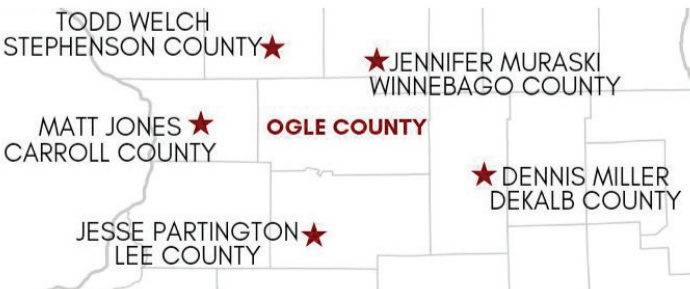


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LOCAL NEWS



Retiring Ogle County Fair Board members recognized for service
At the Feb. 19 Ogle County Fair Board meeting, two retiring members were recognized for their years of service on the board. Denny Alderks served on the board for 27 years and Rita Dauphin served for 25 years. The board wanted to thank both Denny and Rita for the many hours of dedicated volunteer service they provided to help build our fair. Both received a plaque and lifetime passes for the fair. (Courtesy photos)

Black Hawk Art Restoration Board announces spring fundraiser

OREGON — The Black Hawk Art Restoration and Development Committee (BARD) is announcing an exciting spring fundraising event at the Northern Illinois University Lorado Taft Field Campus in Oregon.
 Eagle's Nest Luncheon and Matinee; The Blind will take place on Sunday, April 14 from 2-6 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a special buffet luncheon in the Taft Campus dining hall followed by a performance of "The Blind". The Blind was originally written by French playwright Maurice Maeterlinck and was performed at the Eagle's Nest Art Colony, inspiring a Lorado Taft sculpture of the same name. This year's performance will feature BARD members, Oregon Park District staff, and NIU Lorado Taft Field Campus staff, and is directed by Debbie Dickson of Oregon. There will be a silent auction, and the opportunity to tour the historic Lorado Taft Field Campus to see original Eagle's Nest Art Colony structures.
 2024 commemorates the five-year anniversary of the completion of the Black Hawk Restoration Project, in which significant repairs were made to Lorado Taft's iconic Eternal Indian Statue. Landscaping of the statue pavilion was completed in 2023. This year's fundraiser aims to ensure the permanent ongoing maintenance of the Eternal Indian Statue. Funds raised by BARD from the luncheon will be presented to the Illinois Conservation Foundation and dedicated to ensuring the historic Eternal Indian Statue remains beautiful for years to come.
 The Eagle's Nest Luncheon and Matinee: The Blind is a cooperative effort between the NIU Lorado Taft Field Campus, BARD, and the Oregon Park District. Registration for this event is open to the public until April 7 and can be done in person at Nash Recreation Center, by phone at 815-732-3101 or online at www.oregonpark.org. Registration is \$70 for Oregon Park District residents and \$80 for non-residents. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Illinois Conservation Foundation and Oregon Park District Youth Scholarship fund.

SVHS's Jones attends UD's Second Century Scholars Day

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Around 60 high-achieving high school seniors attended the University of Dubuque's annual Second Century Scholars Day on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, on campus. They included Haley Jones of Monroe Center and Stillman Valley High School. Supported by generous investors, the Second Century Scholars program awards two renewable full-tuition scholarships and several one-time Distinguished Scholar awards to incoming first-year students who show a wide-ranging curiosity about their world, a strong capacity for self-discipline, and a passion for academic excellence in service to their communities.
 To be eligible for the scholarships, invited students with a 3.75 or higher GPA were on campus to participate in the Second Century Scholars Day. They completed a series of interviews and a writing exercise, learned about UD's Scholar-Leader Honors Program through an informational session, met with UD faculty and students, and attended a dinner where they were recognized for their academic accomplishments.

Northern Illinois 4-H Summer Camp set for June 9-13 in Polo

OREGON — Registration for 4-H Summer Camp 2024 is open! Camp is set for June 9-13 at Rock River Christian Camp, Polo. Sign up today to get your child in on all the fantastic fun!
 4-H Camp is a five-day, four-night residential camping experience that is conducted cooperatively by University of Illinois Extension staff in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties and the professional staff at RRCC.
 Historically, parents have sent their children to 4-H Camp for a variety of reasons: to have fun, to make new friends, to develop new skills, to be physically active, and to appreciate nature. 4-H Camp is about way more than one week of fun. Sending your child to 4-H Camp will allow them to create memories they will carry through adulthood. 4-H camp teaches youth to make good decisions, build their self-confidence, become independent, and gain the ability to work well with others. These skills will help youth develop into strong adult leaders. In addition, 4-H camp counselors devote much of their time to ensure today's campers have the same great experience they did as children.
 Campers at 4-H Camp will check in from 6-6:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 9 and check out from 6-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 13. During camp week, youth will engage in various activities designed to challenge, educate and entertain. Two or three free-choice periods will be offered daily, including hiking, shooting sports, arts and crafts, crate stacking, team-building challenges, zip-lining, swimming and more. The 4-H camp counselors will provide evening activities, including campfires, a games night, and a dance. It is guaranteed to be a blast!
 4-H Camp will be open to all boys and girls ages 8-14 by June 9. 4-H membership is not required; however, all participants will be expected to comply with the same high behavior standards expected of 4-Hers. Youth must be interested and excited to have a week of outdoor fun away from television and technology.
 The cost is \$300 for 4-H members and \$320 for non-4-H members until March 1. After that date, the price goes up \$50. All camp fees must be paid in full by May 15. Download a camper application online at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo/northern-illinois-4-h-camp>, or you can register online at <http://go.illinois.edu/4HSummerCamp>. You may also call an office near you with questions or if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program: Jo Daviess County at 815-858-2273; Stephenson County at 815-235-4125; Ogle County at 815-732-2191; or Whiteside County at 815-632-3611. Cabin slots for boys and girls will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.



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Tigers take win over Rams in sectional semifinals

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MENDOTA — An 11-0 run from Port Byron Riverdale tested the Byron Tiger basketball team during the fourth quarter of the IHSAA 2A Mendota Sectional Semifinal matchup on Wednesday.

A series of layups toward the end of the third quarter enabled Byron to hold a 54-35 lead entering the fourth quarter, where a turnover on an inbound pass led to a Riverdale layup that sparked 11 consecutive points and forced two Tiger timeouts. Although the energy cranked up on the Riverdale bench as well as the Riverdale side of the gymnasium, Byron shook off the mistakes, leaning on its defense and free-throw shooting to secure a 70-51 win over the Rams.

“We wanted to come in and score points off of our defense, which is what we’ve been doing all season,” said Byron guard Ryan Tucker, who finished with 18 points on Wednesday. “We knew we could have a comfortable

lead if we did that and all we had to do was keep it from there. We were missing some layups early in the game, but we were able to rebound the ball and score on putbacks. We were able to get our easy points, get the lead and keep it from there.”

Byron (28-2, 8-1 Big Northern) advances to the sectional championship game on Friday, when the No. 1 seeded Tigers will take on the No. 4 seed Princeton and attempt to win the school’s first sectional title since the 2006-07 season, when Byron went 29-2 under former head coach Ryan Webber. While the Tigers struggled at the rim early in Wednesday’s game, Byron was able to take a 15-9 first-quarter lead behind 3-point baskets from Cason Newton and Jack Hiveley.

The two first-quarter triples were the only triples Byron made on Wednesday, as Riverdale (22-9, 8-4 Three Rivers) defended the 3-point line well throughout the game. But the Rams struggled against By-



Byron's Ryan Tucker drives around Riverdale's Jake Willems. (Photo by Russell Hodges)

ron's three-quarter court pressure, with the Tigers using their length and athleticism to generate deflections and force errant passes that led to transition layups.

“We like to game plan really hard every week and it doesn’t matter who we’re playing or what kind of game we’re playing,” said Byron guard Carson Buser, who totaled 10 points in the win. “We game planned really hard and we did a good job of learning their offensive

sets and how we could attack their defense. Winning the sectional would be really special, especially for our seniors since our last two seasons didn’t end the way we wanted to. This is a special run.”

Riverdale’s Brody Clark scored all nine of his points in the first half, helping the Rams hang tough with the state-ranked Tigers, who are currently No. 7 in Class 2A in the AP Poll. Byron’s 32-25 halftime lead ballooned during the third quarter, where the Tigers held Riverdale to only three made field goals

and led by as many as 19 points after multiple brief scoring runs.

Hiveley led all scorers with 21 points on Wednesday, converting a dribble-drive layup and sinking two free throws late in the fourth quarter to clinch the Byron victory. After the Tigers clanked six free throws in the first half, Byron settled in over the third and fourth quarter, where Buser went 4-for-4 and Newton went 3-for-4 down the stretch to help ice the Tiger win.

See TITLE page 2



The Byron High School boys basketball team won the IHSAA 2A Genoa-Kingston Regional this past week. The Tigers defeated Woodstock Marian and Johnsburg to claim their first regional title since 2018. (Courtesy photo)

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271 W. Margaret Fuller Road, Oregon \$229,000 call Rebecca

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202 Wisconsin Lane, Dixon \$3,000 Call Taylor

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894 Bend Road, Dixon \$142,000 Call Carla

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SPORTS NEWS

Stillman Valley girls hoops falls to Rock Island in 2A Sectional final

'Sorry to see the season end. This was a special group we had'

By Andy Colbert
CORRESPONDENT

OREGON—Stillman Valley's girls basketball season came to an end with a 45-36 loss to Rock Island in the finals of the 2A sectional. Playing before a large crowd at the nearby Blackhawk Center in Oregon, the Cardinals fell to Alleman by a nearly identical score for the second time this season.

A 48-37 loss in the finals of the Dixon Holiday Tournament was sandwiched between 14-straight wins by SV, who finished with a 30-5 record. In both games, the Pioneers got early leads and SV was never able to make a dent in them.

Other than three Davidson free throws, those were the only points SV could muster.

On the positive, the Cardinal defense held Alleman in check the final part of the second quarter until senior team leader Audrey Erickson made a three-point buzzer beater from the top of the key for a 22-15 Pioneer lead. She also did the same in the first quarter on a two-pointer in the lane.

"Those two shots hurt," Mellon said. "At the same time, we miss an open shot. That's a seven-point swing."

At the start of the third quarter, it was Erickson drawing a charge on Davidson, much to the delight of the Alleman fans that made the long trip to Oregon. Moments later, Adalyn Voss scored on a three-pointer and it was a 10-point advantage.

"They draw offensive fouls, but I don't think all were legitimate," Mellon said.

Both Voss and Erickson were tasked with shadowing Davidson, much the same way they did in the first game. They also led Alleman in scoring with 10 and 11 points.

With the two teams trading points the rest of the quarter, Alleman took a 33-24 lead into the fourth quarter.

Janssen gave SV some hope with a basket to make it 33-26, while Alleman



Before falling to Rock Island in the 2A Sectional final, the Stillman Valley girls basketball team won the Regional title over Aurora Central Catholic (Courtesy photo).

Another thing that hurt SV was giving up three second-chance field goals in the first half. Combine that with Erickson's buzzer beaters, and that's 11 points that could have been zero points. It most definitely could have been a different game and maybe one that wouldn't have had Alleman in control throughout. Nine Cardinal turnovers to only three for Alleman in the first half also hurt.

"We gave up too many offensive rebounds in the first half," Mellon said. "Sorry to see the season end. This was a special group we had."

Though SV got beat to the offensive board, both teams had 22 total rebounds each. In another similar stat, not counting one early miss and a couple to end the game, they both combined for 19-of-19 free throw shooting.

"Any time they scored and looked like they could go on a run, we responded," Alleman coach Steve Ford said.

With Payge Barger hitting a three to start the game for SV and Taylor Davidson and Mya Janssen also scoring in the first quarter, the Cardinals only trailed 10-9. After that, it was a struggle to score, with the Cardinals being held to only two baskets in the second and third quarters combined.

"They did a good job of pressuring us," SV Coach Bobby Melton said. "We weren't able to get the ball where it needed to be."

Alleman upped its lead to 18-9 before Joslyn Nanni made a much-needed three-pointer to stem the

was in the midst of a seven-possession scoring drought.

Like every other time that the Cardinals tried to go on a run, the Pioneer defense put on the brakes. This time it was in the form of a blocked Nanni shot that Voss quickly turned into a score on the other end.

That score seemed to catapult Alleman the rest of the way, as they scored on five of the next eight possessions.

However, the real star down the stretch was Davidson, with consecutive

steals and lay-ups to cut the lead to seven points with one minute left in the game. That was as close as the Cardinals would come, as Alleman finished off with 10-for-10 free throw shooting to make it the final margin of victory, 43-36.

Davidson led all scorers with 19 points, every one hard-earned with all the attention she was getting from coach Ford's game plan.

"The key was knowing where No. 15 (Davidson) was," Ford said. "We had great communication on

that. Erickson was our leader on that."



TITLE: Key for Tigers is defense

From page 1

"They started coming back because we ran into some foul trouble, but I thought we managed that situation well," Buser said. "They ran some different rotations that we hadn't seen before, but we stuck around and we overcame our foul trouble by playing good defense at the end."

Newton finished with 11 points, while Braylon Kilduff and Caden Considine each added five points for the Tigers, who outscored Riverdale 22-10 in the third quarter on Wednesday.

IHSA Regional

The Byron basketball team began its road to the sectional tournament at the IHSA 2A Genoa-Kingston Regional, where the No. 1 seeded Tigers showed dominance in each of their games to take home their first regional championship since the 2017-18 season.

Byron had minimal trouble against No. 9 seed Woodstock Marian in the semifinal round, with senior guard and Benedictine University commit Ryan Tucker scoring a team-high 20 points while sophomore guard Cason Newton added 16 points in a 67-36 victory over the Hurricanes. Senior



Byron's Carson Buser is guarded by Riverdale's Colton Huffman. (Photo by Russell Hodges)

guards Jack Hiveley and Carson Buser combined for 20 points in the semifinal win.

"We have a target on our backs, but we're defend-

ing ourselves pretty well," Tucker said. "We don't focus on the pressure or the hype. We just focus on playing our game and our goals are to get the job done and move on. We shot the ball pretty well, but we got a lot of fastbreak points and our defense was a staple during the regional. We scored a lot of points off of our defense, but once we were able to run our offensive sets, we were able to knock down shots."

Byron battled No. 4 seed Johnsbury in the regional finals on Feb. 23, once again showing dominance as the Tigers smothered the Skyhawks for a 62-31 win. Three Byron players finished in double figures, with Newton scoring a team-high 17 points while Tucker added 16 points and Considine chipped in 12 points off the bench. Buser and Hiveley combined for 10 points.

"Some people might say that getting the No. 1 seed makes the regional easier, but that wasn't the case," Buser said. "It's just a number and we know that we're going to play a tough team no matter what because it's a win-or-go-home game and whoever fights harder will win. A key point for us is our defense and we work on our defense a lot in practice. We have really talented players in our program and they help us feel ready for when we have games like these."

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SPORTS NEWS



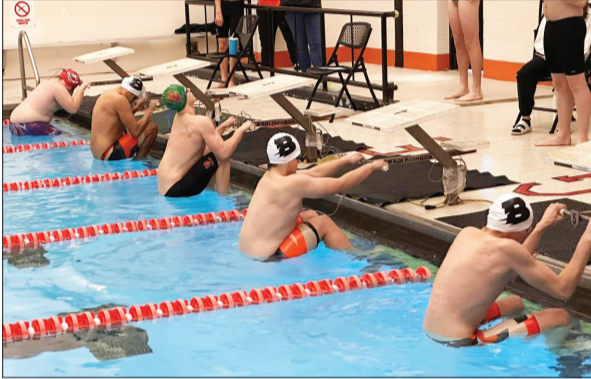
100th win
Byron High School wrestler Kyle Jones earned his 100th career win during the IHSA 1A Byron Sectional from Feb. 9-10. (Courtesy photo)



Big Northern winners
The Byron High School varsity boys basketball team won the 2023-24 Big Northern Conference crown this season. The Tigers finished with an 8-1 record over nine conference games. (Courtesy photo)



Conference title
The Byron High School co-op swimming and diving team won the Northern Illinois Independent Conference Championship meet on Saturday, Feb. 3. (Courtesy photos)



Senior Night
The Byron High School co-op swimming and diving team celebrated its Senior Night on Wednesday, Jan. 31. The team hosted a triangular meet against Belvidere North and Morrison. Seniors Kaenan McDevitt and Kevin Maldonado were honored during the meet. (Courtesy photos)



Sectional competition
The Byron High School co-op swimming and diving team competed in the IHSA Sectional competition earlier this month. Kaenan McDevitt took sixth in the 100-yard butterfly and the co-op team had two relay groups take fourth and fifth in the meet. (Courtesy photos)



Fourth place finish for Scholastic team
The Stillman Valley High School scholastic bowl team recently took fourth place in the annual Masonic Bowl competition in February. (Courtesy photo)

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SPORTS NEWS



Stillman wrestling club earns second place trophy

MILTON, Wis.—The Stillman Valley Wrestling Club earned the second-place trophy during the 2024 Milton Monster Mash on Feb. 18, when the team took second out of 50 clubs in the region. First-place finishers for the SVWC included Grayson Grugel, Ty Shelby, Brynlee Legue, Liam Ross, Braunson Cuchiaro-Bunk, Awbree Corson, Evan Ross, Brycen Legue and Brinley Wrage. Second-place finishers included Soiy Gorsenger, Adeline Strang and Hunter Champlain.

Third-place finishers included Olive Provancher, Jordi Collins, Julia Herring and Benson Grugel. Fourth-place finishers included Bryson Bunk, Brayden Wrage, Gavin Provancher, Austin Paulson and Bradley Bankes. Fifth-place finishers included Dean Bunk, Donavan Shelby and Owen Collins. Sixth-place finishers included Charles Corson and Gunnar Hall. Brextyn Gorsenger took eighth to round out the Stillman Valley wrestlers in the tournament.



Park district night

The Byron High School varsity boys basketball team held its Park District Recognition Night on Saturday, Feb. 3. Several Tiger athletes signed autographs for young players and fans. (Courtesy photos)



Middle-schoolers win Route 72 Conference

WINNEBAGO — The Byron Middle School wrestling team won the Route 72 Conference Championship tournament at Winnebago High School on Tuesday, Feb. 20. The varsity team had five conference champions and the JV team had four conference champions in the meet. Cohen Considine won the Varsity 75 Division with a fall over Harvard's Juan Rosales. Caleb Altesny won the Varsity 85 Division, securing back-to-back falls against Oregon's Kendra Ege and Polo's Landry Mumford. Aiden Salo won

the Varsity 90 Division with a fall over Winnebago's Barrett McLain and an 11-2 major decision over Genoa-Kingston's Trevor Gilbert. Dylan Meyer won the Varsity 119 Division with a 3-0 record, earning falls over Harvard's Jaxin Gollither and Genoa-Kingston's Jacob Rutkowski before scoring a 6-3 decision against North Boone's Gabe Marella. Riley Boyer won the Varsity 155 Division with a fall over North Boone's Manuel De La Luz-Micek and an 8-0 major decision over Genoa-Kingston's

Hunter Wendt. Boe Bastian won the JV 75 Division with a 7-5 decision against Harvard's Finn Crone. Elijah Whitlock won the JV 80 Division with falls over Harvard's Mason Berkholtz, Harvard's Kason Finfrock and Oregon's Logan Rasner. Darien Whitlock won the JV 85 Division with falls over Oregon's Kaeson Garcia, Meridian's Michael Mutimer and Oregon's Richard Folk. Johnny Hazzard won the JV 90 Division with a fall over Winnebago's Ethan Hansen.



Meridian Junior High team takes eighth at Route 72 Conference

WINNEBAGO — The Meridian Junior High wrestling team took eighth in the Route 72 Conference Championship tournament on Feb. 20. The Cardinals crowned one varsity winner as well as two JV winners and two third-place finishers in the conference tournament. Tyler Bell won the Varsity 135 Division with a 3-0 record, scoring a fall over Polo's Kaiden Eberly, Oregon's Hunter Skoli and Byron's Brooks Auter. Tristan Jackson won the JV 112 Division with a 16-6 major decision over Harvard's Gage Hansen, a 5-2 decision over Polo's Tyler Moshure and a fall over Polo's Gage Loomis. Bradley Bankes won the JV 135 Division with falls over Winnebago's Sebastian Unger, Polo's Kali Wright and Polo's Brodie Alitzer. Isaihs Carreno took third in the Varsity 95 Division with a 3-1 record, notching falls over Harvard's Giovanni Ramirez, Durand's Evan Flores and Genoa-Kingston's Ethan Sharif. Austin Paulson took third in the Varsity 100 Division with a 2-1 record, scoring an 11-3 major decision over Pecatonica's JC Moyer and a 7-5 decision against Harvard's Charlie Parker.



SPORTS NEWS

What did we learn?

WHAT did we learn from girls sectionals and boys regionals in basketball? Let's start with the girls.

Stillman Valley and Rock Island Alleman appear to have developed a rivalry, as the Pioneers knocked off SV twice, first at the Dixon Holiday Tournament final, and in the sectional final.

Last year, it was SV disposing of Alleman in the regional final, with all three games within a few points of each other. Both programs match up well and we will likely see more of the same into the future.

After losing a back-and-forth regional championship to Woodstock Marian in overtime, Byron did not reach the sectional. Still, they will be a force next year.

Besides reaching the sectional final, congratulations to coach SV Bobby Mellon for picking up his 200th win.

What about Rockford Lutheran? In the IHSA's classification system for private schools, they have been 3A, 2A and this year down to 1A. It's all too confusing for me to research whether or not they will be 2A again or stay in 1A.

In the most interesting of the 1A sectional finals, the Crusaders lost to No. 1-ranked Galena 46-30. Many observers felt Galena's claim as No. 1 team in the state was in jeopardy with big, bad Lutheran from the BNC dropping down to 1A.

Not so, as the Pirates dominated play. In what may have been a mild upset, Galena (31-2) then lost to

Illini Bluffs (30-4) at the super-sectional. That makes defending state champ Okawville as the favorite to win 1A.



Andy Colbert

The Big Northern had a girls sectional finalist in 1A, 2A and 3A, a rare feat to be represented in that many divisions. The only one left standing was Dixon, who made it all the way to the super-sectional before getting mauled by 3A terror Lincoln, perhaps the best team in all of Illinois.

In boys action, there were a lot of regional semifinal upsets, with Polo over Newman, Morrison the same to Rock Falls and Lena-Winslow knocking off Scales Mound. Coming into the season, Scales Mound had been ranked No. 2 in the state for 1A.

The only certainties were Byron and Pecatonica, who rolled their competition in regional play. Ironically, both appear destined for sectional finals with teams they lost to by nearly identical (79-71, 77-71) scores in the regular season, even though both will be favored to win those rematches.

For 2A Byron, it will be a chance to get back at Rockford Christian, who prevented the Tigers from being undefeated league champs. But, with all the upsets in the post season, they need to get there first.

Likewise, with Pecatonica in 1A. They come in as sectional favorites and also the local team with the most clear-cut path to state.

Even though Polo lost in the regional finals to Eastland, the Marcos were right there in it, grabbing a 22-8 lead. But, of any one sport, basketball

in a game of runs and 16 straight points by Eastland spelled doom.

Earlier this year, coach Matt Messer told me his team was hurt by lulls like this. Unfortunately, it carried over at the worst possible time.

None-the-less, under Messer, Polo continues to get as much out of the talent it has as any program around. The Marcos blend quite well together.

Listening to the Newman-Polo game on the radio, it also appeared Polo might fold after taking control early. Newman did regain the lead, but sparked by Carter Merdian refusing to allow his senior season to end, the Marcos came back to life for the win.

Much has been said about Catholic schools losing athletic prowess and I wonder if Newman is being affected by this? This year, traditionally-strong football and basketball programs bowed out quite early in the playoffs.

Perhaps the retirement of long-time Coach and Athletic Director Mike Papoccia has hurt athletic prospects.

Mention was made of Polo having all these consecutive 20-win seasons. What Newman has done might be more impressive.

Under one of the best-prepared coaches in the business, Ray Sharp, the Comets have won 20 or more games in 11 of the past 12 full years of basketball.

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



ACES take third

The Byron High School ACES team took third at its regional competition. Top finishers include Brianna Fish (third in biology), Madi Groharing (first in chemistry), Gianna Franchi (third in chemistry), Conner Lee (third in computer science), Rosemary Krane (third in engineering graphics), Sadie Stoll (third in English), Nova Rakowski (first in physics) and Xiang Yi Chen (second in physics). (Courtesy photo)

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LOCAL NEWS

ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

Stringed Instrument Program

Wed., March 6; 10 – 11 a.m. Advance registration requested.

Crocheting & Knitting Club

Thurs., March 7; 9:00 – 11:00

VA Rep at RRC

Friday, March 8; 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Beginner Ceramics

Thurs., March 14; 9:30 – 11 a.m. \$20 per person. All material provided. Register by March 4.

March Yoga Classes @ RRC

Yoga: 10:00-11:00am. Chair Yoga: 11:15–12:00noon. When: March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Cost: \$5 per session.

LIHEAP – HEATING ASSISTANCE

For the 2023-2024 LIHEAP program year applications will follow the income limits below.

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

2023-2024 NICOR GAS "SHARING" PROGRAM

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 Provided By Rock River Center

Do you need help with Benefit Access Application, Medicare, housing, personal care, homemaking, heating assistance or other things? Rock River Center's Information & Assistance Specialists are available at various locations throughout Ogle County. Assistance at these locations is available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact Rock River Center at (800) 541-5479 to schedule an appointment. Byron - Jarrett Prairie Center Mar 11 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Forrester - Library Mar 20 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Mt. Morris - Senior Center Mar 14 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Polo - Senior Center Mar 28 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Rochelle - Hub City Senior Ctr. Mar 13 & 27 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!

Book Club

On March 4th join us for Book Club. Stop in the library to pick up this month's book and join us for discussion.

Support Group

Thursday, March 7th at 2:00 pm we have our Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group. At our meetings we have opportunities to talk about how these diseases are affecting or have affected our loved ones. Tips and ideas are shared to help in everyday life.

Virtual trip

Monday, March 11th take a Virtual Trip to Brazil and enjoy a tasty treat. All our welcome!

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,

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

LEGO Club

Monday, March 4th at 5:00 PM Join us and show off your build as we display them for the next month. LEGO Club is open to all ages! Those under age 5 should have a grown-up with them as the pieces are small.

Uno Night

Monday, March 18th at 5:00 PM There will be several Uno games to play from traditional Uno to Uno Flip! and Uno Attack! Bring a friend for a fun night of Uno!

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.

March Book of the Month

Join us in reading Finding Dorothy by Elizabeth Letts. An historical fiction novel of the story behind The Wizard of Oz. Pick up a copy today at the circulation desk.

March Take & Make Craft

Stop by the circulation desk to grab a kit to make a sea glass suncatcher.

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

Lost and Found by Suzanne Woods Fisher

A Sign of Her Own by Sarah Marsh

Crosshairs by James Patterson

Chapter Book

Drawing Deena by Hena Khan

Picture Books

I Don't Want To Go To Sleep by Dev Petty

Return of the Underwear Dragon by Scott Rothman

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Knit & Crochet is BACK!

Mondays at 1:00pm. This group meets 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.

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 tornadoic 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.

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

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!

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, March 18th 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, March 19th at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your time slot). Cricut Design Space 101 – This class will teach you the basics of creating in Cricut Design Space. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Lego Club

(2nd grade & up)- Tuesday, March 26 at 3 pm. School's out for break...grab some friends and come built something! The club is designed to provide an enjoyable activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence. Registration required

Book Clubs

The 2WBC meets Wednesday, March 13 at 12:30 to discuss Separate Peace by John Knowles. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, March 17 at 2:00pm at Breakers. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, March 20 at 1 pm to discuss Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, March 21 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray by Joe Siple. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet Tuesday, March 26 at 6 pm at the Library to discuss The Blood Trials by N.E. Davenport. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, March 28 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss Did You Hear About Kitty Kar by Crystal Smith Paul.

Yoga

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

Oregon Writers Group

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

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LOCAL NEWS

FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Toddler/Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Our March 6th Storytime is all about pancakes! Bring your favorite little person to enjoy stories and a craft about this yummy (not just for) breakfast food! This program is a great way to introduce children to new books and the joy of reading together.

Display Cabinet

Our second display cabinet is looking very empty! If you have an interesting collection you'd like to share with the community for a month or so, please call or stop in and let us know.

Community Room

Looking for a place to hold your event? Our community room (with a small kitchenette) is available for meetings, parties, showers, family reunions, and more. Please call the library at (815)938-2624 for additional information.

Soft Plastic Recycling

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

Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent through the CLASSIFIEDS

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dead People of Illinois by John Lynn Program March 10

John Lynn shares his exploration of hundreds of Illinois cemeteries to find interesting graves, headstones, intriguing lives and deaths. Warning: grave subject matter. Program held on Sunday, March 10th at 2pm. Questions and refreshments to follow. All are welcome!

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!

Adult Book Club Meeting Monday, March 25th

The March book, The Book of Charlie by David Von Drehle, is

available! 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 March 25th at 3:30pm.

Cookbook Club Next Meeting March 5th

Join us as we explore The Cookbook Club! Wonderful recipes combined with friendship creates something both beautiful and delicious! Stop by to choose your recipe from this month's book, Deceptively Delicious by Jessica Seinfeld, and bring your dish to pass at our next meeting! Join us on March 5th this month, 6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!

Ink with a Friend: Card Making at the Library Thursday, March 14th

What a great time it is to make some lovely home-made cards to send to family and friends! We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Thursday, March 14th from 5-7! You will get all the materials to make two beautiful cards to take home. Stop by to see the samples, fees are by donation. Registration is limited so call the library or stop by

to save your spot before March 7th! Story Time! Wednesdays at 11:15am

We will be reading books and the children will create a craft this Wednesday, 2/21. Storytime is every Wednesday @11:15, bring your little ones to enjoy stories and a craft at the Mount Morris Library!

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.

Display Case Showings

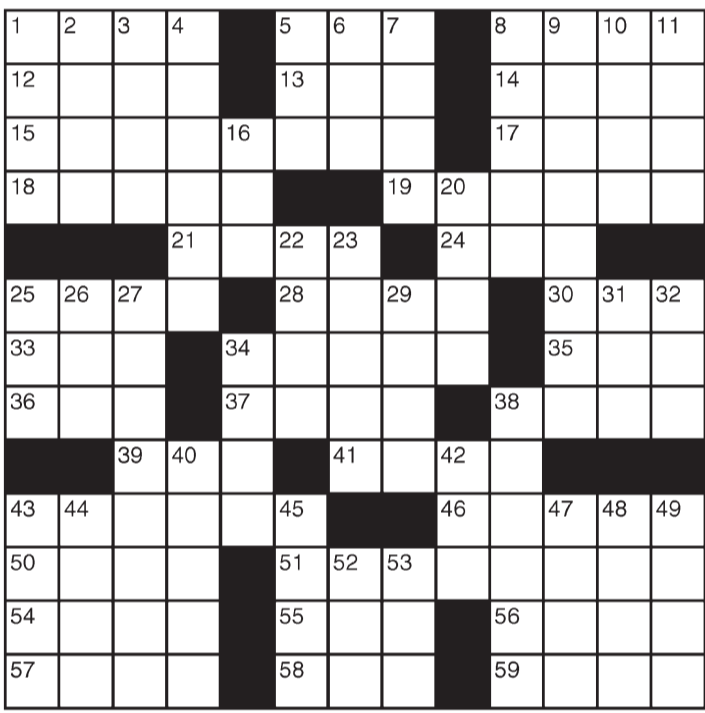
"Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail shall keep the postmen from their appointed (library) rounds." Deliver yourself to the library to check out this perfect display of all things postal! This collection is on display courtesy of Lenny Wells, Thank You! We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to share their treasures in our display cases. If you are interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Manhandle
- 5 Annex
- 8 Trig function
- 12 Within (Pref.)
- 13 "Ben- —"
- 14 Toledo's lake
- 15 "Sure, of course"
- 17 Bakery buy
- 18 "Yippee!"
- 19 Apple music service
- 21 Pride parade initials
- 24 "Let me think ..."
- 25 Valley in California
- 28 Indy event
- 30 Wall climber
- 33 Rocker Rose
- 34 Plains grazers
- 35 Formerly known as
- 36 Earth (Pref.)
- 37 Stink
- 38 "It's — real!"
- 39 Texter's "Enough!"
- 41 Bring up
- 43 Tell
- 46 Pink hue
- 50 Lena of "The Reader"
- 51 Sake, e.g.
- 54 Curse
- 55 Greek mountain



- 8 Blood part
- 9 Ore source
- 10 Aswan's river
- 11 Congers
- 16 Sailing hazard
- 20 Subsequently
- 22 Party cheese
- 23 Stunning gun
- 25 Pester
- 26 Chopper
- 27 Story thread
- 29 Pepsi rival
- 31 Victory sign
- 32 Longing
- 34 Telly watcher
- 38 Cleveland squad
- 40 Like lions
- 42 Expert
- 43 Filches
- 44 Israeli carrier
- 45 Guitarist
- 47 Clapton person
- 48 Visitor to Siam
- 49 Ogler's look
- 52 Altar affirmative
- 53 Jazz lover

DOWN

- 1 Calico's call
- 2 "My Way" writer
- 3 Beehive State
- 4 Jesuit university
- 5 Sushi fish
- 6 Press for payment
- 7 Zwei follower

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MAGIC MAZE

VERY SMALL CITIES OF ALASKA



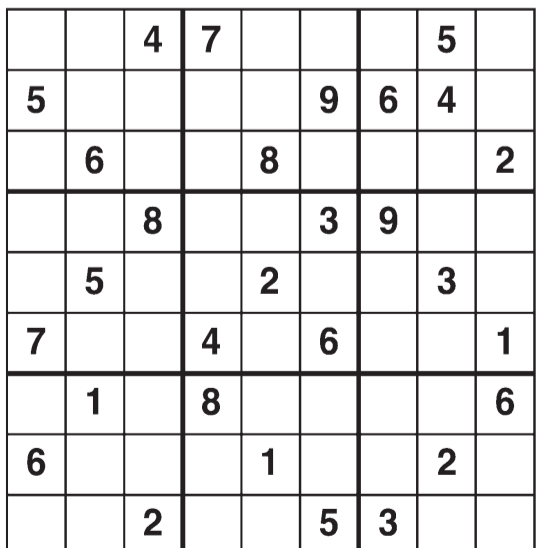
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: LARGE BIRD OF PREY

- Akhiok
- Atka
- Bettles
- Chignik
- Cold Bay
- Ekwok
- False Pass
- Larsen Bay
- Pelican
- Pilot Point
- Platinum
- Ruby
- St. George
- Wales
- Whale Pass

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

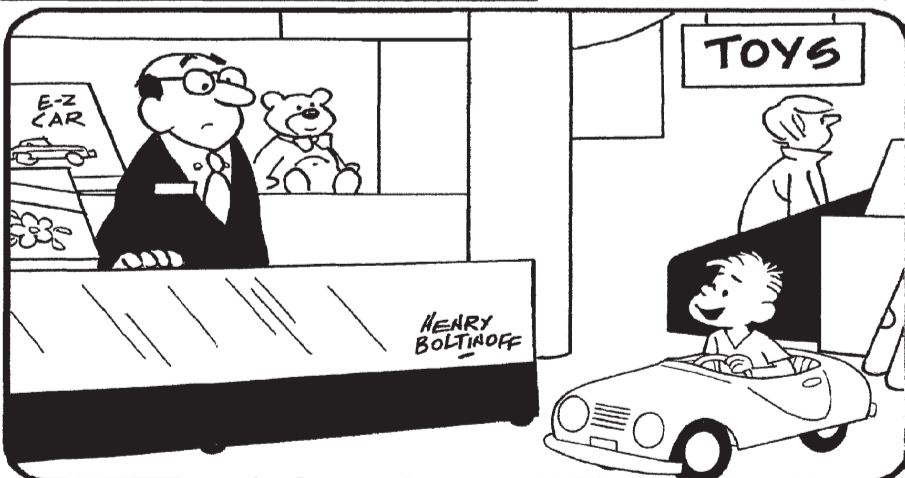
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

- Moderate
- Challenging
- HOO BOY!

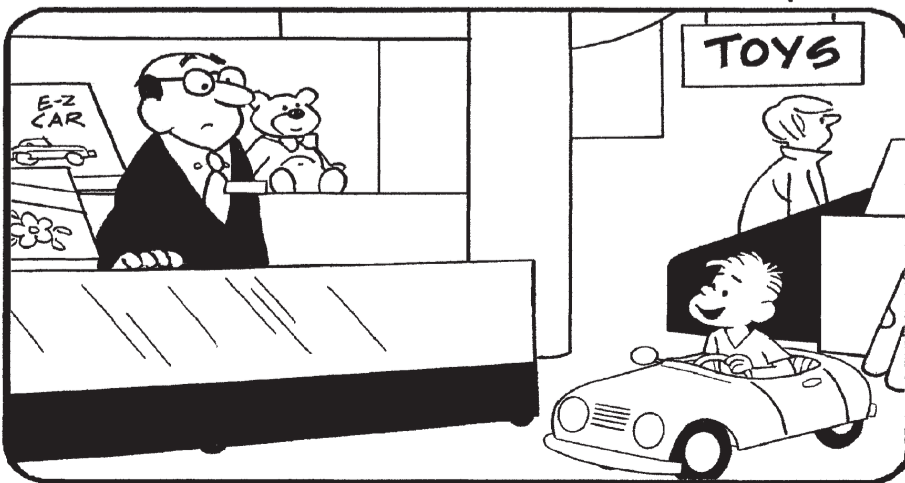
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HOCUS-FOCUS

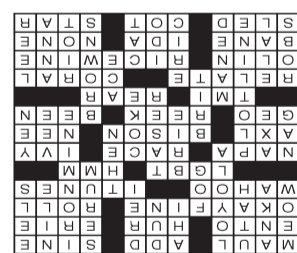
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



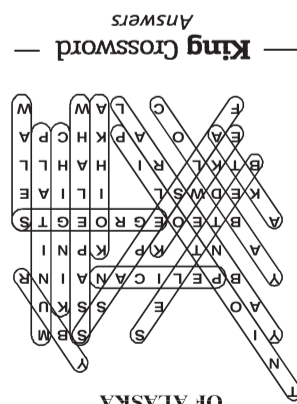
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



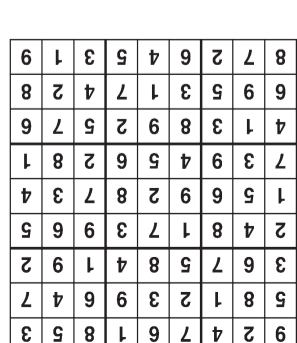
Differences: 1. Car door is different. 2. Rear tire is moved. 3. Side mirror is added to car. 4. Teddy bear is moved. 5. Nametag is moved. 6. License plate is missing.



Solution time: 24 mins.



Answers



Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

LOCAL NEWS

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Great American Eclipse

Thursday, March 14, 6 – 7:00 pm. Come learn about the upcoming Great American Eclipse (on April 8th, 2024)! You will see how eclipses occur, why they are so rare, and ways to view them safely. Eclipse viewing glasses will be handed out during the program. Limit one per person. Presentation by Dr. Jim Chisholm, Professor of Physics at Sauk Community College. Register online at Byron.evanced.info/signup or by calling 815-234-5107.

Did you know

That the library has craft projects for adults? During open hours in the Creative Studio adults are welcome to come in and make a free seasonal card or craft from the material available on the studio tables. Please note that table crafts are not available during Teen Time or other library programs in the Studio. Stop by the Creative Studio to indulge in your crafterly side!

Creative Studio

Our Creative Studio is open on Sunday afternoons and two evenings a week, so stop by for monthly crafts and to use our maker space equipment! Crafts out on the tables are free of charge, while some other projects will incur a cost depending on materials. Middle school and high school youth can use some of the materials while with an adult, or during Teen Time. Creative Studio

hours: Sunday 1 - 5:00 pm, Monday 9:00 am-1:00 pm & 5 – 8:00 pm, Tuesday 9 am - 1:00 pm & 5 – 8:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

Check out Our Mobile App

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

Curbside Delivery

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

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

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

Happy 100 Month-Long Celebration

March 2024 marks the 100th Anniversary of Julia Hull Library! The library first opened its doors to the community 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.

Teens: Sharpie Art!

A whole lotta creativity and fun lies underneath the cap of a Sharpie! Join us as we transform ordinary objects into cool and colorful art. Thursday, March 14, 6 p.m. Ages: 12-18. All supplies provided. 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



Last week, Julia Hull District Library, along with Friends of the Library, hosted a Barbie-themed Trivia Night to raise money for library programs and events.

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.

Tween Scene: Glow in the Dark Science

Tweens get to conduct a series of experiments with one thing in common: they all glow in the dark! Tuesday, April 2, 6 p.m. All supplies provided. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Toddler Time: Spring Sensory Bins

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

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

205 N. Peru St., Byron 815-234-8737 cornerstonemf.com
Sr. Pastor: Erik Ness, NextGen/ Family Pastor: Collin Nicholls
Children's Ministry Director: Katie Dadd
Worship Service on Sundays at 10am with Children's Worship Service and Nursery Available
Sr High Youth Ministry Sundays at 6:00pm, Jr High Youth Ministry Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Numerous Small Groups Available for All Ages throughout the week.
Please call our Church Office or visit our website for more details.
Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm Mondays-Thursdays

BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

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

UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON

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

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

CHANA

CHANA UNITED METHODIST

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

DAVIS JUNCTION

DAVIS JUNCTION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

DIXON

LOST LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

FORRESTON

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LEAF RIVER

ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

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

LINDENWOOD

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

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

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

KINGS

ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

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

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

409 W. Brayton Road, Mt. Morris, IL 61054 Phone 815-734-4573
Pastor-Rodney Caldwell. Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship time and Sunday School. Worship service available online, call for details.
Email: mimorriscob@gmail.com

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

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

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

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

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Dave Rogula 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 lighthouseumc@yahoo.com
Worship at 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each of 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 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning Service 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Afternoon Service 1:15 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 - Middle 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
Masses: Sun 10:30am, Tuesday Mass 8 a.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation: First Sunday of each month after 10:30 mass
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
www.stmarypolo.org

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

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

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
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OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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 Augusts 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. HEMENWAY

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 TO BIDDERS

Local Public Agency: City of Byron County: Ogle Section Number: Route(s) (Street/Road Name): Various Sealed proposals for the project described below will be received at the office of City Clerk, City of Byron 232 W. Second Street, Byron, IL 61010 until 11:00AM on 03/15/24. Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of City Clerk, City of Byron 232 W. Second Street, Byron, IL 61010 at 11:00AM on 03/15/24. **DESCRIPTION OF**

WORK

Location: Byron, IL Various Streets in the City Limits Project Length: N/A Proposed Improvement: The contract work consists of installing four new sanitary manholes at the following intersections: (1) Intersection of W. 2nd and Franklin Street, (2) Intersection of 4th Street and Washington Street, (3) Intersection of 4th Street and Lafayette Street (4) Intersection of 4th Street and Franklin.

1. Plans and proposal forms will be available in the office of Fehr Graham, 515 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, IL 61068 for a non-refundable fee of \$100.00. Also available electronically at www.fehrgraham.com for a non-refundable fee of \$25.00.

2. Prequalification If checked, the 2 apparent as read low bidders must file within 24 hours after the letting an "Affidavit of Availability" (Form BC 57) in triplicate, showing all uncompleted contracts awarded to them and all low bids pending award for Federal, State, County, Municipal and private work. One original shall be filed with the Awarding Authority and two originals with the IDOT District Office.

3. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive technicalities and to reject any or all proposals as provided in BLRS Special Provision for Bidding Requirements and Conditions for Contract Proposals.

4. The following BLR Forms shall be returned by the bidder to the Awarding Authority: a. Local Public Agency Formal Contract Proposal (BLR 12200) b. Schedule of Prices (BLR 12201) c. Proposal Bid Bond (BLR 12230) (if applicable) d. Apprenticeship or Training Program Certification (BLR 12325) (do not use for project with Federal funds.) e. Affidavit of Illinois Business Office (BLR 12326) (do not use for project with Federal funds)

5. The quantities appearing in the bid schedule are approximate and are prepared for the comparison of bids. Payment to the Contractor will be made only for the actual quantities of work performed and accepted or materials furnished according to the contract. The scheduled quantities of work to be done and materials to be furnished may be increased, decreased or omitted as hereinafter provided.

6. Submission of a bid shall be conclusive assurance and warranty the bidder has examined the plans and understands all requirements for the performance of work. The bidder will be responsible for all errors in the proposal resulting from failure or neglect to conduct an in depth examination. The Awarding Authority will, in no case, be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses or changes in anticipated profits resulting from such failure or neglect of the bidder.

7. The bidder shall take no advantage of any error or omission in the proposal and advertised contract. 8. If a special envelope is supplied by the Awarding Authority, each proposal should be submitted in that envelope furnished by the Awarding Authority and the blank spaces on the envelope should be filled in correctly to clearly

indicate its contents. When an envelope other than the special one furnished by the Awarding Authority is used, it shall be marked to clearly indicate its contents. When sent by mail, the sealed proposal shall be addressed to the Awarding Authority at the address and in care of the official in whose office the bids are to be received. All proposals shall be filed prior to the time and at the place specified in the Notice to Bidders. Proposals received after the time specified will be returned to the bidder unopened.

9. Permission will be given to a bidder to withdraw a proposal if the bidder makes the request in writing or in person before the time for opening proposals. No. 0301 (March 4, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS COUNTY OF OGLE)

Public Notice is hereby given to all persons in Pine Creek Township that a Public Hearing will be held March 28, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the County Board Room #317, 3rd floor of the Ogle County Courthouse, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL, to consider the request filed February 15, 2024 of Shawn Dusavage, 402 Gold River Ave., Rockford, IL for a Variation in the AG-1 Agricultural District to allow a Single-Family Dwelling to be constructed 12 feet from a side property line in lieu of 25 feet as required by the Ogle County Amendatory Ordinance on property described as follows and owned by the petitioner: Part of Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section 23 Pine Creek Township 23 North, Range 9 East of the 4th P.M., Ogle County, IL, 10.0 acres, more or less Property Identification Number: 15-23-400-020 Common Location: 3752 S. Butternut Rd. All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The application for this variation is on file with detailed description and available for examination at the Planning & Zoning Department, 911 Pines Rd., Oregon, Illinois or at the following URL: http://www.oglecountyil.gov/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS RANDY OCKEN, Chairman Dated at Oregon, Illinois this 15th day of February 2024 #01-24VAR No. 0302 (March 4, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS COUNTY OF OGLE)

Public Notice is hereby given to all persons in Byron Township that a Public Hearing will be held Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the original Ogle County Courthouse, Third Floor County Board Room #317, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL, to consider the request filed February 15, 2024 of TPE IL OG593, LLC, 3720 South Dahlia St., Denver, CO for a Special Use Permit in the B-1 Business District to allow construction and operation of a 4.99MWac Community Solar Facility project on the property described as follows and being leased by the petitioner(s): Part of the East Half (E1/2) of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Fractional Section 12 Byron Township 25 North, Range 11 East of the 4th P.M., Ogle County, IL, approximately 23.4 acres of the 46.2 acre site, more or less Property Identification Number: Part of 05-12-126-003 Common Location: 11,500 block of N. Meridian Rd. All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The applica-

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS COUNTY OF OGLE)

Public Notice is hereby given to all persons in Lincoln Township that a Public Hearing will be held Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the original Ogle County Courthouse, Third Floor County Board Room #317, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL, to consider

the request filed January 16, 2024 of BAP Power dba Cenergy Power, %Patrick Burns, 26880 Aliso Viejo Parkway, Ste. 100, Aliso Viejo, CA for a Special Use Permit in the AG-1 Agricultural District to allow construction and operation of a 5MWac Community Solar project on the property described as follows and being leased by the petitioner(s):

Part of the East Half (E1/2) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section 21 Lincoln Township 24 North, Range 8 East of the 4th P.M., Ogle County, IL, approximately 33.0 acres of the 68.78 acre site, more or less Property Identification Number: Part of 07-21-226-005 Common Location: 3500 block of N. Union Rd. All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The application for this special use is on file with detailed description and available for examination at the Planning & Zoning Department, 911 Pines Rd., Oregon, Illinois or at the following URL: http://www.oglecountyil.gov/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS RANDY OCKEN, Chairman Dated at Oregon, Illinois this 16th day of January 2024 #02-24SU No. 0303 (March 4, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS COUNTY OF OGLE)

Public Notice is hereby given to all persons in Byron Township that a Public Hearing will be held Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the original Ogle County Courthouse, Third Floor County Board Room #317, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL, to consider the request filed February 15, 2024 of TPE IL OG593, LLC, 3720 South Dahlia St., Denver, CO for a Special Use Permit in the B-1 Business District to allow construction and operation of a 4.99MWac Community Solar Facility project on the property described as follows and being leased by the petitioner(s): Part of the East Half (E1/2) of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Fractional Section 12 Byron Township 25 North, Range 11 East of the 4th P.M., Ogle County, IL, approximately 23.4 acres of the 46.2 acre site, more or less Property Identification Number: Part of 05-12-126-003 Common Location: 11,500 block of N. Meridian Rd. All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The applica-

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS COUNTY OF OGLE)

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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.

301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles &

tion for this special use is on file with detailed description and available for examination at the Planning & Zoning Department, 911 Pines Rd., Oregon, Illinois or at the following URL: http://www.oglecountyil.gov/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS RANDY OCKEN, Chairman Dated at Oregon, Illinois this 15th day of February 2024 #03-24SU No. 0304 (March 4, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles &

Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

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

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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'



"La detección temprana nos permitió tomar control de la situación y poder planificar juntos."

Si notan cambios, podría ser Alzheimer. Visiten un médico juntos.

ALZ.org/Tiempo

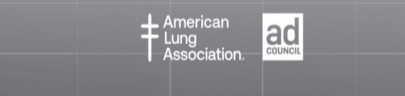


Quitting smoking was hard. Screening for lung cancer is easy.



If you smoked, you may still be at risk, but early detection could save your life.

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#Dadication

fatherhood.gov

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103 AUCTIONS

FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Sat. March 23 at 10:00 AM
Paul J. Gitz Estate

4118 S. Park Rd., Freeport, IL

IHC TRACTORS & OTHERS: 1977 IHC 1486 Diesel Tractor w/cab, wf, hyd, wts, 3 pt, 540-1000 PTO, 20.8-38 tires & axle duals; 1966 IHC 806 Diesel Tractor w/ Cab, wf, 3 pt, hyd, 18.4-38 tires, wts & duals; 1964 IHC 806 Diesel Tractor w/ wf, 3 pt, 540-1000 PTO, flat top fenders, 18.4-34 tires & duals; 1959 IHC 560 Diesel Tractor w/ flat top fenders, nf, hyd standard drawbar, 16.9-38 tires; 1953 IHC Super M w/ nf, 13-38 tires, pulley, standard drawbar, repaint, nice; 1952 IHC Super C Tractor w/ nf, 10-36 tires; 1946 IHC B Farmall w/ nf, wts, 9-24 tires, PTO, 1946 IHC "A" Tractor w/ wf, wts, belly Mower, new 11.2-24 tires; 1949 IHC W-6 Standard Tractor w/ 16.9-30 tires, pulley, fenders; 1928 IHC Farmall Regular Tractor, nf, also extra set steel wheels fit this tractor, to be restored; 1929 McCormick-Deering 10-20, wf, PTO, to be restored; M.F. 1938 Case DC Tractor w/ fenders, nf, 13.6-38 tires, hyd, PTO, repaint, nice; M.F. 202 Work Bull Loader Tractor w/ rear wt, 16.9-24 tires, shuttle gear; M.F. 300 Loader Tractor w/ 50A Loader, 7' Bucket, rear wts, flat fenders, 18.4-26 tires. All tractors are running and in clean condition.

TRUCKS AND LIVESTOCK TRAILER: 1986 Ford F350 Pickup XLT 4x4, flat bed, goose neck hitch, high mileage, not running; 1974 Chevrolet C-30 Ambulance Truck; 16' Cattle Trailer Bumper Hitch; 1968 IHC 1890 Grain Truck, not running; 1967 IHC 1700 Grain Truck, not running.

FARM MACHINERY: IHC 6-16" Bottom 3 pt. Plow w/ Harrow; Top Air 40' Trailer Sprayer, 600 gal; IHC 1450 Cadet w/ deck; IHC 1250 Mix Mill; Fox Forage Blower; J.D. 200 gl. Trailer Sprayer; 2 Fox 3000 Forage Harvester's w/ Corn & Hay Heads; Flow-EZ Bu. Gravity Box w/ 1074 Gear, nice; JD 953 gear w/ flair box & hoist; Glencoe 9 shank Chisel Plow w/ drag; 60" 8" Auger w/ elec. Motor; IHC #490-20' hyd. Fold Disk w/ flex Harrow; IHC-6R. Front Cultivator; IHC-4R. Front Cultivator; Gehl 72 Green Chopper; 16' Green Chop Wagon; Kewanee 22' Flat Fold Cultimulcher; 24' 4 Section Harrow & cart; IHC 55T Baler w/ motor; IHC 4 cylinder Ind. Motor; Knight 410 Tandem axle Spreader w/ dual apron, hyd. Gate, 2 beaters; IHC Cyclo Planter parts; IHC 55T Baler, PTO; JD Rotary Hoe; Cart w/ End gate Seeder; 18' Flat rack & Gear; Hesston #10 Stacker; Woods 214 Bat Wing Mower, parts; Cattle Squeeze Chute; 20+ Assort. Pipe Gates; Water Tanks.

SHOP - TOOLS (3-4 WAGONS FULL): US General 30 double R.A. Tool Box; HD 12T Bearing Press; Century AC-DC 250-295 Welder; 3 Bench Grinders; 20" Power Hack Saw; 16 Speed Floor Drill Press; 200 amp Battery Charger; 1000 Watt Battery Booster; 12" Craftsman Radial Arm Saw; Hyd. Floor Jack; Porta-Power; 2 Chain Saws; Air Tools; 1" Air Impact; RR Jack; Anvil; Power Mitre Saw; 50+ Nut & Bolt Containers; Milwaukee SawzAll; 1" Sockets; Ladders; Log Chains; 2 hp Demolition Hammers; XC Torch Set; Sand Blaster; Lg. amt. Hand Tools, Sockets, wrenches, etc. etc!
Note: This is a large Estate with many farm related items and tools. A nice lineup of IHC Tractors to be offered. Paul lived on the family Sesquicentennial farm his entire life, and was the original owner of many of the tractors to be sold. He had a special passion for Farmall tractors. Be sure to see the pictures on the websites.
Terms: Cash or check w/ picture ID required. All equipment sold AS-IS condition. No exceptions. Number system to be used. Check website for directions to farm. Lunch Stand and Portable Toilet on grounds. Check website for many pictures: www.Proauctionsllc.com.

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

203 HELP WANTED

Byron School District Job Postings

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

Apply online at www.byron226.org
Click the 'About Us' tab
Select "Employment Opportunities"
To see posting/ additional information

03042024

Help Wanted

Byron Community Unit School District

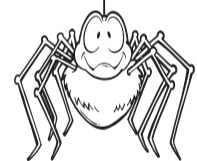
is seeking to fill an **Engineering Instructor Position** for the 2024 - 2025 school year, based on an individual's defined skill set. Position may be full-time or part-time. Please see additional information and job posting online at www.byron226.org

Click on the 'About Us' tab, then Employment Opportunities - High School Teaching Section

03042024

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

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A&T Auction Services, LLC

Travis Cunningham
(815) 297-4595

Located in Forreston, IL

Lenny Bryson
Sales Of All Kinds
815-946-4120

Hack's Auction & Realty Service, Inc.

Auctions - Real Estate
Appraisals
Online Auctions
Now Available
Pecatonica, IL
815-239-1436
Hacksauction.com

Remmer Schuetz Auction Service

Case Tractor Collector
5936 S. Watertown Rd.
Ashton, IL
847-878-1491



307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION

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

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



6331 11th Street, Rockford
815-262-3900

04092023

309 PETS & SUPPLIES

PUREBRED AKC REGISTERED GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES

Parents on premises.
Ready to go March 18th.
Asking \$1,200 call or text
815-298-5407

An Advertising Proverb

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



SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES

Stillman BANK

608 W. Blackhawk Dr., Byron
815.234.5626
1445 IL Route 2 North, Oregon
815.732.7956
101 East Main St., Stillman Valley
815.645.2266
stillmanbank.com



Rochelle Community Hospital

Your Local Healthcare Resource.

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



606 E Washington St.,
Oregon, IL

815-732-9100

RockValleyProperties.com

Each office is independently owned & operated.

ANTIQU STORE

Sweet Revival

12554 IL-64, Kings
815.761.5643
sweetrevivalantiques.com

BAR/GAMING/ENTERTAINMENT

Legacy Bar & Gaming

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

Oregon VFW Post 8739 & Mess Hall

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

BLACKTOP & SEALCOATING

King Blacktop

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

BOUTIQUE

Oregon Soap Shoppe & Green Art Etc.

91C Daysville Rd., Oregon
866.411.6614
oregonsoapshoppe.com

CONSIGNMENT SHOPPING

ReRuns

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

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Stillman Bank

608 W. Blackhawk Dr., Byron
815.234.5626
1445 IL Route 2 North, Oregon
815.732.7956
101 East Main St., Stillman Valley
815.645.2266
stillmanbank.com

GARDEN CENTER

Hidden Timber Gardens

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

HEALTH SERVICES

Rochelle Community Hospital

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

HVAC SERVICES

Hurst Heating & Cooling

102 Pacific St., Monroe Center
815.757.4383
hursthvac.com

MANUFACTURING

Coilcraft

9 Clay St., Oregon
815.732.6834
coilcraft.com

MENTAL HEALTH/COUNSELING SERVICES

Changes Counseling, LLC

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

Sinnissippi Centers

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

PARKS & RECREATION

Byron Forest Preserve

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

Oregon Park District

Nash Recreation Center

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

TITLE COMPANY

Rock River Title

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

REAL ESTATE AGENCY

RE/MAX of Rock Valley

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

SENIOR SERVICES

Rock River Center

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

TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

Walters Accounting

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



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www.hursthvac.com



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