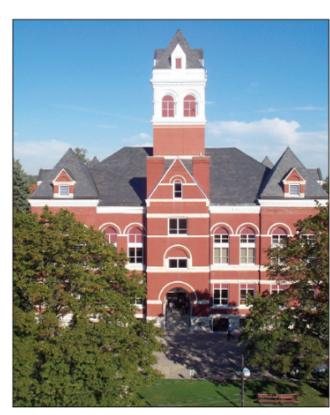


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The Byron boys basketball team competed at state on Thursday. **See Section B**

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
62 40	68 39
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
59 39	60 38
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
59 35	55 35

OBITUARIES

- Roger Diehl
 - Philip Giuffre
 - Eleanor Jenkins
 - Linda Johnson Guzman
 - Rodney Reeder
- See page A4**

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Byron County Market
- Polo Fresh Food
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet

Ogle County Sheriff's Office implements Handle with Care program in partnership with schools

'Almost 80 percent of the domestic disputes we respond to have a juvenile in the house'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — On Feb. 28, the Ogle County Sheriff's Office announced the official implementation of its Handle with Care program in cooperation with nearly all of the school districts in Ogle County to protect children.

Through the working relationship, when county law enforcement encounters a child at the scene of an incident, they identify the child and send a notice to their school that they were involved in a police incident the night before and may have academic or behavioral problems that day. The notice includes no details about the incident and contains only the child's name and three words: Handle with Care. The

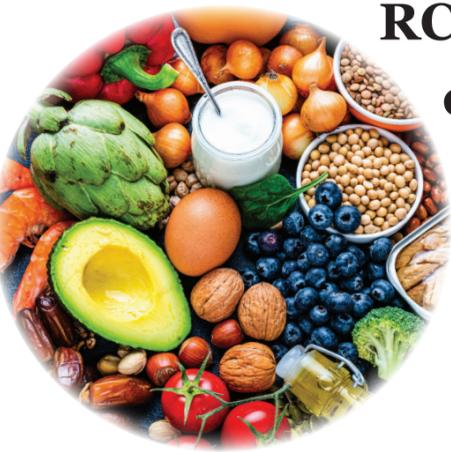
school receives the notice before the start of the school day so that staff is prepared to "handle the child with care" and respond in a trauma-informed way.

Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said that this past fall, his office and schools discussed the importance of getting children help at an early age and came across the program that is used in other places across the nation. The program seemed to be a solution to fill a need that was being seen and the sheriff's office was able to get cooperation from schools and the program has now been put into place.

"For example, if a seventh grader is up at 2 a.m. because their mom and dad are having a dispute, obviously their next day at school is going to be impacted," VanVickle said. "We want

the teachers to know what's going on at the home that may affect a child at school. The program allows us to get information in a timely fashion to the right people. The counselors and teachers will have that before the school day starts, which we thought was really important. The schools were on board and provided the email addresses to their teams that deal with kids that have traumatizing incidents. We were able to connect all of those dots to make sure that those kids get those services. It's situations where kids aren't necessarily the problem, but they're impacted by law enforcement being at the house. This is an opportunity for the schools to get the kids through a potentially tough time in their life."

See CARE page 3



RCH raising awareness during National Nutrition Month in March

'We're going to talk about and focus on issues that are beyond eating at the table'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — March is National Nutrition Month, and Rochelle Community Hospital will be working to raise awareness of eating right and its health benefits.

The theme this year for National Nutrition Month is "Beyond the Plate", and RCH plans to cover topics including eating healthy on a budget; experimenting with all food groups and different cultures and dishes; and sustainability by utilizing leftovers, shopping locally and growing your own food. The hospital will also celebrate National Registered Dietician Day on March 13, where it will highlight RCH Dietician Janelle Stein and her work to help people in need of making a change in their diets.

National Nutrition Month was started by the now-Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics in 1973 to focus on informed food choices to support healthy lifestyles, Stein said. She works with a number of different departments at RCH to help patients in the community.

"If people have questions about how their diet can improve their health, I can answer those questions," Stein said. "I can talk one-on-one in a clinical way. I see inpatients and outpatients. We're hoping to do more community outreach as far as starting back up our diabetes prevention program in the future. Prevention is so much more beneficial than trying to treat it after diagnosis. We have cardiac rehabilitation here, which touches on nutrition and I'm hoping to be more involved with that. We have a congenital heart failure program which also incorporates nutrition."

See NUTRITION page 5



Charlene Coulombe

At the helm

Coulombe named executive director of newly-formed organization, looks to work together to grow region economically

OREGON — The Ogle County Economic Development Corporation recently announced it has hired an executive director for the newly-formed organization, a March 6 press release said.

"Charlene Coulombe, CEcD, EDFP, has been a phenomenal addition to our organization and we are looking forward to working with her to help spur economic development and sustainable growth in Ogle County," Randy Schoon, president of the OCEDC, said.

The OCEDC is a newly-formed organization that partners with Ogle County communities such as Byron, Mt. Morris, Oregon, Polo and Rochelle. The OCEDC hopes that other Ogle County communities and businesses will soon join its efforts.

"By working together, we are able to share resources in order to develop and strengthen our communities from a regional level," OCEDC Vice President Darin DeHaan said. "From creating new job opportunities, to helping support our existing businesses, those will be the major focus areas of our organization."

See HELM page 2

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LOCAL NEWS

HELM: Creating positive, diverse economic base in county

From page 1

Charlene comes to the OCEDC with over 35 years of experience serving in economic and business development. She understands the work that needs to be done to create a positive and diverse economic base in Ogle County.

“There is so much that goes into the attraction and retention of businesses and I’m

excited to get to work,” Coulombe said. “I love what I do and want to help Ogle County. I’m looking forward to meeting all of the different community leaders that I’ll be working with. I’ll start by learning more about what their community’s needs are, and ways that we can work together to make the communities stronger. Economic development means providing a

community, residents, and businesses a strong foundation that entails a variety of businesses to serve the community’s needs. There needs to be a diverse job base for stability so that communities are less vulnerable in this fluctuating economic climate.” Coulombe comes to the OCEDC with a background of building a variety of communities from just outside of

Chicago to Minnesota. She also understands the needs of small towns. She has served under several county positions and has lived in small towns for most of her life. Some of the work she is most proud of has involved helping businesses thrive, working with startup restaurants, and even some Fortune 500 firms as well.

The OCEDC office will be located within the Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce building located at 122 N. 4th St., Oregon. You can reach out to Charlene

“There is so much that goes into the attraction and retention of businesses and I’m excited to get to work.... Economic development means providing a community, residents, and businesses a strong foundation that entails a variety of businesses to serve the community’s needs.”

Charlene Coulombe

to schedule a meeting and learn more at cha-

rocedc@gmail.com, 815-703-1338, https://www.oglecountyil.gov/county/economic_development/index.php or on Facebook and Instagram.



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LOCAL NEWS

CARE: Sheriff's office, schools implement program

From page 1

Research shows that exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), such as witnessing violence in the home or community, can have lasting negative effects on health, well-being, and opportunity, a sheriff's office press release said. ACEs can also lead to toxic stress, which may change brain development and impact attention, decision-making, and learning, all of which are crucial for educational success. ACEs can be prevented through targeted strategies such as interventions to lessen immediate and long-term harms. One such intervention that focuses on trauma-informed responses through a partnership between law enforcement, schools, and mental health providers is the Handle with Care program.

was no previous formal way to inform schools of law enforcement presence at events in the homes of students, outside of in the case of a "significant event."

"But we didn't have anything in place for just normal police activity," VanVickle said. "If we were at the house in the past for a simple domestic dispute where nobody got arrested, that information wasn't provided to the school. We thought that was really a void we were missing, being able to provide the school with a little bit of information. An example is telling a teacher why a student may be having a difficult time staying awake at school, because they were up all night because mom and dad weren't getting along. This just helps the school and teachers to better understand what's going on with their students and gives the students more

"The buy-in from the schools was tremendous and right away. It was an easy sell to them because I think the teachers and counselors understand that some kids do have difficult home lives. Whenever additional resources can be provided to those kids, it certainly helps them. The schools were certainly on board with that."

support at school."

Sheriff's deputies have seen through training the significance of childhood trauma and how it can impact kids into adulthood, VanVickle said. The Handle with Care program aims to mitigate that childhood trauma by providing resources to stop the cycle as children age into high school and young adulthood.

"The buy-in from the schools was tremendous and right away," VanVickle said. "It was an

easy sell to them because I think the teachers and counselors understand that some kids do have difficult home lives. Whenever additional resources can be provided to those kids, it certainly helps them. The schools were certainly on board with that."

Almost 80 percent of domestic disputes that the Ogle County Sheriff's Office responds to have a juvenile in the home, VanVickle said. He believes the Handle

with Care program and notification of schools is "an important piece that was missing" in providing service to the county.

"Especially when the kids are up in the middle of the night or whatever it is that may impact the next day and the rest of their life," VanVickle said. "Those are hard numbers. It can't be disputed that we're responding to a significant number of calls where there's juveniles in the home. We had three Handle with Care reports

over this past weekend alone. So it's something we're already using and facilitating."

Area law enforcement organizations saw domestic calls rise amid the COVID-19 pandemic when spouses and families were in their homes more. VanVickle said those numbers have not receded to pre-pandemic levels. The sheriff's office recently ran its year-end numbers from 2023 and domestic numbers and percentages "across the board" remained the same as the year prior.

VanVickle called children the county's "most vulnerable population" and said his office strives to protect them the best it can.

"The Handle with Care program is just another avenue to try to provide resources to that population and provide any type of support that can be given to them in very difficult situations," VanVickle said.

We appreciate all of the support we have received and we have been inspired by your generosity to give back even more!

*We are extending the deadline to be included in the 10% contribution forwarded in your name to area senior centers throughout Ogle County for provision of services to senior citizens. **The new deadline to be included is March 27, 2024!***

*Today you can become an Honorary Staff member of the Ogle County Life! Just drop off or mail in your voluntary payment in the **YELLOW ENVELOPE** inserted in today's paper or just use your own envelope. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and we look forward to continue serving our readers each week.*

*Sincerely,
Tonja Greenfield, Publisher*

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

Thank You

Ogle County Life Honorary Staff Members Make Contributions and Share Views

"When I got the yellow envelope and it was said that money went to seniors, I said, 'Hey, I'm 87, why should I give money?' Then I thought it is 10 percent and there are seniors who don't have money to give. The Lord has been good to my wife and I and we can give. The Life newspaper is a wonderful publication. We read it from front page to the last page. It covers the Byron area, something the Rockford Register Star failed to do. We also appreciate the inserts for shopping. Enclosed is my annual contribution to a wonderful paper. Keep up the good work."

Dave Schultz

"Thank you for your 39 years for providing the Ogle County Life newspaper FREE of charge."

Judy

"I always look forward to receiving and reading your Ogle County Life newspaper. Thank you."

Michelle B

"Love the improvements and the new overall look of the paper. Good job."

Anonymous

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Roger D. Diehl

MT. MORRIS — Roger D. Diehl, age 83, formerly of Mt. Morris, IL, passed away on March 4, 2024. He was born in Oregon, IL, to Beulah (Huffman) and Esper Diehl on January 22, 1941.

Roger grew up working on the family farm and later had a long career working as an Operating Engineer. He operated heavy equipment until his retirement and was proud to earn his Lifetime Member status. He was recognized for 50 plus years of service to Local 150.

Roger attended Mt. Morris High School. Along with his farming activities, he enjoyed working on classic cars or anything that had an engine. He liked his toys as well, which included snowmobiles, boats, campers, and his Harley Trike, to name a few.

Roger was preceded in death by both

parents; brothers, Ralph and Darrell Diehl; and sister, Rogene Koch.

He is survived by sons, Ken (Sheri) Diehl of Oregon, IL, Denny Diehl of Myrtle Beach, SC, Randy (Jennifer) Diehl of Dixon, IL; daughter, Tami (Tim) Flessner of Florence, AZ; sister, Maxine Strohecker of Oregon, IL; six grandchildren; thirteen great grandchildren; and Connie Diehl and family of Springfield, IL.

A visitation will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024 from 9:30 – 11:00 AM at Chapel Hill Funeral Home in Dixon. The funeral will follow at 11:00 AM at the funeral home with Pastor Megan Smick officiating. Burial will be at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon.

A memorial has been established. Online condolences may be sent to www.chapelhilldixon.com.



Eleanor Marie Jenkins

POLO — Eleanor Marie Jenkins of Polo, aged 90, died peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family on the evening of March 5th, 2024.

Born on June 22, 1933 in Kewanee, Illinois, the daughter of James and Nina (Nelson) Quayle, she married William Ryan Jenkins on June 27, 1953 at Visitation Church, Kewanee. As her father was the Kewanee Park Superintendent, Eleanor and family lived above the Baker Park Clubhouse on the 2nd floor. She learned to golf at a young age from her father, the Baker Park Pro. She also began her love of swimming, spending most summer days at the Northeast Park Swimming Pool.

After graduation from Kewanee High School in 1951, Eleanor, a talented seamstress, taught sewing at the Singer Sewing Machine Company in Kewanee. She then married and began raising her family. While raising 4 children, she pursued a degree in education, attending 7 different colleges, over an 8 year span, receiving her Associate's degree from Sauk Valley Community College in 1969 and her Bachelor's degree in Education from Northern Illinois University in 1972.

Eleanor was a teacher's aide for 2 years at Congress School. Hired as a teacher in 1975, she taught at Congress School and Polo Junior High School for a few years. She then became the 4th Grade Teacher at Centennial School, retiring from that position in 1993.

Eleanor was on the sidelines at football games and behind the players' bench during basketball games, keeping the statistics for her husband, Coach Bill Jenkins. Post-games would find her calling these stats and

scores into the local newspapers.

During her retirement years Eleanor enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, planting and weeding her gardens, sewing, doing projects at the house, swimming, attending school events for her grandchildren, and going to PCHS football games where her son Terry coached the Frosh-Sop football team, assisted by her husband Bill.

Survivors include her two sons, Terry (Pam) Jenkins of Polo and Tim (Libby) Jenkins of Polo, two daughters, Kalah Jenkins of Geneva and Kathy (Mark) Scholl of Polo, a sister, Betty Jones of Geneseo, seven grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and seven great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, two nieces, a nephew, and a great-great grandson.

Visitation will be at Polo Family Funeral Home, 110 E. Dixon St., Polo, from 5:00 to 7:00 on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Private graveside services will be held in Kewanee, Illinois, where she will be laid to rest by her beloved husband.

At the family's request, please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne and/or scented lotions due to a family member's medical condition.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorials supporting the Polo Schools Foundation (Centennial School), CGH Medical Center Health Foundation (specifying Dementia Project) or the Serenity House and Hospice Center.

Visit www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com to send condolences.



Philip (Phil) A. Giuffre

OREGON — It is with heartbreaking sorrow we share the passing of Philip (Phil) A. Giuffre, Jr. age 63. Phil was born in Chicago, IL December 13, 1960 and left us on March 1, 2024. We celebrate his legacy of dedicated service, strength and perseverance.

Phil enlisted in the US Army in 1979; Trp B 1/17th CAV, 82 Airborne, Ft. Bragg. He proudly served for 3 years before being honorably discharged in 1982, due to an injury. Phil dedicated 20 years of service with the Chicago Fire Department as a FF/Paramedic. He shared his love of emergency medicine with the countless students whom he taught during his years of being an educator with Malcolm X College.

In retirement Phil enjoyed his life-long hobby of Pyrotechnics. Phil has

touched so many lives and leaves a legacy behind.

He was preceded in death by his parents Philip Giuffre, Sr. and Carol Spano.

He is survived by his wife Toni (nee Greene), children Kimi, Nico and Natalie, his brothers Vince (Peg) Spano, Rocky (Wendy) Spano and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Saturday, March 16th, 2-4 p.m. at RiverStone Christian Church, 609 S. 10th Street, Oregon, IL 61061. Funeral Service begins at 4 p.m. at the Church. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to: RiverStone Christian Church or Pyrotechnics Guild International.

Finch Funeral Home, 405 East Hitt, Mt. Morris, IL assisted the family with services.



Linda Johnson Guzman

OREGON — Sadly our mother Linda Johnson Guzman passed away on Tuesday March 5th at the ripe age of 74. She was a strong, stubborn and beautiful woman.

In 1993 her world was flipped upside down with the passing of her husband and the father of her children, Miguel Guzman. From that night forward she carried the weight and challenges of raising four strong and stubborn children. An obstacle that would break many only made her and our relationship stronger. The thing that we will miss the most about our mother is her inappropriate humor, her willingness to speak her mind, and her unwavering love and support for her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her children Anita Bowers (Rob and children), Pamela Guzman (and children) and Mike Guzman (and children). Her nephew John Buntyn (Kim and children) and her niece Melinda Purkepile (David and children)

Preceded in death by her late husband Michael Johnson, Miguel Guzman. Her daughter Philindia Guzman. Her mother Georgia Buntyn and brother John Buntyn.

In lieu of flowers we ask that you hug your mom and dad, tell them you love them, tell them you're sorry and most importantly make sure they know how much you appreciate them.

Finch Funeral Home assisted the family with services.



Rodney (Rod) W. Reeder

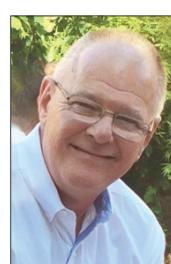
BYRON — Rodney (Rod) W. Reeder, age 69, passed away on Friday, March 1, 2024 in his home, surrounded by family. He was born December 21, 1954 in Eldorado, Illinois the son of Lewis and Mona (Osman) Reeder. He graduated from Dixon High School in 1972. Rodney married Ann Hicks on June 29, 1979 in Dixon, Illinois. They enjoyed 30 years together until her passing in 2009.

He worked for Exelon Generating Station in By-

ron from 1976 to 2010 when he retired. He began his career in electrical maintenance in several roles, and in later years, moving into management, work scheduling, and lastly cycle planner.

He loved and cherished his time with family and friends. He and his wife Ann loved to travel, snowmobile, motorcycle, and play golf. Rodney was an avid sports fan and enjoyed driving his convertible in his later years.

He will be remembered



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Public Service Announcement

Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the Oregon Police, Byron Police, Polo Police, Mt. Morris Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

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The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

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LOCAL NEWS

NUTRITION: Eating healthy possible with planning

From page 1

Stein said nutritional health helps the body by keeping its immune system strong to fight off diseases; preventing heart disease and stroke; managing blood sugar to prevent diabetes and its consequences; and managing weight and muscle mass for strength and cardiovascular health.

"Nutrition can help you breathe better, move better and walk better and just feel overall better," Stein said. "It can give people more energy and help them sleep better. Benjamin Franklin said, 'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.' I really feel like there's something to that. If we can prevent something, it's better than trying to go back and fix it."

Due to current high prices of food, budgeting is more important than ever when it comes to eating healthy, Stein said. Frozen and canned produce options can be more budget-friendly than fresh produce and still high in nutritional value. Planning meals can help with saving money and preventing spoilage and waste, Stein said.

Conventionally-grown foods can be more of a solution than organic foods for those with priorities of eating healthier and saving money. Stein advised community members to get into good habits on making grocery lists and trips to the store and to be more attentive to which fruits and vegetables are in season.

"When you get into the habit, it becomes easier,"

Stein said. "Making regular trips to the store. It's starting with small changes and finding seasonal produce. Apples, pears, grapes and carrots right now are less expensive. This is a citrus time as well. Moving into spring, the berries come in. And in the summer those things are more readily available. Eating seasonally can help save money. If you're buying a watermelon right now, who knows where it's coming from or if it's any good. And it's expensive right now."

High prices in grocery stores and restaurants have made RCH want to make the community aware of other options for nutritious food for those in need. RCH 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 at the events. Attendees are asked to bring bags or boxes in which to package their 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.

Stein also advised the community to look into whether they qualify for food assistance services Illinois Link and WIC (Women, Infants, and Children).

"It's all supplemental and not meant to be your

entire food budget, but it can go a long way to helping out," Stein said. "I know food pantries have gotten better with having produce and meat and healthier selections. Money can be a barrier to eating healthy. Sometimes you have to think a little harder on what's the best deal and not go and purchase whatever you're craving at the moment, even though it can be hard."

Stein stressed the importance of establishing healthy eating habits in children that could stick with them into their adult years and trying to make sure a fruit and vegetable are included at least every day, if not at every meal. Letting children pick out fruits at the store can go a long way, she said.

People putting more

thought into what they eat is one result Stein would like to see as a result of National Nutrition Month.

"I would like to have people think about how nutrition figures into their health goals," Stein said. "I want to have a message that speaks to nutrition and what we're eating multiple times per day and how that plays into our overall health. And pausing to make even one little change. Whether that's eating an apple or an orange when they wouldn't have thought of it otherwise. Just those little changes. It doesn't have to be a huge change. Little changes add up over time. We're making these decisions multiple times per day. They're really difficult habits to change. Small steps do add up and make a positive change."

AREA GUIDE

Friday 5pm-9:30pm

FISH FRY FRIDAYS

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

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

CATCH OUR FISH FRY!

Friday Night Fish Fry!

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

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

4-8 pm
Other seafood available / Full menu available

Win some money gaming!

Maxsons
Restaurant & Riverboat

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

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

2024 Lenten Fish Fry Dinners

St. Patrick Parish Center 236 Kelley Drive

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

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

Dinner proceeds support St. Patrick Youth Ministry.
A special thank you to Knights of Columbus for their support of our ministry!

Every Friday Fish Fry

Cod, Catfish & Shrimp Dinners

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

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

Consider voting for Horner

Dear editor,
We have known Chad Horner for many years and want to voice our support for him as the next Ogle County coroner. Chad has all the qualities that will make him an outstanding elected public official. As a former police officer and school teacher, we understand the traits necessary to be an effective public servant. First and foremost, a servant leader needs to understand their position is not about themselves. A public servant must understand their job is about those they serve and those with whom they serve. Chad fully understands this. Chad's ultimate goal is to not just win the election but to humbly serve others.



committed to fulfilling his promises and steadfastly maintaining the trust a voter places with him. Chad is not a drive-by candidate. He has made a great effort to meet with, and talk to, as many people as possible. He listens empathetically and earnestly. He has a unique ability to engage people and be fully committed to them in the moment. After an interaction with Chad, you will walk away with a sense that you were heard and that you are better off for having met him. The scores of recent conversations Chad has engaged in with the people of Ogle County will guide his efforts, help him meet the expectations of those he serves, and build trust in our public officials.

Please consider voting for Chad Horner for Ogle County coroner...he has our support, and we know he will be an outstanding public servant.

André and Marguerite Brass
Byron

PAID LETTER

District 1 members support Janes

Dear editor,
As spring election season is upon us, we want the citizens of Ogle County to know we formally support Dan Janes' candidacy for Ogle County Board member, District 5.

Dan's experience, dedication, and temperament exemplify many of the key attributes in supporting his selection to the Ogle County Board. Furthermore, Dan's leadership and dedication to serving his community, exemplify why he is not only a staple to the Ogle County but why he remains an essential steward for our county government.

Dan remains committed to serve all his constituents and will focus on ensuring support for the upcoming critical and strategic issues for the county. The next four years are essential to have the right person to represent the citizenry of Ogle County while also having the necessary fortitude in navigating many of the continued State mandates and challenges coming to

our community. Additionally, Dan's experience will ensure continued focus on county security and safety, responsible fiscal oversight, and strategic planning to support meaningful county prosperity.

Our direct experience with Dan highlights his attention to detail, commitment to listen, and ability to empathize with the concerns and opinions of everyone in the community versus just addressing only few groups. Dan also brings an extensive network and experience to ensure we have the best representation for strategic planning and growth issues for Ogle County.

Dan has served Ogle County diligently and honorably. Dan's selflessly supported many honorable candidates in local, state, and federal elections for many years. Therefore, we hope you will now join with us in supporting Dan Janes, District 5, in the upcoming primary election on March 19.

District 1 County Board Members Benjamin Youman, Zach Oltmanns and Rick Fritz



PAID LETTER

Supporting Cox for coroner

Dear editor,
As I sit down to write, many thoughts flood my mind.

I first crossed paths with Christie 35 years ago, and my life has been immeasurably blessed since. Together for 32 years in marriage, we've reached a depth of understanding that only decades of companionship can offer.



funeral home flourished, but our startup has seen consistent growth, in both employment opportunities and sales.

Christie is a beacon of light to our three children and now 3.75 grandchildren, who are the joy of her life. Her kindness, caring nature, and compassion are not only known to us, her family, but also to the many families she has supported through 24 years in the funeral business. She consistently places the needs of others above her own, often at the sacrifice of her personal time.

Now, regarding the budget. It's common in relationships for one partner to be more conservative with spending than the other. Christie is someone who dislikes wasteful spending, ensuring you can trust her to manage county finances with the same vigilance she applies to our own, treating taxpayer dollars with the utmost respect. This is in stark contrast to the all-too-common governmental attitude of knowing better than the citizens how to spend their money.

Christie stands as not only the right choice for this position but also the ideal candidate for the citizens of Ogle County. There is, truly, no one more suited to the role of coroner of Ogle County. Christie is transparent about who she is and what she stands for, a rarity in today's landscape.

I invite you to join me in supporting Christie Cox for coroner of Ogle County — a leader who has proven her dedication, compassion and integrity.

Marty Cox
Polo

PAID LETTER

Vote for Kern

Dear editor,
It's time. It's time for fresh ideas and fresh faces in our local government. When I ran two years ago for my position on the Ogle County Board for District 6, I heard this phrase often and it is the reason I am penning this letter to you today. I am writing my support to Ogle County voters in District 5 to elect Ron Kern to the Ogle County Board in the upcoming primary on March 19.



Ron has lived and worked in Ogle County since 1986. He has been a

voice of reason in the farm/agriculture community in understanding the problems individuals in Ogle County face and he has been an agent of change when it comes to developing solutions to a number of issues and challenges.

Ron is the true definition of an advocate, he does not stop researching and understanding an issue until he fully comprehends it, and then utilizes his data and information he's collected to create the best strategy moving forward for all those involved.

Ron is a critical thinker that understands and researches policy from the local level all the way to the federal layer of our government. He is an exemplary citizen and he champions the idea of good government. I am proud to call Ron Kern a friend of mine and I hope you will consider showing your support for Ron in the primary on March 19. It's time; It's time for a fresh name to hold a seat of tradition in our county.

Ryan Reeverts
Ogle County Board District 6

It's time to eliminate Illinois' tax on groceries

As a public official, I have always fought to lower taxes for my constituents. From my time on the Freeport City Council to my tenure in the Illinois House of Representatives to my current role as the State Senator for the 45th District in Northwest Illinois, lightening the tax burden for Illinoisans has always been a focal point of my legislative agenda. When Governor JB Pritzker recently announced he wanted to eliminate the state sales tax on groceries, I was surprised, but also encouraged.



Andrew Chesney

It is no secret that I rarely agree with the Governor, but on the issue of the grocery tax, we may have found common ground. The grocery tax, which brings in about \$350 million per year, is a regressive tax that is overly punitive to the middle class, the working poor, and those living below the poverty line. Illinois is one of only a few states that taxes groceries, and I am pleased to know there is bipartisan interest in eliminating that tax this year.

Seldom have I seen during my six years in the General Assembly an appetite by Governor JB Pritzker

and his Democrat allies to cut anything. And while their spend and tax mentality is as strong as ever, eliminating the grocery tax is a definite step in the right direction for Illinoisans. It must be noted, however, that eliminating the grocery tax does not equate to a reduction in state spending. One hundred percent of the funds collected from this tax are sent to municipalities across the state.

Eliminating the grocery tax undeniably impacts local governments that rely on those funds to help balance their budgets. For that reason, Republicans are imploring the Pritzker administration to come to the table to work on a solution that helps municipalities without adding new local taxes to the mix. Simply punting the ball to local governments and encouraging them to raise taxes locally is not the solution. We need to lower taxes, not just swap a state tax for a local tax.

I believe every level of government, whether local, county, state, or federal, can do more with less and maximize the efficiency of its operations. I know state government can do much better, and I would encourage all local municipalities to embark on an initiative

to identify and eliminate waste and discover other ways to become as efficient as possible with the services they provide.

It is usually the Republicans who are pushing for tax relief for Illinoisans because we believe Illinois citizens, not government bureaucrats, should have control over their money. It is not lost on us that the Governor has chosen a contentious election year to finally come around to our long-held beliefs. Whether he is being sincere or simply engaging in political gamesmanship, I intend to hold him to his pledge to do away with this tax.

The clock is ticking on the creation and adoption of the budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, and Governor Pritzker has put \$1 billion in tax hikes on the table to help pay for Democrats' insatiable thirst for state spending. As each tax hike proposal comes before the Senate, I will be a vocal NO vote on every one of them. One vote I do look forward to this year is the opportunity to put a YES vote on the board to cut taxes for my constituents and all Illinoisans through an elimination of the grocery tax.

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

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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

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VIEWPOINT

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

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

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Full repeal of California's Prop 12 is urgently needed

A lot has changed on our Ogle County farm since I first started helping my dad take care of the pigs over 50 years ago. Gone are the open sheds and large pens for our pigs of multiple sizes and ages — pens where they were exposed to the weather as well as disease.

On my farm and others around Illinois, outdoor facilities have been replaced with protective indoor, climate-controlled housing with modern waste management systems providing a cleaner, safer environment for animals and caretakers.

Behind every pig stands a person. Livestock farmers spend countless hours in all conditions, ensuring the security and well-being of their animals.

We adopt scientifically backed, veterinary-approved, animal care and husbandry practices with the best interest of the animals and those of us who care for them in mind.

Like other producers, I am troubled that people without animal care experience or expertise can dictate the practices that must be used on livestock farms.

In 2018, a proportionately small number of Californians passed a ballot initiative, known as Proposition 12, restricting the sale of eggs, veal and certain cuts of pork that were produced in a manner that did not meet the standards outlined in the initiative. Consequently, uncooked or unblended pork products must come from animals who are the offspring of sows given 24 square feet of floor space upon reaching reproductive age.

Various vet-approved solutions are used for housing breeding females in modern pork production, including grouping sows. Yet Prop 12's arbitrary requirement of 24 square feet per sow can increase the opportunity for the animal to engage in aggressive and sometimes violent behavior, risking injuries to themselves, their pen mates and



Brian Duncan

their caretakers.

American Farm Bureau Federation, along with the National Pork Producers Council, challenged the law's constitutionality as a violation of the Interstate Commerce Clause. We were greatly disappointed last summer when the U.S. Supreme Court, in a narrowly split decision, declared the initiative to be constitutional.

With the law's enactment on Jan. 1, pig farmers are now uncertain if they will make massive infrastructure investments to comply with California's arbitrary animal welfare standards which could be subject to change with future ballot initiatives. Ultimately, Proposition 12 not only violates the principles of interstate commerce, but also undermines food access and affordability.

Nobody understands these concerns better than USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Vilsack told U.S. House Ag Committee members during a recent hearing that "there's nothing preventing any state from doing what California did (with Prop 12)," and if Congress doesn't "take this seriously, we're going to have chaos in the marketplace."

That "chaos" from Prop 12 will hit fixed- and low-income consumers the hardest, as the law is expected to severely reduce the affordability of high-quality protein. In fact, prices for certain pork products in California have risen as much as 41% since Prop 12's implementation, according to a USDA study.

State regulations like Prop 12 shouldn't dictate commerce or agriculture production in other states. Prop 12 endangers the financial health of livestock producers, and smaller farms especially might be forced out of business due to high compliance renovation costs and lack of long-term incentives. This could lead to more consolidation in the industry.

Processors also face challenges due to uncertain

demand and higher costs to trace and segregate products for Prop 12 compliance.

But California's market is too big to ignore. Nearly 15% of the pork consumed in this country is eaten in California. And future demand prospects could be significant there as well.

Proposition 12 also serves as a template that ultimately could be used to regulate all sectors of agriculture. Standards could be placed around labor rate, crop inputs used, or certain production methods that could ultimately create chaos in the agriculture space. The risk of disruption increases if more states adopt individual agricultural standards creating an unnavigable patchwork of regulations.

I support any farmer's decision to comply with Prop 12 but advise caution with the uncertainty of further regulatory changes, such as Massachusetts' Question 3.

A full repeal of Prop 12 is urgently needed.

The Supreme Court has called on Congress for a legislative solution. Farm bureau continues to advocate for one as well.

Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Pork Producers Association and state commodity group partners recently sent a letter to the Illinois congressional delegation outlining concerns with Prop 12 and calling for a legislative fix in the next farm bill.

Most vital to addressing Prop 12 is continued collaboration, bipartisan relationships and speaking as the unified voice of Illinois agriculture. Illinois producers can trust there's a grassroots organization committed to protecting the economic well-being of their businesses, just as consumers can trust the family farmer behind every pig.

Brian Duncan of Polo and Ogle County is the Illinois Farm Bureau president. This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association.

For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeek-Now.com.

PAID LETTER

Vote for Christie Cox

Dear editor,

Christie Cox is someone you need to know about if you're in Ogle County. She's running for coroner, and she's not just about business as usual. Christie wants to shake things up, bringing in new tech and learning opportunities to the office. It's her vision for a better future that really grabs your attention.

Christie's got a knack for making things happen. Remember the business she started in her garage in 2000? Now it's thriving, all thanks to her smart planning and hard work. And when it comes to tough issues like dealing with drug-related deaths, Christie's already on the front lines, ready with solutions.

What really makes Christie stand out, though, is how she treats people. She believes in bringing families into the process, treating them with the kind of respect and kindness that's all too rare these days. She's from here, grew up among us, and she

gets what the community needs because she's part of it.

Working with Christie, you see she's all about teamwork, whether it's with her fellow six deputy coroners or the local law enforcement. She's got a deep background in mortuary science, but it's her willingness

to keep learning and growing that tells you she's the real deal.

But here's the thing that clinches it for me: Christie isn't playing politics. She's running on her record, focused on serving the community, not on making political points. Her approach is straightforward, honest, and all about what's best for Ogle County.

Voting for Christie Cox means you're choosing someone who's genuine, dedicated, and ready to lead with integrity. She's exactly what we need for a coroner who not only meets but goes beyond our expectations. Let's make sure she gets there.

Angie Good
Mt. Morris



PAID LETTER

Vote for Horner

Dear editor,

After serving Ogle County as county clerk and recorder for over 19 years and as County Board member for five years, I am writing to express support for Chad Horner, Republican candidate for Ogle County coroner. I believe he will be an excellent choice due to his compassion, commitment to fiscal conservatism, and his overall qualifications for the position.

A coroner needs to be compassionate and empathetic in interacting with the public given the nature of the position. I have experienced and observed Chad's gentle and understanding nature, and believe he possesses the sympathy and personality to be an excellent resource through some of people's most challenging times.

Despite the nature of its work, the office of coroner is also an administrative arm of Ogle County, just like the state's attorney and the sheriff's offices. County offices need officials committed to fiscal discipline and fiscal conservatism to safeguard public funds and only use

those funds when appropriate for the responsible functioning of county operations. Chad has run his family's funeral home successfully for decades. As a proven small businessman, we can trust Chad to continue fiscal discipline and conservatism in the coroner's office.

Finally, but not least importantly, Chad is excellently qualified for the coroner's office. He has served as

a deputy coroner for years, and continued to run his funeral business during that time. Perhaps most impressively, Chad comes endorsed by regional county coroners and also enjoys the support of officeholders who work most closely with the coroner's office, namely State's Attorney Mike Rock and Sheriff Brian VanVickle. These endorsements are a strong indication of his competencies and abilities.

I hope you will join me in casting a vote for Chad Horner for Ogle County coroner on March 19.

Rebecca Huntley, Chana
Former Ogle County clerk and recorder and County Board member



PAID LETTER

Support for Ron Kern

Dear editor,

I am writing in support of Ron Kern in the upcoming primary election for Ogle County Board representing District 5 on March 19.

Ron would bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the voters of District 5. His experience and leadership on numerous boards, including 10 years on the Forrestville Valley School District Board make him an ideal County Board member.

I have found Ron to be easily approachable and empathetic in the over 30 years I have known

him. In his role as Ogle County Farm Bureau manager, he has a good knowledge of issues that face the county board including zoning, solar and windmills, as well as the spending of our tax dollars in a wise manner. Ron will bring experience, fresh ideas and fiscal responsibility to the residents of District 5.

I hope that you will join me and his supporters in voting for Ron Kern on March 19.

Jeff Tremble
Oregon



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PAID LETTER

Information on sales tax referendum

Dear editor,

As our community prepares for the upcoming March 19 ballot, local Boards of Education in Ogle County, representing over 50% of the student population, have proposed a 1% Sales Tax for schools. Community leaders, including myself, are urging residents to be well-informed about this initiative. This FAQ is provided to assist with general questions and answers. Please visit www.fvdistrict221.org for additional information.



be used for teacher salaries, textbooks, buses, or other common expenses that would come from the education or transportation funds.

What counties in our area have a County School Facility Tax?

Jo Daviess, Whiteside, Lee, and Boone

What would Forrestville Valley do with funds if received?

The first priority would be to ensure our school counselors and mental health professionals remain in place. The district would also review school security/safety needs and facility needs.

How would the 1% sales tax affect area businesses?

The sales tax is a percentage added to the final purchase price of taxable goods and services. There is no additional paperwork for consumers or local businesses, and data indicates that passing this tax does not adversely affect sales in any given county.

Is there a way to suspend or eliminate the tax once it is approved?

If approved, there is no sunset clause or expiration date. The goal is to provide a consistent revenue stream for all Ogle County schools.

What can I expect on the March 19th Ballot?

Language on the 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?

How are funds generated if the 1% sales tax is approved?

Any spending occurring in Ogle County that generates the 1% sales tax is collected and channeled through the Illinois Department of Revenue and the Regional Office of Education. Revenue does not flow through the General Assembly budget process.

How would the payments work?

The Regional Office of Education would issue payments to the districts. The first payment is anticipated as early as October 2024 with monthly payments to follow.

Superintendent
Sheri Smith
 Forrestville Valley School District

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During election times, no letters written by

PAID LETTER

Support for sales tax

Dear editor,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed one percent sales tax increase in Ogle County. It is crucial to consider the long-term benefits that such measures can bring to our community. I would like to highlight the pressing issue of aging school infrastructure in Ogle County and how this tax increase can play a vital role in addressing this concern.



My children and now grandchildren, attend Meridian School District. Our schools are the backbone of our community. However, the infrastructure of our buildings is showing signs of wear and tear like many school buildings in Ogle County, we have aging facilities, outdated systems, that need essential repairs.

Maintaining and upgrading school infrastructure is a responsibility that goes beyond the school district itself. It impacts the quality of education our children receive and, in turn, affects the overall well-being of our community.

The proposed one percent sales tax increase is a

strategic and fair solution to ensure that necessary repairs and improvements are not solely placed on the shoulders of local property owners. By spreading the financial responsibility across a broader base, including visitors and nonresidents traveling to the local community, these crucial investments can be made without disproportionately affecting any one group. The one percent sales tax increase can generate substantial funds to address the needs of our schools. For Meridian this would mean over \$700,000 in additional annual revenue.

In conclusion, supporting the modest one percent sales tax increase is an investment in the future of Ogle County. It is a pragmatic and equitable solution to address the critical needs of our aging schools without overburdening local property owners. By rallying together and sharing in the responsibility, we can create a legacy of quality education, a vibrant community, and a prosperous future for generations to come.

John W. Smith
 Oregon

PAID LETTER

Cox ready to serve the county

To the editor and the esteemed residents of Ogle County,

As a former Whiteside County sheriff with a decade of leadership and over 30 years in law enforcement, I write to you today not only as a fellow public servant but as an advocate for the principles that underpin our shared commitment to justice, integrity, and community welfare.



The role of coroner, a position of critical importance and trust, demands a candidate who embodies these values, equipped with both the expertise and the ethical fortitude to serve with impartiality and dedication. It is with this understanding of the profound responsibilities entrusted to the coroner that I invite you to consider what truly qualifies someone to hold this office.

A coroner's office is not just about managing the procedural aspects of untimely deaths but also upholding the delicate balance between law enforcement, judicial integrity, and public health. This role requires a

candidate who can navigate these complexities with an unwavering commitment to fairness, transparency and independence.

In evaluating candidates, I urge you to look beyond the surface of political endorsements and campaign promises. Consider instead the depth of their understanding of the coroner's multifaceted role, their readiness to serve without bias, and their proven dedication to serving the community with respect and integrity.

Choosing the next Coroner is not merely a decision for today but a testament to your collective values and your vision for the future of Ogle County. It is an opportunity to affirm your trust in an individual who stands not just for what is expedient, but for what is right, ensuring that the office remains a beacon of unbiased service, safeguarding the wellbeing and trust of your community.

As someone who has dedicated years to serving in law enforcement, I have witnessed firsthand the impact

of leadership that prioritizes the community's needs above all else. It is from this place of experience and respect for the role you are now tasked with filling that I encourage you to consider these principles as you make your choice.

From my vantage point, observing the political landscape of Ogle County, Christie Cox emerges as a candidate worthy of serious consideration. I have known Christie Cox, her husband of nearly 33 years, and their children, for over a decade. I can attest to the remarkable character and high caliber of her family. The integrity and values she embodies, nurtured within her family and demonstrated throughout her campaign, underscore her suitability for this critical position. Her approach to the role, emphasizing independence, community engagement, and a principled dedication to the office's sanctity, suggests a readiness to serve Ogle County with the respect and diligence it deserves.

Kelly Wilhelmi
 former Whiteside County sheriff
 (2008-2018, retired)

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On March 25, 2017, the world's largest banana split made its debut in Innisfail, Australia. Concocted with 40,000 bananas, it stretched for an astounding 5 miles long. No word on the number of calories it contained.

* On March 26, 1971, East Pakistan declared its independence from Pakistan, forming Bangladesh, which started an eight-month-long war between Pakistan and the newly-formed state. As many as 3 million people lost their lives in the conflict.

* On March 27, 1989, the groundbreaking soap opera "Generations" aired on NBC-TV, making it the first U.S. African-American show of its kind. Focusing on the relationship between two Chicago families, one white and one Black, the series tackled difficult subjects, including sickle cell anemia, racial bias and hate crimes, but failed to find a wide audience and was canceled in 1991.

* On March 28, 1949, English astronomer Fred

Hoyle coined the term "Big Bang" during a BBC radio interview, though he also refuted the scientific theory, remarking in a later interview with the network that "the reason why scientists like the 'big bang' is because they are overshadowed by the Book of Genesis. It is deep within the psyche of most scientists to believe in the first page of Genesis."

* On March 29, 1984, the city of Baltimore refused to replace its antiquated stadium, so the owner of the Baltimore Colts decided to up and leave the state. The team loaded up all their equipment into 15 trucks, moved to Indiana, and renamed themselves the Indianapolis Colts.

* On March 30, 1842, inhaled sulfuric ether was used as an anesthetic for the first time, by American surgeon Crawford Williamson Long, the first obstetric anesthetist, in Athens, Georgia. Long was also a cousin of Western legend Doc Holliday, and may have operated on Doc's cleft lip.

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

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.

LOCAL NEWS

The Etnyre Foundation opens 2024 grant cycle

OREGON — The Etnyre Foundation recently opened its grant application cycle on March 1. The application deadline is March 31 and grant recipients will be notified in May.

Applicant requirements include holding a 501c3 nonprofit status, being a community where Etnyre International operates, and organizations that align with the mission of the foundation, which is to provide financial support to 501c3 organizations and programs who through their actions in the areas of education,

environmental preservation and health and welfare enhance the wellbeing and of local communities.

The Etnyre Foundation's vision is "healthy, vibrant communities where we live and work," and its values are care, fairness, integrity and respect.

Apply at www.theetnyrefoundation.org and questions can be emailed to etnyrefoundation@gmail.com.

The Etnyre Foundation is located at 1333 S. Daysville Road in Oregon,

Dr. Cates to Serve on National Panel of Expert Scientists

OREGON — The Clinical Compass' chairman of the scientific commission noted that Dr. Cates' dedication to synthesis of scientific literature and research is impressive, and his efforts are essential to the chiropractic profession. The Scientific Commission of the Clinical Compass invites him to continue to serve for another two-year term. This term will run from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2026.

The 11 commission members serve without compensation for two-year terms, which may be renewed upon the Commission's needs and mutual agreement.

The purpose of the Commission is to advise



the chiropractic profession on issues related to identifying, interpreting, and compiling the scientific evidence associated with chiropractic care and to collaborate on the development, publication, dissemination, and utilization of guidelines and care pathways.

The Scientific Commission of the Clinical Compass appreciates Dr.

Cates' commitment and dedication to the profession and the health of the public.

Dr. Cates has worked with the CCGPP/Clinical Compass for several decades and has published works that include several guidelines and medical journal articles on quality assurance and standards of care in healthcare. He is co-author of the low-back chapter and lead author of the chapter on thoracic disorders and contributor to several other professions' best practice guideline texts. Dr. Cates' published works are included in the scientific literature data base. He maintains a private practice of chiropractic orthopedics in Oregon.



Stephen Hart Feature Wall

March brings new artists on display at the Coliseum Museum

OREGON — March brings a new line up of artists on display at the Coliseum Museum of Art, Antiques & Americana in downtown Oregon with exhibits by Stephen Hart of Dixon and David Van Delinder of Cherry Valley.

Stephen Hart is the Feature Artist for March, with his display of digital photography of local and regional scenes with an emphasis on the Nachusa Grasslands. Starting out at the young age of 13 his hobby has been evolving since the film days to today's modern cameras that offer so many features.

David Van Delinder, of Cherry Valley, has his work on display in the Lowden Gallery from March 1 - April 30. David's fine art is rooted in traditional technique and classical composition. His pen and ink drawings of abandoned barns and jazz musicians, impressionistic florals, land-



D Van Delinder - A Snowy Barn.

scapes, and classical oil portraits all display both virtuosity and inspiration.

The work of these two artists as well as the many other artists on display throughout the Coliseum Museum will be highlighted on Friday, March 15, with an Artist Reception from 6-8 p.m., with music by Slainte

who will present Celtic music for the evening's entertainment.

The reception is sponsored by Sponsored by Merlin's Greenhouse & Flowers and The Other Side Boutique in Oregon.

The CMAAA mission is to present Art, Antiques, Americana and history through permanent and rotating exhibits, workshops, music, theater and more. Additional information can be found on the website, www.cmaaa.org and Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ColiseumMuseum/

RALPHIE & LULU'S

Sunday, March 17th

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Est. 2001

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Fried Chicken and Sandwiches
Serving 3pm-7pm | Bar open 1pm

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

812 Main St. - Ashton

03112024

Oregon GFWC Woman's Club Presents
The 72nd Annual Oregon, IL
Antique Show & Vintage Market

Over 40 Dealers from the Midwest
March 23rd & 24th, 2024
Saturday 9am - 5pm & Sunday 10 am - 3pm

Blackhawk Center
1101 W. Jefferson St.
Oregon, Illinois 61061

- Antique Appraisals Sun. only 10 am - 2pm (\$5 per item)
- Plenty of Parking
- Concessions
- Handicap Accessible

Entry \$8.00

Rendered by Toni Cacciatore

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the General Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, the 19th of March, 2024, the following proposition will be submitted to the voters of Ogle County and the State of Illinois.

PROPOSITION
PROPOSITION TO IMPOSE COUNTY SCHOOL SALES TAX
<p>Shall a retailers' occupation tax and a service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a sales tax) be imposed in The County of Ogle, Illinois, at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes, school resource officers, and mental health professionals?</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO </p>

The polls at the election will be open at 6:00 o'clock A.M. and will continue to be open until 7:00 o'clock P.M. of that day.
Dated this 20th day of February, 2024.

Laura J Cook, County Clerk
 The County of Ogle and State of Illinois

Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday, March 21st, 2024
4:00 - 7:00 PM
Fritz's Wooden Nickel
Stillman Valley
Adults: \$12 (\$10 in advance)
Children 5-12 \$8 Under 5 Free

Spaghetti, Salad Bar, Dessert, Milk or Coffee

Mighty Meridian Leo's

Proceeds to benefit
Local Community Groups

Stillman Valley Lions Club

For Tickets Contact:
Al Unger 815-645-8956 | Karen Marsh 815-985-1587 | Marty Typer 815-742-1876

03042024

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MERIDIAN CUSD 223 TRANSPORTATION
HIRING EVENT! BE AT STILLMAN VALLEY
HIGH SCHOOL ON MARCH 16, 2024 FROM
10-2PM!

WANT TO WORK A FEW HOURS A DAY?
LOOKING FOR SOME EXTRA SPENDING MONEY?
LOVE KIDS? PART-TIME WORK FOR RETIRED PERSON OR
A STAY AT HOME MOM/DAD/GUARDIAN.
YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME? INTEREST IN SAVING ON
DAYCARE? RIDE ALONG FOR KIDS 3 AND OLDER.
CONSIDER BEING A BUS DRIVER; FLEXIBLE HOURS, GREAT
PAY, BE HOME WITH YOUR CHILDREN IN SUMMER AND THEIR
DAYS OFF. KID PLAY SPORTS? DRIVE TO THE EVENT AND
GET PAID TO WATCH YOUR KID PLAY.

COME DOWN AND TAKE A TEST DRIVE.
MUST BE 21 AND HOLD A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE.

CAN'T MAKE IT THAT DAY? BUT INTERESTED? APPLY
ONLINE AT MERIDIAN223.ORG

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

Dixon man turns self in on warrant

OREGON — On Feb. 27 at approximately 8:45 a.m. deputies arrested Sean Callaway, 28, of Dixon when he turned himself into the Ogle County Jail. He was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant for driving while license suspended. There was no bond set on the warrant and Callaway appeared in court on Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. Callaway was released and will return to court on April 28 at 9 a.m.

On Feb. 27 at approximately 3:13 p.m. deputies responded to a domestic problem at 107 E. Meadowland Drive in rural Rochelle. After investigation, deputies placed James Strenge, 56, of Rochelle under arrest for domestic battery. Strenge was transported to the Ogle County Jail he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On Feb. 27 at approximately 4:16 p.m. deputies and Rochelle Fire and EMS responded to the area of Mulford Road and Bethel Road in reference to a one-vehicle rollover accident with injuries. Upon arrival, deputies located a black Ford Escape upside down in the east ditch with heavy damage, and the driver, Pamela Schneiderwind-Lopez, 59, of Rochelle, was still in the vehicle. EMS arrived on the scene, extricated Schneiderwind-Lopez from the vehicle, and transported her to Javon Bea Mercy Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. After investigation, deputies learned that Schneiderwind-Lopez was traveling northbound before having a medical episode, traveling off of the east side of the ditch and striking a culvert before overturning. Creston Fire Department also assisted with the accident.

On Feb. 28 at approximately 3:30 p.m. deputies arrested Corey Stone, 28, of Oregon at the Ogle County Courthouse. He was arrested for contempt of court. Stone posted bond and will return to court on April 29 at 9 a.m.

On Feb. 28 at approximately 3:09 p.m. deputies arrested Anna Allison, 31, of DeKalb at the Ogle County Courthouse. She was arrested for contempt of court.

On Feb. 28 at approximately 7 p.m. deputies responded to the 100 block of East Meadowland Drive in Rochelle regarding a possible violation of bond conditions. As a result of an investigation, deputies placed James G. Strenge, 56, of Rochelle, under arrest for violation of bail bond conditions. Strenge was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending an appearance before a judge.

On Feb. 29 at approximately 1:15 p.m. Jeremy Lopez, 29, of Elmwood Park turned himself into the Ogle County Jail. He had a failure to appear warrant. Lopez posted bond and does not need to return to court.

On Feb. 29 at approximately 4:40 p.m., the Ogle County 911 Dispatch Center received a 911 call indicating a 4-year-old child had been mauled by a dog in rural Monroe Center, and CPR was in progress. The child was transported to a Rockford hospital, where they succumbed to the injuries. Monroe Township Fire Protection District, Stillman Fire Protection District, Illinois State Police, and Mercy Health MD-1 assisted Ogle County Sheriff's deputies. The investigation is ongoing.

On March 1 at approximately 9:06 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of North Grant Street in Byron. Upon investigation, Ariel C Williamsen, 32, of Sterling, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended, and an active Lee County warrant for failure to appear. Williamsen was also cited for no front registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Williamsen was transported to the Ogle County Jail before being released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On March 1 at approximately 8:22 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of South 6th Street in Rochelle. After a brief investigation,

Deputies arrested Marco Hernandez-Mandujano, 30, of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended. Hernandez-Mandujano was additionally cited for equipment violations and illegal transportation of alcohol. Hernandez-Mandujano was released on a notice to appear and shall appear in court at a later date.

On March 2 at approximately 9:48 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Lindenwood Road. After investigation, deputies placed Rosalind Kastner, 48, of Sycamore, under arrest for an active DeKalb County warrant. Kastner was transported to the Ogle County Jail and was held on a no bond warrant.

On March 2 at approximately 10:20 a.m. deputies and Polo Fire/EMS Department responded to a two-vehicle crash on Illinois Route 64 at Summer Hill Road in rural Polo. Throughout the course of an investigation, it was learned Marcia Frey, 66, of Mt. Morris was operating a 2008 Pontiac Grand Prix and traveling directly in front of a 2021 Subaru Ascent when she conducted a U-turn at the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Summer Hill Road causing a collision with the Subaru. Two occupants of the Subaru were transported by ambulance to Freeport Memorial Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. Both vehicles were towed due to disabling damage. Frey received a citation for improper U-turn.

On March 2 at approximately 4 p.m. deputies and the Polo Fire/EMS Department responded to a single-vehicle motorcycle crash on Illinois Route 52 near the intersection of Goose Hollow Road. After conducting an investigation, Lukus Hicks, 27, of Lanark, was issued citations for improper passing and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Hicks was transported by Polo EMS to KSB Hospital in Dixon.

On March 3 at approximately 1:22 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of South 5th Street in Oregon. After investigation, deputies placed Kaylee Johnson, 22, of Oregon, under

arrest for driving while under the influence of alcohol. Johnson was additionally issued a citation for improper lane usage. Johnson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On March 4 at 8:27 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Illinois Route 2 at Lost Nation Road just inside of Lee County. As a result, Darla M. Russell, 33, of Dixon was arrested for driving while license suspended, and an Ogle County warrant for contempt of court. Russell was released on a notice to appear for the driving while license suspended charge, and transported to the Ogle County Jail on the warrant.

On March 4 at 11:20 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on East Illinois Route 72 at North Marrill Road. As a result, deputies arrested Fabrico A. Primera-Cuicas, 25, of Chicago for no valid driver's license. Primera-Cuicas was additionally issued citations for operation of a motor vehicle with suspended registration, and a turn signal violation. Primera-Cuicas was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 4 at approximately 5 p.m. deputies, with the assistance of the Polo Fire Department and Mt. Morris Fire Department, responded to the White Pines State Park, 6712 W. Pines Road, in response to a single-vehicle accident. Upon investigation, it was learned a dark blue Mitsubishi, driven by William E Bergeson, 22, of Sycamore, was negotiating a curve when they lost control, struck a tree, and overturned. Bergeson, along with an additional male passenger, were transported to the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Bergeson was cited for driving under the influence of alcohol, failure to reduce speed/too fast for conditions, and expired registration. Bergeson was released on a notice to appear and provided a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Man arrested on outstanding warrant

POLO — On Feb. 27 at 1:08 p.m. Mark A. Smith, 33, Polo, was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Smith was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

A. Alender, 35, Prophetstown, was cited for operation of an uninsured motor vehicle. Alender was released with a notice to appear.

complaints/assists: seven. Animal complaints: One. Disturbance/domestics: one. Fire/medical assists: three. Alarm/open door: one. Lock outs: four. Traffic stops: 10. County assists: four.

General calls for service for weeks of Feb. 19-March 3: Citizen

On Feb. 29 at 2:40 p.m. Robert



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VFW POST 8739 OFFICER ELECTION

Nominations for Post Officers will start at the March 19, 2024 Post Meeting at 7 PM. Officers to be nominated are:

Commander	Quartermaster
SR. Vice Commander	Chaplin
JR. Vice Commander	3 year Trustee

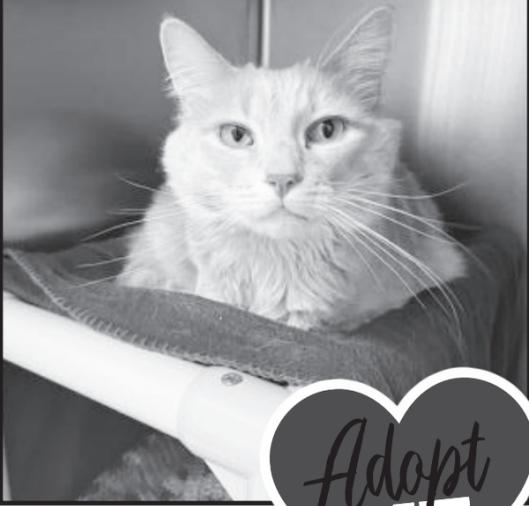
Nominations will remain open until the April 16th Meeting at 7 PM when nominations will be closed and Elections will be held.

New Officers will take office at the June meeting.



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

Tails PET OF THE WEEK
Humane Society
815.758.2457
www.tailshumanesociety.org



Adopt
ME

Slim

Hello! My name is Slim. I'm a front declawed guy and I'm in need of a new home. I've lived with people of all ages, other cats and even dogs. I also have good housekeeping manners. I'd like to have a purrson or family to love once again, so please consider adopting me!

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Compassionate, quality care for your companion.

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Christel Ackland 815-561-2153

or

Chris Grimm 815-561-2125

to advertise on the Pet of the Week Page!



LOCAL NEWS

BYRON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Man cited for operating vehicle with expired registration

BYRON — On Feb. 1, Joshua T. Ellsworth 30, of Rockford was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration.

On Feb. 2, Adam A. Khouildi, 23, of Rockford was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 3, Ronnie E. Ciganek 36, of Kings, was issued citations for driving while license suspended and operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

On Feb. 3, Esteban A. Ramos, 38, of Rock Falls was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 5, Andrew R. Miller, 26, of Rockford was issued a citation for use of electronic communication device on roadway.

On Feb. 5, Justin M. Bonvallet, 45, of Leaf River was issued a citation for use of electronic communication device on roadway.

On Feb. 5, Larry R. Rose, 75, of Byron was issued a citation for use of electronic communication device on roadway.

On Feb. 10, Mason D. Jennings, 21, of Stillman Valley was issued citations for driving under the influence of alcohol and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Jennings was transported to Ogle County Jail and later released.

On Feb. 11, Tamera L. Crowe, 61, of Crete was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 13, Dylan S. Scott, 20, of Skokie was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 13, Krystan M. Koch, 32, of Byron was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration.

On Feb. 14, Aubrey K. Barns, 32, of Rock Island was issued citations for speeding and operating a vehicle without proof of valid insurance.

On Feb. 16, Billy R. Conn, 30, of Byron was issued a citation for driving while license suspended.

On Feb. 17, Yazan W.M. Safi 21, of Rockford was issued a citation for driving with a suspended registration.

On Feb. 23, Darrius K. Parker, 22, of Rockford was issued citations for no insurance, driving while license suspended and operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

On Feb. 23, Brandon M. Tenerelli, 28, of Mt. Morris was issued a citation for disobeying a traffic control device.

On Feb. 24, Jeremy R. Groves, 47, of Rochelle was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 24, David J. Stanfield, 61, of Rockford was issued a citation for speeding.

On Feb. 25, Jessica E. Poteet, 25, of Loves Park was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

On Feb. 28, Zachery D. Poe, 29, of Oregon was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration.

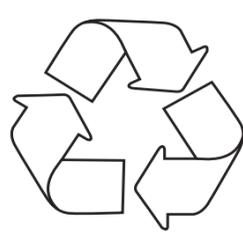
Any arrests listed below are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Byron's Daubert graduates from UW-Madison

MADISON, Wis — A total of 1,966 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Dec. 17, 2023, including Byron's Devin Daubert (college of engineering, master of engineering)

Just more than 1,300 of them took part in the ceremony at the Kohl Center. The ceremony was livestreamed so that friends and family from around the world could watch. UW issued 1,459 bachelor's degrees, 387 master's degrees, and 120 doctoral degrees.

Recycle



Join Us at Middle Creek Presbyterian Church

Community Worship Service: 3/13/24 6:30pm

Palm Sunday 10:30am 3/24/24

Maundy Thursday Service 7pm 3/28/24

EASTER SERVICE 10:30AM
3/31/24

12473 Montague Road, Winnebago
Located West of Tower Road on Montague Road

GREEN CABBAGE 49¢ lb

RED POTATOES 5 LB BAG 2/\$5

KNOB CREEK BOURBON 100 Proof, Maple, Rye 750 ml 30.99

REUBEN BRAND USA CHOICE POINT CUT CORNED BEEF WHILE SUPPLIES LAST! 3.99 lb

REUBEN BRAND USA CHOICE FLAT CUT CORNED BEEF WHILE SUPPLIES LAST! 5.99 lb

Prices Effective: Wednesday, March 13 thru Tuesday, March 19, 2024
ALL ITEMS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO RAIN CHECKS | NO RETURNS | NO EXCHANGES

FRESH HOT CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE MEAL 11.99 ea

From The Deli Friday, March 15 thru Sunday, March 17

BAKERY

ST. PATRICK'S HOLIDAY CUPCAKES White or Chocolate 6 ct 3.59

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SUGAR COOKIES Sprinkled or Sugared, 12 ct 5.99

ST. PATRICK'S DAY GLOSS ICED COOKIES 12 ct 6.99

BLARNEY STONE CAKES 2X2, 4 ct 6.99

FRESH BAKED RYE BREAD LOAF Select Varieties 2.59

IRISH SODA BREAD LOAF 2.99

Green River SODA 4 pk 12 oz bottles 4.99

Cake of the Week

O'SULLIVAN'S LAYER CAKE Chocolate or White 8 inch round 7.99

DELI

Kretschmar Brand CORNED BEEF 10.99 lb

Kretschmar Brand NATURAL SWISS CHEESE 7.99 lb

PISTACHIO FLUFF 5.99 lb

GERMAN POTATO SALAD 4.89 lb

Fresh From The Deli 8 PIECE FRIED CHICKEN Two Each: Breast, Legs, Thighs or Wings 12.99

Lenten Seafood Specials

WHOLEY CRAB & CHEESE BITES Frozen 8 oz pkg 4.99 ea

WHOLEY CRAB & CHEESE BITES Frozen 8 oz 3.99 ea

WHOLEY BREADED SHRIMP Frozen 10 oz 4.99 ea

WHOLEY TUNA SKEWERS Frozen 16 oz 9.99 ea

PERFECT IN THE GRILL OR OVEN!

Certified Angus Beef® brand BONELESS ARM POT ROAST 4.99 lb

EASTER HAM SPECIALS

Lenten Fish Fry | **Every Friday In The Deli**

CATFISH NUGGETS BUCKET 1 lb 5.99

ONE PIECE FRIED COD MEAL 6.29

TWO PIECE FRIED COD MEAL 10.99

ONE PIECE COD SANDWICH 6.99

CATFISH NUGGET MEAL 4.99 lb

COMPLETE MENU AVAILABLE ONLINE www.sullivanfoods.net/departments/fish-meal-fridays

LOCAL NEWS

Otto Dick Speaks to Oregon Lions

OREGON — On Feb. 22, local historian Otto Dick spoke to the Oregon Lions during their regular meeting at the VFW in Oregon.

Otto gave a brief history of the life of Abraham Lincoln and his visit to Oregon which preceded the presidential election in November of 1856.

Lincoln had no formal education but, thanks to his stepmother encouraging him to read from an early age, he developed the skills that enabled him to become an esteemed statesman and ultimately the 16th President of the United States, serving two terms in that office.

Otto Dick identified to actual location where Lincoln spoke during a political rally on Aug. 16,



From left to right: Otto Dick and Oregon Lions' Vice President Lion Dr. Tom Champley. (Courtesy photo)

1856. A stone commemorating that event still sits on private property in the City of Oregon. According to historical records, "He spoke with "logic, power and eloquence."

and caught the attention of the large crowd attending that political rally. Oregon Lions have enjoyed several entertaining and informative programs given by Otto Dick and appreciate the wealth of knowledge that he has shared over his years as our local historian.

County electronics recycling event is March 22

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, March 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 21.

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

Limit seven (7) large or bulky items per permit and one permit per county household per month. Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events. Business or institutional electronics are accepted by the OCSWMD via a separate program. Call the number above for more information and pricing for business electronic recycling, and to make an appointment for drop off of the materials to be recycled.

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

Happy Birthday
& Countless Best Wishes

Robert (Bob) Chamberlin
March 21, 2024
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Third place State finish ends Tigers' season

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

CHAMPAIGN — While it wasn't the storybook ending that Byron was hoping for, the Tigers are returning home from Champaign with a state trophy in boys basketball for the first time ever.

Looking to rebound from a 50-42 loss against Benton in the IHSA 2A State Semifinals on Thursday evening, Byron returned to the State Farm Center court later that night for the third-place game against the Williamsville Bullets, who fell to Chicago Phillips in the semifinals. Behind an explosive first-quarter shooting effort from sophomore Cason Newton, who drilled four 3-pointers to start the game, Byron secured the third-place trophy with a 62-48 win.

The victory concludes a tremendous 2023-24 season for the Tigers (31-3, 8-1 Big Northern), who won the Big Northern Conference before taking

I'm glad that I was a part of this season because there aren't many teams that get to experience this. Doing this as a sophomore was very exciting and I still have two more years, so I'm excited to see what happens in those two years."

Cason Newton

home the IHSA 2A Genoa-Kingston Regional and IHSA 2A Mendota Sectional titles. Byron also claimed the IHSA 2A Sterling Super Sectional crown, marking the program's first super sectional victory in school history. The 31 victories are the most in a single season for the Tigers, whose history spans over a century.

"We knew this was the last time we'd be able to play with our friends," Newton said. "I love all of the seniors and I've had so much fun with them throughout the season.

We came out and had fun in our last game and I'm glad we did that... I just went out there and played with confidence. I was frustrated after our first game and we knew we had to come out with more energy."

Newton's 3-point barrage in the opening quarter sparked the offense for the Tigers, who only made one triple in their loss to the Rangers in the semifinals. Byron held an 18-14 lead over Williamsville (26-11, 5-4 Sangamo) entering the second quarter, where the Tigers held steady



Byron's Jack Hiveley pushes the basketball past Williamsville's Reid Bodine. (Photo by Russell Hodges)

and overcame a strong effort from Bullet guard Brayden Saling, who scored 22 total points.

"I've learned a lot this season, both as a person and as a basketball player," Newton said. "These seniors mean a lot to me and I've never had better

friends in my entire life. I've learned so much from them and I'm excited for the future. I'm glad that I was a part of this season because there aren't many teams that get to experience this. Doing this as a sophomore was very exciting and I still have

two more years, so I'm excited to see what happens in those two years."

Byron took a 31-25 halftime lead into the third quarter, where senior guard Ryan Tucker had the hot hand from beyond the arc, knocking down a flurry of 3-pointers. The IHSA 2A All-State First Team honoree canned six 3-pointers in the game, finishing with a team-high 24 points against the Bullets. On the defensive end, Byron held Saling in check and limited Williamsville to just seven third-quarter points, allowing the Tigers to balloon their lead to 49-32 after three quarters.

"I felt like we just wanted to come out and have fun," Tucker said. "This was the last time I was going to play with these guys and I've played with them since I moved to Byron in sixth grade. Having that in the back of my mind gave us the extra edge. We just went out there and had fun."

See BYRON page 2

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The Byron High School boys basketball team took third place in the IHSA 2A State Championship tournament in Champaign on Thursday. Byron defeated Williams-ville 62-48 to finish the 2023-24 season with a 31-3 record. (Photo by Russell Hodges)

BYRON: Tigers finish season run with third place finish

From page 1

Tucker's final statline included five assists and four rebounds for the Tigers, who led by as many as 20 points in the fourth quarter until both teams unloaded their benches over the final minutes. Newton finished with 17 points and four rebounds, while senior forward Jack Hively added seven points and five rebounds in the win. Sophomore forward Caden Considine chipped in seven points off the bench. Byron will lose seven seniors from its third-place winning roster including four starters in Tucker and Hively as well as Carson Buser and Braylon Kilduff.

"We got a taste of the state tournament and I hope that sticks with the guys who're coming back," Tucker said. "My advice for them is to stay in the gym and I know that guys like Cason [Newton] and Caden [Considine] will hold it down and win some games next year. This was a memorable season and this journey was something I'll remember for the rest of my life."

Semifinals

The Byron Tigers held a brief one-point lead early in the fourth quarter of their IHSA 2A Boys Basketball State Semifinal game against the Benton Rangers on Thursday evening.

Senior guard Ryan Tucker drove to the basket for a contested layup that gave Byron a 37-36 lead over Benton with about six minutes remaining in the game. But the Tigers



Byron's Caden Considine drives underneath Williams-ville's Reid Bodine. (Photo by Russell Hodges)

were unable to hold off the Rangers and 6-foot-8 forward Docker Tedeschi, who drained a fadeaway 3-pointer that sparked a late Benton run and enabled the Rangers to edge the Tigers 50-42. The loss moved Byron (30-3, 8-1 Big Northern) into the third-place game against the Williamsville Bullets.

"It's tough to have our worst shooting performances on one of the biggest stages, but to come back and lead by one shows our heart," said Tucker, one of the five IHSA 2A All-State First Team honorees this season. "We knew that our defense would turn them over a little bit and we forced a turnover that helped us take the lead late. Our defense has been a staple for us all season and we didn't turn them over as much as we wanted to. I think that played in their favor."

Tedeschi fueled the Ranger offense during

the first quarter, where the IHSA 2A All-State First Team honoree scored seven of his 14 points, with most of his points coming around the rim. Benton's Evan Munoz drained a pair of corner triples in the first half, helping the Rangers command a 19-14 over the Tigers after the buzzer sounded at the end of the opening quarter.

"We felt coming in that we couldn't let them run all of their offensive sets and we thought we could do that through our ball pressure," head coach Matt Huels said. "We stopped turning them over late in the second half and the game was played more at their pace. We had 56 shots and with these kids, we're likely not going to score 42 points. It was an off shooting night."

Despite a slow start on the defensive end, Byron cranked up its ball pressure as the game moved forward. But the Tigers struggled to finish shots

around the basket, as the 6-foot-8 forward Tedeschi proved to be a deterrent with 10 defensive rebounds and six blocked shots. Byron finished just 1-for-13 from 3-point range and shot 30.3 percent from the field despite taking 56 total shots to 39 total shots for the Rangers, who made 46.1 percent of their shots.

"It's a tough setup since our kids have to go right back out there and play for third place," Huels said. "I don't have a doubt, though, that our kids will be ready and we're fortunate to have one more chance to rebound and be one of two teams in our class who ends the year with a win."

In a battle of No. 1 seeded teams, Benton (33-3, 9-0 Southern Illinois River-to-River) held a 30-23 halftime lead over Byron, with Isaac Billington scor-

ing nine first-half points for the Rangers. The Tigers made a second-half push to claim the lead, leaning on senior guard Carson Buser, who found success attacking the basket. Buser led all Byron players with 16 points and helped the Tigers bring Benton within one point, 36-35, after three quarters.

"We weren't able to turn them over early and I thought they were able to slow the game down," Buser said. "We played at more of their pace and we play better when we're shooting the ball well, but we didn't do that tonight. We were able to keep it close because we can still get to the basket, even when we're not shooting it well. I trust everyone in this room to go out there and play their best at all times. It was a tough loss, unfortunately, especially as one of our seniors."

As the pace of the game slowed down, Tucker's layup early in the fourth quarter allowed Byron to hold a one-point lead, but a 7-3 run from the Rangers over the next two minutes quickly swung momentum back to the Benton side. The Rangers clinched their win from the free-throw line, where they finished 8-for-12 in the game. Benton advances to take on Chicago Phillips for the state championship, which will be played at 1 p.m. on Saturday at the State Farm Center.

Billington led all scorers with 18 points on the Benton side. Tucker totaled 10 points for the Tigers, while senior forward Jack Hively finished with eight points and a team-high 10 rebounds. Sophomore forward Caden Considine added seven points and six rebounds.



Byron's Ryan Tucker looks to make a move around Williams-ville's Brayden Scott. (Photo by Russell Hodges)

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SPORTS NEWS

Tigers take Super Sectional win

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

STERLING — The Byron Tigers have smothered opponents with their defense throughout the postseason, but it was their balance and efficiency on offense that fueled their effort during Monday's IHSA 2A Super Sectional Boys Basketball Championship at Sterling High School.

Only a weekend removed from winning their first sectional championship since 2007, the Tigers walked into a raucous Musgrove Fieldhouse ready to take on Chicago Latin and seek out their first super sectional title in program history. Behind 28 points from standout senior guard Ryan Tucker and an eight-assist outing from senior guard Carson Buser, Byron shot over 61 percent from the field and drained half of its 3-point shots to cruise over the Romans for a 85-71 win.

It's the first-ever super sectional championship for the Tigers (30-2, 8-1 Big Northern), whose history in boys basketball spans over a century. Byron will advance to compete in the IHSA 2A State Championship tournament, which begins with the semifinals on Thursday and concludes with the final round on Saturday at the State Farm Center in Champaign. The Tigers will play at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday against Benton, who won over Teutopolis in the super sectional round.

"Since we started playing in the summer, I knew that we had the right guys," Buser said. "We played a lot of games over the summer and we're getting the job done right now, too. We like games like this where there's a lot of running up and down the floor. Anytime we're able to push the ball down the floor, we're going to have a lot of players scoring the ball... Basketball is a game of runs and we knew those would go both ways, but we were always able to regroup when they made their runs. Our coaches got on us toward the end and I think that fueled us."

Byron made its presence known throughout the first quarter, where sophomore guard Cason Newton drained two of his team-high four 3-pointers in the game. Chicago Latin (22-11, 12-0 Independent) struggled against Byron's three-quarter court pressure early on, with the Tigers inter-



The Byron High School boys basketball team defeated Chicago Latin 85-71 on Monday to win the IHSA 2A Sterling Super Sectional Championship. It's Byron's first super sectional title in program history. (Photo by Russell Hodges)

cepting errant passes and creating fastbreak opportunities that led to easy layups.

"This group has accomplished so much and it means a lot for our kids from when we were an eight-win program a few years ago," Byron head coach Matt Huels said. "I thought we had some better matchups and [Mbouombou] didn't guard Ryan [Tucker] to start the game and Ryan was able to get going early... They made their run, but we made enough stops to be successful."

Byron's combination of efficient scoring and tough defense allowed the Tigers to take a 28-15 lead entering the second quarter, where the Romans brought Byron within single digits behind a strong effort from guard Ryan Mbouombou, who led Chicago Latin with 25 points on Monday. Mbouombou spearheaded the charge for the Romans in the first half, putting home seven field goals, including four in the second quarter, from

"This is a group that has found a way to win every game... We found good matchups and the kids made shots."

Matt Huels

the mid-range area and under the basket.

Despite trailing 41-32 at halftime, the Romans made multiple brief runs throughout the second half, where Chicago Latin came within as few as four points of tying the score. But the Tigers had an answer for each of those runs, as Byron leaned on its senior stars including Tucker and forward Jack Hively, who finished with 21 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Tucker added three rebounds and three assists for the Tigers, who led 60-51 after three quarters.

"All of the unseen hours we've put in are paying off," Tucker said. "We've heard a lot of talk about teams trying to upset us, but we've just put our heads down and locked in. We've proven ourselves as history makers... I wanted to be

aggressive and I didn't want to settle for threes. This was our best game to date and to play our best game in such a big environment, it means everything to us. We knew [Latin] had some athletic players and we knew they could get into transition. We knew we had to counter that and we just played our style of basketball."

The Tigers overcame some foul trouble in the

third quarter, as Chicago Latin forced its way into the bonus with its offensive rebounding and dribble-drives to the basket. While the Romans went 6-for-6 from the free-throw line during the third quarter and 11-for-12 in the second half, Byron's fastbreak scoring and methodical half-court offense was too much to come back from.

Four Tigers finished

in double figures including sophomore forward Caden Considine, who stepped up with 13 points and two rebounds off the bench in Monday's win. Newton added 17 points for the Tigers, who will travel to Champaign later this week eyeing their first state title.

"This is a group that has found a way to win every game," Huels said. "We weren't shooting the ball great coming in, but they've found ways on defense to limit teams from making runs. We were able to run our offensive sets tonight. We found good matchups and the kids made shots."



Byron's Caden Considine attempts a free throw. (Photo by Russell Hodges)



Byron's Cason Newton is guarded by Chicago Latin's Nicholas Rotter. (Photo by Russell Hodges)



Byron's Carson Buser is guarded by Chicago Latin's Brendan Berman. (Photo by Russell Hodges)

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SPORTS NEWS

Tigers take down Princeton to claim Sectional Championship title

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MENDOTA — As it has done throughout the entire postseason, Byron's defense was the deciding factor on the evening of March 1 when the No. 1 seeded Tigers battled the No. 4 seeded Princeton Tigers in the IHSA 2A Mendota Sectional Boys Basketball Championship.

In a battle of the Tigers, it was the underdog Princeton who took control early in the first half, where they controlled the offensive glass and leaned on 6-foot-6 forward Noah LaPorte, who hammered home a pair of slam dunks and snagged multiple offensive rebounds. But Byron proved to be the strongest in the end, as the Tigers stifled Princeton with their three-quarter court pressure and took the game over with a series of layups and points off turnovers.

Byron held Princeton to just four points in the third quarter and continued to extend its lead in the fourth quarter, where the Tigers surged ahead by as many as 20 points and ultimately cruised to a 59-43 win on Friday. It's Byron's first sectional championship since 2007, when the Tigers went 29-2 and reached the Elite Eight under former head coach Ryan Webber.

"Our kids have done a great job of adapting on the fly and executing our game plans," Byron head coach Matt Huels said. "We've



The Byron High School boys basketball team defeated Princeton 59-43 on Friday to win the IHSA 2A Mendota Sectional Championship. It's Byron's first sectional title since 2007. (Photo by Russell Hodges)

really gotten our ball pressure going and that's created a lot of turnovers. We held [Noah] LaPorte to five points in the second half and that was a collective effort by our kids who were guarding him in the man-to-man defense. We've been able to make these runs during our games because our kids have bought in on the defensive end."

Byron (29-2, 8-1 Big Northern) trailed early in the game, as the Tigers struggled to hold the Princeton Tigers (17-16, 7-3 Three Rivers) off on the interior, where they scored nearly all of their first-half points. Despite entering the second quarter trailing

13-9, Byron fought its way back into the game behind a strong defensive effort in the three-quarter court setting, where the Tigers used their length to deflect passes and generate steals that led to easy layups.

"It feels awesome and we had a lot of fun tonight," sophomore guard Cason Newton said. "I'm very proud of our team and we're just going to keep going. . . We had to box them out in the second half and we knew that all five of us on the court had to rebound. We played with more energy in the second half and we won the game because we were able to

push the ball. We're so long on defense and when we're getting steals, our opponents become flustered by it."

A buzzer-beating layup from senior guard Ryan Tucker, who led Byron with 26 points on 12 made field goals including 11 layups, allowed the Tigers to edge Princeton 24-23 at halftime. Byron opened the third quarter on an 8-2 run, forcing a Princeton timeout as the energy in the orange bleachers began to take over the gymnasium. Byron outscored Princeton 14-4 in the third quarter to take their first double-digit lead of the game, 38-27, entering the fourth quarter.

Unlike Wednesday's semifinal game against No. 3 seed Riverdale, who mounted a brief rally behind an 11-0 run late in the second half, Byron dominated the fourth quarter, with the Tigers continuing to deflect passes and force Princeton turnovers with their ball pressure. The defense led to more runouts and easy layups for players like Tucker and senior forward Jack Hiveley, who finished with 16 points including 12 points in the second half to clinch the sectional win.

"We're trying to make history," Hiveley said. "We didn't start the game how we wanted to, but we calmed ourselves down in the second half and we were able to



Byron's Ryan Tucker drives around Princeton's Jordan Reinhardt. (Photo by Russell Hodges)

put them away. We talked about rebounding at halftime and we knew that we all needed to rebound because they were hurting us on the boards. We did a better job in the second half and that's how we were able to win. We've shut teams down with our defense throughout the postseason and we have a great press in the front-court. We didn't shoot great tonight, but we defended and we finished at the rim."

Newton chipped in six points and senior forward Braylon Kilduff added four first-quarter points for the Tigers, who will advance to the IHSA 2A Sterling Super Sectional on Monday at 7 p.m. Byron will face either Chicago Latin or Chicago Christ the King in the Elite

Eight round.

The Tigers are seeking to make more history on Monday, as Byron has never won a super sectional game in the program's history. The Tigers made their last super sectional appearance during the 2006-07 season, when Byron fell 43-30 against Granville Putnam County.

"We talked at halftime about how we didn't want this to be our last 16 minutes of basketball because we decided not to rebound," Huels said. "I thought kids like Jack [Hiveley], Caden [Considine] and Braylon [Kilduff] did a great job and our guards were getting down there too. Our rebounds were what allowed us to start our transition offense."

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SPORTS NEWS



Tigers read to grade-schoolers
Members of the Byron High School Tiger and Lady Tiger basketball programs spent time reading to local grade-schoolers on Friday, Feb. 16. (Courtesy photos)



The Byron High School varsity wrestling team fell 48-28 against Marian Central Catholic in the IHSA 1A Dual Sectional at Newman Central Catholic on Tuesday. Above is a photo from the team's IHSA 1A Individual Regional title at BHS in early February. (Courtesy photo)

Wrestlers fall at Dual Sectionals

STERLING — The Byron High School varsity wrestling team faced off with Marian Central Catholic during the IHSA 1A Dual Sectional meet at Newman Central Catholic on Tuesday. The Tigers fell to the Hurricanes 48-28, with six Byron athletes earning victories in the match.

Marian Central held an 18-0 lead over the first three bouts. Jimmy Mastny and Nicolas Astacio recorded falls over Byron's Jacob Ross and Carsen Behn in the 157-pound and 175-pound bouts, while Max Astacio added a win by a forfeit in the 165-pound bout for the Hurricanes.

The Tigers answered with three straight wins from Kyle Jones, Jarett Ross and Jared Claunch. Jones scored a 10-5 decision over Dan French in the 190-pound bout before Ross and Claunch notched back-to-back falls over Owen Neuzil and Kaleb Eckman

to claim the 215-pound and 285-pound matchups. Byron forfeited the 106-pound bout to Marian Central's Chandler Gardner.

Anthony Alanis gave the Hurricanes a 27-15 lead with a fall over Damien Palacios in the 113-pound bout. Jackson Norris fired back for the Tigers, securing a 9-4 decision against Marian Central's Josiah Perez. The Hurricanes sealed their dual win with three consecutive wins over the next three bouts. Brayden Tenuissen and Vance Williams each received forfeits for the 126-pound and 138-pound bouts, while Andrew Alvarado earned a fall in the 132-pound bout.

Byron took the last two bouts Tuesday, with Will Julian recording a third-period fall against Josh Gawronski at 144 and Brody Stien totaling a 19-5 major decision over Connor Cassels at 150.



Hawks compete at IKWF North Sectional

The Oregon Hawk Wrestling Club competed in the IKWF North Sectional at Rochelle on Saturday, March 2. Two individuals qualified for the IKWF Bantam & Intermediate State Championship at the Decatur Civic Center. Kolten Lowe took third in the Boys Intermediate 84 Division, while Draven Bock took third in the Boys Intermediate 98 Division. (Courtesy photo)

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

BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

226 E. 2nd St, Byron, IL 61010 - Phone 815-234-7431 - Fr. Richard Rosinski.
Weekday Masses: Tuesday - Friday 7:30am, Weekend Masses: Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 8:00 am and 9:30 am, Reconciliation: Fri. 8:00 am - 8:30 am; Sat. 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm or by app. Eucharist Adoration Fri. 8-9am
www.saintmaryinbyron.org 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 Spelliuss
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: chanoumc@gmail.com Adult & Children's Education 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month. At Chana Church you will find Open Hearts-Open Minds-Open Doors.

DAVIS JUNCTION

DAVIS JUNCTION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors • "God's Heart in Our Community" Located in town on Rt. 72 • Our Pastor is Rev. Keith Kelsey-Powell **Sunday Services:** Worship 10:30am, 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 Rosebrack
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: goeliumchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.goeliumchurch.org
Sunday morning worship 10:00 am

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BROTHERS

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

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

East Oregon Chapel Church of God
The Sharing is Caring Church
Pastor Jesse Allen E0CCGministries@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 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 - Office: Rev. Eldred George
Webpage: saintribides.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: stpaulnalc.org
10:15 a.m. Fellowship/Education hours
11:30 a.m. Worship

POLO

ST. MARY CHURCH

Rector/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. Kidzlink 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 Norris
103 S Maple St, Stillman Valley, IL
815-645-8872 | www.valleycov.org
Sunday Morning 9am "Gather" for learning & conversation, 10:15am Worship both onsite and online at facebook.com/VECCISV
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.
Pastor Phil Thompson
Sunday: Worship Service at 10:30 am.
Phone: 815-335-2609. Email: middlecreekchurch@gmail.com



SPORTS & LOCAL NEWS



Speech team qualifies for State

Byron High School had students on the speech team qualify for the IHSA State Championships this school year. Among the state qualifiers are sectional champion Nova Rakowski (prose reading) and third-place sectional finisher Fynn Remhof (radio speaking). Byron also had one sectional finalist in Abbie Baker (informative speaking) and three fourth-place sectional finishers who are state alternates in Amie Rosa (humorous interpretation), Amie Rosa and Masyn Brown (humorous duet acting) and Nova Rakowski (dramatic interpretation). (Courtesy photo)

FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Toddler/Pre-school Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Our March 13th Storytime is all about St. Patrick's Day! Bring your favorite little one to share in stories, a craft, and a search for golden coins! 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.

A dream year for Byron sports

THE Byron boys basketball team shined when the lights were brightest, joining the football team downstate on a championship quest. The Tigers shot lights out in a command performance win over upstart Chicago Latin in the super-sectional.

Fans of Byron athletics have been witness to a dream year with boys and girls sports, and a few extra miles of driving along the way. And, wasn't Sterling's Musgrove Fieldhouse a much better atmosphere compared to when 2A used to be at NIU?

Congratulations to Byron and Pecatonica for decisive sectional wins. For both, it was a long time coming. Pec had never won a sectional, while Byron (29-2) won one in 2007.

The Byron sectional loss that stands out most to me was in 2012 to Rockford Lutheran. The Tigers came into that game 28-0 and had already beaten Lutheran twice.

What I remember most is how demoralized coach Tom Schmidt was afterwards. As reporters, we're supposed to be impartial, but I felt that pain also.

Here's why Lutheran won after losing the previous two contests: Their squad was composed of players who hadn't been together as long as the homegrown Byron talent.

The Byron kids had played together for so many years, that they came into the season in top form. Lutheran, though more athletic, was like a rough draft that needed to be refined.

By the time the sectional came around, they finally caught up to Byron and in all likelihood surpassed them in talent.

Unless you're a primo basketball power, it's a chore to burst through the gauntlet of the IHSA post season.

A few of these elites seem to win sectionals with impunity. If I had to rank a few programs that not only can win a sectional, but win state titles, here are the tops I've seen:

No. 1 is Thornridge during 1971 and 1972 seasons. Without a doubt, they are the best team ever to come out of Illinois.

The remaining few include 1981 and 1982 Quincy, East St. Louis 1987 through 1989, Proviso East 1991 and 1992, Peoria Manual 1994 through 1997 and Chicago Simeon 2010 through 2013.

With the boys state tournament back in Champaign this weekend, I even have faint memories of Assembly Hall first hosting it in 1963, as we live in a few miles away at the time in St. Joseph. Though it became a political hot potato and was retired several years ago, but I

recall my Mom talking about how much she enjoyed Chief Illiniwek strutting around the arena.

Of course, in the 1960s, you had a team named the Pekin Chinks winning state titles. Yes, that name has been changed too. Probably, the strangest mascot state title game was in 1964 between Pekin and the Appleknockers of Cobden.

Getting back to the sectional final between two schools with the same non-offensive name of Tigers, Byron came in as the favorite over Princeton and the law of averages finally came true in the second half.

Byron trailed 25-24 early in the third quarter before completely taking over after that. What was the difference?

Byron finally got its highly-effective transition game going. When they run, few teams can keep up with them. Not because of speed, but because of how smart they run and pass.

There is an art to transition and they have it. Another aspect that gave Princeton trouble was the press. Sure, you can handle for a half, but after a while, you get worn down.

In Pec's 60-50 win over Eastland, it was a different story. Pec had control of the game, leading by as much as 19 points midway through the third quarter.

But, the pressure of being in high-stakes games in a gymnasium packed to the rafters with 1,300 fans led to one turnover after another. Suddenly, it was only a four-point lead and Eastland in possession of the ball with four minutes left.

Plus, Eastland knew what it was like to win sectionals, while Pec hadn't. That 22-7 run put together was all Eastland would muster, as Pec regrouped for the win and chance to avenge an earlier overtime loss to Aurora Christian in the super-sectional.

Similar to the Eastland game, Pecatonica led by 20 points, but fell apart.

In the girls state tournament, the best game was in 2A, where Peoria Notre Dame scored on a lay-up as time expired to beat Nashville 48-46. Watch out for Nashville in 2025, as their four best players were freshmen and sophomores.

The best team in the state might be 3A Lincoln. They crushed everyone they played, often winning games by 40-50 points. It would have been interesting to see them in 4A.

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



Andy Colbert

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

A.A. Hotline **800-452-7990**
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.
Oregon **732-3157**
Rochelle **562-3801**

Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

HOPE of Ogle County **562-8890 or 732-7796**
Counseling Services, Court Advocacy, Latina Advocacy, and Shelter programs

Education

University of Illinois Extension-Ogle County
421 W Pines Rd, Oregon 61061 **732-2191**

Low Income Housing

Ogle County Housing Authority
200 W Washington, Oregon **732-1301**

Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

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

Mental Health

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

Senior Citizens Services

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

Sexual Assault/Abuse

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

Therapeutic

Pegasus Special Riders **973-3177**

Veterans' Services

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

Wellness Services

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

LOCAL NEWS

MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

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

Virtual trip

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

Egg hunt

Adult Easter Egg Hunt! Join the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center and Let Freedom Rin for our annual Adult Easter Egg Hunt. March 23rd at Dusk we will again be on the Campus for all of the fun. The cost is \$15 and will include the hunt, a ticket for our door prize, and a favor. Everyone over the age of 18 is welcome to play. Call 815-734-6335 or stop by Village Hall for tickets.

Film

March 26th at 5:00 pm – Join us for a special night and screening of a new documentary film "Live at Mister Kelly's". This star-studded documentary features luminaries including Barbra Streisand, Bob Newhart, Richard Pryor, Ella Fitzgerald, Bette Midler, the Smothers Brothers, Steve Martin, Lily Tomlin and many others. Live at Mister Kelly's is a testament to the lasting impact of renowned culture icons and the unexpected origins of legendary musicians, comedians and the rich cultural history of the 50's and 60's. Call Melissa at 815-734-6335 to RSVP!

Bus trips

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

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

UNO Night

Monday, March 18th at 5:00 PM Do you flip for UNO? We will have UNO Flip!, original UNO, and UNO Attack! at Bertolet Memorial Library. Bring a friend or 2 and join us for an evening of UNO fun! All ages are welcome.

Spring Break Movie

Monday, March 25th at 2:00 PM Young Asha makes a wish so powerful that it's answered by a cosmic force called Star. With Star's help, Asha must save her kingdom and prove that when the will of one courageous human connects with the magic of the stars, wondrous things can happen.

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 Doro-

thy 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 zip-loc-type seals and paper/sticker labels. Thank you for your cooperation.

NEW RELEASES:

Adult Books

After the Shadows by Amanda Cabot
The Women by Kristin Hannah

Graphic Novel

39 Clues: The Maze of Bones by Rick Riordan

Picture Books

Milo's Little Secret by Rebecca Ralfe
Mermaid School by Joanne Wetzel

DVD

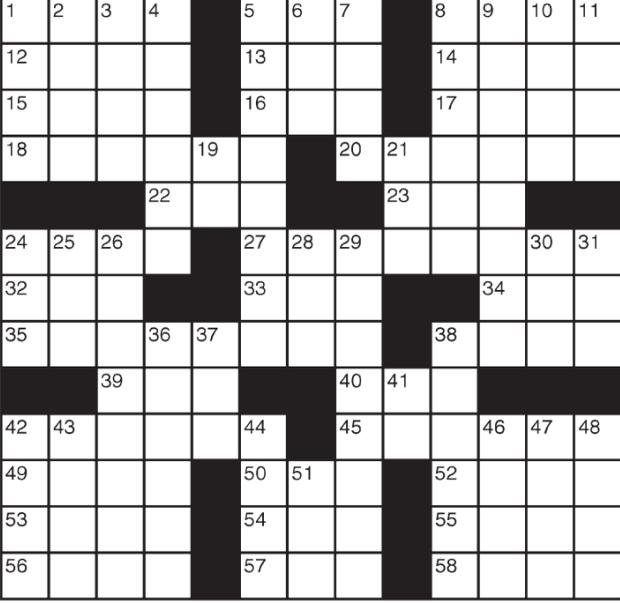
The Dog Who Saved Easter

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Egg on
- 5 Science room
- 8 Arm bone
- 12 Actress Gilpin
- 13 Hosp. area
- 14 Wedding cake layer
- 15 Bridge position
- 16 Not "agin"
- 17 "Snap out —!"
- 18 Monet or Debussy
- 20 Wards off
- 22 " — Poetica"
- 23 Be sick
- 24 Healthy
- 27 Embeds
- 32 Comic Philips
- 33 Menagerie
- 34 Trio after M
- 35 Fish lover's deli order
- 38 Group of quail
- 39 Transcript no.
- 40 Parched
- 42 Oracle setting
- 45 "Brigadoon" lyricist
- 49 Buffalo's county
- 50 Miss Piggy's pronoun
- 52 French waterway
- 53 — Romeo



- 54 Canine greeting
- 55 Summit
- 56 Ogler's look
- 57 " — -haw!" (cowgirl's cry)
- 58 Monopoly card
- 8 Perfect place
- 9 Game show aid
- 10 Astronaut Armstrong
- 11 Sciences' partner
- 19 AMA member
- 21 Hearing thing
- 24 Drenched
- 25 Ostrich's kin
- 26 Palmist's prediction
- 28 Neither mate
- 29 Hit song by OneRepublic
- 30 Calendar abbr.
- 31 Covert agent
- 36 Seem
- 37 Taunting laugh
- 38 Secondary route
- 41 Concerning
- 42 Bargain
- 43 Perry's creator
- 44 Noncommittal answer
- 46 Pleasing
- 47 Salinger girl
- 48 Marsh plant
- 51 Tram load

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MAGIC MAZE

WORDS ADDED TO THE DICTIONARY IN 1900

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

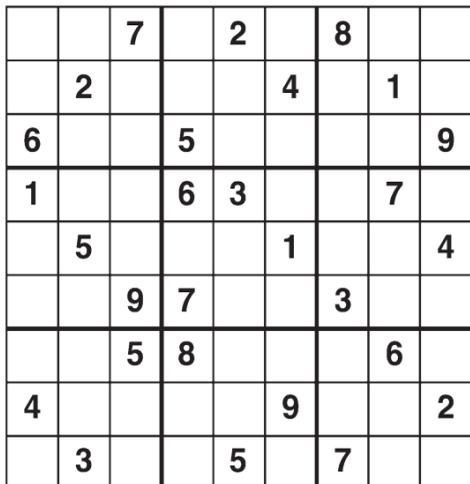
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: A SHIP FOR CARRYING OIL

- Ball of fire
- Briefcase
- Checkup
- Easter Bunny
- Flub
- Free lunch
- Glob
- Hemostat
- Mayan
- Mop-up
- Nonstop
- Pileup
- Plow under
- Run over
- Tractor

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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

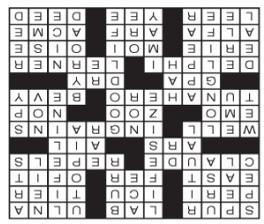
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



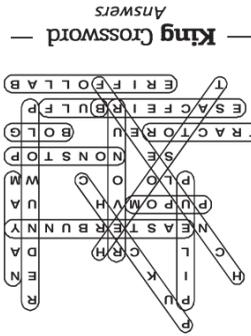
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Phone is missing. 2. Card is larger. 3. The is as wide. 4. Chair is missing. 5. Hand is moved. 6. Window is not



Solution time: 25 mins.



WORDS ADDED TO THE DICTIONARY IN 1900

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

LOCAL NEWS

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 April 2nd

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 and bring your dish to pass at our next meeting! Join us on April 2nd, 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, 3/13. Story time 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

"I'm a Barbie girl in a Barbie world!" Skip yourself over to the library to check out this perfect display of the pink, the perfect, the plastic that is known around the world as Barbie! This collection is on display courtesy of Kit Reynolds, 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.

Explore More Illinois

Explore More Illinois allows cardholders from participating RAILS and IHLS public libraries to reserve free and discounted admission, parking, and gift store purchases from cultural and recreational attractions in Illinois, including museums, cultural centers, zoos, aquariums, gardens, historical societies, park districts, and more. Explore More Illinois is easy to use with your library card. Visit the library's website to browse attractions. You can find the information on our website, www.mtmorris-il.org under the resources page.

Axis360 is now BOUNDLESS

Your library's Axis360 digital service has been upgraded to Boundless. The library can provide you with information about the transition to Boundless. All your user info and history, including holds position, bookmarks, notes, and other saved data will be seamlessly transitioned to the new Boundless platform.

Adult Programming

We would love to hear from you. Do you have any program ideas? Do evenings or weekends work better? Do you have a program you would like to share/lead? Contact Mary Cheatwood at the library through email at mmlib@mtmorris-il.org or call 815-734-4927.

Memorial Gifts

Give a gift that lasts, brings joy to many, and doubles in value. Your memorial gift to the library is matched by the Mt. Morris Library Foundation, doubling your generosity! Many thanks to all who gave memorial gifts in 2023.

Newspaper Available!

We will now be receiving the Dixon Telegraph daily! We receive the Ogle County Life, Sauk Valley, and Mt. Morris Times. If you want to keep up with the local news-stop on by!

Curbside Service is available!

We want to remind everyone that you still have the option of having your materials delivered to your vehicle. If you have holds waiting for you, call us to tell us you are on your way, and we will bring them out to your vehicle when you arrive. Call us if you need more information.

OREGON PARK DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

Open GAGA Ball

Gaga ball is a fast paced, high-energy sport played in an octagonal pit, combining the skills of dodging, striking, running, and jumping while trying to hit opponents with a ball below the knees. Join us on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30-4pm at Nash for Gaga ball games in the Prairie room. No registration needed. Daily fee or Membership.

Open Volleyball Gym

Continue to develop your volleyball skills with our weekly open gym at Nash Recreation Center. One court will be set up with balls for you to practice and play on Thursday afternoons from 3:30-5:30pm. Free for members, or daily admission fee.

Baseball and Softball 2024

Registration is open for all of our Baseball and Softball programs, featuring options for ages 3 years old through 14 years old. Whatever your skill and age level, we have a program that will help develop your skills and ensure that you will have a fun season! Coaches are needed for all levels, please email lesley@oregonpark.org if you are interested in coaching.

Little Baseball Stars (Ages 3-5) \$40/\$48 NR Deadline 6/19

T-Ball- (Ages 5-6) \$45/\$54 NR Deadline 4/24

Boys Coach Pitch (Ages 7-8) \$60/\$72 NR Deadline 4/3

Minor Boys (Ages 9-10) \$90/\$108 NR Deadline 4/3

Leon Gasmund Baseball (Ages 11-12) \$105/\$126 NR Deadline 4/3

Sandy Koufax Baseball (Ages 13-14) \$110/\$132 NR Deadline 4/3

Coach Pitch Girls Softball (Ages 7-8) \$60/\$72 NR Deadline 4/3

Minor Girls Softball (Ages 9-10) \$90/\$108 NR Deadline 4/3

Junior Girls Softball (Ages 11-12) \$105/\$126 NR Deadline 4/3

Intermediate/Senior Girls Softball (Ages 13-14) \$110/\$132 NR Deadline 4/3

(No High School Players)

Register at Nash, by calling 815-732-3101 or online at www.oregonpark.org.

Beginners Pickleball Open Gym

Have you been interested in trying out Pickleball? This game is fast, fun, addictive, and can be played by people of all ages and athletic abilities! Join us for a new beginner's time on Mondays when you can learn to play with other beginners in a relaxed environment. A few of our regular pickleball players may even be around to give you some tips! To learn more about pickleball you can visit the USA Pickleball Association at: usapa.org. Nash has a limited number of paddles and balls that you can borrow to play. Mondays from 12pm- 1:30pm. Free for members, or daily admission fee.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 13

The Polo FFA Alumni is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday, March 13 from 5-7 p.m. at the Polo Community High School Cafeteria. Dinner will include tossed salad, spaghetti, garlic bread, dessert and beverage. Ticket cost is \$10 for adults, \$7 for children 12 and under. Proceeds will be used to fund the FFA Alumni Scholarship, awarded to a Polo High School senior or seniors that are pursuing higher education in the agricultural fields. Contact any Polo FFA Alumni member, or Ginger Albano at 815-631-0457 to purchase tickets.

March 18

For our program on Monday, March

18, 7 p.m., Country Crossroads Quilt Guild, will be Karen Grover, an award-winning quilter from Rockford. Karen is known for her unique, original designs and her generous sharing of knowledge in creating these. Karen plans to share some of her favorite quilts along with some of her recent creations which includes this year's challenge, her "Temperature Quilt." We will get to learn some "tips & tricks" for creating this specific quilt. The program will be followed by refreshments, a business meeting, and Show 'n Tell. Guild meetings are held at the Forreston Grove Church, 7246 Freeport Road; Forreston, on the third Monday of each month (except

December) at 7 p.m., with ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. Visitors are welcome; for Visitors there is a fee of \$5 at the door. Membership dues are \$20. For more information call Program Committee Chairs Shelly Holverson 815-297-2381 or Karen Bolen 815-233-9836, or Guild President Chyree Rohde-Lincoln 815-275-2759.

March 20

Basics of Medicare Byron, an educational and informational presentation on the Medicare insurance program will be presented for the community at 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, at the United Church of Byron located at 701 W.

Second St., Byron. The emphasis will be on the eligibility and enrollment periods, benefits, and options concerning all parts of Medicare. All are welcome. Presenter will be Greg Wills for the program. This program is sponsored by the Legacy and Endowment Committee of The United Church of Byron as a community service. The United Church of Byron is a fun and diverse church with a heart for mission! Check us out at www.unitedchurchofbyron.org Disclaimer: This program is educational and informational only. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-Medicare to get information on all of your options.

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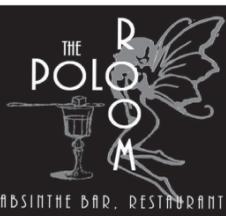
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101
LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING & ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of MONROE TOWNSHIP, Ogle County, Illinois, that tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinances for Town and Road District Funds for the fiscal year beginning April 1st, 2024 and ending March 31st, 2025, will be conveniently available for public inspection at the Monroe Center Fire Station, 104 West St., Monroe Center, IL 61052 from and after 6:45 P.M. on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024. Notice is further given that a Public Hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinances will be held at 7:00 pm. on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024, at the Monroe Center Fire Station, and that final action on these ordinances will be taken at the Public Hearing. Notice is also hereby given that immediately following the Budget Hearing, the Annual Town Meeting of said Township will take place at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024 at the Monroe Center Fire Station, 104 West St., Monroe Center, IL 61052 for the transaction of miscellaneous business of the said Township and after a Moderator being elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting, especially to consider and decide the following agenda and order of business:

- Nomination, Election, and Swearing In of Moderator
- Reading of Previous Year's Annual Meeting Minutes
- Supervisor's Annual Financial Statement
- Highway Commissioner's Annual Report
- Motion to adjourn

Dated this 6th day of March, 2024.
Submitted by Joan Morphe, Monroe Township Clerk
No. 0306
(March 11, 2024)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Public Hearing before the Stillman Valley Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Stillman Valley Fire Protection District, 200 Rural Road, Stillman Valley, Illinois, 61084, for the purpose of hearing the following applications for zoning relief for the following parcels:

1) Upon annexation of PINs 11-18-100-003, 05-36-300-006, and 10-01-126-004, owner is seeking a map amendment from R-1, One family dwelling district to Ag, Agriculture;
Owner: Lee E. Heeren Trust dated February 17, 2003, Lee Heeren, Trustee, 7971 Highlands Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61102.
Addresses of Parcels: E. Hales Corner Road, Stillman Valley, Illinois, 61084; and N. Stillman Road, Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084.

2) Upon annexation of PINs 11-18-100-003 and 05-36-300-006, owner is seeking a special use permit to operate a solar farm.
Owner: Lee E. Heeren Trust dated February 17, 2003, Lee Heeren, Trustee, 7971 Highlands Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61102.
Addresses of Parcels: E. Hales Corner Road, Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084; and N. Stillman Road, Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084.

3) Upon annexation of PIN 11-18-100-004, owner is seeking a map amendment from R-1, One family dwelling district, to Ag, Agriculture;
Owner: Estate of Carol Whaley, c/o Ronald Whaley, 10576 E Shagbark Lane, Rochelle, Illinois 61068.
Address of Parcel: No address, parcel is adjacent to and north of PIN 11-18-300-010.

4) Upon annexation of PIN 11-18-100-004, owner is seeking a special use permit to operate a solar farm.
Owner: Estate of Carol Whaley, c/o Ronald Whaley, 10576 E Shagbark Lane, Rochelle, Illinois 61068.
Address of Parcel: No address, parcel is adjacent to and north of PIN 11-18-300-010.
Dated this 6th day of March, 2024
Submitted by Yvonne Dewey, Village Clerk
Village of Stillman Valley, Ogle County, Illinois
No. 0309
(March 11, 2024)

103
AUCTIONS

PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION
13328 W. PIT ROAD FORRESTON, IL 61030
Thursday, March 14th 8AM to
Sunday, March 17th 5PM

This is an Online Auction.
Please visit <https://aandtauctionservices.hibid.com/> for full sale viewing beginning 3/13/24. Pictures will be uploaded prior to that date as they are available.
Personal Property: Household items; various decor items; vintage toys; sports memorabilia; lots of books (older and newer—many genres); some antiques; CDs/Tapes/Records; VHS & DVDS; tech items; costume jewelry; tools; vintage beer items; kitchenware; glassware (including uranium glass); memorabilia items; some clothing items; and much more.
Item Viewing: Items will be available for online viewing no later than 8am on 3/13/2024. If you wish for more information on an item or an appointment to view an item, please contact A & T Auction Services directly.
Item Pick-up: Pick up will be held on Thursday, March 21st from 4:30-7:00pm at address listed above.
Terms & Conditions: This is an absolute sale. There will be a 10% Buyer's Premium added to all items sold. Items can be purchased with cash, GOOD check, or credit card. There will be a 3.5% fee added to any credit card transaction.
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NHTSA ad COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

On Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. a joint meeting of the following school districts: (Amboy, Ashton/Franklin Center, Creston, Eswood, Forrestville Valley, Kings, Meridian, Oregon, Polo, Rochelle Elementary, Rochelle Township High School, and Steward) will take place at the Ogle County Educational Cooperative office, 417 N. Colfax, Byron, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss each district's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who attend private, or parochial schools or are home-schooled within one of the local public school districts for 2024-2025 school year. If you are a parent of a private, parochial or home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of one of the named local public school districts you are urged to attend. To register please call Tammy Moser at the OCEC office 815-234-2722 ext. 1017. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Matt Zilm, Director of the OCEC at 815-234-2722 No. 0307 (March 11, 2024)

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815-562-4171
Ogle County Life
815-732-2156

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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.

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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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

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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-

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.

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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.

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203 HELP WANTED

Byron School District Job Postings

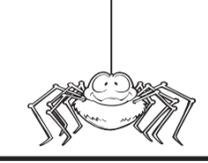
- Bus Monitor
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Apply online at www.byron226.org
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Select "Employment Opportunities"
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601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

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203 HELP WANTED

Help Wanted
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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

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By simply dropping off your entry at these participating businesses. One winner per business.*
Deadline for entry is Wednesday, March 21, 2024 at Noon.
Winners will appear in the March 25, 2024 Life. Winners' certificates will be mailed before Easter!

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SHOP LOCAL

Get the Word Out

How consumers can spread the word about local businesses

How communities benefit when consumers shop local

IDEAS about shopping are never set in stone, and the pandemic illustrated just how quickly consumer trends and opinions can change. Many individuals are now reevaluating how they spend their hard-earned money, particularly since inflation has affected just how far a dollar can be stretched. When consumers think about which stores to patronize, locally owned businesses may be the smartest option for a number of reasons — not the least of which is the way such enterprises benefit the communities they call home.

More money kept in the community
Shopping locally means that more money will stay in the community. According to recent research from Civic Economics, local eateries return nearly 79 percent of revenue to the community, compared to just over 30 percent for chain



restaurants. Overall, for every \$100 spent at a local business, around \$73 remains in the community, versus roughly \$43 when shopping at a non-locally owned business.

Get a personal touch

Local business owners typically are inclined to go the extra mile for their customers and are personally invested in the services and prod-

ucts they are selling. As a result, shopping locally tends to be a personalized experience. Furthermore, a local business owner may be more amenable to ordering products for specific clientele. Such personalized service is typically not accessible when shopping big box stores or other shops where owners are off-site.

Lines are short
Waiting in long

lines for checkout or to pick up merchandise ordered online can drain consumers' energy and contribute to stress. Local businesses tend to have short lines and small crowds, which can lead to a more pleasant shopping experience.

Generates tax revenue

Local businesses generate more tax revenue per sales dollar, according to

Rubicon, a digital marketplace for waste and recycling businesses. Taxes paid by local small businesses go to support schools, parks, roads, and other programs that benefit the community as well.

Support nonprofits

Local businesses often support good work in the community, such as nonprofit groups. These can include schools and sports teams, among other groups. According to Dr. Sue Lynn Sasser, professor of economics at the University of Central Oklahoma, studies indicate nonprofits "receive 250 percent

more support from small businesses than larger ones."

Support other local businesses

Local business support other local businesses by buying and selling among each other. A local, independently owned restaurant may source its ingredients from local farms, which means visitors to such eateries are supporting multiple local businesses each time they dine out.

Small businesses are a boon to the economy, particularly local economies. These enterprises help their communities in a multitude of ways.

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