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WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
37 24	46 25
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
51 32	55 35
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
49 33	51 36

OBITUARIES

- Joana Glendenning
- Barbara Kirchner
- Larry Palmer
- Michael Personette
- Janet Riley
- Edward Riley

See page A4

INSERTS

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

Murray retiring as Byron PD chief after 24 years, spent 39 total years in law enforcement

'The part that's different about policing in a small town is, you get to do everything'

By Jeff Helfrich
MANAGING EDITOR

BYRON — At its meeting on March 6, the Byron City Council and Mayor John Rickard recognized retiring Byron Police Department Chief Todd Murray for his 24 years of service to the community. Murray has 39 years of service total in law enforcement.

"I guess when you know it's time, you know it's time," Murray said. "It's time for somebody else to take the reins. There's been a lot of change in law enforcement. Those changes have accelerated over the past few years. We need new



At its meeting on March 6, the Byron City Council and Mayor John Rickard recognized retiring Byron Police Department Chief Todd Murray for his 24 years of service to the community. (Courtesy photo)

blood now to learn all of the new things that need to happen here."

Murray and his family

have called Byron home since 1985. He said the average length of service of a police chief is about

eight years, and that he was lucky to stick around longer than that. He's seen officers hired, retire, and move on to different positions.

"We've had quite a bit of turnover over the years with good kids coming in and then taking opportunities at larger departments," Murray said. "It's good to see that we maybe had a little bit of a hand in getting them started and headed in the right direction."

Murray has seen policing change, including training mandates for officers. He's also gotten used to policing in a small community and having a wide array of

responsibilities.

"The part that's different about policing in a small town is, you get to do everything," Murray said. "You don't have special units to do this, that or the other thing. It's all on the chief's shoulders to get stuff done. That has been enjoyable at times."

Murray said his retirement plans include spending time with family, finding new hobbies and spending time outdoors.

At the March 6 meeting, 26-year BPD veteran and Sgt. Jeremy Boehle was appointed to replace Murray.

See **RETIRE** page 5

Boehle appointed to Byron Police chief after 26 years with the department

'This is my community and I want to protect it and be out there in it'

By Jeff Helfrich
MANAGING EDITOR

BYRON — At its March 6 meeting, the Byron City Council appointed and swore in Jeremy Boehle as the new Byron Police Department Chief. Boehle previously held the rank of sergeant within the department he has served for 26 years.

Boehle will replace Chief Todd Murray, who is retiring after nearly 24 years as chief and 39 years in law enforcement. The City of Byron conducted

the hiring process in recent months and held an open forum in February for the community to meet with Boehle and Sycamore Police Department Deputy Chief Jeffrey Wig, who was also a candidate for the chief position.

"It was quite the process," Boehle said. "It's like nothing I've ever done before. My last time applying for something like this was for BPD when I was hired as a police officer. It's pretty cool to move up through



On March 6 at the Byron City Council meeting, Sgt. Jeremy Boehle was appointed as police chief for the City of Byron by Mayor John Rickard. (Courtesy photo)

the ranks. That doesn't happen quite often here.

It's pretty cool to see that and I think it's a good

indicator to the officers we have here, that you can move up through the ranks to the top."

When Boehle was hired by BPD in 1997, he signed a two-year contract. He didn't anticipate renewing that contract due to interest he had in working for the Illinois State Police and U.S. Marshals Service. His outlook on continuing to work for BPD changed over those two years due to the city's atmosphere.

See **CHIEF** page 2

City of Polo, Buffalo Township break ground on new City Hall project at 118 N. Franklin Ave.

By Jeff Helfrich
MANAGING EDITOR

POLO — On March 6, the City of Polo and Buffalo Township hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for their new joint building at 118 N. Franklin Ave. that will replace Polo's City

Hall, Polo Mayor Doug Knapp said.

The \$2.06 million project includes a construction cost of \$1.93 million and \$130,000 worth of engineering costs. The lot was purchased for \$5,000, and the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation contributed funds for site excavation and plot testing. The

city and Buffalo Township will borrow \$1.25 million in bonds over 30 years for the project. The city put down \$500,000 on the project and Buffalo Township, which will have a percentage of the square footage, put down \$250,000.

See **POLO** page 3

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LOCAL NEWS

CHIEF: Hiring officers among top priorities

From page 1

“We had a great group of officers,” Boehle said. “City-wide, it felt like family. We were a tight-knit group and it was a family atmosphere. I don’t think you see that in other cities. Definitely not in the larger ones. The mayor and aldermen and everybody knows your name and family and what you’re doing and they care about you. At that point in my life, the grass wasn’t greener for me to go anywhere else. I enjoyed the family life I had here that we built, so that’s why I stayed.”

Boehle was promoted to sergeant in 2008. Staying with BPD has allowed him to stay in the area he grew up in. He grew up in Oregon and graduated from Oregon High School.

Serving as chief was never in Boehle’s plans, he said. He enjoyed policing on the road, and still does. But, he felt it was time to take “a different step” and perhaps bring some new ideas to the department.

Boehle’s top priority will be staffing, as the law enforcement industry navigates a shortage of officer applicants. BPD is currently in the process of hiring new officers and hopes to send two new hires to training by May 5. That would make the department one officer short, due to its plan to employ a school resource officer in the Byron School District in the future.

“School safety is at the top of our list,” Boehle said. “We’ll be sending an officer to SRO school in June. We just have to get the people on the road so we can get into the school. That will be the



Pictured from left to right are Byron Police Department Administrative Assistant Amy King, Officer Garrett Henderson, Officer Spencer Morrissey, new Chief Jeremy Boehle, Officer Michael Curtis and Officer Tyler Hankins. (Courtesy photo)

main hurdle for me. We also want to meet with the community and hear what we’re doing right and wrong and where we can improve. We’ve thought about Coffee with the Chief and with our officers. We want to do outreach in the schools and interact with the kids.”

Another task for Boehle will be the state-required implementation of body cameras by Jan. 1, 2025. That mandate was one result of the state’s criminal justice reform SAFE-T Act, which has changed policing in recent years.

“This is a job that’s forever changing,” Boehle said. “We’re always learning something new, and that’s kind of why we get into it. It’s not the same every day. The last five years have been kind of hard. We’re learning and embracing the SAFE-T Act. It hasn’t been as bad as we thought it’d be. We were one of the few departments to have car cameras in past years. I’ve grown with that and it’s a tool. And I think the body cameras will be a tool as well. It’s proven that they protect us and the citizens. We just have to get used to them and learn them. In policing, things are looking up. I think things are going to be just fine moving forward.”

Boehle said he wants to build upon Murray’s legacy as chief after working with and learning

from him for the past 24 years. The colleagues will continue to speak as Boehle gets his arms around his new position.

“It’s different being on the other side of that desk,” Boehle said. “To now know what he’s been doing on a daily basis, it’s been stressful to see everything that it entails. Over the years he’s been a leader and I’ve learned from him. I feel pretty confident that I’ll be able to move forward with what he’s taught me.”

As the community was made aware in recent weeks that Boehle was a candidate for the chief position, Byron residents voiced their support for his appointment, which he appreciated from the community he’s policed for 26 years.

“Seeing the community support was amazing,” Boehle said. “I didn’t realize I had that kind of support out there. I got texts and people were stopping me and asking me about it. It was above and beyond what I ever expected. It’s a small town. I’ve had to arrest people and that sometimes turns people away from you. Even some of those people that I’ve had that type of contact with, I had great support from. That in itself means a lot in terms of what people generally think of me. That was awesome.”

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LOCAL NEWS

POLO: New building has the basics

From page 1

The City of Polo has looked at a number of options in recent years for a new City Hall location as its current building has encountered issues such as a deteriorating roof and back wall, storage shortages, and public meeting space, bathroom and handicap accessibility limitations. In past years the city council considered purchasing the CedarStone building at 610 S. Division Ave., but decided against it due to issues with an attempted purchase and the desire of citizens and council members to keep City Hall downtown.

“The new building will solve all of those issues,” Knapp said. “It doesn’t have a lot of bells and whistles. We didn’t overpay for anything. It’s just the basics, but it will have plenty of storage. We chose to expand the footprint of the building rather than putting in a basement with an expensive elevator. It will have a very nice conference room. It will have a steel roof. It will facilitate the

Buffalo Township offices and will have offices for the city.”

Knapp said the current City Hall building at 115 S. Franklin Ave. also has asbestos issues and is “beyond repair.” He said the building will be torn down and a parking lot or a site for Buffalo Township’s recycling operation could be put in its place.

The construction on the new building began March 4 with digging and the installation of footings and wall forms. The work is being done this spring weather permitting, Knapp said. The project has an expected completion date of Oct. 31 with the parking lot and landscaping. The city and Buffalo Township would move into the building Nov. 1.

Knapp said the building should be “60 years maintenance-free” and supply chain issues have not been seen in the construction process due to the project not requiring a lot of specialty items.

The new City Hall building is the latest in a recent long line of ongoing city infrastructure

improvements including Polo’s water plant, water tower, lead service line replacement, storm sewers, fiber optic cable, a new mural, and swimming pool sand-blasting and painting.

Knapp called the groundbreaking and seeing the project move along after many years of discussions “very exciting.”

“It’s a lot of money and I understand that,” Knapp said. “But other than infrastructure, we haven’t spent any money on ourselves. And projects like this aren’t going to get any cheaper in the future. If we decided to put it off, the prices of construction and building materials do nothing but go up. This is our home for the future and what we need. We could have bought another facility and tried to make it work for what we needed. This here is designed specifically for our future and what we need to accommodate us and Buffalo Township. It’s nice to work together with Buffalo Township for a common cause. I think it’s really an uplifting thing for our city to look forward to.”



The City of Polo has looked at a number of options in recent years for a new City Hall location as its current building has encountered issues such as a deteriorating roof and back wall, storage shortages, and public meeting space, bathroom and handicap accessibility limitations. On March 6, the City of Polo and Buffalo Township hosted a groundbreaking ceremony (below) for their new joint building at 118 N. Franklin Ave. that will replace Polo’s City Hall, Mayor Doug Knapp said. (Photos by Chris Grimm)



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WHITE SPRUCE SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, up to 30"	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
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WHITE PINE SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, up to 30"	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
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BLAZING STAR, <i>Liatris</i>	Select bulbs	1 pack (5 bulbs) \$10.00		
RED BUD	1 yr. seedling, 1-2'	\$ 5.00 each		
LILAC, <i>Common, Purple</i>	2 yr. seedling, 2-3'	\$ 6.00 each		
CRABAPPLE <i>Sargent</i>	2 yr. seedling 18-24"	\$ 5.00 each		
HYBRID POPULAR, <i>Imperial Carolina</i>	1 yr. seedling, 3-4'	10 for \$35.00 or \$ 5.00 each		
WHITE PAPER BIRCH PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
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RED MAPLE PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
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PIN OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
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SWAMP WHITE OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
WHITE OAK PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
SYCAMORE PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
BLACK WALNUT	2 yr. seedling, 18-24"	25 trees for \$ 45.00		
CHINKAPIN OAK	1-2 yr. seedling, 18-24"	25 trees for \$ 45.00		
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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Joana 'Joan' N. Glendenning

STILLMAN VALLEY — Joana "Joan" N. Glendenning, age 94, died Thursday, March 7, 2024. She was born March 21, 1929 in Oregon, IL the daughter of Ailt and Mary (Gigous) Joesten. She attended Oregon, Pleasant Hill, and Stillman Valley Grade Schools. Joan graduated from Stillman Valley High School in 1946. She attended Prospect Hall Secretarial School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



She married Bruce Glendenning on February 24, 1951 in Stillman Valley, IL. Joan worked 25 years at Continental Dynamo and Motor Company as a bookkeeper.

She enjoyed playing the piano and was the pianist/organist for the Davis Junction United Methodist Church for more than 30 years.

Over the years Joan loved spending time with her family, baking, putting puzzles together, working in her vegetable garden, and in later years sewing. Joan enjoyed many things, weekly trips to the County Market grocery store where the employees treated her as their friend, visits from friends Cathy, Connie, and Charlotte, niece Sandra, nephew Larry, and especially the Sunday afternoon "Sunday Club" visits with sister-in-law Janet Conderman.

She was predeceased by her parents,

her husband Bruce F. Glendenning, and brothers Nelmer and George Joesten.

She is survived by her daughter Mary Ann (David) Ankney of Stillman Valley; grandsons Zachary Ankney of Olivia, Minnesota, and Zane Ankney of Ames, Iowa; brother Robert Joesten of Louisville, Colorado; sister-in-law Janet (Danny) Conderman of Davis Junction, IL; many nieces and nephews; special friends Edie Fowler, Connie Kuncle, Charlotte Meiter, Beryl Terviel, and Cathy Williams.

Joan's family would like to express a special thank you to those who have assisted with her care over the years, Tina Champlain, Alka Bond, and Melinda Gocken.

A funeral service will be held 11:00 AM, Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at the Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley with the Rev. David Bogner officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. Burial will follow the service at the Stillman Valley Cemetery.

A memorial fund is established for the Village of Progress in memory of her niece Becky Glendenning, the Serenity Hospice and Home, and the Stillman Valley Cemetery Association. Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Homes assisted the family.

Barbara J. Kirchner

OREGON — Barbara J. Kirchner, age 75, passed away on Friday March 8, 2024 in OSF St. Anthony Medical Center, Rockford, IL. Barb was born on January 28, 1949 in Oregon, IL; the daughter of Robert Gerald & Pauline Marie (Voss) Martin. Barb married James Kirchner on June 10, 1967 in Oregon, IL, he preceded her in death on July 18, 2020; and they were married for 53 years. Barb was a wonderful homemaker, who was an excellent cook. She loved spending time with her family, but most of all she loved her time with her grandchildren and great grandchild. She spent many hours on the side by side and visiting with friends.



Barb is survived by her children: Amanda Kirchner, Rockford, IL and Matt (Jenny) Kirchner, Oregon, IL; grandchildren: Karly (Jared Frey) Koch, Bayley Kirchner, Kacey Koch, and Maddison (Conley) Kessler; great grandchild: Paisley Frey; 6 brothers: Bill Martin, Oregon, IL, Russell (Judy) Martin, Oregon, IL, Wes (Tammy) Mar-

tin, Oregon, IL, Glenn (Toni) Martin, Oregon, IL, and Jerry (Donna) Martin, Oregon, IL; sister: Judy Hollenbeck, Oregon, IL; and many nieces and nephews.

Barb is preceded in death by her parents; husband: James Kirchner; 2 Brothers: Richard Martin and Emmitt Martin; and sister: Ruby Schier.

Funeral service will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. in Finch Funeral Home, 405 East Hitt, Mt. Morris, IL. Burial will be held in Silver Creek Cemetery, Mt. Morris, IL. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. in Finch Funeral Home, 405 East Hitt, Mt. Morris, IL. A celebration of life will be held after the burial at the Oregon VFW Post 8739, 1310 West Washington St, Oregon, IL from 3:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Natchusa Grasslands.

The family would like to thank Dr. Jacobs, the nurses, and all ICU and Critical Care Unit staff at OSF St. Anthony for their excellent care of Barb.

Michael L. Personette

BYRON — Michael L. Personette, age 72, died Monday, March 4, 2024 at his home in Byron. He was born October 24, 1951 in Rochelle, Illinois, the son to Donald and Aileen (Hostetter) Personette. Mike graduated from Mt. Morris High School in 1969 and from Madison Business College in 1973. He married Lori Kelsner on Oct. 18, 1975 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oregon, IL.

Mike was employed at Fitzgerald Equipment Company in Rockford for his entire career, before retiring in 2021. He enjoyed driving, working on, and collecting sports cars, including his 1988 Monte Carlo and several Corvettes over the years. He also enjoyed drag racing at the Byron Drag Strip.

In his earlier years, Michael loved

to golf, hunt, and fish.

Michael enjoyed spending time with his wife Lori, and sons Matthew and Marc at their place on Lake Koskonong in Wisconsin.

He was predeceased by his parents Donald and Aileen Personette and his brother Stephen Personette.

He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years Lori, sons Matthew and Marc Personette all of Byron, IL, nephew Stephen A. (Laura) Personette of Iowa, and numerous cousins.

No services are scheduled at this time. A memorial fund is established in Michael Personette's name and may be directed to his family.

Visit www.farrellhollandgale.com to leave a condolence or memory of Michael.

Larry L. Palmer

STILLMAN VALLEY — Larry Louis Palmer, 76, of Stillman Valley passed away on February 11, 2024. Born on May 31, 1947, to Louis Carl Palmer and Bertha (Pinkston) Palmer, in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. Larry graduated from Walnut Ridge High School in 1965.



He gave four years of his life (1966-1970) to the United States Air Force, spending eighteen months in Vietnam.

He married Sheila Galloway on March 23, 1971. They had two daughters: Laurie (Jason) Heinze and Melissa (Scott) Kinney.

Larry worked 35 years for Amerock Corporation. He had a lifelong love of hunting and fishing.

Larry is survived by his wife of 52 years and his two daughters as well as grandchildren Machela (Desmond) Mil-

ligan, Haley (Warren) High, Gabrielle (Ryan) Bjelland, Elizabeth Heinze and great-grandchildren Aubree, Brycen, Korra, Brynleigh and 3 more boys on the way!

Predeceased by his parents, his brothers (JW, Maxie, Clifford, Clarence, Clayborn, Tom, Bill, Leroy, Robert, Paul and Layborn) and sisters Violet Pauline and Mildred. Also preceding him in death was his "brother from another mother," John Renfro.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to St. Jude's at www.stjude.org, Wounded Warriors at Wounded Warrior Project - Donate, or Serenity Hospice & Home.

To send online condolences and share memories, please visit www.fitzgeraldfh.com.

Janet 'Jan' L. Riley

BYRON — Janet "Jan" L. Riley, age 90, passed away peacefully in her home in Byron, IL on February 15, 2024. She was born in Rockford, IL, on February 6, 1934, the daughter of Burdette "Mike" & Helen (Belden) Johnson. Jan married James "Jim" Riley on October 10, 1970 at the Leaf River Methodist Church in Leaf River, IL. She was a member of the United Church of Byron. She worked at the Byron Bank as a cashier for many years. Throughout



her life she had many passions. Some of these were flower gardening, collecting dolls and going antiquing with Jim. Her biggest passions, however, were those that involved her family. She loved to cook for them, crochet for them (each daughter, grandchild and great-grandchild had their own afghan) and to just spend time with them in general.

She is preceded in death by her parents,

son Patrick, and husband Jim.

She is survived and missed dearly by her loving children Dennis (Eileen Shields) Riley of Oregon, IL; Chris Lindstrom of Madison, WI; Sue (Dick) Rock of Springfield, IL; Cathy Howe of Taylors, SC; Eric Nelson; David Nelson of Winston, GA.; Karen (Robert) Borneman of Leaf River, IL; 16 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in her honor at the United Church of Byron on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 10:30 am with Pastor Tyler Spellious presiding. Jan will be laid to rest along with her husband, Jim, at Byron Township Cemetery of Byron, IL. In lieu of flowers the family asks you to please make a donation to either St. Jude's Medical Center, the Rockford Rescue Mission, or the United Church of Byron.

Edward Alistair Visel

CHICAGO — Edward Alistair Visel, 36, of Chicago, died March 11, 2024, in his hometown of rural Winnebago, IL after a sixteen-month experience of pancreatic cancer. Born July 30, 1897, Edward was the youngest of five children. He loved playing soccer and was an Eagle Scout; he was a loyal friend.



The local forest preserve, Severson Dells, was dear to his heart. The valedictorian of his high school class, Edward went on to study Philosophy at Pomona College, spending part of his studies at the Sorbonne in Paris. He took an active interest in politics, and at various times worked on the campaigns of several candidates, including that of President Obama. He spent a year teaching English in Japan, then taught test preparation for Kaplan in Washington, DC for several years before teaching himself coding and moving into data science work in Chicago.

A cerebral contemplative at heart,

Edward loved looking for patterns in the world. From his youngest years Edward took good food very seriously, and he always knew how to make a recipe better. He had plans to co-author a recipe book with his mother on how beginners might cook good food using simple ingredients.

He leaves behind his parents, Gloria and Gerard Visel, siblings Maresa (Rob Boeke), Dan (Kim), Sr. Jeana, OSB, and John (Lauren), nieces Alisa, Harriet, and Flora, aunts, uncles, and cousins, and many friends.

A funeral mass was held Friday, March 15, 2024 at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Rockford. Burial held in Winnebago Cemetery, Winnebago, IL. Memorials may be made to Severson Dells Nature Center. A memorial mass will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Old Town, Chicago at a later date.

To share a memory or a condolence, please visit olsonfh.com.

Locals named to fall 2023 dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University

BOURBONNAIS — Four locals were recently named to the fall 2023 dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University, including Danielle

Beukema of Oregon, Shawn Clinton and Alaina Haas of Byron, and Grant Ogden of Stillman Valley.

To qualify for inclusion on the dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 grading scale.

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

VFW EVENTS

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

Public is Welcome!

Monday Lighting @ 5:30pm
Wednesday Bingo @ 5:30pm
Thursday Trivia Night @ 6:30pm

Public is Welcome!

Fridays @ 7pm 1st Fridays, Karaoke, Live music (different Fridays)

Every Friday our Fish, Chicken, Shrimp Dinners

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LOCAL NEWS



Pictured from left to right are Byron Police Department Administrative Assistant Amy King, Officer Garrett Henderson, Officer Spencer Morrissey, retiring Chief Todd Murray, new Chief Jeremy Boehle, Officer Michael Curtis and Officer Tyler Hankins. (Courtesy photo)

RETIRE: Murray leaving position after nearly 24 years

From page 1 Murray said. "He will do great. He's connected in the community. I think they made a great choice, keeping the continuity. It will be different to not be in this role in the community anymore. But they say change is good. Jeremy will run with his new role."

'Heaven, How I Got Here' is Palm Sunday weekend in Mt. Morris

MT. MORRIS — The Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris in collaboration with the Performing Arts Guild will present a one-man play, "Heaven, How I Got Here" on Palm Sunday weekend at the Pinecrest Grove Community Theatre, 500 Evergreen Lane.

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

The play, starring Chicago area actor Tom McElroy, imagines the story of the thief crucified next to Jesus Christ.

"We are so excited to bring this unique production to our community," Bruce McKanna, pastor of the church, said. "It's a fresh take on a familiar story that is powerful and quite possibly life-changing. Even though this drama is drawn from the Bible, you don't have to be a Christian to find it captivating."

McElroy is a seasoned veteran of the stage, television, film, and radio. Over the past 20-plus years he honed his skills in Chicago and regional theater and then broke into television and film.

The Mt. Morris performances will be McElroy's first time in the role. Another performance is scheduled at his home church north of Chicago on the following weekend.

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

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

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

The play is not recommended for children younger than 10.

The Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris is



located at 102 S. Seminary Ave. Worship services are held each Sunday at 10 a.m. preceded by Sunday School for all ages at 8:30 a.m. Child care is available during services for children younger than 4 years old.

Area shows support for Oregon woman in cancer fight, GoFundMe established

'I never realized that people out there care about me in this capacity'

OREGON — The town of Oregon, along with people from nearby places and even far-off states, have come together in an inspiring show of support for Tracey Burke.

Burke, a single mom and nurse fighting stage four ovarian cancer, has seen incredible help come her way. This effort, which quickly raised over \$5,000, was started by Tracey's sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Carrie and Rob Tinsman, who used to live in Oregon but now are in Anthem, Arizona.

"I've got my positive, fighting attitude back," Burke said. "I never realized that people out there care about me in this capacity. I am so grateful."

Burke lost both of her parents in her 20s and has been raising her kids on her own as a single mom. She continues to work to provide for her family amid her cancer fight.

Burke was having trouble breathing one morning a few months ago, so she went to the ER. Fast forward a few days and several tests — the reason was stage four ovarian cancer that had moved to her lungs. Treatment has begun and she's deep into chemo and has a big surgery coming up this month.

If you'd like to donate, or voice your support, an account has been set up at The Harvard State Bank. A GoFundMe has been established with a \$10,000 goal. \$5,747 had been raised as of March 12. The GoFundMe can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/h6y88m-tracey-burke-nurse-single-mom-stage-4-cancer>



Tracey Burke

County Regional Planning Commission meeting canceled

OREGON — Due to a lack of business, the regular monthly meeting of the Ogle County Regional Planning Commission scheduled for Thursday, March 21 has been cancelled. The next meeting of the Regional Planning Commission is scheduled for Thursday, April 18 at 6 p.m. at the Old Ogle County Court House, First Floor Conference Room #100, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon.

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

VFW Post 8739 2024 Scholarship Offering
Scholarship forms are now available for pick up at the Oregon VFW Post at 1310 W Washington St in Oregon. Student's parents do not need to be a member to submit an application. Applications must be turned in by April 26, 2024. Winners will receive a \$500 scholarship to the school of their choice. Forms can be picked up at the Post Monday thru Friday from 4 to 7 PM. For more information phone 815-732-6851 same time and days as listed above.

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.

What Does Easter Mean To You?
Easter is about Jesus Christ.
*He came as a baby, He showed us how to live,
He died to save us from our sins,
He is risen to give us new life!*
Read the story in the Gospel of John chapter 20
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Rochelle Conservation Club Spring Fish Sale

Payment in full to be submitted with order forms to the club by March 31. If you want Grass Carp, orders must be returned by March 22. Checks only - payable to RWCC. Please include check and order form when mailing to: RWCC, Attn: Fish Sales, 3501 South Sweeny Rd., Chana, IL 61015. Pickup will be Saturday, April 6 at 10:30 a.m. All sales final, if fish is not picked up on day of delivery, order is forfeited without reimbursement.

(CLIP AND RETURN)

Fish Type	Size	Price	Quantity
Regular Bluegill	1-3"	\$0.80 each	
Regular Bluegill	3-5"	\$1.20 each	
Hybrid Bluegill	1-3"	\$1.00 each	
Hybrid Bluegill	3-5"	\$1.40 each	
Redear Sunfish	3-4"	\$1.20 each	
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$1.00 each	
Channel Catfish	6-8"	\$1.30 each	
Black Crappie	3-4"	\$1.50 each	
Largemouth Bass	3-4"	\$1.75 each	
Triploid Grass Carp	8-11"	\$15.00 each	
Fathead Minnows	1-3"	\$15.00 per lb	

Name: _____ TOTAL DUE: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Questions?
Call Alan Henkel at 815-440-3919 or email ahenkel17@gmail.com



VIEWPOINT

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

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

The Ogle County Life is a division of
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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On April 1, 1988, a federal judge in Little Rock, Arkansas, dismissed a sexual harassment case against President Bill Clinton, stating it had no "genuine issues" worthy of a trial. Although Clinton had denied any wrongdoing, a unanimous ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in May 1997 allowed the case to proceed, establishing a precedent permitting sitting presidents to be sued for personal conduct that allegedly occurred before they took office.

* On April 2, 1863, a bread riot occurred in the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, when angry people demanded bread from a bakery wagon before wrecking nearby shops. The mob only dispersed after Confederate President Jefferson Davis made a personal plea and threatened to use force to break it up.

* On April 3, 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8 to 1 that African Americans could not be barred from voting in the Texas Democratic primaries. The court stated that discrimination against Blacks violated the 15th Amendment and that political parties were not private associations.

* On April 4, 1802, American social reformer Dorothea Dix was born in Hampden, Maine. Dix founded a home for girls in Boston while she was still just a teenager and later passionately campaigned for humane conditions in jails and insane asylums.

* On April 5, 2008, actor Charlton Heston, who won an Oscar for his starring role in "Ben-Hur," died of Alzheimer's disease at his home in Beverly Hills. Heston notably played Michelangelo, El Cid, and other heroic figures in Hollywood movies of the 1950s and 1960s.

* On April 6, 1917, following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe. Four days earlier, President Woodrow Wilson cited Germany's violation of its pledge to suspend unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean, as well as its attempts to entice Mexico into an alliance against America, as his reasons for requesting the declaration.

* On April 7, 1712, a rebellion of 27 Black slaves took place in New York City, with nine whites shot as they attempted to put out a fire started by the slaves. The state militia was called out to capture the rebels, and 21 were executed while the remaining six committed suicide.

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Agriculture needs a stable workforce in 2024

FINDING and affording labor are among the top challenges Illinois farmers, suppliers and processors tell me they face in 2024.

From locating qualified truck drivers to haul grain, to sourcing enough hands to pick vegetables or manage livestock, the shortage of links in the transportation and agricultural supply chains continues to undermine food access and threaten the financial health of farms in Illinois and nationwide.

I spotlighted last spring in a FarmWeek column the shortage of available local labor to fill valuable agricultural jobs. This shortfall has existed in rural communities for years, was amplified during the COVID pandemic and continues to grow.

This reality has ultimately led more farmers to depend on immigrant workers, with producers turning to options like the H-2A temporary agricultural program, the H-2B temporary non-agricultural worker program or the trade national visa program for skilled workers classified as nonimmigrants.

Those who have navigated the H-2A program know just how cumbersome and expensive the program has become, chiefly due to its unsustainable and unpredictable wage increases and misguided rulemaking.

Illinois farmers can expect more of the same this upcoming growing season, as the state's Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) is set to increase 6% from 2023. Nationwide, farmers planning to use H-2A workers in 2024 will have to raise wages in some states up to 15%, according to calculations by American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF).

Contributing to this increase are eight new rules advanced by

the U.S. Department of Labor in 2023. One rule, finalized in March, impacts how a state's AEWR is calculated.

Specifically, the rule disaggregates wage rates by job function and derives the new rates from non-farm data, which does not reflect market wages for ag employees. Ag employers will be required to pay the rates, regardless of their inaccuracies or what percentage of an employee's contract they devote to certain tasks.

This new rulemaking alone is estimated to add double-digit increases in labor costs, according to AFBF.

In fact, this is the sixth straight year of elevated wage growth for H-2A workers, with the rate of hourly wage growth outpacing all other private employees. H-2A employers will also face additional program costs stemming from required housing and transportation for workers.

For smaller farming operations, many of which are interested in hiring just one or two temporary workers, the complexity of the process and the cost of complying with new requirements will be especially detrimental.

I have met with Midwest state Farm Bureau presidents and the AFBF Board of Directors to discuss all the difficulties farmers are facing with labor and with the H-2A program, specifically.

One of the biggest challenges in trying to find solutions in this space is that legislative and regulatory remedies soon become entangled in the broader discussion of immigration reform. Congress in past years has tried and failed to advance many pieces of legislation around immigration. The Dignity Act of 2023 was the latest attempt.

This type of broad legislation eventually becomes the home

for divisive political issues like employer liability protection and private right of action, the annual number of visas allowed, visa holder touchback requirements and expedited immigration processes. These kinds of polarizing issues make passage of any legislation difficult.

In light of this, AFBF board members decided farm needs were urgent enough to prioritize two immediate legislative solutions: a freeze of wages at 2023 levels for three years and a rollback of the DOL's AEWR methodology that was enacted in March.

AFBF President Zippy Duvall sent a letter in December, calling on congressional leaders to look for any opportunity to enact these legislative priorities. Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) has followed up with our congressional delegation expressing both the urgency of the problem and the critical need for solutions.

Illinois farmers are committed to paying a fair wage, but they cannot pay well beyond the means of their farm incomes, which are forecast to fall this year.

Along with completing the vital work of the 2023 farm bill, IFB is also committed to working with elected officials from both parties in 2024 to find meaningful ways to modernize guestworker programs and stabilize our workforce.

Solutions to worker shortages in the U.S. agricultural supply chain are needed to not only ensure farms remain economically sustainable, but more importantly maintain food security, and, ultimately, our national security.

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 FarmWeekNow.com.



Brian Duncan

Asbestos exposure may still affect Illinois veterans even today

DURING the last century, asbestos use was prevalent in the U.S. armed forces, as the WWII war effort demanded materials at accessible prices for producing military equipment quickly and in large quantities.

Deemed a "miracle material," asbestos abounded the markets, and manufacturers wanted to make the most of its versatility and low price. Nobody considered the health risks of incorporating asbestos in products destined to insulate military property like aircraft, vehicles, engine rooms, sleeping barracks, mess halls, ships, and shipyards. Unbeknownst to them, military personnel were at risk of asbestos exposure whenever fulfilling duty on land, sea, or air.

The growing number of toxic exposure cases among veterans today shows the many unseen health dangers they faced during service, among them asbestos exposure. The consequences of having been affected by the dangerous asbestos fibers may shadow many veterans' health conditions now as they enter a stage of life where keeping healthy might be challenging, including those among Rochelle's veteran population. The city's WWII history includes the 70th Tank Battalion, known for one of the most impressive combat records of any American armored unit of those times, and the 10th Mountain Division, which played a pivotal role in fighting in some of the most challenging terrain in the Italian Alps.

Asbestos was present in military bases throughout the state

Although the Navy exploited asbestos the most, and Navy personnel serving onboard naval vessels built before the 1980s were at an outstandingly high risk of asbestos exposure, it doesn't exclude other military bases from being a potential source of asbestos contamination. It is why asbestos exposure is still an issue for all veterans who might have the toxic fibers in their lungs, including those among the large veteran community in Illinois, as well as Ogle County's veterans.

Illinois is home to active military installations like Scott

Air Force Base, one of the multiple U.S. military bases operated by the Air Force, with a WWII tradition as a headquarters unit of the Scott Field Branch of the Army Air Corps Technical Schools and the Radio School; Rock Island Arsenal Army Base, which provides logistical and producing support for the United States Armed Services, and Great Lakes Training Center Navy Base, the only boot camp of the U.S. Navy, where over 100,000 soldiers trained and prepared for WWII and more than a million sailors went through boot camp in the Great Lakes Training Center Illinois.



Cristina Johnson

Asbestos exposure slowly undermined veterans' health

Given that during military service, veterans worked and lived near asbestos materials, mostly unaware of the danger they represented, a considerable number of veterans developed asbestos-related diseases decades later. Asbestos can float in the air for hours due to the structure and size of its fibers. Asbestos fibers are microscopic particles and are easy to inhale or ingest, making asbestos dust one of the most toxic substances. Once inside the body, these tiny sharp threads cause permanent damage primarily to the lungs and lead to devastating diseases.

One of the most horrible aspects of asbestos-related illnesses is the decades-long latency period between exposure and the first symptoms. Even if veterans may have had no health issues during their service, they'll learn the effects of asbestos exposure only over time when they are diagnosed with conditions stemming from it, like asbestosis, mesothelioma, lung cancer, or other severe respiratory diseases.

The ongoing fight for health and well-being

Even though decades have passed since the armed services overly used asbestos, veterans who were in contact with it during their military years now have to fight for their health. Many must come to terms with the reality that their service to the country held a huge health sacrifice and

that their asbestos diseases will shorten their life.

With Illinois ranking seventh in the U.S. for asbestos-related deaths, and 16th among all states for lung cancer, veterans should schedule an appointment with the doctor as soon as possible. Knowing that timely detection considerably improves treatment results and prolongs their life expectancy, they should proactively protect their health through:

Planning regular health check-ups: Periodic medical examinations and openly discussing military service and possible asbestos exposure are crucial. The inhaled asbestos fibers affect the lungs first, so veterans should request chest X-rays or CT scans and pulmonary function tests (also known as the breathing test). These tests can reveal any damage caused by the asbestos fibers and are a reliable diagnostic procedure for benign and malignant asbestos-related diseases.

Learning about legal rights: Veterans who know they've worked in an asbestos-contaminated environment during their service or those who suspect they've been exposed should know their rights and options. Legal avenues and compensation programs are available to help vets injured by asbestos exposure through asbestos trust funds and VA disability benefits.

Promote awareness: Veterans can play a pivotal role in educating and raising awareness by sharing their knowledge and experiences about asbestos exposure. By being open, they can make sure that others who protected our nation are informed.

Besides expressing our gratitude to veterans, we also have a responsibility to help protect their well-being. Awareness of asbestos exposure is an essential part of this responsibility. By informing about this still lurking danger, we can ensure that those who served receive the care and support they rightly deserve.

Cristina Johnson is a Navy veteran advocate for Asbestos Ships Organization, a nonprofit whose primary mission is to raise awareness and educate veterans about the dangers of asbestos exposure on Navy ships and assist them in navigating the VA claims process. For more information, please visit our page.

LIFE letters' policy

Concise letters are most likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of management. All letters must be signed or they will not be considered for publication.

During election times, no letters written by the candidates endorsing themselves will be considered for publication.

Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. Writers are urged to use discretion and refrain from sarcasm or personal attacks.

Criticism of individuals or organizations that is not broached tactfully will jeopardize the publication of a letter. Letters will be published in the order that they are received, unless there is a time factor involved, space permitting.

LOCAL NEWS

HSTP Regional Transportation Committee meeting is March 22

DIXON — The next Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Regional Transportation Committee Meeting for Region 3 (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, and Putnam Counties) will be held on Friday March 22 at 10 a.m. at Kreider Services – 500 Anchor Road, Dixon, IL 61021. Human service organizations with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged to attend, as

well as anyone interested in public transit. If you would like further information, please contact via email: hstp@ncicg.org or call us at (815) 433-5830.

There will have reserved time slots available for public comment via Zoom for anyone not able to attend the meeting in person between 10:15-10:30 a.m. If you would like to participate in public comment via Zoom during that time frame, please contact

us at (815) 433-5830 to reserve your time slot.

HSTP identifies transportation needs and develops solutions to improve transportation services for the general public. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and veterans. For more information about NCICG, HSTP, or if special accommodations are needed, please contact Connor Schwinn at (815) 433-5830.

Oregon Elementary School preschool screening dates set

OREGON — Oregon CUSD is conducting a free preschool screening for all children turning 3 or 4

before Sept. 1 interested in attending Oregon Elementary Preschool for the 2024-2025 school year. The purpose of the screening is to provide parents with an indicator of their child's readiness for school and identify children who may benefit from early childhood services.

All children must be screened and qualify in order to attend the Oregon Elementary Preschool. In order to be screened, you must bring the following: state issued birth certificate, two consecutive pay stubs from one parent, current physical & immunization records and proof of residency. If

these documents are not brought to the scheduled appointment, your child will not be screened.

Schedule

Monday, April 8: 8:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at OES.

Tuesday, April 9: 8:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at OES.

Wednesday, April 10: 11:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. at OES.

Thursday, April 11: 11:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. at OES.

Please call OES at (815) 732-5300 to schedule your appointment.

If your child is currently enrolled in our program, you do not need to have your child screened.



KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Stillman Valley, IL 61084
(815) 965-1940
www.kishchurch.org

Come find new life in the Gospel of Jesus...

PALM SUNDAY - March 24
10 am Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY - March 28
7 pm Communion Service

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE - March 29
7 pm @ Red Brick Church

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE - March 31
7 am Sunrise Service
7:45 am Easter Breakfast
10 am Gathered Worship

Saint Bride's Episcopal Church
1000 Rt. 64 W., Oregon, IL
815-732-7211
saint.bride.church@gmail.com
www.saintbrides.org

Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday, March 24 - 10:00 am Service
Maundy Thursday, March 28 - 5:00 pm Service/Supper
Easter Sunday, March 31 - 10:00 am Service

All Are Welcome!

May the power of Easter resurrection life be the main story of our lives, because Easter is more than a feel-good day on the calendar. It has to do with the most powerful gift we have received in the world: The power of God coming through His son Jesus Christ. Through the Easter experience God can do amazing things in our lives.

From St. Bride's Episcopal Church we're bringing this Easter message hoping it will touch you with many blessings in the name of the One whose Resurrection we celebrate, Jesus Christ.

Happy Easter!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Parish
- Holy Week Services -

Loving Christ, Sharing Christ, Trusting Christ

Good Shepherd Lutheran Parish
Pr. Terese Whitten
St. Paul Lutheran Church Oregon & St. John's Lutheran Church Creston

Holy Week Services
Maundy Thursday (St. Paul) - March 28 at 4:30 pm
Good Friday (St. John's) - March 29 at 5:30 pm

Easter Sunday Schedule
St. John's Easter Breakfast - 7:30 am
Worship - 9 am

St. Paul Easter Breakfast - 10 am
Worship - 11:30 am

Meet our NEW Pastor!

St. Paul Lutheran Church
114 S. 5th St., Oregon, IL

St. John's Lutheran Church
122 E. South St., Creston, IL

United Church of Byron
701 West Second Street, Byron, IL
815-234-8777
www.unitedchurchofbyron.org
Look for us on Facebook

Loving God • Serving People • Following Jesus

PALM SUNDAY ~ MARCH 24
8:15am: Lectio Divina Meditative Service
10:30am: Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ MARCH 28
6:00pm: Soup Supper & Service with Communion

EASTER SUNDAY ~ MARCH 31
8:15am: Lectio Divina Meditative Service
9:00am: Easter Breakfast
10:00am: Easter Egg Hunt For Kids
10:30am: Worship

All are welcome!

HOLY WEEK AT VALLEY COVENANT
PALM SUNDAY | MAUNDY THURSDAY | GOOD FRIDAY | EASTER SUNDAY

Come and Experience the Hope of New Life in Jesus!

PALM SUNDAY : 9am – “Gather”
March 24 10:15am – Worship Service

GOOD FRIDAY : 7pm - Community Worship Service
March 29 at Red Brick Church

EASTER SUNDAY : 10:15am – Worship Service
March 31

Valley Covenant Church
103 S Maple St
Stillman Valley, IL 61084
www.valleycov.org

LOCAL NEWS

Polo FFA students help with toy show

The Polo Lions Club thanks the Polo FFA students and instructors for their help with unloading and loading the vendors for the Polo Toy Show held on Saturday, March 2 at Polo Community High School. Also thanking the FFA students for having cinnamon rolls and providing lunch at the show. The students that were there are: Sawyer Marceau, Taryn Heather, Katelyn Rockwood, JT Stephenson, Mazy Queckboerner, Ellia Escobar, Alayna Young and Koa Herndon. Also thank you to the instructors that teach these kids: Stephanie Schultz and Alex Wetzell. (Courtesy photos)



Polo Toy Show held March 2

The Polo Toy Show was held March 2 at Polo Community High School. Polo Lions members helped put up tables late Friday afternoon and then showed up at 6 a.m. to help the vendors get unloaded and set up at their tables. Then they showed up Saturday afternoon to help the vendors haul out to their vehicles and taking the tables down. (Courtesy photos)



RALPHIE & LULU'S



Join us on Friday nights for fish, chicken and more
 Saturday we serve up Chicken Ralphie a fan favorite
 The slots are hot and the beer is cold

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

812 Main St. - Ashton

JOIN OUR EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 AT 2PM

Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club
 3501 S. Sweeney Road, Chana 61015

FREE HOT DOGS

CHIPS & DRINKS

Separate egg hunt for smaller children

Egg hunt throughout the club for older children

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LOCAL NEWS

MT. MORRIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Juvenile cited for no valid license, uninsured vehicle and no valid registration

MT. MORRIS — On Feb. 27 at approximately 4:40 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of West Hitt Street for a traffic violation. The driver, a male juvenile, 16, Mt. Morris, was issued citations for no valid driver's license, operating an uninsured vehicle, and no valid registration. The juvenile was released to a parent/guardian.

On March 3 at approximately 2:40 a.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the 300 block of East Lincoln Street for the report of a disturbance. After an investigation, Tyler A. Brown, 28, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with burglary to motor vehicle and criminal trespass to property. Brown was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On March 3 at approximately 3:30 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 10 block of North Seminary Avenue for a traffic violation. The driver, Christian R. Kettwich, 29, Mt. Morris, was arrested for driving while license suspended. Kettwich was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On Saturday, March 10 at approximately 8:30 a.m. the Mt. Morris Police Department, assisted by the Oregon Police Department, executed a search warrant in the 10 block of West Lincoln Street in Mt. Morris. The search warrant was executed based on information that the Mt. Morris Police Department had been gathering for the past few months.

After the search was completed, Michael D. Cox, 59, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with the following: Possession of a controlled substance (meth), possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver (meth), possession of a controlled substance (crack/cocaine), possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver (crack/cocaine), and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. Cox was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

Other police activity in February: Village ordinance violations – 32, traffic stops – 44, and total calls for service – 741.

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

Oregon Park Board approves annual budget and appropriations ordinance

ITEP trail update presented

OREGON — The Oregon Park District Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, March 12 for their regularly-scheduled monthly meeting. The board approved the district's annual budget & appropriations ordinance for the fiscal year 2024. The budget & appropriations ordinance is the governing document that provides the district with its legal authority and identifies revenue and expense limits for the fiscal year.

Erin Folk, executive director, said, "The budget & appropriations ordinance will allow the district to pursue several items on the rolling five-year capital improvement plan."

Folk also provided an update on the ITEP trail. She said, "The district continues to anticipate receipt of a notice to proceed with phase II engineering from IDOT. Once the notice to proceed is received, the district will proceed with phase II engineering." The ITEP trail will be a 1.8-mile trail connecting Illinois Route 64 to Lowden State Park along River Road.

The district recognized Neal Trainor with the February Caring, Creative & Community-Focused award. The award is presented to an employee who continually exhibits the core values established by the district in 2023. Mr. Trainor is a fitness center supervisor who assists with programming for the Village of Progress, volunteers his time to assist the elderly with rides to and from appointments, and serves on the Oregon Chamber of Commerce Board and Oregon School Foundation. He was nominated by two fellow co-workers and selected by the OPD Employee Advisory Committee.

Dan Griffin, Finance & Technology Administrator, provided a report on the 2024 annual budget. Griffin said, "The district will continue to meet all its annual fund balance goals in fiscal year 2024. The district requires each primary fund to have a minimum fund balance of 25 percent of the annual operating expenditure for each fiscal year."

Tina Ketter, superintendent of recreation, provided a report on the upcoming concert schedule. She said, "River's Edge Experience has been secured as a backup location for Concerts in the Park and Music & More at the Market. This will allow the district to continue with entertainment even in inclement weather."

The board of commissioners' next scheduled meeting will occur on April 9 at 6 p.m. at Nash Recreation Center.

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police investigate two-vehicle crash

Feb. 27
At 11:56 a.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 300 block of Franklin Street involving a 2022 Chevrolet driven by Thomas Battaglini, 80, Oregon, and a 2012 GMC driven by Constance S. Arjes, 72, Oregon. No citations were issued.

Feb. 29
At 3:21 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the Shell gas station parking lot, 201 S. 4th St., involving a 2011 Kia driven by Brenda K. Harrolle, 66, Oregon, and a 2018 Nissan driven by Sharla J. Robbins, 68, Chana. No citations were issued.

At 3:24 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Jessica L. Berry, 30, Freeport, for driving while license suspended. Berry was

also issued a citation for operation of a vehicle with a suspended registration. Berry was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear. These violations occurred in the 100 block of South 10th Street.

March 1
At 7:58 a.m., Oregon Police issued Mary E. Bidocha, 53, of Genoa, a citation for speeding, 49 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

March 2
At 8:49 a.m., Oregon Police issued Ashaki D. Harris, 49, Chicago, a citation for speeding 46 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 9:23 a.m., Oregon

Police issued Katelyn P. Prose, 35, Winnebago, a citation for speeding, 48 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 9:47 a.m., Oregon Police issued Samuel A. Howell, 28, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a citation for speeding, 48 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

March 3
At 6:59 a.m., Oregon Police issued Tod M. Wetzberger, 38, Rockford, a citation for speeding, 48 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 7:30 a.m., Oregon Police issued Tyler J. Easter, 19, of Champaign, a citation for speeding, 49 miles

per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

Three verbal warnings were issued during the week of Feb. 26 through March 3.

March 5
At 6:20 p.m., Oregon Police issued Horacio Gonzalez-Cordova, 39, Freeport, a citation for speeding, 45 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 400 block of North 4th Street.

March 8
At 6:57 a.m., Oregon Police issued Wade J. Strait, 38, of Moline citations for speeding, 52 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone, operation of a vehicle with an expired registration, and no valid driver's license. These violations occurred in the 700 block of North 4th Street.

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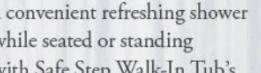


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LOCAL NEWS

Byron Bank joins Peanut Butter and Jelly Rally

BYRON — Byron Bank is excited to announce its participation as a drop-off location for the Rock River Valley Pantry's Peanut Butter and Jelly Rally. The initiative, running from March 12 to April 27, aims to collect essential protein-rich items to assist families in need, particularly during the challenging summer months when children are out of school.

Scott N. Mincemoyer, president of Byron Bank, expressed the institution's commitment to our communities, saying, "During the summer months when kids are out of school, the Rock River Valley Pantry has a huge impact on many families that are struggling to provide for their children. As a family-owned community bank, we believe in giving back to our com-

"...As a family-owned community bank, we believe in giving back to our communities, and Byron Bank is proud to support the Rock River Valley Pantry."

Scott N. Mincemoyer

munities, and Byron Bank is proud to support the Rock River Valley Pantry."

Residents are encouraged to drop off their donations at any of Byron Bank's convenient locations in Byron, Davis Junction and Poplar Grove. The pantry specifically requests donations in plastic jars to ensure the safety and durability of the items.

"We invite our community mem-

bers to join us in this crucial initiative," Samantha Ciaccio, marketing officer at Byron Bank, said. "Let's unite to create a positive impact on the lives of children and families in need within our local area."

Byron Bank has a longstanding tradition of community involvement and is dedicated to supporting initiatives that enhance the well-being of the communities it serves.

Polo Lions Club awards raffle winners

Polo Lions Club President Greg Cross recently handed a check to the first-place winner of the Polo Lions Club 50/50 raffle that was held on Saturday, March 2. John Reeter won \$1,420 and donated half back to the Polo Lions Club. Polo Lions Member Jeff Short also recently handed a check to Greg Borgmann, who was the second place winner and won \$165. The third-place winner was Randy Mitchell, who won \$85. (Courtesy photos)



POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Man arrested on outstanding warrant

POLO — On March 6 at 5:30 p.m. Jeffery J. Bardell, 25, Polo, was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Bardell was transported to the Ogle

County Jail. All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



Thursday, March 21
9:30 - 10:30 am

Oregon Park District & Village of Progress Winter Games Medal Ceremony and Showcase at Nash Rec Center 304 S. Fifth St., Oregon

Easter Egg Hunts

Thursday, March 28
Registration Deadline March 22

Oregon Park West
Visit with Easter Bunny, Balloon Animals and Egg Hunt

- 0-PreK with Parent – 5-5:15 p.m. | PreK without parent – 5:15-5:30 p.m.
- 1st/2nd grade – 5:30-5:45 p.m.
- 3rd/4th grade – 5:45-6 p.m. | 5th/6th Grade Flashlight Hunt 8-8:30 pm
- 7th/8th Grade Flashlight Hunt 8:45-9:15 pm



SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES

JOIN THE OREGON PARK DISTRICT FOR SPRING BREAK FUN!
MANY ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR DAILY ADMISSION OR FREE FOR MEMBERS!
SOME ACTIVITIES REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION.



Monday, March 25	Tuesday, March 26	Wednesday, March 27	Thursday, March 28	Friday, March 29
GAGA BALL Prairie Room 12-2 PM	GAGA BALL River Room 12-2 PM	POP UP & PLAY SCAVENGER HUNT Fairgrounds Park Sponsored by E.D. Etnyre & Co. 9-11 AM	VOLLEYBALL Gym - East Side 12-3 PM	VOLLEYBALL Gym - East Side 12-3 PM
BASKETBALL Gym - East Side 12-3:30 PM	WALLYBALL 12-3 PM	GAGA BALL 12-2 PM	BASKETBALL Gym - West Side 12-3 PM	BASKETBALL Gym - West Side 12-3 PM
OPEN SWIM 1:30-3:30 PM	OPEN SWIM 2-3:30 PM	BASKETBALL Gym - West Side 12:30-3:30 PM	EASTER EGG HUNTS* Park West *registration deadline 3/22	OPEN SWIM 1-3 PM
	NERF FUN* Gym 1-2:30 PM *registration deadline 3/19	OPEN SWIM 2:30 - 4:30 PM	MINI PITCH UNDER THE LIGHTS Park West 6:30-8:30 PM	

*Registration required
Register online at www.oregonpark.org or call 815-732-3101



LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Man turns self in on failure to appear warrant

OREGON — On March 5 at approximately 8:43 a.m. Sadiki Raymond, 35, of Rockford turned himself on an outstanding Ogle County failure to appear warrant. Raymond appeared in court and was released. Raymond will return to court on March 27.

On March 6 at approximately 10:29 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Eddy Road. After investigation, deputies placed Brantel Valentine, 24, of DeKalb, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Valentine was additionally issued a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Valentine was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On March 6 at approximately 1:35 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 16,000 block of East Illinois Route 72 on a 2012 silver Mitsubishi Lancer. After an investigation, deputies cited Travel Hester, 23, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended and expired registration. Hester's vehicle was towed from the scene, and he was given an I-bond for his citations with a future court appearance.

On March 7 at approximately 2 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of Tower Road and Montague Road. Upon further investigation deputies

arrested Megan Hall, 38, of Freeport, for driving while license revoked. Hall was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear with a future court date given.

On March 7 at approximately 7:50 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 106 for obstructed registration and an equipment violation. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Jericka Latiker, 31, of Peoria, for driving while license suspended. Latiker was released on a notice to appear and shall appear in court at a later date. Deputies were assisted by the Illinois State Police.

On March 8 at approximately 2:21 p.m. deputies arrested Harley Beck, 22, of Mendota when she turned herself into the Ogle County Jail. She was arrested on an outstanding warrant for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Beck will return to court on April 5 at 9 a.m.

On March 9 at 9:20 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Adeline Road. As a result, Shawn M. Remrey, 31, of Mount Carroll was arrested for driver's license expired greater than one year. Remrey was additionally issued citations for operation of a motor vehicle with suspended registration and operation of an uninsured motor vehicle. Remrey was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 9 at 2:06 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of North Illinois Route 26. As a result, Cody S. Meier, 35, of Forreston was arrested for driver's license expired greater than one year. Meier was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and given a verbal warning for speeding. Meier was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 9 at approximately 12:20 a.m. deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident in the 2,000 block of East Water Road. After a brief investigation, deputies placed Renae A. Stevens, 52, of Byron, under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Stevens was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On March 10 at around 1:03 a.m. deputies were dispatched to the 3,800 block of South Daysville Road, Oregon for the report of physical altercation. After a brief investigation, Vincente Estrada-Martinez, 42, of Chicago, was arrested for aggravated battery. The victim was transported to a local hospital for their injuries by Oregon EMS. Estrada-Martinez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending an appearance before a judge.

2024 NIU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- WESTERN ILLINOIS** AUGUST 31ST
- @ NOTRE DAME** SEPTEMBER 7TH
- BUFFALO** SEPTEMBER 21ST
- @ NC STATE** SEPTEMBER 28TH
- UMASS** OCTOBER 5TH
- @ BOWLING GREEN** OCTOBER 12TH
- TOLEDO** OCTOBER 19TH *HOMECOMING*
- @ BALL STATE** OCTOBER 26TH
- @ WESTERN MICHIGAN** NOVEMBER 6TH
- AKRON** NOVEMBER 13TH
- @ MIAMI (OH)** NOVEMBER 19TH
- CENTRAL MICHIGAN** NOVEMBER 30TH

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LOCAL NEWS



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YOUR HOME, FARM & OUTDOOR STORE



Village of Progress Winter Games award ceremony is March 21

OREGON — The Oregon Park District would like to invite the public to the third annual Winter Games Awards Ceremony on Thursday, March 21 at Nash Recreation Center. The ceremony will be held from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

The ceremony is a culmination of 10 weeks of competitive games with the Village of Progress. Over the 10-week period the athletes completed in everything from football, soccer, basketball, hockey and even pickleball.

Speaker for the event is Mark Bernard, president, Rockford Ice Hogs hockey operations & general manager. Bernard was named the Chicago Blackhawks vice president, hockey operations/team affiliates on Aug. 16, 2018 and enters his 16th season with the organization (2023-24). He came to the Blackhawks organization from the Norfolk Admirals where he served as the team's vice president and assistant general manager during the

2006-2007 and 2007-2008 seasons. In 2006-2007 the Admirals were the AHL affiliates of the Blackhawks.

Prior to his appointment with the Admirals, Bernard was a goaltender for four seasons with the Hampton Roads Admirals (ECHL). In 13 overall professional seasons, Bernard played in 441 games and has the distinction of being just one of three professional goalies (Ron Hextall and Martin Brodeur) to have scored two goals. Bernard also set a professional hockey record when he assisted on four goals on Jan. 30, 1997 while playing for the Bracknell Bees (BISL).

This isn't Bernard's first go-round with the IceHogs organization as he was the head coach for the IceHogs during the 2003-04 campaign.

Join the Oregon Park District as we celebrate the athletes on Thursday, March 21 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Nash Recreation Center, Oregon.

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AREA SPORTS

Oregon softball falls against Amboy

Oregon jumped ahead 4-0 but a late rally by Amboy took down the Hawks 6-4. Starter Emma Schlichtmann had six strikeouts and four walks. The Hawk bats loaded the bases late, but couldn't capitalize. Kaelin Shaffer, Abi Fletcher and Abree Barker all had two hits for Oregon. Brook Halverson struck out four in relief for Oregon. Oregon had nine hits to Amboy's three.

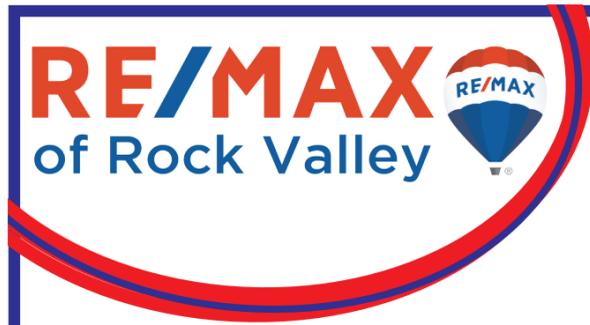
Polo softball drops game against Orangeville/Freeport Aquin

The Polo High School softball team fell 12-7 against Orangeville/Freeport Aquin. Cheyenna Wilkins went 4-for-4 with two doubles and one RBI, while Sydnei Rahn singled twice and Cam Jones doubled with one RBI. Karlea Frey added two RBIs and Grace Mitatke had one RBI.



Five compete at State

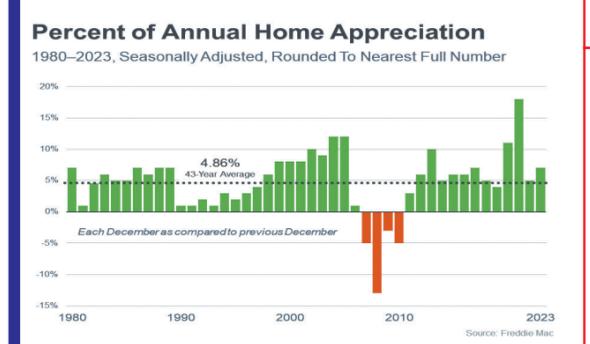
The Oregon Junior High wrestling team sent five athletes to the IESA State Championships at the NIU Convocation Center in DeKalb over the weekend. Levi Benton (37-1) won the 126-pound state championship, finishing 4-0 over four matches with three wins coming by decision and one win coming by fall. Boone Alderks (11-4) finished fourth in the 105-pound division, going 4-2 over six matches with two wins coming by fall, one by major decision and one by decision. Yovanni Carreno (8-2) took fifth in the 215-pound division with a 4-2 record over six matches, while Carson Benesh (10-3) took fifth in the 95-pound division with a 4-2 record over six matches. Jacksyn Windham (5-3) went 1-2 over three bouts in the 185-pound division. (Courtesy photo)



YOUR HOME IS A POWERFUL INVESTMENT

GOING into 2023, there was a lot of talk about a possible recession that would cause the housing market to crash. Some in the media were even forecasting home prices would drop by as much as 10-20%—and that might have made you feel a bit unsure about buying a home. But here's what actually happened: home prices went up more than usual. Brian D. Luke, Head of Commodities at S&P Dow Jones Indices, explains: "Looking back at the year, 2023 appears to have exceeded average annual home price gains over the past 35 years."

To put last year's growth into context, the graph below uses data from Freddie Mac on how home prices have changed each year going back to 1980. The dotted line shows the long-term average for appreciation:



The big takeaway? Home prices almost always go up.
As an article from Forbes says:
"... the U.S. real estate market has a long and reliable history of increasing in value over time."
In fact, since 1980, the only time home prices dropped was during the housing market crash (shown in red in the graph above). Fortunately, the market today isn't like it was in 2008. For starters, there aren't enough available homes to meet buyer demand right now. On top of that, homeowners have a tremendous amount of equity, so they're on much stronger footing than they were back then. That means there won't be a wave of foreclosures that causes prices to fall.
The fact that home values went up every single year except those four in red is why owning a home can be one of the smartest moves you can make. When you're a homeowner, you own something that typically becomes more valuable over time. And as your home's value appreciates, your net worth grows.
So, if you're financially stable and prepared for the costs and expenses of homeownership, buying a home might make a lot of sense for you.
Bottom Line
Home prices almost always go up over time. That makes buying a home a smart move, if you're ready and able. Connect with a RE/MAX of Rock Valley agent to talk about your goals and what's available in our area.

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607 Jefferson Street, Oregon \$295,000 Call Lori
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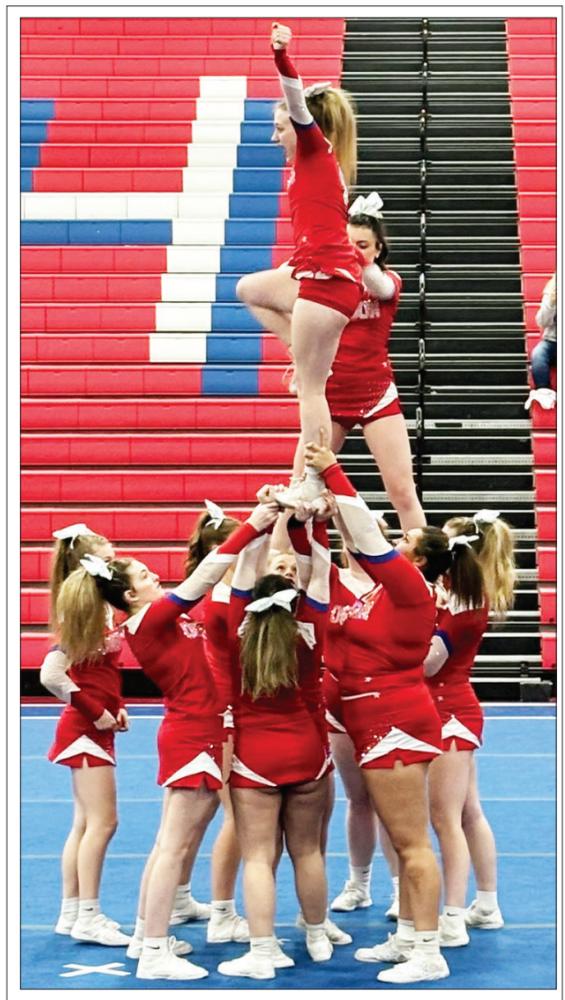
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SPORTS NEWS



Five Hawks earn honors at IESA 1A wrestling sectionals

The Oregon Junior High wrestling team had five individuals earn honors during the IESA 1A Sectional at Rock-ridge on March 2. Carson Benesh (4-0) finished first in the 95-pound weight class, while Boone Alderks (5-1) took third in the 105-pound weight class and Levi Benton (3-0) finished first in the 126-pound weight class. Jacksyn Windham (2-1) placed second in the 185-pound weight class and Yovanni Carreno (3-0) finished first in the 215-pound weight class. (Courtesy photo)



Cheerleaders finish 12th

The Oregon High School varsity cheerleading team finished 12th in the Small Division during the IHSA Carpentersville (Dundee-Crown) Sectional on Saturday, Jan. 27. (Courtesy photo)



Buisker signs Letter of Intent for Eastern Illinois University

Letrese Buisker, daughter of Erich and Jannelle Buisker, signed a letter of intent to participate on the track team at Eastern Illinois University. Letrese participated in track for four years at Forreton High School. She earned All-Conference track honors in 2022 and 2023. Letrese qualified for state her freshman year in high jump, sophomore year in high jump, 100 and 300-meter hurdles and high jump and 300-meter hurdles her junior year. She received two state final medals, one in 2022 for placing sixth in high jump and one in 2023 for placing fifth in High Jump. The administration, coaches and student-athletes of Forreton Junior/Senior High School congratulate Letrese and wish her the best in a successful academic and athletic career at Eastern Illinois University. (Courtesy photos)



Basketball players earn NUIC All-Conference honors

OGLE COUNTY — Several Ogle County boys basketball players earned NUIC All-Conference honors for the 2023-24 season. Polo's Brock Soltow took home First-Team All-NUIC honors, while Polo's Carter Merdian received Second-Team All-NUIC honors. Forreton's Brendan Greenfield and Kendall Erdmeyer were named Second-Team NUIC honors and Mickey Probst was a NUIC Honorable Mention. Polo's Gus Mumford was also an NUIC Honorable Mention.

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SPORTS NEWS



Xtreme Club competes at IKWF North Regional
 The Byron Xtreme Wrestling Club competed in the IKWF North Regional on Sunday, Feb. 25. The club won the Girls Novice Division title behind an individual championship from Rylie Meyer as well as runner-up finishes from Ava Hopper, Lydia Oliver and Lyzah Behn. (Courtesy photo)



Hawks compete at Fresh-Soph Regional
 Three Oregon Hawk wrestlers competed in the IWCOA Fresh-Soph Regional at DeKalb on Sunday, Feb. 25, with two athletes medaling and advancing to the sectional tournament in Sterling. Jayden Berry finished first in the 138-pound weight class, while Landon Ege took second in the 113-point weight class and Miles Olsen competed in the 132-pound weight class. (Courtesy photo)



The Byron Xtreme Wrestling Club sent five athletes to the IKWF Senior/Novice State Championships at the BMO Center in Rockford over the weekend. Rylie Meyer medaled in second place in the Girls Novice 112 Division, finishing 3-1 over four bouts with two wins coming by fall and one win coming by decision. (Courtesy photo)

Tigers fall to Hurricanes at Dual meet at Newman Central

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.

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SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS



Math team competes at regional level

The Byron High School math team competed in the regional event at Rock Valley College in late February. State qualifiers include Andrew Freedlund and Ben Mugrage (first place - junior/senior two-person). Individual medalists include Gavin Rohdes (second place - Algebra II), Alex Booker, Braden Dietrich, River Wygant, Emma Franchi and Ashley Potter (second place - fresh/soph eight-person team). (Courtesy photo)



The Byron High School speech team took second out of five schools in the IHSA Freeport Regional on Saturday, Feb. 3. Byron fielded two regional champions including Abigail Baker (informative speaking) and Fynn Remhof (radio speaking). The Tigers also fielded five second-place finishers including Masyn Brown and Amelie Rosavelasquez (humorous duet acting), Amelie Rosavelasquez (humorous interpretation), Elinor McHale (impromptu speaking), Nova Rakowski (prose reading) and Taryn Dolan (special occasion speaking). Byron rostered three third-place performers including Nova Rakowski (dramatic interpretation), Elinor McHale (original comedy) and Liliana Ramos (original oratory). Taryn Dolan and Averi Helms (dramatic duet acting) took fourth in their event. (Courtesy photo)

Wrapping up IHSA hoops

IT'S a wrap for the Illinois high-school basketball and fans can now devote their attention to the NCAA tournament. It used to be the IHSA tourney extended into the college post season and attendance suffered because of that.

That led to 56 field goal attempts to only 39 for Benton. With stats like that, one would have thought the Tigers won.



Andy Colbert

Unfortunately for Byron, their shots weren't dropping and that proved to be their demise. One example occurred early in the third quarter, when the Tigers had a three-on-one following a turnover and failed to convert on two shots under the basket. Later in the same quarter, it was three missed shots near the basket.

each of the three sports seasons, with a highly-touted boys baseball team.

Let's not forget the boys golf team finishing eighth as one of the smallest schools in 2A, quite an accomplishment.

A bit of trivia for you: Quinn Virgil, former head coach at Oregon, serves as an assistant to Matt Huels at Byron. He also served as an assistant to Benton coach Ron Winemiller, when Winemiller was at Forreston in 2003 and 2004.

Here's a neat story and also one that chronicles the fascination with the state tournament.

As a 10-year old in 1960, Patrick Heston started the "Predictors Club" with a couple of college students. The trio had caught March Madness fever and the sole purpose of their club was to predict how the IHSA basketball tournament would turn out.

Soon, it expanded to 250 people and then up to 400. Members of the media, coaches, former players and officials sent their picks in by mail to Heston, with an early deadline of Dec. 31.

That's an example of the hype Illinois March Madness garnered. The contest went on for decades until its members began to die or lose interest.

With Heston and another man in his 80s the only ones left, the Predictors Club recently disbanded.

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

That is one of the reasons the IHSA brought 1A-4A together on the same weekend, cutting the season short by a week.

Smart move and it also made more sense not to have the girls and boys championships spread out over four weeks. Plus, attendance is helped with all four title games being played on the same day.

Still, crowds at Champaign were miniscule compared to the glory days of the 1960s and 1970s. Likewise with media coverage.

The IHSA tournament used to be front-page news in the big Chicago dailies, while the NCAA got second billing. Today, you hardly see a mention of the preps.

Still, it means a lot to the communities that made it downstate and people from Byron sure had to enjoy their time at the State Farm Center.

It was basketball royalty, with Benton as their opponent. Back in the glory days of the 1960s, the Rangers held their own with the best in the state in a one-class system.

In watching the game on TV, Byron appeared to be the aggressor from the mid first quarter on, forcing turnovers and pounding the boards. In a rare feat, they had more offensive rebounds than Benton had defensive ones.

Ryan Tucker hit a three-pointer that would have been good in the NBA, but that was it. The Tigers were only one-for-13 for the game from beyond the arc.

Tucker also had an acrobatic reverse lay-up. Even with overall 30 percent shooting, the Tigers did manage to take a 37-36 lead. They harassed the Rangers enough to win, but couldn't get it done on offense.

Going from a high-school gym to a college arena, it takes a while to adjust to different dimensions and Benton didn't exactly shoot the lights out either, going six-for-19 in the second half.

Nonetheless, making it downstate is the big reward most teams in the state are looking for.

I'm guessing there was more excitement for Byron in winning the super-sectional than winning the third-place game downstate. Be it individual or team sports, sometimes getting there can be better than being there.

The word on the street is that Byron has an excellent chance for the trifecta of having a boys team downstate in



All-Conference
The Polo High School girls basketball team had two student-athletes take home NUIC All-Conference honors for the 2023-24 season. Camrynn Jones (above) received NUIC First-Team honors and Courtney Grobe (below) received NUIC Second Team honors.



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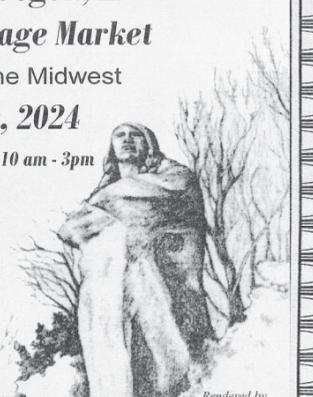
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LOCAL NEWS

OREGON PARK DISTRICT WEEKLY 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)

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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.

Spring Birding Clinic

No sound is as cheerful on a spring day as the sound of a bird singing. With spring migration in full swing, come out to the Lorado Taft Field Campus and enjoy a special clinic sure to help you make the most of the season with our fine feathered friends. Learn when, why, and where some of our birds migrate. Gain confidence in your birding skills and see some wildlife in its natural habitat. We will have an adult only and a parent-child session, each featuring age appropriate, hands-on activities and time practicing your skills in the Taft Campus birding garden. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a set from Oregon Park District. The clinic takes place on Saturday March 30, adult only session from 9:30AM-12:00PM, parent-child session from 1:00PM-2:30PM. Registration is \$5R/\$6NR, deadline to register is March 23.

Traditional Easter Egg Hunt

The traditional Easter Egg Hunt is back in action at Oregon Park West Thursday March 28 beginning at 5:00 PM. The Easter Bunny is coming to Park West, so get in on the egg hunt fun before all the eggs are found. Don't forget about family photos with the Easter Bunny! The traditional egg hunt is for children in preschool through 4th grade. Start times are staggered by age group, and each cohort has a separate area to hunt in. Registrations are FREE but REQUIRED for all egg hunters. Deadline to register is March 22.

Flashlight Egg Hunt

Looking for some Easter fun but too old for a traditional egg hunt? Come to Park West after dark and hunt for prizes with a flashlight. The flashlight egg hunt is Thursday March 28th beginning at 8:00 PM and is open for students in 5th -8th grades. There will be separate times and hunt areas for the 5-6th and 7-8th grade cohorts. Registrations are FREE but REQUIRED for all egg hunters. Deadline to register is March 21.

Cold Hardy Annuals Planters

Do you have spring fever, but can't find anything to plant that can manage the cold? Come and enjoy an early spring planter class at Hidden Timber Gardens specializing

in cold hardy early bloomers to beautify your outdoor space. Two sessions to choose from on Tuesday and Wednesday April 16th and 17th. Bring gardening gloves and a small trowel, as you will be planting a container to bring home with you with plants of your choosing. Total price of the workshop can range from \$45-\$80 depending on your planter and plant selections. All attendees will receive a \$25 credit towards their final purchase price. Additional add-ons will be paid to Hidden Timber Gardens that evening. Registration is \$28R/\$34 NR, deadline to register is April 9th.

Homemade Ravioli & Fettuccine

Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 PM at Cork & Tap, join Lynn Kaufman of Lynn's Kitchen for a fun hands-on pasta making class. Participants will need to bring some dishes and utensils from home, and a full supply list will be distributed by email after registration closes. Pasta-making is best with a team, sign up with a partner or be assigned one at class. Registration is \$40R/\$48NR, deadline to register is April 18.

Secret Life of Butterflies Trip

Tuesday April 2, 11:00AM-5:00PM, We will use Oregon Park District Vans to travel to the Prairie Street Brewery for Lunch, then spend the afternoon at the Nicholas Conservatory's Secret Life of Butterflies exhibit, which features butterfly species from around the world in the lovely tropical environment of the conservatory. Registration is \$10R/\$12NR and includes conservatory admission and transportation. Deadline to register is March 26.

Eagles Nest Luncheon and Matinee:

The Blind

Sunday April 14, 2:00-6:00 PM, Eagles Nest Luncheon and Matinee, the Blind, is a collaborative effort between NIU Lorado Taft Field Campus, Oregon Park District, and the Blackhawk Art Restoration and Development Committee (BARD). Enjoy a buffet luncheon and a performance of "The Blind" by BARD members, NIU Lorado Taft Field Campus Staff, and Oregon Park District Staff. "The Blind" was originally written by French Playwright Maurice Maeterlinck, and was historically performed at the Eagles Nest Art Colony, where it inspired a Lorado Taft Sculpture of the same name. This program is a fundraiser to ensure the continuing maintenance of the Eternal Indian Statue, proceeds will be donated to the Illinois Conservation Foundation and Oregon Park District Youth Scholarship fund. Registration is \$70R/\$80NR, deadline to register is April 7.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 Willis 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.

March 20

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

March 21

Serenity Hospice & Home's Bereavement Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 21, from 5-6 p.m. at The Serenity Home, 1658 S. Illinois Route 2, Oregon. Please call Cathy at 815-732-4111 to find out the book for the month and to sign up for the group. The group size is limited.

March 25

The Leaf River United Methodist Church is hosting a Community Blood Drive on Monday, March 25. Staff from the Rock River Valley Blood Center will draw blood between noon and 5 p.m. All registered donors will receive a coupon for a free pint of Culver's Custard from Winnebago Culvers. If that isn't a good reason to donate, then other reasons are -- Because they like to help others - and because giving feels amazing. In busy, complicated times, giving blood is an easy, meaningful way to make a difference. In fact, this simple gift can enhance the lives of up to three people. Giving blood only takes about one relaxing hour, and we - and your body - do all of the work. Remember, blood is a gift - straight from the heart. Your heart. Please share it today! If you are at least 17 years old (16 years old with

parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in general good health, you should be eligible to donate blood. Join us in sharing the Gift of Life. For more information or to schedule an appointment, you can find the Leaf River United Methodist Church on Facebook or contact Laura at 815-276-5773 (call or text), or the Rock River Valley Blood Center at 815/965-8751, toll free at 877-RRVBC-99 or on the web at www.rrvbc.org. Thank you!

March 30

The Leaf River Lions will be serving "Breakfast with Bunny" on Saturday, March 30 from 7-10 a.m. with an Easter Egg Hunt to be held at 10 a.m. The breakfast will consist of pancakes, waffles and French toast along with whole hog sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, orange juice and milk. Prices are ages 11 through adult, one time through \$8 and all you can eat is \$10. Children 10 years and under eat free. Bunny will arrive around 9 a.m. that morning. Weather permitting, the Easter Egg Hunt will be in Bertolet Memorial Park. On May 31, the Leaf River Lions will be having their food stand, a band, and fireworks all up next to the Bertolet Memorial Library parking lot. Mark your calendar and come for a night of friendship and entertainment.

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LOCAL NEWS

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Story Time

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

Knit & Crochet is BACK!

Mondays at 1:00pm. This group meets every Monday at 1pm and is open to anyone. From beginner to expert, all skill level are welcome to join. Bring any hand craft and work on it while socializing. Need help getting started with your knitting project, stop in on a Monday. Registration is requested, visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or call (815) 732-2724.

Find A Character Ticket!

What is a Character Ticket? A character Ticket represents an image of a character from that specific book. Character Tickets will be hidden in various books in the children/youth book collection. After you check out a book and find a character ticket in the book, you may adopt that character doll and take it home. Open to Oregon Public Library cardholders only. May adopt only once.

Try It Tuesday

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

Carter

Wednesday, March 20th at 7:00pm- Illinois Library Presents Ruth E. Carter: Interweaving Tradition and Imagination Through Costume Design. Join us for a special event with Ruth Carter, two-time Academy Award-winning costume designer. Carter made history as the first Black person to win an Academy Award in Best Costume Design for the film, Black Panther. She received a second Academy Award in the same category for Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.

Ruth E. Carter's ability to develop an authentic story through costume and character made her one of the most sought after and renowned costume designers today. Best known for turning the Black Panther superhero into an African king, Carter is the first Black woman to win multiple Academy Awards in any category and the first costume designer to win for the first film and its sequel. Carter is known for her research and diligence to the craft of costume design, specifically for her work on films such as Spike Lee's Malcolm X, Steven Spielberg's Amistad and Ava DuVernay's Selma. In addition to Academy Award nominations and wins, Carter won accolades and recognition from the Costume Designers Guild, Black Reel Awards, Critics' Choice Movie Awards, American Black Film Festival, San Diego Film Critics Society, among many others. She also received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Ruth E. Carter will be joined in conversation with Aisha Harris, co-host of NPR's Pop Culture Happy Hour and author of Wannabe. Register at: bit.ly/ILP_RuthCarter

The event is brought you by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP). ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Illinois Libraries Present is committed to inclusion and accessibility.

Solar Eclipse Viewers

On Monday, April 8, there will be a partial solar eclipse. In preparation for this partial eclipse, the Adler Planetarium in Chicago has provided public libraries in Illinois with a limited supply of safe solar viewers. While our limited supply lasts, free viewers will be available for Oregon Public Library cardholders beginning Monday, March 25.. Maximum of 4 per family.

Lego Club

(2nd grade & up)- Tuesday, March 26 at 3 pm. School's out for break... grab some friends and come built something! The club is designed to provide an enjoyable activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence. Registration required. Please call (815) 732-2724 or visit <http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com>

Book Clubs

Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, March 17 at 2:00pm at Breakers. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, March 20 at 1 pm to discuss Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet Tuesday, March 26 at 6 pm at the Library to discuss The Blood Trials by N.E. Davenport. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, March 28 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss Did You Hear About Kitty Kar by Crystal Smith Paul. The 2WBC meets Wednesday, April 10 at 12:30 to discuss The Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night-Time by Mark Haddon.

Yoga

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

Oregon Writers Group

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

MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

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

Levinson

On Monday, March 18th come and chat with author Len Levinson. At 11:00 am you can sit down and ask questions of Len who has written many novels and has led an interesting life that is different than what we are used to. If you would like to read one of his novels, stop by the Mt. Morris Public Library.

Trivia & Tacos

Come match wits against other teams at our Trivia & Tacos night! On Thursday, March 21 join us at 6:00 at The center. Enjoy a game of trivia for \$2.00 and tacos for \$2.00.

Egg Hunt

Adult Easter Egg Hunt! Join the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center and Let Freedom Ring 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 doorprize, and a favor. Everyone over the age of 18 is welcome to play. Call 815-734-6335 or stop by Village Hall for tickets.

Screening

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.

Call Melissa at 815-734-6335 to RSVP!

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

BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

226 E. 2nd St., Byron, IL 61010 - Phone 815-234-7431 - Fr. Richard Rosinski.
Weekday Masses: Tuesday - Friday 7:30am, Weekend Masses: Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 8:00 am and 9:30 am. Reconciliation: Fri. 8:00 am - 8:30 am; Sat. 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm or by app. Eucharist Adoration Fri. 8-9am
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 Spellious
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson
Sunday Schedule & Worship opportunities:
Service of Meditation & Prayer: 8:15am- 8:45am
Adult Sunday School Hour: 9am
Kids Sunday School: (for ages 3 thru 5th grade) 9:30-10:15am
Coffee & fellowship time: 9:30am - 10:30am
Main Worship: 10:30am
Spark Youth Group (for ages 6th grade thru 12th grade) - Sundays, 5pm-7pm
For complete ministry schedule and other activities, please check our website or Facebook page or contact the church office.
Whoever you are or wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

CHANA

CHANA UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Josh Brown, 606 Main Street, Chana, IL 61015. Church office 815-732-7683. (E-mail address: 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

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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 Lewis
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: goelimchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.goelimchurch.org
Sunday morning worship 10:00 am

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

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

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Dave Rogula 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 lighthouseUMC@yahoo.com
Worship at 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each of month. Lighthouse will live up your life!

OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

860 W. Oregon Trail Road Oregon, IL Phone: 732-6847 or 732-2604 Pastor Michael Hoffman; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Morning worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday activities: Adult, Children, and Youth Groups 7 p.m. At the church.

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

505 Hill St. Oregon, IL 61061 Phone: 732-2642
Pastor: David Snow "A Christ-centered, Bible-believing, family-oriented ministry."
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning Service 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Afternoon Service 1:15 p.m.; Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

200 S. 4th Street, Oregon, IL 61061 | 815-732-2994 | www.oregonumc.org
Pastor Rev Megan Smick
9:00 am Adult & Youth Bible Study
10 am Worship & Children's Sunday School
In-person or live on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/OregonUMC>
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Meal
All are welcome!

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

ST. MARY CHURCH

Rector/Office: 211 North Franklin Ave., Polo, IL 61064
PHONE: 815-946-2535 • Rev. Joseph P. Naill
Website: www.stmarypolo.org
Masses: Sun 10:30am, Tuesday Mass 8 a.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation: First Sunday of each month after 10:30 mass
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

302 S. Franklin Ave. Polo, Illinois • 815-946-2848 • Luke N. Schier, Pastor
Sunday Worship: 9:30am We include our children in our Sunday Worship Experience. "THE GRAND Kids 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 Brouns | Associate Pastor David Bogner
207 W Roosevelt Road (Rte 72), Stillman Valley.
815-645-2526 | www.theredbrickchurch.org
Sunday: Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am. Sunday School at 9:00 am.
Wednesday: AWANA (Sept - April) from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.
Men, women, youth Bible Studies throughout the year.
See website for all activities or contact the church office.

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

12473 Montague Road, Winnebago, IL 61088
Located West of Lower Road on Montague Rd.
Sunday: Worship Service at 10:30 am.
Pastor Phil Thompson
Phone: 815-335-2609. Email: middlecreekchurch@gmail.com



LOCAL NEWS

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Closed
Saturday, March 30th Bertolet Memorial Library will be closed on Saturday, March 30th for Easter weekend. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, April 1st.

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

March Take & Make Craft
Stop by the circulation

desk to grab a kit to make a sea glass suncatcher.

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

Plastic Recycling
We ask that you make sure plastic is clean with no debris in the donation. *No animal feed bags are allowed* Also please remove any ziploc-type seals and paper/sticker labels. Thank you for your cooperation.

NEW RELEASES

Adult Books
The Last Exchange by Charles Martin
A Beautiful Disguise by Roseanna M White

Chapter Book
Awesome Art Activities by Ruth Owen

Picture Books
Birthday Monsters! by Sandra Boynton
Elmo's Alphabet Fun by Sesame Street
What To Do With a Stick by Jane Yolen

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Spring Blood Drive with RRVBC
Thursday, April 4. 1 – 6:00 pm. Join us as we host a community blood drive in partnership with the Rock River Valley Blood Center. Register for an appointment by calling the library at 815-234-5107 or visiting https://donor.rrvbc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/55720. Walk-ins are also welcome! Prospective donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 lbs. It is recommended that donors eat a meal within 3-4 hours before donating and drink plenty of fluids.

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

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

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



Patrons learned from master gardeners Phil and Marcia what to do with plants often given as gifts during the holiday season. They discussed general plant care and how to get the plants to re bloom.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
		18			19			20		
21	22		23			24				
25			26		27		28			
29			30			31		32	33	34
		35			36		37			
38	39	40			41	42		43		
44				45			46			
47				48			49		50	51
52				53			54			
55				56			57			

ACROSS

1 Gold-loving king
6 Soviet space station
9 Actress Dennings
12 "That — I ask"
13 Longoria of TV
14 Writer LeShan
15 "What — mean?"
16 Journal
18 Singer Timberlake
20 Monster
21 Med. plan option
23 Sweetie
24 Different designs
25 Exile isle
27 Russian villa
29 Deceived
31 There
35 Rocker Adams
37 Harvard rival
38 City near Venice
41 Prefix with gender
43 Shriek bark
44 Teensy bit
45 Frenzied
47 Pampering places

DOWN

1 Central
2 Equal (Pref.)
3 Nine-to-five gigs
4 Matty of baseball
5 Melting snow
6 Islamic holy city
7 Infamous tsar
8 Shaft of light
9 IRA relative
10 Worship
11 Greedy sort
17 Plant science
19 Hot rum drink
21 Skirt edge
22 Roman 1051
24 Discoverer's call
26 Photo collections
28 Doubter
30 Notable time
32 Workplace perk, maybe
33 Yalie
34 Gym unit
36 Nails the test
38 Rice field
39 Arcade pioneer
40 Senior member
42 14 pounds
45 Aesopian also-ran
46 Apple product
48 Young dog
50 LBJ's successor
51 Prof's aides

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MAGIC MAZE

SECRET SERVICE CODE NAMES FOR PRESIDENTS AND FAMILY

Y K I F C Z W Y U R R P M J S

H E C Z X L A **R E N E G A D E**

U S Q N U M E L V K T J E G A

E C Z G D C X V E T S C L R R

P N O N N L J D R H A S G E C

C M A A A Y I W G L M V A T H

R R L P N H L K R I K G E P L

G E C B W M U S E Z C X W U I

S R P A D R A C E R O C S O G

M L R J R E E T N U L O V I H

G E D B A F L O W R E B M I T

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: YOUR MOM'S MOM

Eagle	Lancer	Passkey	Searchlight
Evergreen	Lock Master	Rawhide	Timberwolf
General	Mogul	Renegade	Volunteer
Lace	Muse	Scorecard	

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: ◆◆◆

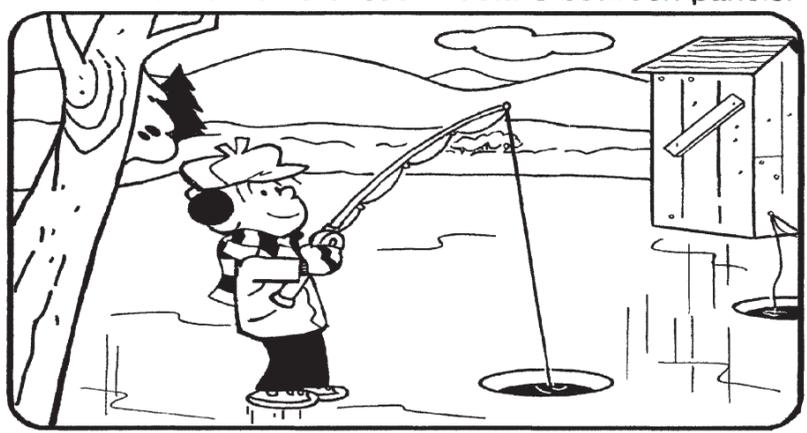
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fishing line is different. 2. Branch is higher. 3. Hut is different. 4. Mountain is added. 5. Cloud is larger. 6. Cap is different.

King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

SECRET SERVICE CODE NAMES FOR PRESIDENTS AND FAMILY

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sealed bids will be received by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, Illinois, until 2:00 P.M. April 5, 2024 for the following Sections:

- 24-XX000-00-GM 2024 Township Sealcoats,
 - 24-00000-02-GM 2024 County Sealcoats,
 - 24-26000-00-GM Oregon-Nashua Township Paving,
 - 24-06000-01-GM Flagg Township Paving
 - 24-21000-00-GM Rockvale Township Cold in Place Recycling
 - 24-21134-00-SS Rockvale Township Storm Sewer Repairs
 - 24-22000-01-GM Scott Township Paving
- Proposals are available at the Ogle County Highway Department, 1989 South IL Rte. 2, Oregon, IL between the hours of 7:00 A.M. And 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday.
- The Road and Bridge Committee reserves the right to accept or reject and or all bids.
No. 0312
(Mar. 18 & 25, 2024)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals for the project described below will be received at the office of the Village Clerk, 120 N. Walnut Street, Stillman Valley, IL 61084, until 10:00 am on 04/03/24.

Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of the Village Clerk, 120 N. Walnut Street, Stillman Valley, IL 61084, at 10:00 am on 04/03/24.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK
Location: S. Valley Drive and W. 2nd Street
Project Length: 1,600'
Proposed Improvement: Mill existing Hot-Mix Asphalt pavement of variable thickness and aggregate base a total of three inches (3") and replace with three inches (3") of Hot-Mix Asphalt Pavement, removal and replacement of concrete curb and gutter, manhole adjustment and inlet reconstruction. Project may include undercutting of existing subgrade to be identified in the field for replacement with aggregate base course.

1. Plans and proposal forms will be available in the office of: Willett, Hofmann & Associates, Inc. website at www.willetthofmann.com. Contractors shall click on "Bid Login" on the homepage of the website and follow the instructions. The contract eBidDoc # (Project Number) is 9011360. The Project Manual PDF can be downloaded from the website by depositing twenty-two dollars (\$22.00) by credit card. Said deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE.

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

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

4. The following BLR Forms shall be returned by the bidder to the Awarding Authority:

- Local Public Agency Formal Contract Proposal (BLR 12200)
- Schedule of Prices (BLR 12201)
- Proposal Bid Bond (BLR 12230) (if applicable)
- The quantities appearing in the bid schedule are approximate and are prepared for the comparison of bids. Payment to the Contractor will be made only for the actual quantities of work performed and accepted or materials furnished according to the contract. The scheduled quantities of work to be done and materials to be furnished may be increased, decreased or omitted as hereinafter provided.
- Submission of a bid shall be conclusive assurance and warranty the bidder has examined the plans and understands all requirements for the performance of work. The bidder will be responsible for all errors in the proposal resulting from failure or neglect to conduct an in depth examination. The Awarding Authority will, in no case, be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses or changes in anticipated profits resulting from such failure or neglect of the bidder.
- The bidder shall take no advantage of any error or omission in the proposal and advertised contract.
- If a special envelope is supplied by the Awarding Authority, each proposal should be submitted in that envelope furnished by the Awarding Authority and the blank spaces on the envelope shall be filled in correctly to clearly indicate its contents. When an envelope other than the special one furnished by the Awarding Authority is used, it shall be marked to clearly indicate its contents. When sent by mail, the sealed proposal shall be addressed to the Awarding Authority at the address and in care of the official in whose office the bids are to be received. All proposals shall be filed prior to the time and at the place specified in the Notice to Bidders. Proposals received after the time specified will be returned to the bidder unopened.
- Permission will be given to a bidder to withdraw a proposal if the bidder makes the request in writing or in person before the time for opening proposals.
No. 0313
(March 18, 2024)

NOTICE STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of JANET L. FRYE, Deceased.
2024PR0012
PUBLICATION NOTICE TO CREDITORS and CLAIMANTS
Notice is given of the death of JANET L. FRYE, who died on October 9, 2023, a resident of Ogle County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 29, 2024, and the Representative for the estate is DEBORAH L. EISFELLER, 9577 N. Blaine Drive, Byron, IL 61010. The attorney for the estate is Amanda J. Martinez, 5732 E. Riverside Blvd., #201, Loves Park, IL 61111.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before September 18, 2024, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of the first publication. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 106 S. 5th Street, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the Representative, or both. Any claim not filed within that

period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Attorney Amanda J. Martinez ARDC#: 5732 E. Riverside Blvd., #201, Loves Park, IL 61111
815-491-8065
amartinez@adamsmartinezlaw.com
No. 0314
(Mar. 18 & 25 and Apr. 1, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the State of Illinois Compiled Statutes, the Pine Creek Township highway commissioner will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM to examine Tee Road between Butternut Rd and Ridge Rd to hear reasons for or against vacating Tee Road and its associated right of way. The hearing will be held at the intersection of Tee Road and Butternut Road which is just south of 4984 S Butternut Road, Oregon, IL 61061. The legal description of the right of way to be vacated is: All of Tee Road located along the north line of Sections 35 and 36 in Pine Creek Township, beginning at Butternut Road and ending at Ridge Road (0.75 miles). Jody Yount
Pine Creek Twp Rd Commissioner
Ogle County, Illinois
No. 0315
(March 18 & 25, 2024)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-15.1-3, notice is being given that the Village of Stillman Valley will be conducting a public hearing at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at Stillman Valley Fire Protection District 200 Rural Road, Stillman Valley, IL. The purpose of the public hearing is to entertain public comment on a proposed Annexation Agreement between the Village of Stillman Valley and Glendenning Farm Service LLC. The parcels subject to the proposed Annexation Agreement are PIN 11-18-300-010. No address, parcel is adjacent to and north of PIN 11-18-300-010 and located outside of but contiguous to Stillman Valley, Illinois. A copy of the draft annexation agreement available for inspection at Village Hall, 120 N. Walnut Street, Stillman Valley, Illinois. All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and be heard. All inquiries regarding this public hearing can be directed to Village Clerk Yvonne Dewey at (815) 645-2200.
Respectfully Submitted,
Yvonne Dewey
Village Clerk
No. 0316
(March 18, 2024)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-15.1-3, notice is being given that the Village of Stillman Valley will be conducting a public hearing at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at Stillman Valley Fire Protection District 200 Rural Road, Stillman Valley, IL. The purpose of the public hearing is to entertain public comment on a proposed Annexation Agreement between the Village of Stillman Valley and Estate of Carol Whaley c/o Ronald Whaley. The parcel subject to the proposed Annexation Agreement is PIN 11-18-100-004. No address, parcel is adjacent to and north of PIN 11-18-300-010. Located outside of but contiguous

ous to Stillman Valley, Illinois. A copy of the draft annexation agreement available for inspection at Village Hall, 120 N. Walnut Street, Stillman Valley, Illinois. All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and be heard. All inquiries regarding this public hearing can be directed to Village Clerk Yvonne Dewey at (815) 645-2200.
Respectfully Submitted,
Yvonne Dewey
Village Clerk
No. 0317
(March 18, 2024)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-15.1-3, notice is being given that the Village of Stillman Valley will be conducting a public hearing at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at Stillman Valley Fire Protection District 200 Rural Road, Stillman Valley, IL. The purpose of the public hearing is to entertain public comment on a proposed Annexation Agreement between the Village of Stillman Valley and Lee Heeren, Trustee. The parcels subject to the proposed Annexation Agreement are E. Hales Corner Road, Stillman Valley, Illinois, 61084; and N. Stillman Road, Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084. PINS 11-18-100-003; PIN 05-36-300-006; and, PIN 10-01-126-004, all located outside of but contiguous to Stillman Valley, Illinois. A copy of the draft annexation agreement available for inspection at Village Hall, 120 N. Walnut Street, Stillman Valley, Illinois. All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and be heard. All inquiries regarding this public hearing can be directed to Village Clerk Yvonne Dewey at (815) 645-2200.
Respectfully Submitted,
Yvonne Dewey
Village Clerk
No. 0318
(March 18, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE
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307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE
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301 ANTIQUES
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301 ANTIQUES
ANTIQUE 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

203 HELP WANTED
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.

203 HELP WANTED
SPLIT Firewood For Sale.
Contact 779-251-0254

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

203 HELP WANTED

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.

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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501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

511 STORAGE UNITS

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

511 STORAGE UNITS

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

103 AUCTIONS

IDA DIRKSEN ESTATE AUCTION
Sat., March 23rd – 11 A.M.
202 W. Seventh St., Pecatonica, IL 61063
Antiques & Collectibles; Antique & Modern Furniture; Household Furnishings; Fostoria Glassware; Pecatonica Memorabilia; Primitives; Appliances Incl. Washer, Dryer, Refrigerator/Freezer, Dehumidifier; Kirby Vac; Lawn Mower; Gas Grill; Lawn & Garden; Tools; More. **NOTE: Very nice 2-hour auction. Don't be late.**
HACK'S SPRING ANTIQUES & PRIMITIVES ONLINE AUCTION
OPENS: Thurs., March 28th @ 8 A.M.
PREVIEW: Thurs., March 28th – 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Hack's Antique Center II – 440 W. Third St., Pecatonica, IL 61063
Featuring Great Selection Antiques; Primitives; Furniture; Stoneware; Quality Antique Oak Furniture Incl. Secretary, Ice Box, Commode, Sewing Cabinet, Possum Belly Cupboard, Tea Cart, etc.; Nice Selection Sterling Silver Pcs. Incl. Weighted Candlesticks, Quality Ornate Silver Incl. Reeds & Barton, Sheffield & Others; Large Selection Pewter; Arcade Brass Spittoon; Matchbox Cars; Toys; Collectibles; Jewelry; Fine China & Glassware; Fur Hats; Designer Shoes; Much More!
Hack's Auction & Realty Service
Greg & Swan Hachmeister, Auctioneers
Pecatonica, IL 815-239-1436
www.hacksauction.com
I.A.F.L. #44000128

FARM AUCTION
Sat. April 13th at 10:00 AM
Doug Hildebrand Estate

4994 Edson Rd., Rockford, IL 61109
Location: South of Rockford, IL on I 39 to Baxter Rd east to Mulford Rd, south 1 1/2 miles to Edson Rd, west 1 mile to farm.
FARM EQUIPMENT – "EXTRA CLEAN/WELL MAINTAINED!"
1971 IHC 1456 D. Tractor, like new w/ IH cab, 18.4-38 tires & duals, 540-1000 PTO, front wts, new batteries, good T.A., \$16,000 spent on tractor, only 7435 hrs, sharp!; 1967 IHC 806 D. Tractor w/ yr. round cab, M&W Turbo, WF, good T.A., like new 18.4-38 tires & duals, 540-1000 PTO, front wts, 6752 hrs, sharp!; 1958 IHC 560 Gas Tractor w/ WF, fast hitch, Good T.A., like new 15.5-38 tires, front & rear wts, electronic ignition, low hrs, very clean!; 1952 IHC Super M Gas Tractor w/ 5 speed, NF, pulley, fenders, like new 14.9-38 tires, 3 pt, 8044 hrs, very clean!; Allis-Chalmers WD45 Tractor w/ snap coupler, P.A. wheels, WF, wts, 14.9-28 tires, 5 yr. restoration! AC D-17 LP Gas Tractor w/ Kelley Hyd. Loader, WF, 2 point, 16.9-28 tires, 5415 hrs, very good!; Bush Hog #1445 18' Hyd. Fold Disk; IHC #55 Disk Chisel Plow-12' w/ 5 shank; IHC 20' #45 Field Cultivator; Kewanee #180-12' Chisel Plow, 11 shank; 8-IHC Suit Case Wts; Lindsay 22' Drag & Cart; NH 331-3 Beater Manure Spreader; Gleaner F-2 D. Combine "Corn Plus" w/ 4-30" Corn Hd, 18" Grain Head, runs well!; AC 3-B Snap Coupler Plover; AC 4-R Front mt. Cultivator fits WD-WD45; AC Manure Loader fits WD; JD 7000, 8RN Planter w/ monitor, Assort. 5' & 6' Drag Sections; 3 pt. 10' Chisel Plover; IHC #836 Corn Head; IHC #1020 Grain Head; JD 6-R 3 pt. Cultivator; 18-3 Section Pull type Roller; Drive over Wagon Hoist; JD RM 7' Cycle Mower; Rare AC Snap-Coupler Sub Soiler; EZ-Flow 350 Gravity Box w/ HD Gear; Kill-Bros 350 Gravity Box w/ MF Gear; IHC #45-12' Field Cultivator w/ Harrow; Farm Rite 400 gal. Trailer Sprayer w/ 27' Boom; IHC #470-16' Disk, sharp!; IHC #550 3 pt. 5 B. Plow w/ Harrow; Older JD 8-R. Corn Planter 495A2; IHC 4 Section Rotary Hoe; AC 2 pt-8" Rear Blade; 2 Flair Wagons & Gear; End Gate Seeder; Kewanee 40' PTO lift Elevator #500; PTO Buzz Saw.
OTHER: 1 Wagon full Tools & Misc. items; 1 Wagon full of Farm Toys (Tractors, Cars, Trucks, many NIB); Collector Plates-Wildlife, etc; Feed Bags; Other Farm Related Antique Items.
Note: Very clean Farm Auction of quality Tractors & Equipment. For further information call John 815-988-7579. Terms: Cash or check w/ picture ID. Number system to be used. Current letter of credit if not known by Auction Company. Lunch Stand & Port-a-Pot on grounds.
Check websites for many pictures www.Prouctionsllc.com and www.auctionzip.com

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German Valley, IL 61039
815-238-3044
IL Lic: 440000901 W/ Lic: 2844-52

203 HELP WANTED
Help Wanted
Byron Community Unit School District

is seeking to fill an **Engineering Instructor Position** for the 2024 - 2025 school year, based on an individual's defined skill set. Position may be full-time or part-time. Please see additional information and job posting online at www.byron226.org
Click on the 'About Us' tab, then Employment Opportunities – High School Teaching Section
09042024

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

LOCAL NEWS

ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

Activities with Mary
 Tuesday, Mar. 19. Pictionary 1:00–1:45. Drumming 1:45 – 2:30.

Crocheting & Knitting
 Thursday, Mar. 21, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Bingocize
 Bingocize® combines the game of bingo with low-impact fall prevention exercises. Mar. 22 and 25; 2:00 -2:30 p.m. Advance registration requested.

Lab Hour
 Monday, Mar. 25; 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Advance registration requested.

AARP Safe Driving Class – NEW DATES
 Mon. Mar. 25 & Wed. Mar. 27; 9am – 1pm. Advance registration requested.

LIHEAP – HEATING ASSISTANCE
 For the 2023-2024 LIHEAP program year applications will follow the income limits below.
 Income limits for 2024 Program Year

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

2023-2024 NICOR GAS "SHARING" PROGRAM

NICOR GAS sharing program is available to assist those NICOR customers whose income is above 200% of poverty level and less than 300% of the poverty level. For a 1-person household the 30-day income limit is \$3,645; 2-person household, \$4,930, 3-person household; \$6,215, etc. You can apply for the NICOR GAS Sharing program at the Rock River Center. For more information or to make an appointment call 800-541-5479 or 815-732-3252.

Senior Information Services Provided By Rock River Center

Do you need help with Benefit Access Application, Medicare, housing, personal care, homemaking, heating assistance or other things? Rock River Center's Information & Assistance Specialists are available at various locations throughout Ogle County. Assistance at these locations is available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact Rock River Center at (800) 541-5479 to schedule an appointment. Forrester-Library Mar 20 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Polo Senior Center Mar 28 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Rochelle –Hub City Senior Ctr. Mar 27 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Garrett to celebrate 100th birthday

MT. MORRIS — Marian Leerhoff Garrett will be turning 100 years old on March 22. To help her celebrate you can send a card or note to her at 414 S. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054.

AREA GUIDE

Friday 5pm-9:30pm

FISH FRY FRIDAYS

WOODEN 5 NICKEL
RESTAURANT & BAR
 EST. 1991

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

Homemade Soup and Salad Bar

812 Main St. - Ashton

SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
 ROCHELLE, IL

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!

VFW Post 8739

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

Every Friday Fish Fry

Cod, Catfish & Shrimp Dinners

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

AG WEEK

Three challenges facing the agricultural sector

SINCE the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic in early 2020, businesses big and small have faced significant challenges. Though the pandemic has ended, many sectors, including the agricultural industry, are facing familiar and unfamiliar challenges.

The agricultural sector is crucial to the survival and health of billions of people across the globe. Though it's obvious that modern agriculture is vital to feeding a global population that was greater than eight billion people at the dawn of 2024, the United Nations notes that agriculture also boosts prosperity and economies by providing jobs. That reality only underscores the notion that the challenges facing the agricultural sector are facing everyone, even those whose livelihoods are not directly linked to the industry. According to Earth.org, an organization that offers environmental news, data analysis, research, and policy solutions, the fol-

lowing are three sizable challenges facing modern agriculture.

1. Climate change: Perhaps no challenge is greater for humanity in the twenty-first century than climate change, and the agricultural sector is no exception. Climate change has caused shifting weather patterns marked by unpredictability and potentially disastrous developments like prolonged drought. Estimates from NASA indicate corn yields may decrease by 24 percent by the end of this century, a potentially dangerous development linked to a host of factors, including a shifting climate and elevated surface carbon dioxide concentrations that can be traced to human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Population growth: The booming global population is attributable to numerous factors, including longer life expectancies in developed nations due to medical advancements. How to keep the global population fed at a time when



the climate is adversely affecting crop yields is a significant challenge facing both humanity and the agricultural sector. As the population grows, so, too, does the demand for water, which also must be used to grow crops. Nav-

igating this challenge will be significant, and how it's managed could affect the economic stability of the agricultural industry in the decades to come.

3. Investment: Perhaps no industry is more vital to human survival than

agriculture. Earth.org notes that countries with strong agricultural sectors often boast higher standards of living and health than nations with a less productive agricultural industry. Despite that, Earth.org notes that investment in the agricultural sector is not commensurate with the growing population. Supporting measures to invest more heavily in the agricultural sector could reduce food shortages in the decades to come and ensure the agricultural sector is better positioned

to address the many challenges it is already confronting in the twenty-first century.

The challenges facing the agricultural sector affect those who work in the industry but also the global population as a whole. Recognition of that reality may compel more people to support measures designed to ensure the agricultural sector can thrive and help the world to overcome potentially devastating challenges in the decades ahead.

Celebrating
National Ag Week
March 17-24, 2024

CARROLL SERVICE COMPANY **FS** *Thanking our local farmers!*

Main Office & Energy Department
815-493-2181

Milledgeville 815-225-7101	Farm Systems 815-493-2620
West Warehouse 815-493-2800	Lanark West 815-493-2478

RALPHIE & LULU'S
Serving and supporting Ashton and the surrounding area for 22 Years!

Proud supporter of our local farmers, 4H and FFA!

DINNER HOURS
WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY
5 - 8 P.M.

SERVING LUNCHES
11 A.M. - 2 P.M.
MONDAY - FRIDAY
CATERING AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS!

812 Main St. - Ashton

We Proudly Support FFA and 4-H Programs!

Vintage Chicks & Feed
Leaf River, IL

COMPLETE FEED & RUSTIC RELICS

700 IL Route 72 E • Leaf River • 815-973-2432
Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 9am-5pm

BIRKEY'S PARTS DAYS 2024
FEBRUARY 1 - MARCH 31

20% OFF FLEETGUARD FILTERS + COOLANTS
10% OFF MOST PARTS
20% OFF SELECT TILLAGE PARTS

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Every Day 6:30 AM - 8:00 AM
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815-762-6867 • PreciousPastures.com

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Profit from our experience

- Field Management Services
- Crop Protection Application
- Spring Planting Advice
- Identification of Insects & Weeds
- Crop Scouting
- Custom Spreading
- Soil Sampling
- Global Positioning Application

LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

Happy 100 Month-Long Celebration

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



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

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



Last week, Julia Hull District Library celebrated Mario Day with non-screen games and crafts featuring Mario, his friends and enemies!

Taylor Swift Party

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

Tween Scene: Glow in the Dark Science

Twins get to conduct a series of experiments with one thing in common: they all glow in the dark! Tuesday, April 2, 6 p.m. All supplies

provided. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Toddler Time: Spring Sensory Bins

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them! Join us for some tactile play using a variety of sensory bins with a festive spring twist. Friday, April 5, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Teens: Candy Kabobs!

Hang out with friends, play games, and create colorful candy kabobs

to give away or keep for yourself! Thursday, April 18, 6 p.m. Ages 13-18. All supplies provided. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Kaleidoscope Art

Kids will explore their artistic side by making colorful geometric masterpieces inspired by kaleidoscopes. Saturday, April 20, 1 p.m. All supplies provided. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Holiday Closure

The library will be closed Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30 to observe the Good Friday and Easter holidays.



Puzzle Palooza Round 2 is April 26 at Cork & Tap

OREGON—Grab your team of four people and get ready to compete against other teams to see who can complete the same 500-piece puzzle the fastest within a two-hour time frame. Space is limited so sign up and join in the fun on Friday, April 26, 6:30-10 p.m. at Cork & Tap!

Rules & regulations:
Contestants will be assigned their table at check in, the puzzle will be in a bag on each table, and all contestants will open their bags at the same time.

Hands only! The use of any puzzle tools, cutting devices, or phones is grounds for disqualification. (Puzzle sorting containers, battery operated lamps and/or head lamps will be allowed, but will not be provided.)

Judges will be monitoring the area and watching as teams get close to finishing.

When your team is close to finishing, raise your hand and a judge will come to your table to watch you finish and record your time. If a judge is unable to get to your table when you finish, please record your own time on the timecard provided at your table.

Winners will be announced immediately following the competition.

Cash only tickets are \$20 per person. Tickets can be purchased at Cork & Tap.

Puzzle Palooza is a fundraiser sponsored by P.E.O., a philanthropic organization where women CELEBRATE the advancement of women; EDUCATE women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans, and stewardship of Cottey College and MOTIVATE women to achieve their highest aspirations.

February From the Heart winners announced

February 2024 From the Heart Calendar Winners

Feb. 1 - RACF, Rochelle, \$50

Feb. 2 - Melody Worthington, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 3 - Sofie Meyers, Rochelle, \$250

Feb. 4 - Mercedes Barrientos, Rochelle, \$50

Feb. 5 - Allison Wagner-Huntley, Byron, \$25

Feb. 6 - From the Heart, \$50

Feb. 7 - Judith Koelzer, Friena, Texas, \$25

Feb. 8 - Nancy Meyers, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 9 - Kaylee Fowler, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 10 - Justin Adolph, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 11 - First State Bank, Rochelle, \$50

Feb. 12 - John Gonzales, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 13 - Kathleen Lutz, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 14 - Ariana and Antonio Welle, Oregon, \$250

Feb. 15 - From the Heart, \$25

Feb. 16 - Shining Star, Dixon, \$25

Feb. 17 - Michelle Ocampo, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 18 - RACF, \$50

Feb. 19 - RACF, \$25

Feb. 20 - Crystal Crom, Cloquet, Minnesota, \$25

Feb. 21 - From the Heart, \$25

Feb. 22 - Crystal Hueramo, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 23 - Christa Seebach, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 24 - Gus and Armande Vasilopolous, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 25 - Noel Allison, Rochelle, \$50

Feb. 26 - Maplehurst Farms, \$25

Feb. 27 - Cynthia Lopez, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 28 - Marcy Bruhn, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 29 - Jake Meyers, Rochelle, \$25

Checks to winners will be mailed out at the end of each month.

HAM GIVEAWAY

WIN A \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE TOWARDS YOUR EASTER HAM!

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!

Byron County Market

Rt. 2 Byron, IL • 234-2311

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____

PHONE: _____

*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION

First State Bank

SHANNON • POLO • LAKE CARROLL

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____

PHONE: _____

*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION

SUPERVALU

204 N. 4th St. Oregon

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____

PHONE: _____

*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION

Your Independently owned community bank since 1882

Stillman BANK

1445 IL Rt. 2 North 608 W. Blackhawk Dr. 101 E. Main St.
Oregon, IL Byron, IL Stillman Valley, IL

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ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____

PHONE: _____

*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION
Monday - Friday 9am-5pm

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
VFW Post #8739

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____

PHONE: _____

*LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PERSON, PER LOCATION

